

SYDNEY
THEATRE
CO



SYDNEY THEATRE COMPANY AND UBS PRESENT

MACBETH

BY WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE

21 JUL – 27 SEP
SYDNEY THEATRE

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HUGO WEAVING AS ONE OF
SHAKESPEARE'S MOST
COMPLEX PROTAGONISTS

DIRECTOR
KIP WILLIAMS
DESIGNER
ALICE BABIDGE

LIGHTING DESIGNER
NICK SCHLIEPER
SOUND DESIGNER
MAX LYANDERT

WITH
PAULA ARUNDELL
KATE BOX
IVAN DONATO
EDEN FALK

PRODUCTION PATRONS
JOHN GADEN
MELITA JURUSIC
ROBERT MENZIES
HUGO WEAVING

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Photo Michele Aboud

STC PRESENTS MACBETH 1980-2014

Over the 34-year-history of the Sydney Theatre Company “the Scottish play” has been produced seven times, making it STC’s most performed production, alongside *Away* by Michael Gow and *Two Weeks with the Queen* by Mary Morris.

MACBETH IN 1982

Sydney Theatre Company’s first production of *Macbeth* was staged at the Opera House and directed by Richard Wherrett. The performance starred three of Australia’s most celebrated stage actors, John Bell as Macbeth, Robyn Nevin as Lady Macbeth and Colin Friels as Macduff. The 1982 production had directorial references of character links between Macbeth and Hamlet and Lady Macbeth and Ophelia. The set design had terracotta hues and was a series of rough, monolithic slabs creating a primitive setting.

MACBETH IN 1996

Macbeth in 1996 was directed by George Ogilvie as part of the STC Education Programme. Ogilvie aimed to combine stark realism with nightmare-like episodes to produce what he called a “sombre fairy-tale.” This version of *Macbeth* was a Celtic period piece set in an ‘eternal place’ with a large dragon swallowing its tail painted on the floor of the stage with a bowl filled with red water at the centre.

MACBETH IN 1999

Starring Colin Friels again but this time in the title role, STC’s 1999 production of *Macbeth* was a dark and sinister performance at the

Opera House. The design of the production brought the play firmly into the 20th century by taking on a desolate World War I-like battlefield with actors dressed in military uniforms. The set design by John Gunter and lighting by Nigel Levington allowed for the stage to seamlessly morph from place to place creating a sinister atmosphere using arrow slits in walls where shards and fragments of light shone through.

MACHOMER IN 2010

In 2010 *Macbeth* at STC was performed by the characters of *The Simpsons*, titled *MacHomer*. This adaptation of *Macbeth* was created by Canadian comedian Rick Miller who in his one man show took on 50 characters from the cartoon while wearing traditional Shakespearean costume and mimicking the voices of the characters. Homer was Macbeth, Marge was Lady Macbeth, Mr Burns was King Duncan and Barney was Macduff. “Is this a dagger I see before me or a pizza? Mmmmm....pizza?”

VS MACBETH IN 2010

Vs Macbeth was the first production of STC’s Next Stage program and a co-production with The Border Project. The play was a conceptual production that used the notion that ‘the Scottish play’ is a haunted and cursed play. Director Sam Haren incorporated some of the known incidents documented in productions of *Macbeth* such as a lighting rig falling onto the stage halfway through the production. The show featured many falls and tumbles, an on-stage electric guitarist and the killings occurred using guns filled with paintballs.