

Gay Theatre Reviews

Macbeth³

review by Rosemary Stevens

The Dogsbody and LA Women's Shakespeare Company have combined forces to present a futuristic and abbreviated version of Shakespeare's *Macbeth*. The play is performed by three actors, thus the reference to the third power in the title. And the production is indeed powerful.

It's been some time since I read, studied or have seen a production of this play, so I felt at a disadvantage and occasionally got lost in the story. None-the-less, the performances were mesmerizing and the production gripping.

The original basic story is that three witches foretell that Macbeth will rise as king of Scotland. But they also say that future kings will not be from his family, but from a fellow army officer, Banquo. Macbeth's ambitious wife goads him into killing the current king, Duncan, so he may obtain the crown. After he does so and is crowned, he sends mercenaries to kill Banquo and his sons. His attempts to defy the prophesy by the witches fails, and he is murdered by Macduff. Fulfilling the prophesy, Banquo's son becomes king.

Adapted by Lisa Wolpe, the play is set in a violent future. The witches are now Satan, who rises ghost-like in a cloud of creepy fog.

Kate Roxburgh portrays Macbeth with swagger and greedy bravado. Gavin McClure is a vaporous Satan, seeming to float in thin air. He also portrays the ambitious Lady Macbeth, but because he is much taller than Kate, his hunching down to her shaves off a bit of the power that the character should wield. Lisa Wolpe capably portrays a witch, Banquo, Duncan, a porter and Macduff, and is especially moving in the scene where Macduff learns her children have been murdered.

Also extremely impressive are the technical aspects. The stylistic set is by Mia Torres and sound design is by Rachel Myles. Edwin Roxburgh composed the eerie and mystical music. A terrific fight scene is choreographed by Edgar Landa.

All around a well done production which I highly recommend, and for those worrying about interminable productions



L-R: Gavin McClure as Lady Macbeth and Kate Roxburgh as Macbeth..

of Shakespeare's tragedy, this one runs a crisp one hour.

Macbeth³, adapted from William Shakespeare by Lisa Wolpe. Ruby Theatre, The Complex, 6476 Santa Monica Blvd., Hollywood. Thurs.-Sat., 8pm. \$15 (pay what you can on Thurs. & Sun.). Ends June 15.

By-the-by: The LAWSC is having a fundraiser on Sat., June 28 from 7-11pm. Tickets are \$20 and there will be music, comedy, cocktails and food. A silent auction features an electric guitar signed by The Dixie Chicks. The event will be at the Church in Ocean Park in Santa Monica. Info contact lawsc@earthlink.net or (310) 453-5069.

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