

# **Macbeth:** a tragedy, a comedy, a bloody mess.



created and performed by Australia's **Company 13**

**Macbeth** is the perfect show for audiences who love the classics with a twist. Company 13's adaptation of Shakespeare's **Macbeth** pulls no punches in making the 'Scottish play' a different sort of tragedy.

A reimaging of the traditional story, **Macbeth** includes all the previously omitted scenes - the witches brewing up an hallucinogenic cat soup, King Duncan revealing his undying passion for chocolate cake, the gothic love story of Macbeth and Lady Macbeth.

**Macbeth** will blow the dust off your schoolroom Shakespeare and rejuvenate your experience of seeing a true theatre classic. Performed in an immediate, filmic style, this show is great for kids and adults who are convinced Shakespeare is going to be unfathomable and boring. Be entertained by the stupidity and skill of Company 13 as they enact the dreadfully bloody tale of Macbeth's passage from respectable soldier to despised tyrant.

This piece of fast-paced theatre combines Shakespeare's rich language with a healthy dose of invention and idiocy. It pulls no punches, leaving in all the gruesome murder and foul play; all the injustice and cruelty; all the horror of one man's ambition gone horribly wrong... all accompanied by beautiful music played by the actors.

Funny, cautionary and fake-bloody, **Macbeth** is aimed at an audience of 9 -13 year olds, but it will be enjoyed by all ages. Duration:1 hour 10 mins with no interval.

# Macbeth: murder most foul!



**Company 13** is a premiere Australian devised theatre company established in 2006 as a group of theatre makers all trained the Jacques le Coq tradition of European physical theatre forms - mime, melodrama, greek tragedy, character, mask, bouffon and clown. Since then we have been developing our idiosyncratic ensemble style grown from a synthesis of these forms.

The touring party for Macbeth consists of of 4 performer/devisors - Christian Bagin, John Forman, Aurora Kurth and Fiona Roake, directed by James Pratt.

Company 13 aims to enliven and provoke audiences: to inspire people to reflect upon the choices they make in their lives. Our work flows from the absurd to the beauty of innocence and is characterised by the value we give to the seriousness of play. We create theatre that is visceral, immediate, unexpected and alive: theatre that celebrates our human condition in all its sensational messiness. (For further company history and biographies see our company website

<https://company13theatre.wordpress.com/>)

## PERFORMANCE SPECIFICS

### DURATION

60 minutes no interval

### SUITABLE VENUES

Proscenium, and Black box as long as there is raked seating for sight lines.

### MAXIMUM NUMBER OF PERFORMANCES PER WEEK

6

### MINIMUM BREAK BETWEEN PERFORMANCES

120mins

### TOURING PERSONNEL

4 performers

1 tour manager/technician

## PRODUCTION DETAILS

### TECHNICAL SUMMARY

**Macbeth** is a very simple show in regards to its technical requirements. The show is best suited for a flat stage with raked seating. If raked seating is not possible, audience size needs to be reduced to maintain sight lines. The show would also suit classic proscenium arch staging.

### EXAMPLE SCHEDULE

Bump in at 9am (3.5 hours)

Lunch break 12:30pm (60 mins)

Show 2pm (60mins) plus audience interaction (30 mins)

Break 3:30 (120mins)

Show 5:30 or 6pm plus audience interaction (30 mins)

Bump out ( 60 mins)

### CREW REQUIRED FROM VENUE

one staff would be required for Bump in to Bump out and would require lighting and sound skills.

### STAGE

The optimal size of the stage is 8m by 8m with a 4m height to lighting rig from stage level. Wings are required either already part of the stage structure or tabs of at least 2m width. A black curtain backdrop is required at the back of stage.

## COMPANY TO SUPPLY

- 2 stationary flats,
- 1 flat on wheels,
- Table on wheels
- 1 small plinth 1 metre high,
- 1 trolley on wheels.

All props and costumes. Musical instruments supplied by company include, Double bass, Gong, floor tom drum, baritone ukulele, tenor ukulele, trumpet, hand drum and a variety of percussive instruments.

## VENUE TO SUPPLY

Smoke Machine

## LIGHTING

The following is required for the MacDeath LX Rider:

Warm front wash, Cool front wash, Gobbo wash, front or side, 2 specials FOH.  
Either LED backlight OR Warm Back Wash, Blue Back Wash, Red Back Wash and L201 Back Wash

Lighting Specs Link

<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/1ipsdvo3axh794k/AACxfizqAqp0HLTrOMgQ0IkSa?dl=0>

## SOUND

All sound and music is made by the actors playing acoustic instruments. To augment the sound of some instruments two microphones and a DI are required.

## COMPANY WILL PROVIDE

All musical instruments.

Venue to supply

PA system, two microphones on stands and a DI and leads.

## WARDROBE

Costumes are minimal

Company to supply

All costumes

Venue to supply

Dressing rooms for four actors.

## FREIGHT NOTES

The Company will travel in two vans and will need access to a loading bay.

## VIDEO LINKS

<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/49vlswr2askf5z9/AADw8KL9R187qpplQ932opNOa?dl=0>

## TARGET AUDIENCE

Key Market Segments

Audience Segment	Ideas on how to activate them
Families	Group or family ticket prices to encourage the whole family to attend the performance. Don't forget the grandparents - flyers at senior citizen clubs
Schools	<p>The show is a great match for teachers and students studying drama and theatre studies as the work has particular relevance to their study modules. Ask local school if they could display posters and flyers about the show in their reception areas. See if an announcement about the performance can be included in school newsletters.</p> <p>Offer group/school discounts and invite drama and/or English language classes</p>
Drama clubs	Connect with any theatre or drama clubs in your area. Consider offering group tickets. These groups may be interested in Q&A session with the performers after the show.
general public	Company 13 are happy to do phone interviews with local radio and newspapers.

### Special Interest Groups:

Drama students at primary and high schools would be a special interest group to target. Also students who may attend drama classes outside school.

### Audience Participation suggestions:

- The Company will be available in the foyer after the show for photos and general audience interaction
- All the Company are skilled in teaching and facilitating workshops. The Company could specifically design and run workshops for local theatre makers that gives hands experience around the adaptation process using a devising process.
- The Company would be well placed to also design and deliver a targeted workshop and Q and A to high school students that specifically addresses their study needs

in regards to VCE. Please note that there are additional costs associated with workshops. Please contact the Touring organiser or company producer for details.

## MARKETING

### MARKETING COPY

One line

A funny, fake-bloody tale of greed and power.

Short

A Shakespearian treat performed in an immediate and accessible style. A funny, cautionary tale that combines Shakespeare's rich language with a healthy dose of invention and idiocy. The side-splitting tale combines Shakespeare's rich language with everyday English. It pulls no punches, leaving in all the murder and foul play; all the injustice and cruelty; all the horror of one man's ambition gone horribly wrong... but in a fun way. This is Shakespeare unplugged and re-wired, performed with stupidity and skill! Macbeth is the perfect show for audiences who love the classics with a twist.

Extended

Company 13's Macbeth is a cracking updated kid-friendly classic filled with physical comedy and the tastiest morsels of Shakespeare's prose. Director James Pratt and Company 13's four accomplished actors have devised a high-intensity, playful and powerful tale of how Macbeth and Lady Macbeth grow greedy enough to kill King Duncan and a few other innocent characters who get in the way of Macbeth and his throne. Macbeth will blow the dust off your schoolroom Shakespeare and rejuvenate your experience of seeing a true theatre classic. Performed in an immediate, filmic style, it is great for kids and adults who are convinced Shakespeare is going to be unfathomable and boring. Be entertained by the stupidity and skill of Company 13 as they enact the dreadfully bloody tale of Macbeth's passage from a comfortable nobleman to a despised tyrant. This piece of fast-paced theatre combines Shakespeare's rich language with a healthy dose of invention and idiocy, leaving in all the gruesome murder, foul play and pathos; all the injustice and cruelty...all accompanied by beautiful music performed live by the actors. Funny, cautionary and fake-bloody, Macbeth is aimed at an audience of 8 -13-year-old children, but it will be enjoyed by all age and is a great first taste of Shakespeare.

### MEDIA QUOTES

'Not dumbed down by any means but full of gags and self-reflective mayhem.'  
Theatre Press, Rebecca Waese

'...the play brings the violent tale to life with clowning prowess, false teeth falling in the cauldron and fake blood explosions of silly string spewing all over the stage.'

Theatre Press, Rebecca Waese

'As an adult who has seen Macbeth a good number of times I found this work enlightening.'

Stage Whispers, Suzanne Sandow

'This show is totally worth catching, really educational but fun.'

Stage Whispers, Suzanne Sandow

## AUDIENCE REVIEWS

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SEQZy5S3\\_6k](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SEQZy5S3_6k)

## VIDEO LINKS

<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/49vlswr2askf5z9/AADw8KL9R187qpplQ932opNOa?dl=0>

## IMAGES

[https://www.dropbox.com/sh/bqoxxvtasd9xwk4/AAA\\_adlhxPnGv7SxBtjYr5cXa?dl=0](https://www.dropbox.com/sh/bqoxxvtasd9xwk4/AAA_adlhxPnGv7SxBtjYr5cXa?dl=0)

## MARKETING MATERIALS

[https://www.dropbox.com/sh/3h02wmm7u2ti64u/AADd\\_1X6LQv1qHbtHr5-hRkta?dl=0](https://www.dropbox.com/sh/3h02wmm7u2ti64u/AADd_1X6LQv1qHbtHr5-hRkta?dl=0)

## Contact

Email: James Pratt Director - jamprat@aapt.net.au



# Macbeth: how to get ahead in life

Shakespeare can be very alienating. The language alone can be a huge obstacle. Our challenge was to make a 'Macbeth' that was funny, stupid, a bit gross and dramatic but above all accessible: to engage kids with this classic story of the tragedy of greed and avarice that was fresh and surprising. We have worked hard to make a show that engages a young audience with serious matters.

Our style is filmic and fast-paced, keying into the great speed with which a young modern audience can decipher and understand narrative. We have well-rounded, larger than life characters that are both funny, murderous and fragile: characters that you end up cheering for and against, loving and hating.

The plot is clear, the stakes are high and the conflict is deadly. The show blends many theatrical styles. We are silly and serious. At times we directly address the audience and at other times we play in the classic fourth wall tradition. All this helps bring dynamic changes in rhythm and energy to the work. Underpinning all this, like a film score, is the live music played onstage by the actors. We were conscious in the making of the show not to lose the magic of the incredible Shakespearean language. We believe we have found a happy balance between the Bard's words and ours.





