

MACBETH RE-ARISEN

WHY SHAKESPEARE WOULD BE WRITING ABOUT THE UN-DEAD IF HE WASN'T A DEAD'UN



Macbeth (Craig Annis) and Lady Macbeth (Laura Maitland)

Smash Hit Edinburgh Fringe show opening in Melbourne on 7 November puts a modern spin on English literature's most beloved Killer Couple...

Macbeth is recognised as one of the Bard's most grisly tragedies with midnight murders, mangled spectres and gore-soaked vengeance in no short supply. But Melbourne's own Shakespeare, 26 year old Northcote playwright **David Mence**, has written a sequel that injects fresh blood into the well-known storyline by combining it with the decidedly modern cult genre of **zombie schlock-horror**.

If it initially appears that the high art of Shakespearean theatre is the antithesis of 80s schlock classics like *Evil Dead 2 & 3* (Sam Raimi) and *Brain Dead* (Peter Jackson), think again! Mence says combining the two wasn't a stretch at all: "Macbeth is the meta-text for the horror genre because it establishes the twin realms of horror; the supernatural versus the psychological. These two things can be either schlock (comedy) or terror (tragedy) in turn and that's the archetype set by Shakespeare that I've tried to emulate."

*Immortal gods! Sphinx-like deities! How is't
That I do prop upon this crag and discourse
With the stars whilst from my neck this weeping
Gash emits coagulation crimson?
Dost life so tightly cling to death that through
The prisoner's wall its fibrous arm canst thrust?*
(Macbeth re-arises in the foggy Highlands)



International audiences raved about *Macbeth Re-Arisen* in 2006, and now that the production has been re-developed, re-cast, re-designed and re-animated, the passionate young theatre makers at White Whale think Melbourne will too.

Mence, who also directs the piece, says Melbourne audiences have the right knowledge of literature and sense of ironic humour: "In Shakespeare's time an audience was capable to bouncing between deep tragedy and comedic farce – the original *Macbeth* was able to make disparate elements work together and so too, I hope, will this sequel."

PRESS CONTACT: For images, script excerpts or info contact Kelly Farrow on 0407 244 501, publicity@whitewhaletheatre.com or visit www.whitewhaletheatre.com

*O that I could shed my moral skin
And take in place dire cruelty's changeling shape,
Wherewith I'd flay men's flesh with flinty claws
And tear diurnal time from off its ring.*
(Lady Macbeth, no longer fussed by the damned spots)

LISTING DETAILS

Trades Hall, New Ballroom
Cnr Victoria and Lygon Street
8.00pm: 5-8, 12-15, 19-22 November
6.30pm: 9, 16, 23 November

Bookings via Easytix 9639 0096
\$25 (full) \$20 (concession) \$15 (preview)
www.whitewhaletheatre.com

