

## MACBETH MUET SYNOPSIS

*Macbeth Muet* is a retelling of William Shakespeare's classic, done entirely without words, with various objects onstage representing the characters of the play. Napkins, plates, knives, wine and candlesticks transform into gowns, kings, murderers, blood and forests, all in the service of this tale of ambition. Here's a refresher:

**ACT I:** Macbeth is a soldier loyal to Scotland, who, after a great battle against a faction plotting a rebellion against his country, is given a prophecy by three witches that he will be King. His good friend and fellow soldier, Banquo, is also there; the witches tell Banquo that his *sons* will be King. Macbeth tells his wife of the prophecy, and, when the King visits Macbeth's castle for a royal supper, Lady Macbeth pushes Macbeth to kill the King in his sleep.

**ACT II:** Macbeth prepares himself to do the deed, and begins hallucinating a floating dagger which makes him question his senses. Macbeth steels himself, and kills the king. As alarms announce the death of the King, we meet another soldier, Macduff, loyal to Scotland, highly suspicious of the King's murder. Macduff flees Scotland to regroup, and figure out what's going on. Macbeth and his wife begin to go insane with guilt, experiencing constant nightmares.

**ACT III:** Now crowned King, Macbeth remembers the prophecy the witches gave Banquo: that his sons will be kings. Macbeth has Banquo killed, and during (another) royal banquet, is haunted by Banquo's ghost. Macbeth's wife wishes to know what's going on with Macbeth, but Macbeth doesn't want to talk to her, and returns to the witches for advice.

**ACT IV:** The witches give Macbeth four visions: **1)** None of woman born will harm him. **2)** ...until the forest next to the castle moves toward him. **3)** To watch out for Macduff. **4)** Lastly they show him an image of a line of Banquo's sons, all kings. This is pretty sketchy information to say the least, but Macbeth is encouraged by this prophecy, and, to protect himself, has Macduff's entire family killed.

**ACT V:** Nearing the end of the play, all of Scotland is starting to turn against Macbeth, and Lady Macbeth is having violent dreams of guilt from their crime. Macduff, hearing of his family's murder, has mustered an army from England to come kill Macbeth. The soldiers from Macduff's army disguise their numbers by holding tree branches up to themselves, making it look like the forest is walking towards the castle (the prophecy is coming true!) Just as the army is approaching, Macbeth hears that his wife has committed suicide. With the army at his doors, Macbeth fights off as many as he can, and meets Macduff face to face. Macduff tells Macbeth that in his birth, he was torn from his mother's womb, which technically means he wasn't born of women (surprise!), and then he kills Macbeth.