

# WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE'S MACBETH

RETOLD BY IMITATING THE DOG

## "NEAR APPROACHES THE SUBJECT OF OUR WATCH" What to look out for in ITD's Macbeth

Here are some questions to help students get the most out of watching the production. It might be helpful to consider them before, during, and after your visit to the theatre.



### BEFORE

ITD's website describes this Macbeth as *'an audacious and daring retelling made for the audiences of today ... a neon noir thriller where Shakespeare's original language collides with startling new scenes, stunning visuals, and a powder-keg intensity'*.

- What does this description, the 14+ age limit, and the warnings about violence, gunshots and strong language lead you to expect from the show? Does it sound like the play with which you are familiar?
- What do you think it means to 'retell' Shakespeare's story?
- If you were going to reimagine Macbeth in your favourite film genre:
  - what would you change about the story?
  - Would you focus on, or cut altogether, particular characters?
  - Would you change the language or retain all of Shakespeare's original text?
  - What do you think it means to 'retell' Shakespeare's story?
- Should Shakespeare's stories be retold for the audiences of today, or should they be kept exactly as they were written? Is any text sacred?



## DURING

- What is your first impression of the set and characters?
- Does it change as the show goes on?
- What changes have been made to the original text and characters?
- Do you like them?
- Do they add to your understanding of the play?
- How do you feel about the use of violence, sexual references, and swearing in the show?
- Does it feel relevant to the original story?
- The production is recommended for 14+. Do you agree with that?
- How, when, and why is technology used in the show?
- Does it enhance the performance or help you understand it?
- Does it add meaning to scenes or moments?
- Does it help to highlight particular themes or relationships?
- Does it surprise you, and if so in what ways?
- How, when and why are sound and music used in the show?
- What impact do they have?
- How would you describe the set, video, and costume design, and the overall look or aesthetic of the production?
- Does it remind you of any film or TV shows you have seen?
- Does the world feel familiar to you, or is it new and strange?
- What emotions do you experience as you watch the production?
- Which moments or characters do you respond to specifically?
- Do you think ITD are trying to present any particular message/s?
- If so, what do you think they are?
- How do they relate to what's happening in the world today?



## AFTER

- How do you feel after watching the show?
- What emotions have stayed with you?
- What was it like to experience this version of Macbeth?
- What did you think about the changes that the writer-directors made to the story, and the new material they added to the text?
- Did it add to your understanding of Shakespeare's Macbeth?
- Did it highlight or focus on any themes more than in the original?
- How did you feel about Macbeth and Lady Macbeth in this production?
- Did you care about what happened to them? Were you rooting for them?
- How did you feel about the ending?
- Did you feel that the characters got what they deserved?
- Would you have changed anything?

If you are attending a post-show discussion, the following questions may be helpful to consider before and after the Q&A:

### Before

- Who would you like to ask a question of: the director, a performer, or someone else?
- What question(s) would you like to ask?

### After

- Was your question answered? If so, did the answer surprise you or confirm your own thoughts?
- What was the most interesting question asked by someone else?
- What was the most interesting/surprising answer?