

MAJOR EVENTS

WHAT YOU WILL SEE ON STAGE

Macbeth Triumphant

Macbeth and Banquo have defeated two invasions in two separate battles: the rebel Macdonald of Ireland, then later an invasion by Norway.

The Prophecy

Macbeth and Banquo encounter three witches; their prophecy says that Macbeth will become Thane of Cawdor, and later King of Scotland; Banquo will be father to a line of kings but not become one himself.

The Thane of Cawdor

Macbeth soon learns that he has indeed become the new Thane of Cawdor; the previous thane was condemned to death for treason by King Duncan.

The Murder of Duncan

When Lady Macbeth learns of Macbeth's encounter with the witches, she conspires with him to murder King Duncan. The deed is done and Duncan's guards are blamed. Macbeth assumes the throne with no resistance from Duncan's sons, Malcolm and Donalbain, who flee in fear for their lives.

The Murder of Banquo

Paranoid that Banquo's heirs will seize his crown, Macbeth hires henchmen to have Banquo and his son killed. They succeed in murdering Banquo, but his son escapes. Macbeth is then haunted by Banquo's ghost; his subsequent restlessness tests his relationship with his wife and prompts him to visit the witches for more information.

A Second Prophecy

Macduff joins Malcolm in exile in England. Macbeth visits the witches, and receives three more prophecies: he must beware of Macduff, he cannot be harmed by a man born of woman and he will be safe until Birnam Wood transports itself to his castle. Feeling secure, Macbeth seizes Macduff's holdings and orders the execution of his family.

Macduff's Revenge

Malcolm leads an army against Macbeth, using branches from Birnam Wood as camouflage. Overcome with guilt, Lady Macbeth commits suicide before the army arrives. A battle follows; Macduff confronts Macbeth and declares that he was "untimely ripped" from his mother's womb, and technically not born of a woman. The prophecies fulfilled, Macduff kills Macbeth on the battlefield.

Malcolm Restored

Upon Macbeth's death, Malcolm, the son of Duncan, is made King of Scotland. He calls home all those who fled from Macbeth, and invites one and all to witness his coronation, the beginning of a new and benevolent age.