

MACBETH

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By **William Shakespeare**

Created in collaboration with **Ex Machina**

Directed by **Robert Lepage**

GRADE RECOMMENDATION

Grade 9+

CONTENT ADVISORY

The play explores mature content including references to and scenes of violence, murder, drug and alcohol use and abuse, and sexuality.

[Please see the show page for more information.](#)

SYNOPSIS

Three witches speak a prophecy of power to an ambitious warrior. When the prophecies prove true and the bodies pile up, where lies the blame: in prophecy, fate or Macbeth's own secret desires? What alignment of stars guides the anti-hero Macbeth's bloody hand? This bold reimagining of Shakespeare's darkest tragedy by visionary director Robert Lepage sets the uncanny action during the Quebec Biker War of the 1990s.

CURRICULUM CONNECTIONS

GLOBAL COMPETENCIES

- Critical Thinking and Problem Solving, Innovation and Creativity, Collaboration, Communication, Global Citizenship

GRADES 9-12

- The Arts
- Canadian and World Studies
- English
- Health and Physical Education
- Technological Education

GRADES 11-12

- Social Sciences and Humanities

POST-SECONDARY

- Suitable for courses in disciplines such as Arts, Canadian Studies, Cultural Studies, Creative Writing, Drama, English, Fine Arts, Gender Studies, History, Human Rights, Psychology, Social Development Studies, Teacher Education and Theatre

THEMES

- Ambition, Power and Status
- Chaos and Order
- Corruption and Lawlessness
- Ethics, Morality and Justice
- Gender and Masculinity
- Guilt and Innocence
- Organized Crime and the Québec Biker War
- Outsiders and Belonging
- Prophecy, Fate and Free Will
- Public vs. Private
- Sorcery and the Supernatural
- Territory and Loyalty

DISCUSSION AND REFLECTION QUESTIONS

- In your opinion, is ambition a positive attribute? Why or why not? What are the potential dangers of unchecked ambition? Explain your thinking.
- What is the difference between justice and the law? What might motivate someone to live outside the law? In so doing, how might they then define justice in their actions and choices?
- Would you want to know your future? Why or why not? If you were told what your future would hold, how would you respond: by working to fulfill it or by resisting it? Explain your thinking.

STUDY GUIDES

[View](#) all 2025 Shorts and Study Guides for selected 2025 plays along with those from previous seasons free of charge.



[Stratford Public Library's 2025 Season Reading Lists](#)

BOOKING INFORMATION: TICKETS, WORKSHOPS AND CHATS

STUDENT MATINÉES

You may book any available date, but selected student matinée performances for this show are at 12:30 p.m. or 2 p.m. on the following dates:

12:30 p.m.

- Friday, October 10
- Friday, October 24

2 p.m.

- Friday, May 16
- Tuesday, May 20
- Thursday, May 22
- Friday, June 20
- Tuesday, June 24
- Thursday, September 4
- Thursday, September 18
- Friday, September 19
- Wednesday, October 1
- Tuesday, October 14
- Thursday, October 16
- Wednesday, October 22
- Wednesday, October 29
- Friday, October 31

INTERACTIVE PRESHOWS

Led by artists appearing in the matinée, these high-energy sessions provide students the opportunity to explore key themes, questions and technical aspects of productions on the Festival's renowned stages. \$4 per student (free for Teaching Stratford Program participants)

11 a.m.–noon on the following dates:

- Tuesday, May 20
- Thursday, May 22
- Wednesday, October 1
- Tuesday, October 14
- Thursday, October 16
- Wednesday, October 22

stratfordfestival.ca/InterACTives

WORKSHOPS & CHATS

Workshops and Chats (virtual, onsite or at your school/centre) can be booked by calling the Box Office at 1.800.567.1600 or by emailing

educate@stratfordfestival.ca

SOCIAL MEDIA



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2025 SEASON SPONSOR

The 2025 season is generously supported by Ophelia Lazaridis

PROUD SEASON PARTNERS



TOOLS FOR TEACHERS SPONSORED BY



Tools for Teachers includes InterACTIVE Preshows, Study Guides and Stratford Shorts.

Production Underwriter: The Fabio Mascarin Foundation and Laurie J. Scott

Production Co-Sponsors: Sylvia Soyka, Carol Stephenson, O.C. and Catherine Wilkes in memory of David

Support for education initiatives is generously provided by the Martin Family, the Estate of Noelle Saville and Laurie J. Scott