

Macbeth

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Review

STAGE

Macbeth

Hull Truck Theatre

Alexandra Wood ★★★★★☆

IN THIS thoroughly atmospheric and enjoyable version of Macbeth, director Gareth Tudor Price takes us on a journey that is both murky and intense.

Smoke never stops pouring from a vent in the middle of the stage, veiling cast and audience in spectral clouds.

Coupled with a creepy soundtrack, and the odd

splutter from someone being gently smoked in their seats, it felt like a Voodoo-version of the Scottish play.

Tudor Price's adaptation, staged in the round for the first time in the theatre's new home on Ferensway, has cut and edited the original text.

With a suitably minimalistic set and the seven cast kitted out as identikit military goons, it gallops along at a blistering pace.

Several of the cast switch roles, and when they're not on stage, lurk in the shadows doing their whispering witch bit, adding to the claustrophobia of the setting.

My schoolgirl concept of Macbeth (James Weaver) as a figure you can pity was dashed. Here he is a natural-born killer and his crises of conscience come over as mere posturing before he sets about his next bloody task. You feel for Lady Macbeth (Fiona Wass) and the horror she has helped to unleash.

It is a particularly gruesome ending, but you can't help but feel he deserves it.

Smoke aside, the impression is one of a thick fug of evil – and that seems close to what Shakespeare was trying to convey.

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