

# Intense production that will **haunt** you

**T**here was blood on the theatre floor by the interval. Gareth Tudor Price's production of *Macbeth*, Shakespeare's supernatural tragedy, provides lashings of the red stuff.

First staged by Truck in 2006, this revival proves as bloody – and magnificent – as the first time around.

As with the original Spring Street production, the company has gone for a stark, industrial take on the tale.

With the cast dressed in trench coats and leather boots, the setting is timeless – an effective way of focusing the attention on the brutal twists of the plot.

The play follows the bloody fall-out after *Macbeth*, a Scottish general, encounters three witches who prophesies he will be king.

After their initial prediction – that *Macbeth* will first become Thane Of Cawdor – is proved correct, his ambition to seize the crown sees his ambitious wife, *Lady Macbeth*, push him towards murder.

Taking place “in the round” – a raised stage placed in the centre of the auditorium – the production is remarkably intense.

The rough boards of the stage are dotted with metal grills, through which billows of incense – and bursts of red and yellow light – give the impression Hell is boiling away beneath their feet.

Together with a “soundscape” of whispered voices and bass-heavy rumbles, deep enough to rattle the fittings, the production drops us into a world where superstition is the guiding force.

Review by Will Ramsey



Despite the ghostly atmosphere, Tudor Price has created a realistic and conversational production, in which the lines are spoken rather than declaimed.

The richness of Shakespeare's language is there, but the play has been clipped down to provide a fast-moving take on the drama.

And the performances are spectacular. In the lead role, James Weaver is a man haunted by the horror of his deeds.

It is his bloody hands that left a trail of gore across the stage – and on the theatre floor as *Macbeth* staggers in with the dagger.

As *Lady Macbeth*, Fiona Wass's intense performance – including a full-blooded scream of anguish – is enough to haunt your dreams.

## » **MACBETH**

**When:** Until Saturday, November 28, 7.30pm

**Where:** Hull Truck Theatre, Ferensway, Hull

**Tickets:** £9-£18

**Call:** (01482) 323638

**Link:** [www.hulltruck.co.uk](http://www.hulltruck.co.uk)



» **BROODING:** James Weaver as *Macbeth* and Fiona Wass as *Lady Macbeth*.

Macbeth

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Review