

**Excerpt from Splendid Productions' 'Macbeth'**  
**By William Shakespeare**  
**adapted by Kerry Frampton**



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**INTRODUCTION**

**All** Introduction. The tragedy of Macbeth!

**Bouffon 2** What a fantastic historical

**All** **Slash**

**Bouffon 2** current tale.

**Bouffon 1** Watch as we unravel a man called

**All** Macbeth

**Bouffon 1** soldier

**Bouffon 2** **slash** hero slash

**Bouffon 3** villain. A man of action, a good friend in a fight.

**Bouffon 2** He wasn't designed to be King

**Bouffon 1** but a perfectly timed whisper from a stranger

**All** *(planting seed)* 'thou shalt be King'

**Bouffon 2** plants an ambitious seed.

**Bouffon 1** No one stopped him.

**Bouffon 3** Not one person got in his way.

**Bouffon 2** He made certain of that.

**All** Power is a wonderful slash terrible thing.

**Bouffon 1** By the end of the story King Macbeth will be dead and a new leader bringing 'Hope' will be crowned.

**All** *(singing angelic chord)* **Hope!**

Malcolm is crowned.

**Bouffon 2** *(as Malcolm)* And so it begins again.

Duncan is crowned.

**Bouffon 3** *(as Duncan)* And so it begins again.

Macbeth is crowned.

**Bouffon 1** *(as Macbeth)* And so it begins again.

## **EXPOSITION! WHERE WE LEARN THAT MACBETH IS A VICIOUS KILLER AND A HERO.**

**Bouffon 3** Exposition! Where we learn that Macbeth is a vicious killer and a hero.

**All** A rebellion

**Bouffon 1** at the start of the play against the rightful King of Scotland.

**Bouffon 2** Who he?

**Bouffon 1** He be

**Bouffon 3** *(as Duncan)* King Duncan

**Bouffon 1&2** *(encouraging the audience to hail)* HAIL!

**Bouffon 2** King Duncan's side is attacked.

**Bouffon 3** The Scottish rebels were led by the ambitious traitor Macdonwald

**Bouffon 1** Supported by the snake-like Thane of Cawdor

**Bouffon 2** *(explaining helpfully)* A 'Thane' is like a Lord, and 'Cawdor' is a place.

**Bouffon 1** Our hero the loyal yet humble Macbeth...

**Bouffon 2** *(explaining helpfully)* Thane of Glamis.

**Bouffon 1** ...fights bravely on the side of King Duncan.

**Bouffon 3** *(as Duncan)* HOORAY.

**All** Rebellion! Point against point!  
A bloody battle is lost and won

**Bouffon 1** Macbeth is killing for fun. *(As Macbeth, killing for fun)* This is great!

**Bouffon 3** Accompanied by his friend, humble, heroic Banquo, a good guy.  
(*As Banquo, accompanying Macbeth*) This is great!

**Bouffon 1** They slaughter the traitor Macdonwald.

**Bouffon 2** We're sure Macdonald deserved death, he is a traitor after all, no trial required.

**Bouffon 1** The Thane of Cawdor is captured.

**All** The Victory is ours! Haroo!

**Bouffon 2** Stab, stab, stab!

**Bouffon 3** I like swords!

**Bouffon 1** Killing people makes me feel like a man!

**Bouffon 2** We're on the RIGHT side of this fight.

**Bouffon 1** And wise King Duncan says:

**Bouffon 3** (*as Duncan*) Great Happiness!  
No more the Thane of Cawdor shall deceive  
Our bosom interest. Go pronounce his present death,  
And with his former title greet Macbeth.  
What he hath lost, noble Macbeth hath won.

Exit Bouffons to the outside of the rope.  
Mysterious knockings and unnerving sounds.

**Bouffon 2** Thunder. Lightning.

**Bouffon 3** A song! To introduce the characters called The Unknowns

**Bouffon 2** Why are they called the Unknowns?

**Bouffon 1** I don't know.

**Bouffon 2** Unknowns assemble.

The Unknowns enter.

## A SONG TO INTRODUCE THE CHARACTERS CALLED THE UNKNOWNNS

**Unknowns** When shall we three meet again?  
In thunder, lightning or in rain?  
When the hurlyburly's done  
When the battle's lost  
And won

That will be ere the set of sun  
That will be ere the set of sun  
That will be ere the set of sun  
When the battle's lost and won

Where the place? Upon the heath  
There to meet with Macbeth (Macbeeth)  
Fair is foul and foul is fair  
Hover through fog and filthy air

Hover through fog and filthy air  
Hover through fog and filthy air  
Fair is foul and foul is fair