

ITCL Theatre presents

# Macbeth

By **William Shakespeare**

**Directed by Paul Stebbings**

**Choreography Eric Tessier Lavigne**

**Composer Paul Flush**

ITCL are reviving their highly acclaimed version of Shakespeare's darkest and most exciting tragedy. The production has toured to over twenty countries on three continents, in venues as diverse as a ruined plantation house in Atlanta to Windsor Castle, from major theatres in Tokyo and Berlin to palaces in Verona and Stockholm. Over two thousand people attended performances in Kuwait. The 2005 tour will take in Britain, China, Japan, Thailand, Singapore and Italy. The key members of the original cast all return for this revival.

This is a full-blooded production that is not afraid to unleash the power of Shakespeare's dark masterpiece. The witches are identified as the source of the dramatic energy of the play. They are shamans, wild forest spirits and they are neither man nor woman. They inhabit the entire world of the play. Macbeth himself is a warrior, not a thinker, a man of courage whose bravery is corrupted by unthinking ambition. His wife is also a type of witch, this is a Lady Macbeth who calls down the spirits to "unsex her here" but is possessed and destroyed by the demons she thought to command. In contrast the Porter scene is a comic and acrobatic dance that is (unusually) genuinely funny. The set, by noted designers Kurn and Gross, is an extraordinary luminous series of walls that become trees. These move around the stage on wheels, creating striking visual imagery. This is also music theatre with a fully composed and integrated score by Paul Flush that mixes electronic and human sound.

MACBETH was director Paul Stebbings' first major Shakespeare production. Its success generated a cycle of Shakespearean productions by ITCL that have met with international acclaim and won several awards. From Tehran to Shanghai and Oxford to Oslo ITCL's vibrant and dynamic approach to Shakespeare has generated enthusiasm from audiences and critics alike.



" The imagery is as striking as the raw power of the theatre. The pace surges forward and Shakespeare's tragedy grips until its thrilling climax... The outstanding ensemble received tremendous applause."

SUEDDEUTSCHE ZEITUNG (Germany)

" This witch driven MACBETH is an undoubted success... From the moment the curtain rises the audience is held in a vice like grip. ...With its strong visual and aural imagery, this MACBETH is a haunting reminder how accessible Shakespeare can be to a modern audience anywhere."

JAPAN TIMES

" A brilliant staging of this tragedy, at once demonic and terrifying... This first class interpretation managed to transport the spellbound audience back to medieval Scotland."

FRANKFURTER RUNDSCHAU (Germany)

" A devastating performance... The witches were spellbinding using every sinew of their bodies as they flayed Macbeth with their tongues. Paul Flush's evocative score is pitched perfectly.. a memorable production."

THE OBSERVER (Britain).

" The witches roll the wheel of fate. Their cries pierce the fog that envelops the dark world of MACBETH... with its combination of tragedy, comedy and music this production achieves astonishing theatrical power. This is theatre such as Shakespeare himself might have imagined."

DONAUKURIER (Austria)

