

Bell Shakespeare presents a new production of *Macbeth*, in celebration of the 400th anniversary of Shakespeare's First Folio, with single tickets now on sale

- An intense and compelling journey into the dark heart of humanity -



Image: Hazem Shammās

Sydney, Australia: Bell Shakespeare has today announced further cast members for its upcoming production of *Macbeth*, showing next year at **Sydney Opera House** from **25 February – 2 April**, **Canberra Theatre Centre** from **14 – 22 April** and **Arts Centre Melbourne** from **27 April – 14 May 2023**.

2023 marks the 400th anniversary of the publication of *Macbeth* in Shakespeare's First Folio, and Bell Shakespeare celebrates this moment with a new production set in the moody 1920s, post-World War I. Starring Logie Award winning actor **Hazem Shammās**, known for his work on TVs *Safe Harbour* and *The Twelve*, as the murderous Macbeth, alongside **Jessica Tovey** as Lady Macbeth, they are joined by just announced cast members **Julia Billington**, **Jeremi Campese**, **James Lugton**, **Kyle Morrison** and **Jacob Warner**.

Directed by **Artistic Director Peter Evans**, the production is a terrifying portrayal of moral collapse and an intense and compelling journey into the dark heart of humanity. Shakespeare's most haunting thriller follows the story of Macbeth, a Scottish general, famed for his exploits on the battlefield.

Peter Evans, Artistic Director of Bell Shakespeare, said: *"I am fixated on Macbeth and have returned to it every few years throughout my life and continue to find new things. In my 20s I was attracted to the violence and ruthlessness in the play and when I turned 40 it was the relationship between Macbeth and Lady Macbeth. And now, firmly in my middle age, I am fascinated by the politics, the deception and double-speak. And the thresholds, the choices, of actions they cannot walk back from. I shudder at the nightmare and loss of humanity Macbeth feels and the intense flood of thoughts and feelings Lady Macbeth is overwhelmed by."*

"I am excited about working with Hazem Shammass and Jessica Tovey, powerful and razor-sharp actors of deep intelligence. This is the best marriage in Shakespeare. But a marriage bent on murder. It is a nightmare. The portrait of a tyrant who is able to describe his hopes and fears in some of Shakespeare's most haunting and visceral language. Imagine the theatre without this play!"

Single tickets are now on sale [here](#).

Ends

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IMAGES [HERE](#).

CAST:

Hazem Shammass as **Macbeth**
Jessica Tovey as **Lady Macbeth**
James Lugton as **Duncan/Porter/Seyton**
Julia Billington as **Banquo**
Jacob Warner as **Malcolm**
Kyle Morrison as **Bleeding Captain/Lennox**
Jeremi Campese as **Fleance/Witch**

CREATIVE TEAM:

Director Peter Evans
Designer Anna Tregloan
Lighting Designer Damien Cooper
Composer & Sound Designer Max Lyandvert

ABOUT BELL SHAKESPEARE

Bell Shakespeare is Australia's national theatre company specialising in the works of William Shakespeare and his contemporaries. Founded in 1990 with the aim of sharing Shakespeare's plays in a way that was relevant and exciting to all Australians, the company has evolved further than its visionary founder, John Bell AO, could have hoped.

Today, Bell Shakespeare tours major theatre productions, education programs and outreach initiatives to every state and territory in Australia. Performing and teaching in theatres, schools, juvenile justice centres and regional and remote communities, the company enjoys unrivalled reach and impact, further extending its influence through innovative digital programs.