

**Bell Shakespeare's new production of *Macbeth* comes to Melbourne, in celebration for the 400<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the publication of the First Folio**

Production images available [here](#)

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



Image: Hazem Shammass and Jessica Tovey in Bell Shakespeare's *Macbeth*. Photo: Brett Boardman.

**Sydney, Australia: Bell Shakespeare's new production of *Macbeth* comes to Arts Centre Melbourne from 27 April – 14 May 2023.**

2023 marks the 400<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the publication of *Macbeth* in Shakespeare's First Folio, the first collected edition of William Shakespeare's plays, without which we wouldn't have some of Shakespeare's most-loved plays. Bell Shakespeare celebrates this moment with a new production set in the moody 1920s, post-World War I. Starring Logie Award winning actor **Hazem Shammass**, known for his work on TVs *Safe Harbour* and *The Twelve*, as the murderous Macbeth, alongside **Jessica Tovey** as Lady Macbeth, they are joined onstage by **Rebecca Attanasio**, **Julia Billington**, **Isabel Burton**, **Jeremi Campese**, **Eleni Cassimatis**, **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!"*

Tickets available [here](#).

## **Ends**

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**IMAGES** [HERE](#).

### **CAST:**

Hazem Shammass as **Macbeth**  
Rebecca Attanassio as **Ross / Witch**  
Julia Billington as **Banquo / Doctor**  
Isabel Burton as **Lady Macduff / Witch**  
Jeremi Campese as **Malcolm / Fleance**  
Eleni Cassimatis as **Donalbain / Witch**  
James Lugton as **Duncan / Porter / Seyton**  
Kyle Morrison as **Lennox / Bleeding Captain**  
Jessica Tovey as **Lady Macbeth**  
Jacob Warner as **Macduff**

### **CREATIVE TEAM:**

**Director** Peter Evans  
**Associate Director** Abbie-lee Lewis  
**Designer** Anna Tregloan  
**Lighting Designer** Damien Cooper  
**Composer & Sound Designer** Max Lyandvert  
**Movement & Fight Director** Nigel Poulton  
**Dramaturg** James Evans

### **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.