

7: PREPARING FOR BATTLE

Adapted by Neil Richards

SCENE 16: A ROOM IN DUNSINANE CASTLE

NARRATOR	<i>Dunsinane Castle: nighttime. Lady Macbeth's servant is worried and has summoned a doctor to the queen's rooms...</i>
SERVANT	Just here, Doctor.
DOCTOR	This is where the queen walks?
SERVANT	Every night.
DOCTOR	And you think she's asleep each time?
SERVANT	I'm sure of it. She says things - but look! Here she comes! Watch!
DOCTOR	Her eyes are open!
SERVANT	But they do not see.
DOCTOR	What's she doing now?
SERVANT	Every night she goes to the bowl on the table there.
DOCTOR	She's washing her hands. But there's no water!
SERVANT	She's talking to herself. We can get closer - she does not see us.
LADY MACBETH	Out damned spot! Out, I say! Hell is murky!
DOCTOR	We're hearing things we shouldn't.
LADY MACBETH	Will these hands never be clean?
SERVANT	Heaven knows what she really knows.
LADY MACBETH	The smell of blood is still there.
DOCTOR	This isn't an illness I can cure.
LADY MACBETH	I tell you Banquo's dead and buried...
DOCTOR	So that's it? Banquo?





LADY MACBETH ...he can't come out of the grave!

SERVANT And you say you can't cure her?

DOCTOR She needs a priest not a doctor.

SERVANT God forgive us all!

DOCTOR We must go. And you had better forget what we just heard - or we're all dead.

SCENE 17: THE HEATH NEAR DUNSINANE

FX **Soldiers marching, distant trumpet sounds. Drums.**

NARRATOR *In England Malcolm and Macduff raise a great army. It marches north to Dunsinane and prepares to do battle with the Macbeth, whose crimes now include the murder of Macduff's wife and children. Angus and Lennox meet on the heath. They too have raised an army and are ready to fight Macbeth...*

FX **Horses approach, are reined in.**

LENNOX What news, Angus?

ANGUS The English army is near, Lennox, led by Malcolm and Macduff. They have come for revenge!

LENNOX And we shall join them. Poor Macduff - he knows his family are all dead?

ANGUS He's vowed to kill Macbeth.

LENNOX You think Macbeth ordered their deaths?

ANGUS I know it. Macbeth is mad. His murders stick to his hands!

LENNOX Onward to Birnam Wood! We'll meet our new allies there!

FX **Their horses gallop away.**

SCENE 18: A ROOM IN DUNSINANE CASTLE

NARRATOR *At Dunsinane Castle, Macbeth gets ready to lead his army into battle. The room is busy as soldiers and servants rush around.*

MACBETH Birnam Wood cannot come to Dunsinane. It's impossible – do you all understand?





NARRATOR	<i>A soldier arrives with news...</i>
BODYGUARD	My lord...
MACBETH	Yes! What is it?
BODYGUARD	The English army comes near, my lord!
MACBETH	All right then! Put on my armour! And you there - yes you, skulking - what do you want with me?
DOCTOR	My lord, your wife...
MACBETH	Who are you?
DOCTOR	The doctor, my lord. Your wife, sir, is sick...
MACBETH	What's the matter with her?
DOCTOR	She is...troubled...
MACBETH	She'll be fine. Come on! And let us go!
DOCTOR	My lord...
MACBETH	I'm not scared of death - till Birnam wood comes to Dunsinane. To the battle!

SCENE 19: THE HEATH NEAR DUNSINANE

FX **Two great armies mingle. Horses. Trumpets. Marching.**

NARRATOR	<i>The moment has come. The army of Malcolm and Macduff unites with that of Angus and Lennox...</i>
MALCOLM	Lennox! Angus! You are welcome to the fight.
LENNOX	Malcolm! It is good to see you. All of Scotland rises up against Macbeth.
ANGUS	Macduff! We heard the news of your family.
MACDUFF	Aye. The time has come, Angus. My wife and children will be avenged!
MALCOLM	And my father too!
LENNOX	Macbeth and his men are in Dunsinane. We will lay siege to the castle.
MACDUFF	We have all the thanes with us. You there - what is your name?





SIWARD Siward, my lord.

MALCOLM Are you ready for the fight?

SIWARD The tyrant must die, my lord Malcolm.

MALCOLM Good man! Now this forest before us – how is it known?

SIWARD It is called Birnam Wood, my lord.

MALCOLM Lennox! Tell the troops to cut down the trees and hold the branches in front of them - the enemy won't know how strong we are!

LENNOX Come lads!

FX **Horses head off at a gallop.**

