

### 3: DAGGERS FOR KING DUNCAN

Adapted by Neil Richards

#### SCENE 6: THE GREAT HALL AT DUNSINANE

<b>NARRATOR</b>	<i>In the great hall of Dunsinane, King Duncan and all the lords and ladies stand to celebrate their victory.</i>
SERVANT	Pray quiet for the King!
DUNCAN	A toast! To our hosts - Lord and Lady Macbeth!
ALL	Lord and Lady Macbeth!
DUNCAN	Your castle is beautiful, my lady. The air here is so sweet!
LADY MACBETH	Your majesty! You honour us with your visit to Dunsinane.
DUNCAN	I hope we have not troubled you...
MACBETH	We are at your service, my lord. Now, please everyone - take your seats at the table!
<b>NARRATOR</b>	<i>While the King and the lords and ladies sit down to feast, Macbeth and Lady Macbeth stand to one side, so nobody can hear them...</i>
MACBETH	Duncan trusts me. I should be protecting him - not killing him.
LADY MACBETH	When the King finishes supper and goes to sleep...that's when you do it.
MACBETH	No. We'll go no further with this plan. He has come here to honour me. Can we not just enjoy that?
LADY MACBETH	What are you saying? 'I'd like to wear the crown but I don't dare take it'?
MACBETH	What if we fail?
LADY MACBETH	Have courage and we'll not fail. Do it when Duncan is asleep and after tonight - he'll sleep forever. Is that settled?
MACBETH	Yes. It is...settled.





## **SCENE 7: THE BATTLEMENTS OF DUNSINANE**

<b>NARRATOR</b>	<i>The feast is over. Banquo and his son Fleance are taking a walk on the castle walls.</i>
BANQUO	What time is it, Fleance?
FLEANCE	After midnight, father. Listen. Someone's coming! Who's there?
MACBETH	A friend, Fleance. Banquo...
BANQUO	Macbeth. So you're still awake too? The King at least is asleep. He went to bed in good spirits, thanks to your hospitality.
MACBETH	We did all we could.
BANQUO	A real feast. I dreamt of the witches last night. There was truth in what they said, Thane of Cawdor...
MACBETH	I haven't really thought about it. But perhaps you're right. We should talk, Banquo...
BANQUO	Whenever you like.
MACBETH	Stay with me, Banquo, and we could all share in the future...
BANQUO	My loyalty's to the King - and ever will be. Now, we must go to bed. Come, Fleance.
FLEANCE	Good night, sir.
MACBETH	Sleep well!
BANQUO	And the same to you, my friend.
<b>NARRATOR</b>	<i>Alone, Macbeth knows he must make his decision...</i>
MACBETH	Soon everyone will be asleep but me. And then... What's this? A dagger in the air, its handle turned towards my hand. Come let me...hold you. Aagh. I can't touch it - but I can still see it. A dagger of the mind. I'm seeing things. And now there's blood on the blade and handle! It is time to do the deed.

## **SCENE 8: LADY MACBETH'S CHAMBER**

<b>NARRATOR</b>	<i>In her bedroom, Lady Macbeth cannot sleep. She walks back and forth, thinking about her terrible plan...</i>
LADY MACBETH	What is he doing? I left the daggers for him. He can't have missed them!





<b>FX</b>	<b><u>A door opens and Macbeth stumbles in.</u></b>
MACBETH	Oh...oh...
LADY MACBETH	My husband. Have you...?
MACBETH	The deed is done. Look at my hands. The blood...it's terrible.
LADY MACBETH	It will wash off.
MACBETH	Just after it was done, I heard a voice crying. 'Sleep no more!' it said. And then, 'Macbeth has murdered sleep!'
LADY MACBETH	You're imagining things. Go! Wash your hands! And why did you bring the daggers? Put them back in the room!
MACBETH	I can't go back there.
LADY MACBETH	Give them to me. I'll wipe the faces of the sleeping servants with blood. (GOING) It will look as though they killed the King.
<b>NARRATOR</b>	<b><i>Lady Macbeth goes to the King's bedroom to leave the daggers there... while Macbeth waits for her return...</i></b>
LADY MACBETH	Done. It will look as if the servants committed the crime. And see, my hands are the same colour as yours.
<b>FX</b>	<b><u>Knocking.</u></b>
	Someone's knocking at the South Gate.
MACBETH	I wish the knocking would wake Duncan...
LADY MACBETH	The dead King sleeps forever.

