

4: ALL HAIL, MACBETH! KING OF SCOTLAND!

Adapted by Neil Richards

SCENE 9: THE HALLWAYS OF DUNSINANE

FX Alarms through the castle. Macduff, Banquo, Ross and Lennox enter running.

NARRATOR *King Duncan's body is quickly discovered. The lords - Macduff, Banquo, Ross and Lennox – jump from their beds and run from room to room to raise the alarm.*

BANQUO Malcolm, Donalbain - your father has been murdered!

MALCOLM No!

FX They draw swords.

DONALBAIN Tell us the name of the assassin and we shall avenge our father!

MACDUFF From the look of it his own servants did the deed. Their hands and faces are covered in blood and their daggers lie nearby!

MALCOLM I will face these lowly assassins now!

MACBETH Stop, Malcolm.

MALCOLM Macbeth, let me through -

MACBETH Stay - the assassins are dead. I have killed them already.

MALCOLM What?

LADY MACBETH What has happened?

MACDUFF The King is dead, my lady.

LADY MACBETH No!

MACBETH Malcolm. Donalbain. Listen to me. Your father lay dead, his murderers so close...who could hold back?

NARRATOR *Macbeth needs help with his lies. And Lady Macbeth knows just what to do. She staggers...*

LADY MACBETH Help...please...





NARRATOR	<i>...and falls...</i>
LADY MACBETH	...I feel...
<u>FX</u>	<u>Lady Macbeth falls.</u>
BANQUO	Lady Macbeth! She faints...
MACBETH	I must look after my lady. Lennox, help me carry her to her room.
LENNOX	Yes.
MALCOLM	Donalbain, dearest brother, we must be silent for now...
DONALBAIN	You're right, Malcolm. This place isn't safe.
MACDUFF	Something's not right here, Banquo.
BANQUO	If there's a plot, Macduff, or treason - I'll fight it.
MACDUFF	So will I.
ROSS	So will we all.
MACDUFF	We'll dress - and meet in the great hall.
MALCOLM	My brother and I will join you shortly. Donalbain, I don't trust anyone here. We must leave - separately. I'll go to England.
DONALBAIN	Ireland for me then, dear brother.
MALCOLM	Let's go, while we can.
DONALBAIN	There'll be no mercy here – only more murder. To horse!

SCENE 10: THE GREAT HALL AT DUNSINANE

<u>FX</u>	<u>Trumpet fanfare. A great crowd.</u>
NARRATOR	<i>At Dunsinane castle, a week later, Macbeth's loyal followers cheer him and his queen as they return from their coronation...</i>
ALL	All hail! Hail King Macbeth! Hail the Queen!
NARRATOR	<i>Banquo watches alone from a dark corner of the great hall...</i>





BANQUO It has all come true, just as the witches said. But did they make it happen - or was it Macbeth himself?

MACBETH Banquo!

BANQUO Here, your majesty! And my lady. Welcome back to Dunsinane.

LADY MACBETH Our loyal friend!

MACBETH Banquo, what news?

BANQUO Malcolm and Donalbain have fled the country. But they're telling everyone who'll listen that they didn't kill their father.

LADY MACBETH Well they would say that - wouldn't they?

MACBETH It's not important. We'll deal with it tomorrow. In the meantime -

LADY MACBETH - our feast -

MACBETH - tonight - to celebrate! You'll join us, I know.

BANQUO I'm at your command, sir.

MACBETH Are you...hunting today?

BANQUO Yes, your majesty.

MACBETH Are you taking Fleance with you?

BANQUO Of course, my lord.

MACBETH Good, good. Enjoy yourselves - and don't be late! *(TO EVERYONE)* Now please, my loyal subjects! Your king has work to do. Until the feast tonight you may leave us!

FX **The guests exit.**

NARRATOR *Macbeth waits until everyone has gone. Just one servant stays back - because Macbeth needs him...*

MACBETH Those men we spoke of. Are they here?

ATTENDANT 1 Aye, my lord. I let them in through the back gates, as you asked.

MACBETH Get them.

ATTENDANT 1 Your majesty...

NARRATOR *The servant goes. And Macbeth thinks through his plan again.*





MACBETH	I am the king. But the witches told Banquo that his children would be kings. Not mine. Being king isn't enough - I have to be safe. And I can't be safe as long as Banquo lives.
ATTENDANT 1	Here are the two men, my lord.
MACBETH	Good. Now leave us. (TO THE ASSASSINS) Don't bother sitting. This won't take long.
ASSASSIN 1	Suits me.
ASSASSIN 2	Me too.
MACBETH	Good. Now. Banquo.
ASSASSINS	Banquo?
MACBETH	Yes. Banquo. I want you to kill him.
ASSASSINS	Kill Banquo?
MACBETH	Today. While he's out hunting. All right?
ASSASSINS	All right.
MACBETH	His son, Fleance, must die too.
ASSASSIN 1	We'll do you a deal.
ASSASSIN 2	Special offer.
ASSASSIN 1	Two for the price of one.
MACBETH	Nobody - but nobody - must ever connect this to me.
ASSASSIN 1	Don't worry your majesty. Our lips are sealed.
ASSASSIN 2	As quiet as the grave.
ASSASSIN 1	And our daggers are sharp.
FX	<u>Two daggers drawn.</u>
ASSASSIN 2	And cold as death.
ASSASSIN 1	Snick-snack.
ASSASSIN 2	Clickety-clack.

