

Sinister goings-on at Derby Cathedral

Macbeth – Partners of Greatness

This autumn, Derby Cathedral hosts a haunting and emotional adaptation of one of Shakespeare's most intense and spine-chilling plays.

Macbeth - Partners of Greatness - shines a light on the turbulent relationship between the two central characters, while the rest of the play lurks in shadows.

Audiences are invited to follow the fierce and fearsome Macbeth and Lady Macbeth, as they slay their way to the top and struggle to stay there - from shared ambition to bloody hands, from guilty minds to total despair.

Derby-based 1623 theatre company celebrate their 20th anniversary by performing in the gothic magnificence of Derby Cathedral for the very first time.

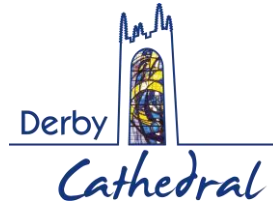
Ben Spiller, artistic director of 1623, explains: "1623 is all about shaking, shaping and sharing creativity with communities and Shakespeare. We have co-created this version of Macbeth with communities across the UK, and we are delighted to be sharing it with people in our home city of Derby."

1623 associate artists Jamie Brown and Lara de-Leuw are playing the central parts of Macbeth and Lady Macbeth in this thoughtful and moving take on the play, which focuses exclusively on the relationship at the heart of the play.

Jamie says: "This is not a traditional production of Shakespeare's tragedy - we are sharing the story from the point of view of a couple who have lost their child. We really want to show how the Macbeths are lost in the fog of their grief."

Lara adds: "Yes, and how they make decisions in that fog, after not having had the support that they need to navigate their grief and make healthier choices. It's a very human story, one that we can all relate to - we want people to feel connected to the characters and care about them."

In rehearsals, Lara, Jamie and Ben have been working with Mariposa International, a pioneering and well-respected charity who support people with infant loss.



Ben says: “Our partnership with Mariposa is important to us because it means that our exploration and portrayal of the Macbeths as grieving parents is as careful and accurate as possible, and based on lived experiences.

“Mariposa are also supporting our audiences by providing information and advice, and by taking part in post-show discussions on living with infant loss.”

Laura Fraser, commercial manager at Derby Cathedral quotes: “We’re thrilled to welcome this powerful production of Macbeth to Derby Cathedral. The Cathedral’s unique atmosphere offers a dramatic and unforgettable setting for live theatre, and we’re proud to support events that bring people together through culture and creativity.”

Macbeth - Partners of Greatness - plays at Derby Cathedral twice on Friday November 13th. Performances start at 2.00pm and 7.30pm. The show runs at approximately 50 minutes, with a post-show discussion.

Both performances are captioned, and feature creative audio description.

Ticket prices are £12 to £16. Book in advance at www.livetickets.org.

More details are at www.1623theatre.co.uk/macbeth-partners-of-greatness.

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Notes for editors

Ben, Lara and Oliver are available for interview and / or photoshoot.

Press tickets are available for reviewers.

Contact ben@1623theatre.co.uk or 07757 688938 to arrange.