



*W. J. Morgan & Co.*  
LITH. CLEVELAND, O.

# MACBETH.



- FULL TITLE · The Tragedy of Macbeth
- AUTHOR · William Shakespeare
- TYPE OF WORK · Play
- GENRE · Tragedy
- LANGUAGE · English
- TIME AND PLACE WRITTEN · 1606, England
- DATE OF FIRST PUBLICATION · First Folio edition, 1623
- PUBLISHER · John Heminges and Henry Condell, two senior members of Shakespeare's theatrical company
- TONE · Dark and ominous, suggestive of a world turned topsy-turvy by foul and unnatural crimes
- TENSE · Not applicable (drama)
- SETTING (TIME) · The Middle Ages, specifically the eleventh century
- SETTING (PLACE) · Various locations in Scotland; also England, briefly
- PROTAGONIST · Macbeth
- MAJOR CONFLICTS · The struggle within Macbeth between his ambition and his sense of right and wrong; the struggle between the murderous evil represented by Macbeth and Lady Macbeth and the best interests of the nation, represented by Malcolm and Macduff
- RISING ACTION · Macbeth and Banquo's encounter with the witches initiates both conflicts; Lady Macbeth's speeches goad Macbeth into murdering Duncan and seizing the crown.
- CLIMAX · Macbeth's murder of Duncan in Act 2 represents the point of no return, after which Macbeth is forced to continue butchering his subjects to avoid the consequences of his crime.
- FALLING ACTION · Macbeth's increasingly brutal murders (of Duncan's servants, Banquo, Lady Macduff and her son); Macbeth's second meeting with the witches; Macbeth's final confrontation with Macduff and the opposing armies
- THEMES · The corrupting nature of unchecked ambition; the relationship between cruelty and masculinity; the difference between kingship and tyranny
- MOTIFS · The supernatural, hallucinations, violence, prophecy
- SYMBOLS · Blood; the dagger that Macbeth sees just before he kills Duncan in Act 2; the weather
- FORESHADOWING · The bloody battle in Act 1 foreshadows the bloody murders later on; when Macbeth thinks he hears a voice while killing Duncan, it foreshadows the insomnia that plagues Macbeth and his wife; Macduff's suspicions of Macbeth after Duncan's murder foreshadow his later opposition to Macbeth; all of the witches' prophecies foreshadow later events.



# MACBETH

GET TICKETS





# Hamlet





**Benedict Cumberbatch**  
**Hamlet**

by **William Shakespeare**  
directed by **Lyndsey Turner**  
produced by **Sonia Friedman Productions**

Photo (Benedict Cumberbatch) © Johan Persson

sfp presented by **barbican**

- National Theatre Live: Hamlet (*original title*)

# Romeo and Juliet







