

THE CIVIC

BIGGER. BOLDER.

AN EXCITING NEW EVENT! Our Civic Shakespeare Festival will feature a youth theatre and adult production at the same venue. Both Shakespeare productions will be run in repertory, alternating performance nights and both shows in one day on Saturdays.

AUDITIONS



MACBETH

By William Shakespeare

Oct. 21 – Nov. 5

THE PARISH THEATRE • TRAGEDY
CIVIC SHAKESPEARE FESTIVAL

All hail a surprising new *Macbeth*! The Scottish play or *Macbeth* as it is known to the world, will entice audiences with its simple plot, its witches and ghosts, and its clear moral questions about the lure of evil and how we control our own fates. At the beginning of the play, a brave Scottish general named Macbeth is a loyal subject to King Duncan. After Macbeth receives a prophecy from a trio of witches that one day he will become king himself, Macbeth is overcome by greed and ambition. Bolstered by the prophecy and his wife's encouragement, Macbeth kills King Duncan and takes the throne for himself, descending into a complex psychological drama filled with violence and betrayal. He then becomes wracked with guilt and paranoia and lives out his life with thoughts of bloodthirsty enemies on the battlefield, double dealing politicians of the court and would-be assassins in his own home!

[This is best enjoyed by teen & adult audiences.]

"...it's a theatregoer's blessing."

– New York Times

To register or for more information visit

KazooCivic.com

or email **Volunteer@KazooCivic.com**

or call the Director of Volunteers at

269-343-2280 x1013

ADVANCE
REGISTRATION
IS REQUIRED

AUDITION DATES

Sunday, August 20th at 7:00pm

Monday, August 21st at 7:00pm

CALLBACKS

Wednesday, August 23rd at 7:00pm

LOCATION

The Carver Center - Carver Studio - 426 S Park St.

(Those auditioning are encouraged to arrive thirty minutes prior to audition time.)

CASTING

Seeking a highly diverse cast of 22 actors ages 9 and up. 7 women and 10 men.

4 ROLES FOR YOUTH ACTORS:

Fleance: boy age 9-16

Macduff's son: boy age 7-12

Macduff's daughter: girl age 9-16

Donalbain: boy age 12-18

REQUIREMENTS

Those auditioning will be asked to read from the script.

CREW

Production Crew positions are available for Light Board Operator, Playback Operator and Dressers who will also work with blood make-up.

REHEARSAL SCHEDULE

Rehearsals will be held Monday through Friday from 7:00pm – 10:00pm beginning

September 11th – October 19th

PERFORMANCES

October 21st - November 5th, 2017

AUDITION PREP

FREE Inside the Civic Audition Workshops

Saturday, August 12th, 2017

ADVANCED REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED

DIRECTOR

Mychelle Hopkins

GENERAL INFORMATION

Scripts are available and may be checked out of the Business Office with a \$5.00 (cash only) refundable deposit.

WE ASKED THE DIRECTOR

MYCHELLE HOPKINS

Director of

Macbeth

BIOGRAPHY



MYCHELLE HOPKINS
Director

Mychelle Hopkins holds her Master's Degree from the prestigious Shakespeare Institute in Stratford-upon-Avon, England where she studied as a Fulbright Scholar. Mychelle has received critical acclaim as a Director and Actress both regionally and internationally. Her theatrical background is extensive with nearly forty years of professional experience. Mychelle joined the equity company of The Barn Theatre in Augusta, Michigan in 2005 after 15 years at the Kalamazoo Civic Theatre

where she served as the organization's Associate Director. Serving as an Adjunct Professor in the Western Michigan University's Theatre Department from 2001-2007, Mychelle introduced thousands of students to the joy and challenge of theatre. A native of Northern Michigan, she now resides in Traverse City with her husband, Steve Smith, their 12 year old son, Macready and 9 year old daughter, Molly. Mychelle is beyond excited to be directing Shakespeare again at her former home-away-from-home. It's been too long my friends!

1. You directed our 2007 production of "Macbeth", what drew you to direct this again?

"When I heard that the Civic was planning to do a 'Shakespeare Festival' with two titles running at the same time – I knew I wanted to be involved! The last production I directed for the Civic, before moving back to my hometown of Traverse City, was that 2007 'Macbeth'. That experience was filled with unusual events. I spent two months in the hospital during the rehearsals and was then confined to bed rest for another two months. Thankfully, Zac Thompson stepped in and worked with me (and he hates hospitals) to get the job done. My doctor gave me permission to attend the opening night of the show so I did get to see it, at least. Working on this play a decade later allows me to take care of some unfinished business."

2. Why is "Macbeth" still relevant today?

"The thing I love about Shakespeare is the absolute relevance of his plays to our modern society. Because his themes are universal – if you are human you'll see yourself in one of his characters – and because his language speaks to the very center of our being, Shakespeare should never feel dated to a modern audience. 'Macbeth' is a stunning example of this immediacy, this relevance. The plot could have been ripped from today's headlines."

3. The production will have a modernized Central American setting. What will this contribute to the play?

"The political machinations of certain despotic and authoritarian governments currently making the news in Central and South America and the grass roots rebellious efforts to bring them back in line with the tenets of a democratic society should resonate clearly. In our own country we are becoming divided and factious. The slow creep of discontent is at our borders. Leaders demand loyalty. Women are finding a new strength and are taking to the streets. Our neighbors in Central America are not satisfied with business as usual. Citizens are suspicious of back room deals and secret missives. By setting the play in this environment I hope our audiences will feel the sweaty discomfort of unfettered political ambition."

4. What affect will this have on the acting?

"I expect the actors will be sweaty. I expect they will be working their tails off to tell this story. This is an athletic undertaking and not just because of the battle sequences. The characters' motivations are very much from the gut. I will work with the actors to identify those deep dark impulses within and explore ways to manifest them."

5. Who are the 'Ladies In White' and what is their inspiration for the witches?

"We have drawn inspiration from the 'Ladies in White', a protest group in Cuba. The ladies dress in white and hold protest marches in Havana, usually after church services. The government's official line is that the women are actually working for the US. The BBC News says 'The Cuban' authorities say the 'Ladies in White' are in the pay of the United States and form part of Washington's 'decades-old effort to undermine Cuba's socialist revolution'. From them we have extrapolated a treasure trove of images and ideas."

6. What type of fight choreography will be used in the production?

"Modern tactical combat. Zac Thompson, Fight Choreographer will be using pistols, rifles, expandable batons, zip ties and tactical tomahawks."

7. Are there any filmed versions of the play you would recommend?

"My all-time favorite film version of 'Macbeth' is the RSC's 1976 version staged in their small arena theatre called The Other Place. It was very pared down and starred a young Ian McKellen and Judi Dench. The production was filmed and can be viewed on YouTube (<https://youtu.be/YpKWWKOPj34>). Hollywood has yet to do a definitive 'Macbeth'."

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MYCHELLE HOPKINS

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8. For some Shakespeare's language can be intimidating. Do you have any advice on overcoming this?

"Practice saying it out loud. Shakespeare's plays were written to be spoken, not read. There are many editions of the play that contain annotations. These can be very helpful if you just want to know what the words mean or what the words are trying to do. If you really need a simple way to make heads or tails of it, there are a few really good parallel texts – they have the simplified modern version on one side of the page and Shakespeare's words on the opposite page. I will be doing quite a bit of text work throughout the rehearsal process so no one will be left to flounder."

9. Specifically, for the Shakespeare novice, what is the best way to prepare for auditions?

"If possible, read the whole play. At minimum be aware of the basic plot and the major characters. I won't ask for monologues to be presented, you will just be asked to read from the play. You will need to do some movement, so make sure you are dressed for that. Really, just be yourself and show the director what is unique and interesting about YOU."

10. What are the performance opportunities for youth in this production?

"Several of the characters are children or young adults and can be played by children or young adults. I would like to cast at least 3 males, 9-16 years old and at least 2 females, 9-16 years old. Actors 16 and up can audition for adult roles."

11. What are some unique crew opportunities for this production?

"The production offers a chance for volunteers to learn how to run a light board and one person to run play back (sound cues). In addition, there will be dresser opportunities to help facilitate quick changes and work with blood make-up"

12. What are your expectations from actors and what expectation should they have from you?

"My expectation from all actors is to make the show a priority in their lives. I expect the actor to be well read and to do their homework. I expect them to 'bring something to the party' and contribute to the evolution of their character. I expect the actor to trust me. I expect the actor to trust their designers. I expect them to take direction graciously and to support and encourage each other. They can expect the same from me."