

**Full company announced to join John Simm and Dervla Kirwan**

in

**MACBETH** by **William Shakespeare**

Directed by **Paul Miller**

**21 September – 26 October, Festival Theatre**

**John Simm** and **Dervla Kirwan** lead the cast of Shakespeare's *Macbeth* at Chichester Festival Theatre from 21 September – 26 October, with a press night on 27 September. The full company joining them in **Paul Miller's** production are: **Heider Ali** (2<sup>nd</sup> Murderer), **Michael Balogun** (Macduff), **David Burnett** (1<sup>st</sup> Murderer/Menteith), **Roseanna Frasca** (Weird Sister), **Leah Gayer** (Weird Sister), **Lauren Grace** (Weird Sister), **Stuart Laing** (Banquo), **Luyanda Unati Lewis-Nyawo** (Ross), **Avital Lvova** (Lennox), **Harry Peacock** (Porter/Siward), **Isabel Pollen** (Lady Macduff), **Christopher Ravenscroft** (Duncan/Doctor), **Beatriz Romilly** (Malcolm) and **Nathan Welsh** (Donalbain), with **Jacob Blazdell** and **Harvey McGuinness** sharing the role of Fleance, and **Noah Peirson** and **Matthew O'Shea** that of Young Macduff.

Much celebrated for his forthright bravery, Macbeth is a state hero. After the bloody defeat of a rebel army, he encounters a trio of strangers who predict that one day he will be King. Having delivered their ambiguous message, they vanish, leaving a mind cracked open.

Fearing that her husband lacks the vital drive to take charge of his fate, Lady Macbeth invokes her stronger nature to fulfil their destiny. The plan she hatches will trigger an uncontrollable train of events, hurtling two corrupted souls to the heart of darkness.

Shakespeare's great tragedy shows ambition falling headlong into tyranny and chaos. As appearances increasingly deceive, the nature of reality itself comes into question.

**Paul Miller** is Artistic Director of the Orange Tree Theatre, Richmond. He was previously Associate Director at Sheffield Theatres, where his productions included **John Simm's** *Hamlet* (2010); he also directed John Simm in his Olivier Award-nominated performance in *Elling* at the Bush and in the West End.

**John Simm** makes his Chichester debut in the title role. Among his extensive screen and stage work, recent credits include *Strangers*, *Collateral* and *Doctor Who* on television, and *Pinter at the Pinter: Six* (West End).

**Dervla Kirwan** plays Lady Macbeth. Her stage work includes Goneril in *King Lear* (2017), *Frankie and Johnny* (2014) and *Uncle Vanya* (2012) at Chichester and, most recently, *Jesus Hopped the 'A' Train* (Young Vic). She also appeared in ITV's *Strangers* alongside John Simm.

*Macbeth* will be designed by **Simon Daw**, with lighting by **Mark Doubleday**, music and sound by **Max Pappenheim**, video by **Tim Reid**, movement by **Angela Gasparetto**, fights by **Rachel Bown-Williams and Ruth Cooper-Brown** and casting by **Serena Hill**.

*Macbeth* is sponsored by Harwoods Group.

## **EVENTS**

**Pre-Show Talk with Paul Miller**  
Free but booking essential.

**Wednesday 25 September, 5.45pm**

**Post-Show Talk**

**Tuesday 22 October**

Stay after the performance to ask questions, meet company members and discover more.  
Free.

## **BOOKING INFORMATION**

Box Office **01243 781312**  
Online **[cft.org.uk](http://cft.org.uk)**

Tickets from £10. Prologue tickets for 16 – 25 year olds for £5.

Press night: Friday 27 September

**Images** can be downloaded from [cft.org.uk/pressimages](http://cft.org.uk/pressimages), password: festivalpress

For further information please contact Lucinda Morrison, Head of Press on 01243 812917 or [lucinda.morrison@cft.org.uk](mailto:lucinda.morrison@cft.org.uk)

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