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Inland Stage Presents Post-Apocalyptic 'Macbeth'

The Inland Stage Company features a post-apocalyptic rendition of Shakespeare's classic tale of blood lust, "Macbeth," directed by Yvonne Flack.

"I have always been drawn to the continued contemporary relevance of Shakespeare," Flack said. "The works of Shakespeare lend themselves readily to adaptations that highlight the universal themes they contain. In the case of 'Macbeth,' a play that represents the continued cycle of violent ambition, a post-apocalyptic adaptation seemed fitting."

In the production, set in the meatpacking factory of Inverness Meats, Flack has imagined a scenario that leaves Shakespeare's characters as a small band of survivors of a nuclear holocaust.

"They strive in vain to re-establish some semblance of order in a world that has been ripped apart by the worst possible scenario of humanity's violence," Flack said.

According to Flack, the play is complicated by questions of free will imposed upon the action by the mysterious witches.

"The witches serve to exploit Macbeth's tragic flaw and their function as the three fates pushes Macbeth onto the path of violence that eventually brings about his downfall," Flack said. "The audience is left witnessing the Adam and Eve-like fall of Macbeth and Lady Macbeth. Macbeth grasps desperately at the power that he abandons morality to gain, and as it slips away he becomes so steeped in blood that there is no way to go but forward and deeper. The end result is a harrowing tale of power, greed and violence that speaks volumes to our own uncertain present--a time plagued with war, revolution and bank bailouts."

Local veteran actor Jared Moore will play the part of Macbeth.

"Macbeth is definitely a conflicted man. He is a faithful soldier that upholds his King until he receives a supernatural word that he is to have promotion and honor. Once this seed of power and ambition is planted within his mind it begins to take root in his heart," Moore said. "My approach to portraying the character of Macbeth is to simply lose myself in the text. I am taking time to really examine the mindset and all the stakes that are involved with each new decision and repercussion. The journey of Macbeth takes him from a fairly normal guy to one that completely sears his conscience and allows his ambition to take him over the edge to his ultimate demise."

As dark as this tale is, Moore is really enjoying going on the journey and opening himself up to experience his dark path.

"I really appreciate Yvonne's vision for this production of Macbeth," Moore said. "First of all, being set in a post apocalyptic world, the audience can relate much more than if it was set hundreds of years ago. Making this a modern adaptation and interpretation of the story of Macbeth allows the viewer to relate at a much deeper level with the story and the characters."

Yvonne's focus is on character, according to Moore.

"Her style of direction allows each actor to ask the right questions, for themselves, that brings the character to life. Some directors just tell you what to do and what to think without giving you the opportunity to delve in and explore the world of that character," Moore said. "Yvonne is always careful to give each person the time to find their character and in doing so each character will have a genuine richness that will translate as real."

“This is the largest cast I've ever worked with, and I am proud to say, one of the most talented,” Flack said. “This production has felt like a true collaboration from the start. The actors have brought such life and realism to their characters that there is an added sense of urgency that drives the play forward. The actors have truly embraced our unique production and brought some of the most interesting choices to their characters. This show will be one of the most unique productions of Shakespeare that this area has seen.”

“Yvonne has a wonderful way with Shakespeare,” said ISC Artistic Director Jim Marbury. “Not only is she a master of the material, which for me is an absolute requirement for any director of any play at Inland Stage, but she has a wonderful intuition when it comes to staging and a collaborative spirit which makes working with her such a pleasure for all involved. I love the danger of this particular rendition and the contemporary spin on the characters and their situation.”

“Macbeth” plays at 8 p.m. Thursday, Friday, and Saturday, and 2 p.m. Sunday, March 14 through 30 (no performance Easter Sunday). Presale tickets are available for only \$10 through March 13. At the door, General Admission is \$15 and Seniors and students can buy tickets for \$12. Thursdays are “Pay What You Can Night,” with a suggested \$5 donation, and there is a special \$7 student rush discount available to students with ID, 10 minutes before curtain. ISC also offers group rates and season tickets.

Diamond Valley Art Council’s Esplanade Art Center is located at 2181 W. Esplanade Ave., San Jacinto, Ca.

For more information or reservations, please call the box office at [951 600-7273 x100](tel:9516007273).

Photo Caption: Jared Moore as Macbeth and Jeannette A. Gardea as Lady Macbeth

