



Macbeth - Herndon High School

The room is dark, with the only lights around turning red. A dagger floats down from the sky, seemingly from another power, or from simple imagination. As this “dagger of the mind” is clasped, it is unsheathed, light reflecting off it in dramatic fashion. This is one of the many scenes Herndon High School excelled at in their performance of Macbeth.

Macbeth is one of playwright William Shakespear’s most famous works. It’s thought to have first been performed in 1606, and other than Herndon High School’s show having an apocalypse theme, nothing else has changed since its original inception. This Scottish tragedy tells the story of Macbeth, a Scottish noble and esteemed fighter. After winning a battle, he encounters three witches who predict a grand future: becoming King of Scotland. However, he is forced to think long and hard about what it would mean to betray his king to gain glory.

Macbeth, played by Bo Chatterjee, had a wide range of emotions on stage that allowed him to act through Macbeth’s moral struggles. For example, he started by keeping his movements more reserved, then later portrayed a more confident character. He achieved this through copying some of Lady Macbeth’s, played by Nora Blythe, hand movements. Nora was an incredible actor, especially when her character had a mental breakdown. She created tears despite the script painting her as a villain. Macduff, played by Jack Rudolph, and Lady Macduff, played by Ellen Lawton, each had similarly heart-wrenching scenes. Ellen’s convincing death created a massive amount of shock, and Jack looked physically ill with grief afterward.

However, it wasn’t just powerful acting performances that made this a great show. The tech-focused on symbolism in order to drive home the show’s themes. The lighting crew, made up of Makayla Umana, Carson Brownlee, Amelie Aubouin and Christa Anderson, used slight changes in the background colors of the stage to convey different meanings. Red symbolized greed and intensity, while lighter colors were used for less dramatic scenes. They also used the lights to reflect off objects, like Macbeth’s crown or his sword, emphasizing those objects. The costumes, done by Livie Godfrey, Maggie Growney, Josie Anderson, and Ian Wright, also changed depending on the scene. Macbeth and his wife would wear red when they are actively plotting, with Macbeth donning a red shirt and Lady Macbeth wearing a red skirt. The cast’s clothes also gave

off the impression of an armageddon-esque age, helping with the unique theming of the show.

Tomorrow, tomorrow, and tomorrow, this show will continue to live on in the lore of Herndon High School. From the small details in everyone's acting choices to the deliberate symbolism found in the set, everyone made this show the special occasion it turned out to be. I hereby crown Herndon High King of this incredible Scottish Tragedy (which will, of course, not be named).