



"This is truly an evil play," says Dale Simon, who is a scenic artist and plays the role of Banquo for the Trenton State production.

"It begins with a curse and an execution, then (follows with) murder after murder after murder."

side out. People have preconceptions of Lady Macbeth; she is often performed as a raging battle-axe. I am trying to find the human progression of her in the play. But will people accept the character choices I am making, especially the ones in the later scenes?"

Also unacquainted, until now with Shakespeare are many of the student actors, who make up half the cast. In playing Lady Macduff, sophomore Janice Rowland has learned quite a bit.

"Shakespeare has made me aware of my voice," she explained. "I found I needed different qualities in my voice: flexibility, richness and tone. It helps me to refine my diction and enunciation."

"I find the words flow once you connect with your character," said Matthew Chiappardi, who plays an old man. "With Shakespeare, you find you have a lot to learn."

If the staging is any clue, Trenton State's *Macbeth* should fall in line with Shakespeare's vision. Included in the set are flats that look like huge stone walls, like those found in centuries-old Scottish castles. And the plaid costumes feature colors based on the dyes used in Macbeth's day. The murders, meanwhile, are violent and cold-blooded, and the pace set for the actors is vigorous.

Even more important, especially for the superstitious, is that the curse associated with "the Scottish play" seems to be dormant.

Macbeth is on stage in Kendall Hall Theatre, Trenton State College, Rt. 31, Ewing, through April 21. Showtimes: 8 p.m., Fri.-Sat., 2 p.m., Sun. Tickets cost \$14. For tickets and information: (609) 771-2551.

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goes limp in the final two acts, IV and V. Most of the action, including the murder of King Duncan, takes place in the first three acts, when the Macbeths' plans, driven by greed, make for the most powerful scenes in the play. During the last two acts, however, audiences

see very little of the Macbeths, and they never appear together. Instead, we watch as the forces of good in Scotland (Malcolm and Macduff) band together.

One of the biggest challenges in *Macbeth* is making the play's tragic hero seem human.

"Indeed, this is a problem,"

Mr. Hogstrom admitted. "The basis for the play's communication with its audience is, empathy. We need to be able to identify with the protagonist, and how can we identify with a man who can say, 'It will have blood...blood will have blood,' and then order the murder of children?"

As Lady Macbeth, professional actress Janet Quartarone is new to Shakespeare.

"My training has been very American Method, and I am trying to marry this working approach with Shakespeare," she says. "I am finding Lady Macbeth from the in-



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