

Powerful tale, powerfully told

REVIEW: *Macbeth*, performed by Workington Playgoers, Theatre Royal

PASSION and clever engineering made a success of Workington Playgoers' take on *Macbeth*.

I'm sure it wasn't a doddle to coordinate 30 cast and almost as many scenes, but the actors pulled off a great show.

The play is a powerful story of greed, ambition and lust for power. Returning victorious from battle, Macbeth, a general in the service of King Duncan of Scotland, is hailed by three witches, who prophesy he will become Thane of Cawdor and then King of Scotland. But this encounter sets a terrible chain of events in motion.

Nicola Woodier, as Lady Macbeth, was outstanding. Her talent really showed in this role. Making sense of Shakespeare's language can sometimes be quite a task, but her passionate performance made it really easy for me to understand what was happening on stage.

Geoffrey Hall, as Macbeth, lived up to the huge task too, never losing the rhythm of this fast-paced tragedy.

The use of revolving panels and



video bites integrated to the action on stage, made the show flow brilliantly.

Having a four-piece early music ensemble set the mood for the spooky parts and lifted the spirits during the banquets.

And the witches were, well, bewitching to look at and their every screech made me want to join them dancing around the cauldron.

The costumes were exceptional, so much so it truly felt we

had been transported back in time and place.

I'm not a huge Shakespeare fan, but credit where due – well done to all the Playgoers.

Macbeth runs at the town's Theatre Royal, Washington Street, until tomorrow.

Tickets cost £11, concessions £10. Performances start at 7.30pm. To book visit www.theatre-royal-workington.co.uk or call 01900 603161.

FULL OF SOUND AND FURY:

Nicola Woodier as Lady Macbeth and Geoffrey Hall as Macbeth

Chris Lewis
Photography

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