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# The News Lifestyle

## Arts & Entertainment

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# Theatre Erindale tackles the real Macbeth

By JOSEPH CHIN  
Staff

Theatre Erindale has already produced a farcical version of *Macbeth* this winter (*Farndale Avenue*). Now the company ends its season with the real thing: perhaps Shakespeare's most famous play.

*Macbeth* runs Thursday through Saturday and March 21-24 at the Erindale Studio Theatre at the University of Toronto Mississauga.

Director David Matheson has set this production in ancient Scotland,

calling it an exploration of the dark powers of the imagination.

"(The production) celebrates our ability to imagine ourselves into our own future, but warns that ... there are always unintended consequences to all of our actions, each choice has both foul and fair, and what is done cannot be undone," he said.

As always, the sinister rituals of the three witches both propel the action and salve the conscience of the title character, who, urged on by his wife, drives ruthlessly forward toward the life he has envisioned for himself.

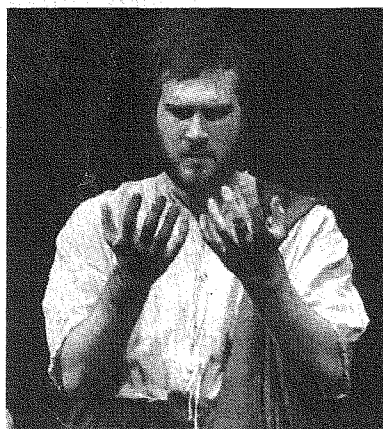
Matheson, the latest instructor to join the full-time Sheridan College faculty of the Theatre and Drama Studies Program, brings with him extensive teaching and directorial experience, the former at York University and Seneca College, the latter at Toronto Fringe.

He's helmed such shows as *Julius Caesar*, *A Streetcar Named Desire* and the Dora-nominated *Brothers Karamazov*.

In *Macbeth*, which is replete with battle scenes, he's supported by Theatre Erindale's resident fight director and Stratford veteran Daniel Levinson.

Add to that Joanne Massingham's period costumes and audiences can look forward to a visual feast.

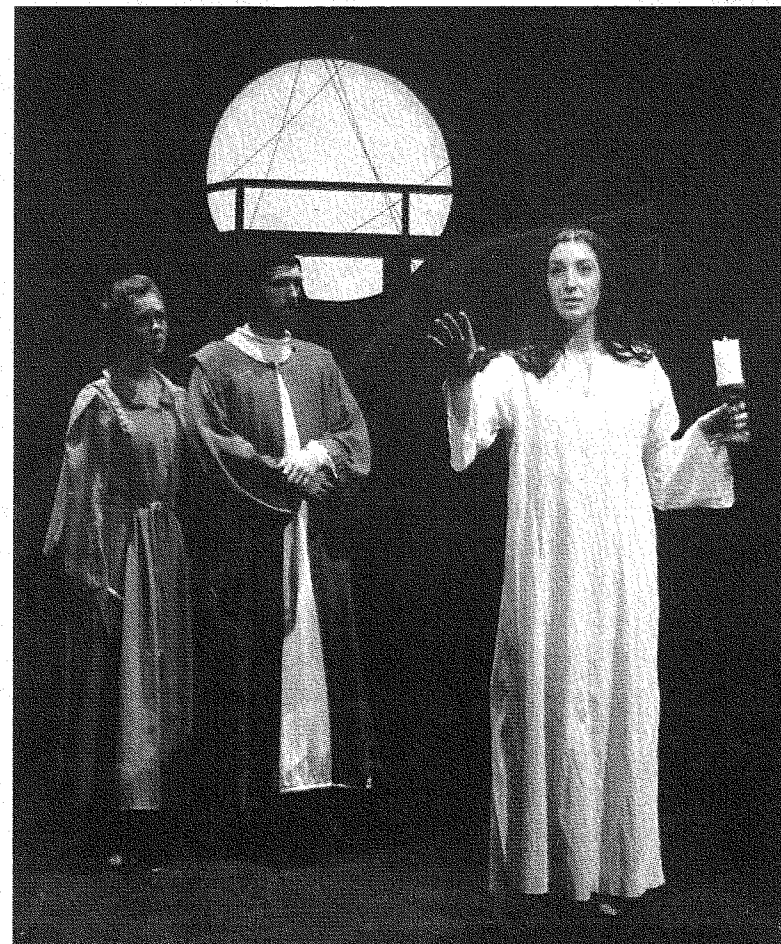
The cast are all senior acting stu-



Owen Fawcett finds himself with blood on his hands as Shakespeare's *Macbeth* (above) while Hailey Gillis cooks up conspiracy as his domineering wife (right).

dents in the Sheridan-UTM Theatre and Drama Studies Program. Owen Fawcett is the titular nobleman-turned-murderer, Hailey Gillis is Lady Macbeth, Jonathan Walls is the avenging Macduff and Alex Spyropoulos, Chiamaka Ugwu and Hannah Jack stir the pot as the three witches.

Tickets cost \$10-\$15. Call 905-569-4369 or visit www.theatreerindale.com.



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The Mississauga Arts Council is looking for MARTY Award volunteers with the following skills: data entry, social media, media relations, graphic design. Send resume to Luiza Sadowski at media@mississaugaartscoun-

# Raves for Theatre Erindale's MACBETH



"A wild ride ... bloody and dramatic ... Macbeth himself (ably played by Owen Fawcett) spends most of the second act strutting around semi-naked, sword in hand, his chest covered in weird body art....

The decision to set the play among what appears to be warring hill tribes adds a vibrant, throbbing energy ... Though it's the guys who dash around the theatre banging shields and waving spears, ... it's the women who run this show, and they steal it here. Tattooed, leering, almost feral, the three witches (played by Alex Spyropoulos, Hannah Jack and Chiamaka Ugwu) are as captivating as they are unsettling.... In a play that looks ripped from some barbarian paean, Hailey Gillis as Lady Macbeth ... plays her character's decline into guilt-wracked madness with subtlety.

Rowdy, imaginative and visually impressive." — David Paterson, *Mississauga News*

"The cast demonstrates the political power-plays, strife, battles and conflicts with much enthusiasm ... An authoritative reading ... The costumes are creative and evoke the style and mode of the period. The staging is not overdone but works. Lighting and sound are all strong contributors to the sombre mood ..." — Terry Gaisin, *Ontario Arts Review*

"This production lifts the text off the page and delivers a *Macbeth* with lots of power, beauty, and supernatural meddling....

A gorgeous *pas de deux* between Macbeth (Owen Fawcett) and Lady Macbeth (Hailey Gillis) ... transform[s] them from despicable villains into human beings—albeit ambitious ones.... The witches are central.... They neither help Macbeth nor harm him, but rather take sadistic pleasure in watching him grapple with what he thinks he knows compared to what is true....

The imagery in the play is beautiful ... The costuming is highly effective ... Theatre Erindale's *Macbeth* is a perfect balance of intelligent, tricky playwriting and directing, plain good casting, and solid—though never frivolous—entertainment." — Kathelene Catell-Daniels, *The Medium*

**Must close March 24! Book now – the remaining performances are selling out fast!**  
**905-569-4369 or [www.theatreerindale.com](http://www.theatreerindale.com)**