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Nashville Shakespeare Festival to stage *Macbeth*
Nashville Ballet choreography featured

[Photos available upon request]

NASHVILLE, Tenn. -- The [Nashville Shakespeare Festival](#) will present *Macbeth*, one of the Bard's best known political tragedies, at Belmont University's [Troutt Theater](#) Jan. 10 - 27, 2013.

The festival's 2013 winter production is directed by [Matt Chiorini](#), who currently teaches at LeMoyne College after serving as founding artistic director of the Arkansas Shakespeare Festival, and assisted by [Denice Hicks](#), executive artistic director for the Nashville Shakespeare Festival.

For the first time, the [Nashville Ballet](#) will contribute choreography to a Nashville Shakes production with dancers portraying *Macbeth's* three witches.

"Macbeth is a timeless and timely tragedy about a man whose ambition outweighs his judgment," Hicks said. "The talent involved with this production is a potent combination that will create a fresh, moving and haunting show."

Chiorini is a familiar face to many Nashville theater lovers. He is a former artistic director of People's Branch Theatre and has been an actor and teacher for the Tennessee Repertory Theatre, Nashville Children's Theater and Nashville Shakespeare Festival.

Hicks has been part of the Nashville Shakespeare Festival since 1990 as an actor, director and teaching artist. She has held the position of artistic director since 2005. An Ingram Fellowship award winner and advocate for Arts in Education, Hicks has developed and facilitated workshops for students of all ages and designed and implemented the festival's Apprentice Company Training and Shakespeare Allowed! programming.

Several well-known actors from past Nashville Shakes productions have been cast in this version of *Macbeth*. Eric Pasto-Crosby will play Macbeth, with Shannon Hoppe as Lady Macbeth. The roles of Duncan and Seward will be performed by Brian Russell.

Pasto-Crosby and Hoppe played the witty lovers Berowne and Rosalind in the 2010 production of *Love's Labor's Lost*. Pasto-Crosby had the role of Mark Antony in the festival's 2012 production of *Julius Caesar* and played Laertes in the 2008 production of *Hamlet*. Hoppe was also seen as Lady Capulet in the 2011 production of *Romeo and Juliet*.

Russell has been working for the festival for many years and most recently appeared in the role of Brutus in last winter's production of *Julius Caesar*. In 2010 he was Prospero in *The Tempest*, and Russell played the Bard himself in the original play *Shakespeare's Case*, performed in 2011.

Other Nashville Shakes alumni who have been cast for the play's ensemble are: Evelyn O'Neal Brush as Lady Macduff, Jon Royal as Banquo, and Robert Marigza as Malcolm. 2012 Apprentice Company members Rachel Woods and Eryn Haber are also in the cast.

Making their Nashville Shakespeare Festival debuts are Aaron Muñoz as Macduff, Tony Nappo as Ross, Kraig Kelsey as Lennox, Andrew Derminio as Angus, Edd Garcia as Seyton, Ben Hutto as Young Seward, Charlie Webb and Jack Woods as Fleance, and Brooke and Abby Jones as the Macduff children.

Costumes for the festival's 2013 winter production are by Billy Ditty, with set design by Made First and light design by Anne Willingham.

The Nashville Shakespeare Festival receives part of its funding from the Metro Nashville Arts Commission, and under an agreement with the Tennessee Arts Commission. Additional funding for *Macbeth* provided by First Tennessee Foundation and the Community Foundation of Middle Tennessee.

Opening night is Thursday, Jan.10, and the show runs Thursday, Friday, Saturday evenings and Sunday afternoons through Jan. 27. Evening performances start at 7:30 p.m. Sunday matinees begin at 2:30 p.m.

Tickets available through TicketsNashville.com or by calling (615) 852-6732. Discount group rates are available.

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