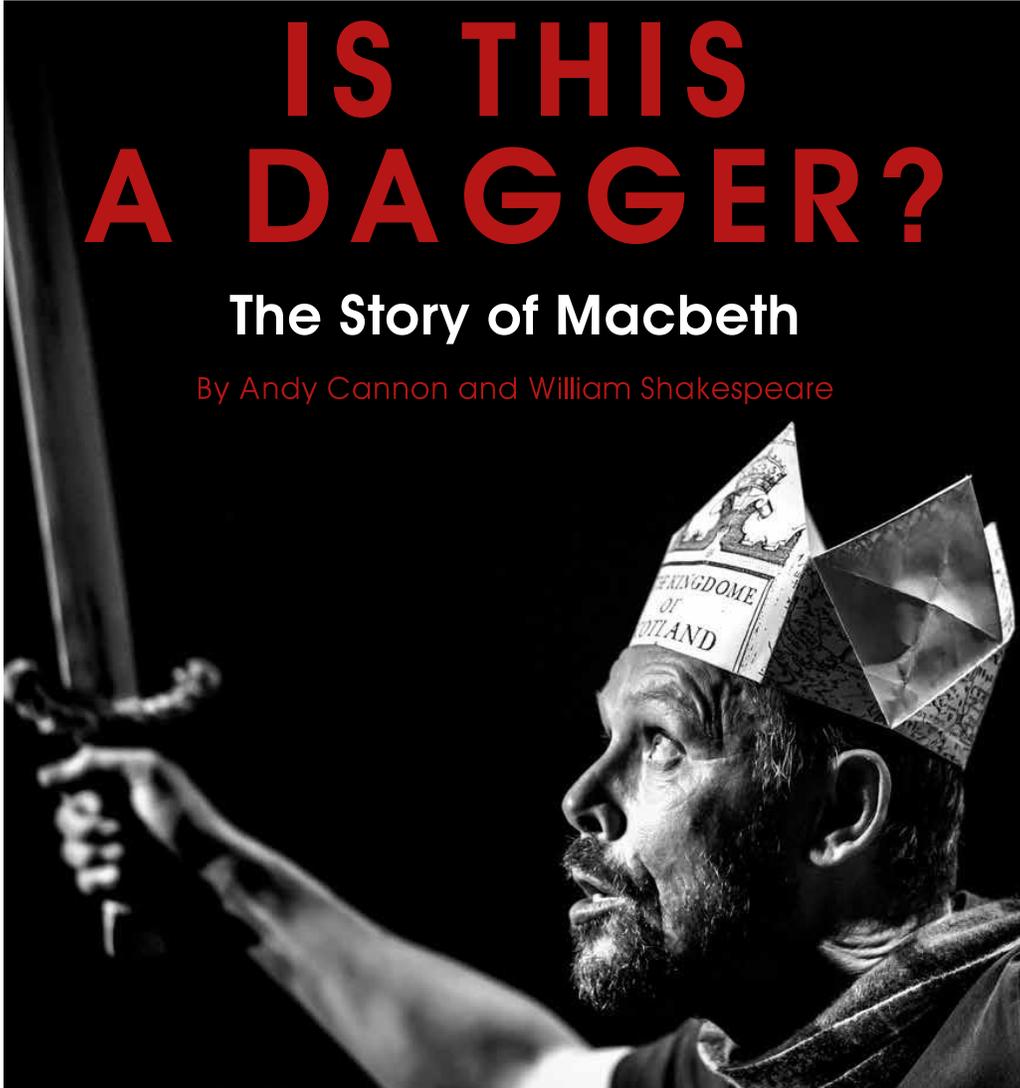


Andy Cannon and Red Bridge Arts present

IS THIS A DAGGER?

The Story of Macbeth

By Andy Cannon and William Shakespeare



Marketing Pack

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SHOW COPY (various word counts)

For Grades 4th- High School / Family Audiences 8 years +

Word count 152

By the pricking of my thumbs, something wicked this way comes....

Andy Cannon, one of Scotland's finest storytellers, takes audiences on a thousand-year journey from fact to fiction and back again, in his telling of Shakespeare's classic tale.

"Compelling telling of Macbeth that opens the story right out ★★★★★ The Stage

A tale of foul and fortune, murder and deceit, Macbeth is a gory, bloody and darkly wonderful tale of one man and his pursuit of power. In ***Is This a Dagger? The Story of Macbeth***, Andy Cannon distils the essence of this epic play into a one-man, one-hour version, making it appealing for audiences young and old.

Suitable for everyone over eight, ***Is This a Dagger? The Story of Macbeth*** explores the paths between fact and fiction, myths and truths. A perfect introduction for newcomers to this wicked tale, and a fresh take on it for Shakespeare aficionados.

shorter copy - Word count 107

By the pricking of my thumbs, something wicked this way comes....

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Even shorter - Word count 36

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"Compelling telling of Macbeth that opens the story right out ★★★★★ The Stage

BACKGROUND

Andy Cannon, formerly of Wee Stories Theatre, is one of Scotland's best-loved performers for young audiences. His work sits between storytelling and theatre and is loved by audiences young and old. With a compact set and original music, Andy communicates directly with the audience, drawing them into the story. Cleverly weaving Shakespeare's original language with his own storytelling style, Andy creates a performance where parents and grandparents are as captivated, challenged and intrigued as much as the children sitting next to them.

Is this a Dagger? was first created by Andy Cannon in 2007, in 2017, its 10th year anniversary, the production was selected for the Made in Scotland showcase and played in the Edinburgh Festival Fringe to a great response by audiences, critics and programmers.

"One of our most gifted storytellers...Andy Cannon has us spellbound." The Herald



PRODUCTION NOTES

Performance length: 60 mins with optional post-show Q&A

Creative Team

Andy Cannon: Writer, Director, Performer

William Shakespeare: co-writer

Dave Trouton & Wendy Weatherby: Composers and sound designers

Shona Reppe: outside eye

Simon Hayes: Lighting design

Red Bridge Arts: Producer

Age recommendation: For Grades 4th- High School / Family Audiences 8 years +

Cast and company:

1 performer, 1 stage manager.

Performance style and themes:

- Simple staging with 3 key set items: a stool, a bucket and a tube plus simple prop
- Storytelling and being inventive with simple props
- Direct address with audience
- Tells Shakespeare's Macbeth in an accessible and fun way!

BOX OFFICE NOTES

What age is the production suitable for?

For Grades 4th- High School / Family Audiences 8 years +

How long does the performance last?

60 mins with optional post show Q&A

How many performers are there in the production?

There is 1 performer in the production.

Is there any music or songs in the show?

There is original music in the show

Are there any loud bangs, strobe lighting effects or frightening scenes?

There are no loud noises in the show

Is the show suitable for older or younger siblings?

We recommend the show for everyone in the family aged eight and over.

AUDIENCES AND MESSAGING

Audiences

- Families with children 8+
- School groups Grades 4th- High School
- Young people studying Macbeth
- Adults interested in Shakespeare / quality storytelling
- Fans of the artist Andy Cannon

Key selling points and messages

- Fantastically reviewed both by critics and audiences
- Created by Scotland's foremost children's storyteller
- A universally well-known story which is still relevant to the world today
- The Scottish Play told by a Scotsman
- Humour which appeals to parents and children
- Imaginatively told – will capture the minds of audiences
- Contains something for everyone – storytelling, new facts about the story, fun, gore, direct audience address, inventive style

REVIEWS AND AUDIENCE RESPONSES

Summary

<https://storify.com/REDBRIDGEARTS/is-this-a-dagger-the-story-of-macbeth-by-andy-cann>

Andy Cannon brings his storyteller's arts to Shakespeare's Macbeth in a one-man show that is aimed perfectly at audiences aged seven or over. It is a bloody tale, and Cannon's telling is fluid enough for him to emphasise or fudge the more gruesome elements depending on his audience. Dread murder...

★★★★★ The Stage

Compelling telling of Macbeth that opens the story right out

★★★★★ The Stage

[Read the full review](#)

The Scottish Storytelling Centre has a long legacy of keeping its ancient art alive in children. Rather than investing in expensive sets or huge casts, they leverage their biggest asset: young imaginations....

★★★★★ Edinburgh Festivals Magazine

[Read the full review](#)

Andy Cannon is a man with storytelling in his blood; a performer who can take the trickiest, most complicated of narratives and deliver it to a young audience as if it were a simple nursery rhyme....

★★★★★ The Scotsman

[Read the full review](#)

A new and accessible Scottish Play for younger audiences by storyteller Andy Cannon...

★★★★★ The List

[Read the full review](#)

Cannon's humour, just Monty Python and measured enough, is a lodestar that guides us through the darkness of bloody, murderous battlefields and the ghoulish heath to the grisly finale.

★★★★★ Deadline News

[Read full review here](#)

Audiences

What a great show and what an accomplishment to perform this as a one man show! I learned lots about the story of MacBeth and was entertained throughout. My 8 year old son loved it too!

Nicky – Audience member

Brilliant! Witty, clever, oh so very clever.. it is a whirlwind hour. My daughter (9) and I both loved it. Thank you

Caroline - Audience member

Do yourself a favour and go and see this brilliant version of Macbeth. I went with two children 10 and 12 and an 83 year old grandpa and we were utterly transfixed by the wit, charm and clever telling of this great play. What a joy to watch storytelling like this - thank you.

Laura - Audience member

Utterly utterly brilliant. Andy Cannon is engaging throughout, is insanely knowledgeable about Macbeth (both Shakespeare's version and the factual version), and managed to enthral both a 9 year old girl and a 14 year old boy.. If only every English Lit teacher taught Shakespeare like this I think a lot more of our young people would be interested in our nation's literary history. Five stars! This man should be in Hollywood. Looks quite tidy in a kilt too!

Sara - Audience member

This. Is. Brilliant.

This tells the Macbeth story in an absorbing, fascinating and accessible manner. We took our 6 and 9 year olds to see it and both were transfixed throughout, as were we. I only wish I'd had a chance to see this version when I was their age.

Highly recommended.

John - Audience member

CAMPAIGN MATERIAL

Videos

- Trailer: <https://vimeo.com/192014993>

Images

- <https://drive.google.com/open?id=0B07Ug8toYiM0NIZQUVfmUUpuUIE>

Photo credits: Sandy Butler

Logos:

- **Red Bridge Arts**
Guidelines
<https://drive.google.com/file/d/0B07Ug8toYiM0T3cwUXpXRTJnUGM/view?usp=sharing>
Red eps <https://drive.google.com/open?id=0B1rYtewjbKiCSUhpYXhPTVdXcFU>
Black eps <https://drive.google.com/open?id=0B1rYtewjbKiCNkNFMEVwMGkyaWs>
White eps <https://drive.google.com/open?id=0B1rYtewjbKiCTXJQWEU1bVhOZnc>
- **Creative Scotland** - <https://drive.google.com/file/d/18V3vYRRF1EmXnjN5hnFPkRVLdEr-NdSl/view?usp=sharing>
- **Made in Scotland**
<https://drive.google.com/file/d/0B07Ug8toYiM0WS1hUE5GVWg0bEE/view?usp=sharing>



PRESS RELEASE

Date/Month/Year

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Is This a Dagger? The Story of Macbeth **Andy Cannon's classic show presented at xxx**

By the pricking of my thumbs, something wicked this way comes....

At **VENUE ON DATE** Andy Cannon, one of Scotland's finest storytellers, will take audiences on a thousand-year journey from fact to fiction and back again, in his telling of Shakespeare's classic tale.

"Compelling telling of Macbeth that opens the story right out ★★★★★ The Stage

A tale of foul and fortune, murder and deceit, *Macbeth* is a gory, bloody and darkly wonderful tale of one man and his pursuit of power. In *Is This a Dagger? The Story of Macbeth*, Andy Cannon distils the essence of this epic play into a one-man, one-hour version, making it appealing for audiences young and old.

"A tale of sound and fury, signifying first class theatre for everyone over eight." The Herald

Suitable for everyone over eight, *Is This a Dagger? The Story of Macbeth* explores the paths between fact and fiction, myths and truths. A perfect introduction for newcomers to this wicked tale, and a fresh take on it for Shakespeare aficionados.

Andy Cannon, formerly of Wee Stories Theatre, is one of Scotland's best-loved storytellers. His work sits between storytelling and theatre and is loved by audiences young and old. With a compact set and original music, Andy communicates directly with the audience, drawing them into the story. Cleverly weaving Shakespeare's original language with his own storytelling style, Andy creates a performance where parents and grandparents are as captivated, challenged and intrigued as much as the children sitting next to them.

Andy has previously taken on Robert Burns (*Oor Rabbie*), and Robert Louis Stevenson (*Treasure Island*) and Anna Sewell (*Black Beauty*). He's a writer and performer who can take on the greats and put his own, award-winning spin on them.

"One of our most gifted storytellers...Andy Cannon has us spellbound." The Herald

Is this a Dagger? was first created by Andy Cannon in 2007 and has continued to play to Scottish audiences in schools and theatres since then. 2017 was its 10th year anniversary and to celebrate the production was selected as part of the Made in Scotland showcase and performed at the Edinburgh Festival. Andy worked with trusty collaborators Shona Reppe, Dave Trouton and Wendy Weatherby (sound and music) and Red Bridge Arts (producing) to update the production for new audiences.

CREATIVE TEAM

Andy Cannon: Writer, Director, Performer

William Shakespeare: co-writer

Dave Trouton & Wendy Weatherby: Composers and sound designers

Shona Reppe: outside eye

Simon Hayes: Lighting design

Red Bridge Arts: Producer

NOTES TO EDITORS

Images:

<https://drive.google.com/open?id=0B07Ug8toYiM0NIZQUVFmUUpuUIE>

Photo credits: Sandy Butler

Trailer:

<https://vimeo.com/192014993>

ANDY CANNON is the writer, director and performer of the work.

During his early career Andy worked with Theatre Workshop, initially on a youth opportunity scheme and later as drama worker. It was during this time at Theatre Workshop that he first started to explore incorporating direct first-person storytelling into my work. In 1996 he left Theatre Workshop to set up Wee Stories Theatre for Children. During his time as Artistic Director of the company he was the lead or co artist of Wee Stories many acclaimed productions – including amongst others the award-winning productions of *Labyrinth* and *Arthur* (the later produced in partnership with the Scottish Touring Consortium).

Since leaving Wee Stories in 2012 he has been creating and performing his own work which has included the Expo commissioned *Scota-land* for the 2012 Imagine Festival and the London 2012 festival and *Tales of a grandson* produced in partnership with macrobert and the Scottish International Storytelling Festival in 2014 and with Red Bridge Arts in 2016. *Tales* was nominated for CATS Award for best performance for children and young people. In 2014 he was Creative Director Performance of the Glasgow 2014 Commonwealth Games Opening Ceremony. In 2016, alongside Andy Manley and Shona Reppe, he co-created and performed in *Black Beauty*, a co-production with Red Bridge Arts and Traverse

Theatre Company.

RED BRIDGE ARTS is an ideas-led organisation that aims to provide a supportive structure to stimulate and sustain artists' development and practice. Led by Alice McGrath, the company's mission is to nourish creativity and encourage curiosity. As well as Andy Cannon's *Is This a Dagger? The Story of Macbeth*, *Turntable* is also part of the Made in Scotland 2017 showcase. Red Bridge co-produced *Night Light* with Imagine and the acclaimed *Black Beauty* with Traverse Theatre. Previous productions supported by Red Bridge include *Titus*, Andy Cannon's *Tales of a Grandson* and *Oor Rabbie*, Andy Manley's *Mikey and Addie*, Will Pickvance's *Anatomy of the Piano (for beginners)*, Puppet State Theatre's *Leaf by Niggle*.

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