MACBETH
Cast of Characters

MACBETH
A brave and experienced soldier. His ambitions spark after it's prophesied that he'll be king - his dreams of power and glory ultimately overwhelm the morals or loyalty he has. He plots with his wife to murder the king, but then his ambition, fear, and paranoia lead him to kill others he believes stand between him and the crown. His descent into madness is violent and palpable.

Relationships: Husband to Lady Macbeth; manipulated by the Witches; becomes enemy to Banquo, Macduff, and Malcolm.

**Stage combat, some intimacy with Lady Macbeth*

LADY MACBETH
The poised and fiercely intelligent wife of Macbeth. She is deeply ambitious, even before learning about the Witches' prophecy, and is a co-conspirator with Macbeth to muder Duncan. She is ultimately driven insane by her guilt.

Relationships: Co-conspirator and emotional driver of her husband Macbeth; later alienated by his paranoia.

**Some intimacy with Macbeth*

WITCHES (MAIDEN, MOTHER, CRONE)*
Dark, mysterious, and sinister figures. The Witches are dark and twisted as they manipulate and influence the world and people around them. Do they control fate, or create it?

The Witches will present as the archetypes from witchcraft of Maiden, Mother, and Crone - they might also have nods to the three fates of Greek mythology.

Relationships: They guide (or do they manipulate?) Macbeth and Banquo; essentially serve as a supernatural chorus.

**The witches will likely double with many other roles including the murders, doctor, and gentlewoman - peripheral characters who help to drive the plot, and help to show how the witches manipulate the plot. It should be made clear that while they are acting as other characters, they are* always *the witches.*

BANQUO
An honorable and calm soldier. He is Macbeth's friend and loyal comrade, and a foil to Macbeth's ambition and greed. It is prophesied that Banquo's descendants shall become king. After his murder, he appears as a ghost. Is he really there, or is he a hallucination from Macbeth's madness?

Relationships: Macbeth's foil and friend (at first); father to Fleance

**Some stage combat*

MACDUFF
A nobleman who is loyal to king, land, and people. He mistrusts Macbeth's rise to the throne, and becomes his enemy as he battles with grief from the death of his wife and child. After Banquo's death, Macduff becomes Macbeth's foil. An emotional core within the play, demonstrating grief and vulnerability while remaining strong.

Relationships: Ally to Malcolm; enemy to Macbeth after the murder of King Duncan and his own family.

**Some stage combat, possible light intimacy with Lady Macduff & Macduff's Son (hugs, handholding)*

KING DUNCAN
The noble and much admired King. He is a strong and fair ruler, perhaps too trusting, who is killed only to further Macbeth's ambitions. His murder marks the beginning of the play's descent into chaos.

Relationships: Patron to Macbeth and Banquo; father of Malcolm and Donalbain.

**This role may double*

MALCOLM
The eldest son of the King and heir to the throne. Sensitive and wiser than his age would indicate, Malcolm initially flees the Kingdom with his brother Donalbain before returning to try to take back the throne. He has learned hard lessons from the death of his father, including to be wary of being overly-trusting.

Relationships: Brother to Donalbain; allies with Macduff.

DONALBAIN
The younger son of the King. He is quiet and cautious, less charming than his brother Malcolm. He flees with Malcolm after his father's murder.

Relationships: Brother to Malcolm.

**This role may double*

FLEANCE
Banquo's son. He witnesses his father's murder but escapes the same fate.

Relationships: Son of Banquo

**Possible stage combat*

**This role may double*

NOBLES: LENNOX, ROSS, MENTEITH, ANGUS, CAITHNESS
Generally well regarded and trusted, loyal to those in charge. Their loyalties shift as Macbeth's tyranny grows and his guilt comes to light.

Relationships: Serve the crown; ultimately side with Malcolm and Macduff.

**These roles may double*

SIWARD
An Earl & a soldier, who leads the army supporting Malcolm's rebellion against Macbeth.

Relationships: Malcolm's uncle and a seasoned soldier, characterized by his strength and integrity

**This role may double*

YOUNG SIWARD
A brave but inexperienced warrior who fights Macbeth.

Relationships: Son of Siward

**Some stage combat*

**This role may double*

THE PORTER
The porter provides the only overt moment of levity in the play. A drunken doorman who imagines guarding the gates of hell.

Must be comfortable with a solo scene and have strong comedic timing.

LADY MACDUFF
A sweet but strong and spirited woman. Macduff's wife, who is ultimately murdered alongside her children.

Relationships: Wife of Macduff; mother to their son.

**Some stage combat, possible light intimacy with Macduff & Macduff's Son (hugs, handholding)*

**This role may double*

MACDUFF'S SON
A clever and somewhat cheeky child, murdered alongside his mother and siblings.

Relationships: Son of Macduff and Lady Macduff.

**Some stage combat, possible light intimacy with Lady Macduff & Macduff (hugs, handholding)*

**This role may double.*

SEYTON
Macbeth's servant and confidante near the end of the play. Symbolic of Macbeth's isolation.

Relationships: Serves Macbeth in his final days.

**This role may double.*