

Bitesize KS3 English Literature – Shakespeare Macbeth – Performance Analysis – Staging the dagger scene (Directors' Den) transcript

PRESENTER

Here are the Directors. 12 divorces, nine law suits and three stints in rehab between them, these guys know what they want, and they normally get it. Today, they're each looking for an innovative staging solution to the dagger scene from Macbeth. Portraying a dagger of the mind, live on stage? Easier said than done.

TITLE

DIRECTORS' DEN

PRESENTER

First into the Den is 38-year-old stage designer, Charlie. He wants the audience to feel a growing sense of dread in this scene appropriate to the bloody murder Macbeth is about to commit.

CHARLIE

Mine eyes are made the fools o' the other senses,
Or else worth all the rest; I see thee still,
And on thy blade and dudgeon gouts of blood,
Which was not so before.

DIRECTOR IN BLACK SUIT

Nice one, Charlie. I think the red light suggests to the audience that blood is about to be shed but I'm not sure about the guy holding the dagger.

CHARLIE

What guy?

DIRECTOR IN BLACK SUIT

Him. He's right there. The guy wearing the body stocking. Are you seriously suggesting no-one can spot him?

MAN IN BODY STOCKING

I think he's seen me.

CHARLIE

There's really only me here.

DIRECTOR IN BLACK SUIT

Great. So there's just you to disappoint. I'm out.

MAN IN BODY STOCKING

Charlie. Charlie.

Bitesize

PRESENTER

Next into the Den is designer, James. He's hoping his use of a simple spotlight will illuminate the troubled mind of Macbeth as he steps ever closer to the darkness.

JAMES

Here it not, Duncan; for it is a knell
That summons thee to heaven or to hell.

DIRECTOR WEARING RED TIE

Now then, James, which bit of that do you think we didn't like?

JAMES

Oh, the bell. I knew we'd overdone it with the bell.

DIRECTOR WEARING RED TIE

No, James. I really don't like sitting here in the dark. Turn the lights back on.

PRESENTER

Next up is designer, Greg, with his simple yet atmospheric take on this famous scene. But will it light a spark in the Director's imaginations?

GREG

I have thee not, and yet I see thee still.

FEMALE DIRECTOR

That was spooky. I like the way we didn't see a dagger at all, just Macbeth reaching out into the darkness. Well done.

GREG

Thank you. I also have all Health and Safety aspects covered, as you would need with a naked flame on the stage.

MAN WITH BUCKET

Oh. That wasn't my cue, was it?