

Bitesize KS3 English Literature – Shakespeare Macbeth – Performance Analysis – Rehearsing the ghost of Banquo (The Big Scene) transcript

TITLE

THE
BIG
SCENE

PRESENTER

Hello, and welcome to The Big Scene. We're at rehearsals for Macbeth, [CAPTION – MACBETH] and scenes don't get much bigger than this. It's the clash with Banquo's ghost [CAPTION – BANQUO'S GHOST] and the director [CAPTION – DIRECTOR] really needs the audience to appreciate Macbeth's horror at seeing the ghost of his old best friend who he's had murdered. This is a big challenge! Can she pull it off on this team's budget?

PRESENTER [OFF SCREEN]

And as you join us, the feast is well under way and Banquo's ghost is about to enter.

BANQUO'S GHOST

Woo! Woo!

PRESENTER

Oh, and what a silly boy. The Director's not happy at all. She wanted a ghost, she's got a tablecloth with eyes. Clearly no-one told the young lad the audience needs to take the supernatural seriously.

PRESENTER [OFF SCREEN]

Ah. This looks more promising. Oh, and he's really pulled his socks up here and has put in one hell of a performance. He almost looks real. Could make Macbeth and the audience question if Banquo's been killed at all!

MACBETH

Which of you has done this?

PRESENTER [OFF SCREEN]

And that is back-from-the-dead-tastic. 110 percent from Billy Banquo and it's more than enough to scare the paranoid pants out of the out of form Macbeth – and us, for that matter. I've got the heebie-jeebies.

BANQUO'S GHOST

Erm, don't have any lines.

PRESENTER [OFF SCREEN]

Hey, hey, hey. The guy's right, and he's got the boss really

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thinking. Has she got a more stylised approach in mind, perhaps?

MACBETH

Which of you has done this?

PRESENTER

Well, well, well, Banquo's been replaced by nothing more than lighting and sound effects.

BANQUO'S GHOST

Ridiculous.

PRESENTER

It's utter madness, if you ask me. Macbeth's madness, that is. It's a classy move by the Director. It puts a doubt or two in the mind of the young King and it makes the audience really question his sanity. Hang on, it looks like she might have another trick up her sleeve. Can she up the tempo once more, I wonder?

MACBETH

Thou canst not say I did it. Never shake
Thy gory locks at me.

PRESENTER [OFF SCREEN]

Well, no-one saw that coming. She's decided she doesn't need an actual ghost in that position at all. She's made the audience think Macbeth's totally lost his marbles. Oh, but what's this?

Oh, some numpty's waltzed through with Banquo's goat, of all things. No audience would want to see that. A rehearsal of two halves, and no mistake.