

Premiere

MACBETH

Opera in four acts by Giuseppe Verdi

Libretto by Francesco Maria Piave and Andrea Maffei

Based on William Shakespeare

Sung in Italian with German and English surtitles

Conductor: Thomas Guggeis / Simone Di Felice (January 4th, 12th, 17th, February 1st 2025)

Director: R.B. Schlather

Set Designer: Etienne Pluss

Costume Designer: Doey Lüthi

Choreography: Gal Fefferman

Video: Rocafilm

Lighting Designer: Olaf Winter

Chorus Master: Manuel Pujol

Dramaturge: Konrad Kuhn

Macbeth: Nicholas Brownlee / Domen Križaj (December 18th, 22nd, 29th 2024)

Banquo: Kihwan Sim / Andreas Bauer Kanabas (December 18th, 22nd, 29th 2024;
January 1st, February 1st 2025)

Lady Macbeth: Tamara Wilson

Macduff: Matteo Lippi

Malcolm: Kudaibergen Abildin

Lady Macbeth's Chamber Maid: Karolina Bengtsson

Doctor: Erik van Heyningen

Servant / Murderer / Herald: Pilgoo Kang and others

Oper Frankfurt's Chorus, Children's Chorus soloists, extras and child extras

Frankfurt Opern- und Museumsorchester

With generous support from the DZ Bank and Frankfurt Patronatsverein – Sektion Oper

Setting works to music by Schiller and Shakespeare played an important role in the legacy left to the world by **Giuseppe Verdi** (1813-1901). The World Premiere of *Macbeth* took place in Florence in 1847, and was received by a baffled audience. Verdi had departed from the traditional way of composing an opera of numbers, embarking on a thorough-compositional direction. He took this to further extremes when commissioned to revise the opera for Paris 18 years later. It was this version, published in 1865, which was used for the last New Production in 2004/05, directed by Calixto Bieito, and upon which **R.B. Schlather** bases his production.

The plot: Macbeth has achieved a lot, but after a curious encounter his craving for more increases. Pressured by his no less ambitious wife he commits a murder, which leads to further atrocities.

The conductor is Frankfurt's General Music Director **Thomas Guggeis** who, following on directly from Alban Berg's *Lulu*, now presents a completely different facet of his artistry with Verdi's groundbreaking *Macbeth*. Kapellmeister **Simone Di Felice** will conduct the Frankfurt Opern und Museumsorchester in some later performances. The American director R.B. Schlather made his European debut at Oper Frankfurt in 2019 with Handel's *Tamerlano* in the Bockenheimer Depot, which was followed by Cimarosa's *L'italiana in Londra* in 2021 and Puccini's *Madama Butterfly* a year later in the Main House. **Nicholas Brownlee** (Macbeth) left Baden's Staatstheater in Karlsruhe to join Oper Frankfurt's Ensemble in 2020/21, since when this American bass baritone has sung many lead roles for the first time, including Amonasro (*Aida*), Hans Sachs (*Die Meistersinger von Nürnberg*) and Jochanaan (*Salome*). After making his debut at the Bayreuth Festival in 2024, as Donner (*Das Rheingold*), he recently sang Wotan at the start of a new *Ring des Nibelungen* at the Bayerische Staatsoper in Munich. Brownlee's countrywoman **Tamara Wilson** (Lady Macbeth) enjoys a busy international career and is a much loved Guest at Oper Frankfurt, where roles have included the Empress in Strauss' *Die Frau ohne Schatten* and Elisabeth de Valois in Verdi's *Don Carlo*. The Italian tenor **Matteo Lippi** (Macduff) is making his house debut. Recent engagements have included Cavaradossi in Puccini's *Tosca* at the National Theatre in Prague. Led by **Kihwan Sim** (as Banquo, which is sung by **Andreas Bauer Kanabas** later on) nearly all the other roles are sung by **Members of Oper Frankfurt's Ensemble**; including **Domen Križaj**, who sings Macbeth in some later performances.

Premiere: Sunday December 1st 2024, at 18hrs in the Opera House

Further performances: December 5th, 7th, 18th, 22nd (15.30hrs), 29th (15.30hrs) 2024;
January 1st (18hrs), 4th, 12th (15.30hrs), 17th, February 1st 2025
Unless otherwise stated, all performances begin at 19hrs.

Tickets cost: € 16 to € 190 (with a 12.5% pre-booking fee when not purchased direct from the theatre)

Tickets can be obtained from the usual outlets, by telephone +49 (0)69 – 212 49 49 4 or online www.oper-frankfurt.de.

We do hope you might be able to publish this event. For further information, ordering photographs and reserving press tickets please contact Holger Engelhardt (Leitung Pressereferat) on +49 (0)69 – 212 46 727. His fax number is +49 (0)69 – 212 37 164 or you can email him on holger.engelhardt@buehnen-frankfurt.de.