

## Macbeth, Take Two by Andrew Muir

I was at the matinee on August 22<sup>nd</sup>, back in my customary position down at the front. I have to confess that the Porter scene seemed less disruptive and the laughter that accompanied it was fulsome and wholesome. There are still too many modern references for me and it is still too long a departure from the text but, either because I am now used to it or because I over-reacted in the first place, it did not take me away from the world of the play to the same degree as before.

On another note, I mentioned Seyton being pronounced as Satan in my original review but never went on to explain why that was important in this production in particular. The sound of this name, which initially tricks the audience into believing Macbeth is conversing with the devil (which on one level, he is), usually provides a nice irony with “Satan” appearing as a servant of Macbeth when it is clearly the other way around. That irony was absent here as we had Macbeth strangling Seyton/Satan. The meaning of that is unclear to me though granted it was an apt accompaniment to the marvellous lines:

*She should have died hereafter;  
There would have been a time for such a word.  
To-morrow, and to-morrow, and to-morrow,  
Creeps in this petty pace from day to day  
To the last syllable of recorded time,  
And all our yesterdays have lighted fools  
The way to dusty death. Out, out, brief candle!  
Life's but a walking shadow, a poor player  
That struts and frets his hour upon the stage  
And then is heard no more: it is a tale  
Told by an idiot, full of sound and fury,  
Signifying nothing.*

- but it is not as though it is not as though those wonderful lines need illustrating by a simultaneous strangling.



The matinee performance was very strong, my favourite of the four I have yet seen, I think which is amazing given that it was under sun-split skies rather than the more apt gloom and rain of my first viewing. It was absolutely sweltering in a T-shirt so goodness only knows how the actors managed under their heavy cloaks and robes, yet manage they did, and then some.

Photo from [Instagram](#)