

# MACBETH

RETOLD BY IMITATING THE DOG

## WORKSHOPS AND LECTURES

imitating the dog are offering 6 different creative learning workshops & lectures for their brand new retelling of Macbeth – available to schools, colleges, universities and other interested groups and learners.

Participants will be able to gain a closer look at the show, learning more about the choices made in adapting and staging Shakespeare's play, as well as imitating the dog's trademark use of technology and processes of making.



These workshops have been created with an eye on the GCSE and A-Level curriculum in English Literature, Drama and Theatre Studies, and Media and Film Studies. They're also relevant for students studying these courses or similar at university, especially those with a focus on contemporary practices of making.

### 400 YEARS LATER: ADAPTING MACBETH

Half day workshops (3 hours)  
10-30 participants, In Person Only, 14+

It's 400 years since the first publication of Shakespeare's collected plays. How are ITD approaching their retelling of this (in)famous tragedy, already staged so many times? Working in groups, we'll provide each one with a key section of the original play, and ask participants to re-write it in their own words, looking at the rhythm, themes and place within the overall plot structure. Using smartphones, each group will then experiment with ways of filming their scenes. This practical workshop explores the relationship between language and modes of storytelling.

### TAKING A KNIFE TO IT: DISSECTING MACBETH

Short workshop (1.5 hours)  
10-30 participants, In Person Only, 14+

Taking pivotal moments from the play, each group will begin by discussing the place of the scene in the overall plot of the play: What has just taken place? What's about to happen? What is key to this particular moment? Moving into the space, and introducing ITD's staging methodologies, we'll look at constructing and deconstructing the scene. We'll show how each tableaux can be pulled apart, opened out, to reveal something hidden, that lies beneath. This short, practical workshop is an introduction to new ways of thinking about staging a well-known play.

### STAGING THE CINEMATIC

Half day workshops (3 hours) or Short workshop (1.5 hours)  
10-30 participants, In Person Only, 14+

A fun, practical workshop where participants learn more about ITD's obsession with discovering ways in which we can stage the cinematic. Taking a classic movie scene as a starting point, groups will create a short improvisation before we begin layering in ITD's methodologies and offering provocations. Together we will ask questions about why we as audiences love, and are sometimes frustrated by, the mediums of storytelling, theatre, and cinema.

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# MACBETH

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## LECTURES

imitating the dog also offers lectures for universities, colleges or venues.  
We can also look to arrange for these to be carried out remotely.

### ADAPTING MACBETH

40 minutes

This lecture traces the cinematic history of Macbeth and our, the audience's, connection to this classic tragedy. Over 25 years of transmedial performance making, ITD's obsession with the relationship between film and theatre has only deepened. From Kurosawa's *Throne of Blood* (1957), to Polanski's version of 1971, to the most recent box office release, Joel Cohen's *The Tragedy of Macbeth* (2021) starring Denzel Washington and Frances McDormand, this lecture explores imagery, cinematic aesthetics, and finally touches on how these films are informing ITD's approach to our stage production.

Available in person or remotely

### WHY MACBETH?

40 minutes

This lecture seeks to answer the ever-present question: why tell this particular story, at this particular time? What makes the enquiry different for ITD on this occasion, is that we have never before staged an existing play. We've adapted (sometimes completely reimagined, sometimes faithfully retold) four novels and one film for the stage, but our forthcoming tour of *Macbeth* will mark the first time the creative team has chosen an existing play, and asked themselves: Why *Macbeth*? And why now?

### PRICING

Half Day workshops: £350

1.5 hour workshops: £200

Talks and Lectures: £200

Please note, prices may vary if workshops or lectures are delivered outside of our tour dates at your local theatre

### 25 YEARS OF MAKING

40 minutes

As the company approaches its 25th birthday, this discussion looks back at the history of ITD: From the early years of devising work as a young company straight out of university, through to establishing a creative relationship with director Pete Brooks in 2005, and the paths the work has taken since in its exploration of the boundaries between theatre and technology.



### ACCESSIBILITY

We are committed to making all of our workshops fully accessible, so please get in touch with us if you have any participants with any access needs:

[thedog@imitatingthedog.co.uk](mailto:thedog@imitatingthedog.co.uk)

### DIGITAL LEARNING TOOLKIT

imitating the dog have also put together an online pack of free resources that will uncover more details about the production and the process of making it. This is a live page that will be added to throughout the rehearsal and touring of *Macbeth*, so keep checking back to see what's been added:

[imitatingthedog.co.uk/learning-resources](http://imitatingthedog.co.uk/learning-resources)

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