SHAKESPEARIENCE!

Swords, Scenes & Soliloquies

M A C B E T H

Act III, scene 3: *Ring the Alarum Bell!*

Porter, Macduff, Lennox, Banquo, Lady Macbeth, Macbeth

[This may be performed with the previous full version

of the Porter Soliloquy]

PORTER

[pounding/knocking off stage]

Here's a knocking indeed! If a man were porter of hell-gate, he should have old turning the key.

[Knocking] Knock, knock, knock! Who's there, i' the name of Beelzebub?

[Knocking] Knock, knock! Who's there, in the other devil's name?

[Knocking] Knock, knock; never at quiet! What are you? But this place is too cold for hell. I'll devil-porter it no further:

[Knocking] Anon, anon! I pray you…remember the porter.

[Enter MACDUFF and LENNOX]

MACDUFF

Was it so late, friend, ere you went to bed, that you do lie so late?

PORTER

'Faith sir, we were carousing till the second bell!

MACDUFF

I believe drink gave thee the lie last night.

PORTER

That it did, sir! That it did.

MACDUFF

Is thy master stirring? *[Enter MACBETH]* Our knocking has awaked him; here he comes!

LENNOX

Good morrow, noble sir.

MACBETH

Good morrow, both.

LENNOX

Is the king stirring, worthy thane?

MACBETH

Not yet.

MACDUFF

He did command me to call timely on him: I have almost slipp'd the hour.

MACBETH

I'll bring you to him….This is the door. *[MACDUFF exits]*

LENNOX

The night has been unruly: where we lay, our chimneys were blown down; and, as they say, Lamentings heard i' the air; strange screams of death, and prophesying with accents terrible… Of dire combustion and confused events new hatch'd to the woeful time: the obscure bird clamour'd the livelong night: some say, the earth was feverous and did shake.

MACBETH

'Twas a rough night.

[Re-enter MACDUFF]

MACDUFF

O horror, horror, horror!

MACBETH

What's the matter?

LENNOX

What is’t?

MACDUFF

Most sacrilegious murder hath stole thence the life o' the building!

MACBETH

WHAT IS’T YOU SAY? **THE LIFE?**

LENNOX

MEAN YOU HIS MAJESTY!!!!

MACDUFF

See, and then speak yourselves. *[Exeunt MACBETH and LENNOX]* Awake, awake! Ring the alarum-bell. Murder and treason! Ring the bell!!!!!

[Enter LADY MACBETH, BANQUO]

LADY MACBETH

What's the business? Speak, speak!

MACDUFF

Our royal master 's murder'd!

BANQUO

Too cruel any where!

[Re-enter MACBETH and LENNOX]

LADY MACBETH

Woe, alas! What, in our house? O! by whom?

LENNOX

Those of his chamber, as it seem'd, had done't: Their hands and faces were badged with blood…

MACBETH

O, yet I do repent me of my fury, that I did kill them.

[all freeze and take a moment to stare at MACBETH]

MACDUFF

Wherefore did you so?

MACBETH

There lay Duncan, his silver skin laced with his golden blood…

LADY MACBETH

Help me hence, ho!

[She pretends to faint, topples, and finally is helped back up to her feet]

BANQUO

Let us meet, and question this most bloody piece of work, to know it further. I stand and fight of treasonous malice…

MACBETH

Let's briefly put on manly readiness, and meet i' the hall together.

ALL

And so all.

[Exeunt all but Banquo]

BANQUO

Thou hast it now: King, Cawdor, Glamis, ALL as the weird women promised…yet I fear thou play'dst most **foully** for it.

May they not be my oracles as well and set me up in hope?

But hush! No more.