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For more information, contact
Christy Souther, Marketing Director
864.316.4082
christysouther@flatrockplayhouse.org



FLAT ROCK PLAYHOUSE PRESENTS: MACBETH

OCTOBER 6 - 22 at Flat Rock Playhouse on the Leiman Mainstage

Flat Rock, NC (SEPTEMBER 12, 2023) – presented as part of the Black Box Series, Shakespeare's *Macbeth* takes a haunting twist at Flat Rock Playhouse this October.

Written in 1606, the classic Shakespearean tale of *Macbeth* exposes the damaging physical and psychological effects of political ambition to those who seek power. "Unfortunately, the pursuits of power and what humans will do to themselves and each other to achieve it haven't gone out of fashion," says Lisa K. Bryant (Producing Artistic Director), who will be directing this Playhouse rendition this October. "That said, it sure makes for an excellent and riveting tragedy!"

Set in contemporary rural Appalachia under siege in a new Civil War, Flat Rock Playhouse's first professional Shakespeare production promises to be one that you've never experienced and won't forget. This production of *Macbeth* is a testament to the power of theater to transcend time and place, offering a fresh perspective on a classic work. It serves as a reminder that the human experience, with all its triumphs and tragedies, is universal, regardless of the setting.

Audiences can expect to be enthralled by the hauntingly environmental set design by Dennis C. Maulden that will transport you deep into an Appalachian world. A cast of eleven world-class actors will play multiple roles with all of the production excellence and theatre magic the Playhouse is known for supporting them. Rounding out this cast will be some Playhouse favorites such as Nat Zegree (Million Dollar Quartet and Amadeus) as well as Playhouse veteran Scott Treadway.

To help patrons become even more immersed into this narrative, The Black Box Series is an opportunity to experience theatre a little differently. "The reconfiguration of the on-stage audience seating (a theatre in-the-round) accounts for the series' distinction," says Bryant. "I'm excited to bring the Bard to our patrons and share with them an experience they may think they know, but have not seen in this format."

Don't miss this extraordinary opportunity to witness the collision of Shakespearean tragedy and Appalachian folklore in a production that is sure to leave a lasting impression.

Macbeth is presented by Victoria Flanagan, AAMFT Clinical Fellow for Trauma and Grief Counseling, Highland Lake Inn & Resort, Blue Ridge Public Radio, and PMI Blue Ridge.

Flat Rock Playhouse's 2023 Season is supported by Mainstage Series Sponsors Charlotte & Bob Otto, and Season Sponsors Optimum, WHKP, and WTZQ, and North Carolina Arts Council, a division of the Department of Natural and Cultural Resources, with funding from the National Endowment for the Arts.

Tickets are going fast! For a complete lineup with show descriptions and to purchase tickets, visit www.flatrockplayhouse.org.

TICKETS AND SCHEDULE

Macbeth runs from October 6 - 22 at Flat Rock Playhouse's Leiman Mainstage. Tickets are \$55. Student prices are available for ages 18 and under. For more ticket information, call the Flat Rock Playhouse Box Office at 828.693.0731 or purchase online at www.flatrockplayhouse.org. Flat Rock Playhouse Leiman Mainstage is located at 2661 Greenville Hwy, Flat Rock, NC, 28731.

PHOTOS AVAILABLE

High-resolution production color photos will be available for media use by request.

INTERVIEWS

Interviews with the cast and artistic staff are available.

This project is supported by the North Carolina Arts Council, a division of the Department of Natural and Cultural Resources. www.NCArts.org.

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A LITTLE HISTORY ABOUT FLAT ROCK PLAYHOUSE

In 1937, a group of struggling performers, led by Robroy Farquhar, organized themselves as the Vagabond Players. The Vagabonds worked in a variety of places over the course of three years, and in 1940 found themselves in the Blue Ridge region of Western North Carolina. The local and tourist community welcomed them with open arms when they presented their first summer season of plays in a 150-year-old grist mill they converted into The Old Mill Playhouse at Highland Lake. So successful that summer, they returned in 1941. After WWII, the Vagabond Players reorganized, came back to the region and opened a playhouse in nearby Lake Summit. The Lake Summit Playhouse thrived during the post-war years and soon the Vagabond Players were looking for a larger and permanent home. In 1952, the troupe of performers, and a newly formed board of directors made an offer to buy an 8-acre lot in the Village of Flat Rock. This new home made the Vagabonds "locals" and a rented big top gave birth to Flat Rock Playhouse. As the beautiful Western Carolina region continued to grow, so did the Playhouse and in 1961, by Act of the North Carolina General Assembly, Flat Rock Playhouse was officially designated The State Theatre of North Carolina. What began as a few weeks of summer performances in 1940 is now a nine-month season of plays including Broadway musicals, comedy, drama, and theatre for young audiences. The Playhouse's dual mission of producing the performing arts and providing education in the performing arts includes a professional series; a summer and fall college apprentice and intern program; and Studio 52, year-round classes and workshops in theatre and film for students from kindergarten through adults. Flat Rock Playhouse now hosts over 98,000 patrons annually and is a significant contributor to the local economy and the Arts in North Carolina.