

PRESENTS



MacHomer

A Season of Shakespeare Series Event
Thursday, December 11, 2008 • 8 pm
Jackson Hall, Mondavi Center, UC Davis

There will be no intermission.

Pre-performance Lecture: Fran Dolan, Professor,
Department of English, UC Davis
Jackson Hall, Mondavi Center • 7 pm

Post-performance Q&A Moderator: Dr. Karma Waltonen,
University Writing Program, UC Davis

The artists and your fellow audience members appreciate silence during the performance. Please be sure that you have switched off cellular phones, watch alarms, and pager signals. Videotaping, photographing, and audio recording are strictly forbidden. Violators are subject to removal.



a WYRD Production

Created and Performed by Rick Miller
Adapted from William Shakespeare's *Macbeth* and characters created by Matt Groening
Directed by Sean Lynch
Lighting & Stage Design by Beth Kates
Sound Design by Rick Miller
Drawings by Rick Miller and Craig Francis Design
Video Design by EnTechneVision.com
Video Staging by WYRD Productions
Costume Design by Veronik Avery
Production & Stage Manager: Beth Kates
Graphic Design, Web, and Multimedia: EnTechneVision.com

WYRD Productions engages under the terms of the Independent Theatre Agreement, professional Artists who are members of Canadian Actors' Equity Association.

www.machomer.com

Presented in association with
Robert Friedman Presents
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www.rfpresents.com

WYRD PRODUCTIONS

Incorporated in 2000, WYRD Productions has been involved in the development of new theater since 1995. Founded by Rick Miller and Jeff Lord as a company devoted to multi-disciplinary artistic creation, it has since evolved into one of Canada's leading international exporters of culture. Blending theater and comedy, art and entertainment, music and multimedia, WYRD has produced the award-winning shows *MacHomer*, *Art?*, *Slightly Bent*, *Into the Ring* (with Dawson Nichols), and *Bigger Than Jesus* (with Daniel Brooks and Necessary Angel Theatre Company). *MacHomer* has toured for more than 10 years and been seen by more than half a million people in 150 cities worldwide. Also on tour is the Dora Award-winning *Bigger Than Jesus*, now being performed in four languages. *HardSell*, the much-anticipated second collaboration by Rick Miller and Daniel Brooks, premiered in 2007. www.wyrdproductions.com

Rick Miller (Creator and Performer)

Rick Miller trained in Montreal as an architect, actor, and singer, and has performed in five languages on five continents. As the artistic director of WYRD Productions, he has created and performed the award-winning solo shows *Art?*, *Slightly Bent*, and the worldwide hit *MacHomer*. The two latest WYRD Productions have been co-creations: *Into the Ring* (with Seattle playwright/performer Dawson Nichols), and *Bigger Than Jesus* (with Daniel Brooks), winner of 3 Dora Awards in 2005. *Bigger Than Jesus* has been performed all over the world, in English, French, Italian, and German, and a feature film is currently in development. Rick Miller and Daniel Brooks also collaborated on a play called *HardSell*, which premiered in 2007. Rick has worked extensively with internationally renowned director Robert Lepage, on such plays as *La Géométrie des Miracles*, *Zulu Time* (co-created with Peter Gabriel), the film *Possible Worlds*, and on a new nine-hour play entitled *Lipsynch*. He is currently the host of ABC's prime-time hit TV series, *Just for Laughs*, now in its second season. Rick lives in Toronto with his wife Stephanie Baptist and their daughters Vivian and Ellen.

Sean Lynch (Director)

Since graduating from Concordia University, Sean has spent the last decade directing a diverse range of projects in theater, dance, video, and multimedia. Through his multi-disciplinary company Red Star 18, Sean develops the majority of his work in Toronto, Ottawa, and Montreal. His vision is inspired through movement, sound, technology, and the absurdity of life.

Beth Kates (Production/Stage Manager, Designer)

Beth has worked as a lighting, set and projection designer, and stage manager in rock and roll, dance, theater, and opera across Canada, the U.S., New Zealand, and Australia. Career highlights include assistant lighting designer for *Geometry of Miracles* (Robert Lepage/Ex Machina), and *Uncle Vanya* (Soulpepper); set and costumes for *All The World* (Geordie Prod.); lighting design for *Miinigoowezewin* (Banff Arts Festival), *Anaconda* (Tangent Montreal), the Dora Award-winning *Music For Contortionist* (Tarragon/Shaw Festival), and numerous works by award-winning choreographer Learie McNicols. In addition to designing *Slightly Bent*, *MacHomer*, *Into the Ring*, and *Bigger Than Jesus* for WYRD Productions, Beth tours with the productions and has been WYRD's resident designer and stage manager since 1999. Her work on *Bigger Than Jesus* earned her (along with hubby Ben Chaisson) two 2005 Dora Award nominations and the 2005 Dora Award for Outstanding Lighting Design.

Robert Friedman

(President, Robert Friedman Presents)

Robert Friedman has been involved in theater management and production for more than 30 years, a family tradition that goes back to the 19th century. In San Francisco, he co-produced the long-running romantic comedy *Talley's Folly*, which opened the Theatre on the Square, as well as Caryl Churchill's biting comedy *Cloud Nine*, Neil Simon's *Biloxi Blues*, and A.R. Gurney's *Love Letters*. His artist management firm represents and tours both nationally and internationally such prominent companies as Gareth Armstrong's *Shylock*, Magnificat, the Shakespeare Revue, Les Ballets Jazz de Montréal, the Moscow Classical Ballet, musicians Freddy Cole, Angela Au, Tracy Silverman, Terry Riley and Gyan Riley, Il Giardino Armonico, and Le Concert Spirituel, and WYRD Productions' *MacHomer*, *Into the Ring*, and *Bigger Than Jesus*.

CAST

THOSE OF SCOTLAND

| | |
|---|---------------------------|
| DUNCAN, King of Scotland | Charles Montgomery Burns |
| MALCOLM, his 'son' | Waylon Smithers |
| MACHOMER, Thane of Glamis, later Thane of Cawdor, later King of Scotland | Homer J. Simpson |
| LADY MACHOMER | Marge Simpson |
| BANQUO, a Thane of Scotland | Ned Flanders |
| MACDUFF, a Thane of Scotland | Barney Gumble |
| ROSS, MENTETH, LENNOX, ANGUS, and Thanes of Scotland | Actor Troy McClure |
| FLEANCE, Banquo's son | Bart Simpson |
| Murderer #1 | Apu Nahasapeemapetilon |
| An Old Man, Murderer #2 | Grampa Abe Simpson |
| A Doctor, Murderer #3 | Otto Mann |
| A Porter | Krusty the Clown |
| Gentlewoman | Lisa Simpson |
| Policeman #1 | Chief Clancy Wiggum |
| Policeman #2 | Lou |
| Policeman #3 | Eddie |
| Kid #1 | Milhouse Van Houten |
| Kid #2 | Nelson Muntz |
| Kid #3 | Jimbo Jones |
| Kid #4 | Ralph Wiggum |
| Kid #5 | Maggie Simpson |
| Kid #6 | Martin Prince |
| Kid #7 | Rod Flanders |
| Doctor #1 | Dr. Nick Riviera |
| Doctor #2 | Dr. Marvin Monroe |
| Doctor #3 | Professor Frink |
| Doctor #4 | Dr. Julius Hibbert |
| Heckler #1 | Carl Carlson |
| Heckler #2 | Lenny |
| Barfly #1 | Jasper |
| Barfly #2 | Bumblebee Man |
| Rabbi | Rabbi Herschel Krustofski |
| Lawyer | Lionel Hutz |
| Preacher | Reverend Lovejoy |
| Quiz show host | Comic Book Guy |
| Frog | Kermit |

Floozie
Thug
Token Scot
Traffic guy
Short man
Cartoons
Director
Minority
Paperboy
and other special guests

Edna Krabappel
Snake
Groundskeeper Willie
Arnie Pie
Hans Moleman
Itchy & Scratchy
Llewellyn Sinclair
Bleeding Gums Murphy
Pimple-faced youth

THOSE OF THE HALF-WORLD

HECATE, Witch#1
Witch#2
Witch#3
Other weird sisters
Apparition#1

Apparition#2
Apparition#3
Apparition#4

Captain McCallister
Moe Szyslak
Principal Seymour Skinner
Selma & Patty Bouvier
Mayor Diamond Joe
Quimby
McBain
O.J. Simpson
Sideshow Bob Terwilliger

PLOT SYNOPSIS

ACT 1: The play begins with three witches plotting the corruption of MacHomer, a Thane of Scotland off at war in Norway. The Thane of Ross then returns to Scotland to inform King Duncan of Scotland's victory. On their return journey, a battle-weary MacHomer and Banquo run into the three witches who declare that MacHomer will soon become king, and that the royal line will be continued by Banquo's children. Concerned, he sends a message to his wife. The King proclaims Malcolm as his heir, which stirs up jealousy in the power-hungry MacHomer. He arrives home to find his wife already possessed by a murderous plan for his ascent to the throne. The King is greeted as a guest at MacHomer's castle, and after much hesitation, MacHomer brutally slays him. MacDuff arrives and soon discovers the bloody regicide, which MacHomer blames on the king's hounds. Malcolm then flees to England, which places the suspicion on him, and the sovereignty on MacHomer. Jealous of the witches' earlier declaration about Banquo's offspring, MacHomer then hires three goons to murder Banquo and his son.

ACT 2: The newly crowned MacHomer throws a party to appease his entourage, but ends up plagued by recurring visions of Banquo's ghost. He then seeks consolation from the "weird sisters" (witches) who warn him about MacDuff. His courage is nonetheless bolstered by their further assurances that he will never be vanquished until "Byrnem forest comes to Dunsinane," and that he cannot be killed by "one of woman born." In a bloodthirsty rage, he storms MacDuff's castle and destroys everything in sight. Upon learning of this horrific news, MacDuff vows to slay the corrupt king in order to avenge the murders of his kin. MacHomer, now stuck in the mountains with his lunatic wife and his goons, ponders the futility of life—and awaits his bloody fate...

A MESSAGE FROM THE GENERAL MANAGER

Welcome to the world of *MacHomer* and the creative mind of Rick Miller! On behalf of WYRD Productions, I wish to thank all the WYRD staff, EnTechneVision, Craig Francis Design, and the talents who make *MacHomer* a continuously evolving delight to audiences around the world. Mostly, thank you to the fans who have made it such a phenomenon—let us hear from you at machomer.com. Keep your eyes open for other WYRD Productions, and I look forward to seeing you again in a darkened theater.

—Jeff Lord

General Manager, WYRD Productions

A BRIEF CONVERSATION WITH RICK MILLER

Where did "MacHomer" come from?

In the summer of 1995, I had a very small part (Murderer #2, to be exact) in a touring production of *Macbeth* with Montreal's Repercussion Theatre. Somehow, a tragedy always seems funnier backstage than onstage, and I spent many hours concocting this strange little joke for the cast party: what if the Simpsons were to parody *Macbeth*? That same joke has grown into something much larger, but the conceit remains the same: one dysfunctional family does another.

Wherefore the Simpsons? Wherefore Macbeth?

The initial "casting" decision was entirely subjective, based on which voices I could imitate best and which play I was performing in at the time. Despite countless suggestions since then, I still haven't found a better fit. I find it somewhat poetic that in Homer's hands, Macbeth's vaulting ambition ranges from wanting the throne to wanting a doughnut. There is also something vaguely tragic about the residents of Springfield: flawed, vulnerable, but ultimately noble in their own pathetic way.

Is Shakespeare rolling in his grave?

I wouldn't think so. It may not be "Art," but *The Simpsons* TV show is extremely artistic, holding a satirical mirror up to present-day society much like Shakespeare's plays did to Elizabethan England. I think Ol' Bill would prefer watching *MacHomer* over some badly acted production of *Macbeth*.

How would you classify "MacHomer"?

MacHomer has been called many things but, essentially, it's a tribute to the creative vision of Matt Groening and to the genius of William Shakespeare. Thank you for indulging my silliness.



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