

*(Act 3 Scene 3)*

**Screen: A LONELY PLACE NEAR FORRES**

*The TWO MURDERERS lying in wait are joined by a THIRD (MURDERER)*

**COMPANY:           Aaaah - aaah - aaah - aaah!**

*Thunder as music underscores.*

1<sup>ST</sup> MURDERER:   Who sent you?

3<sup>RD</sup> MURDERER:   Macbeth.

2<sup>ND</sup> MURDERER:   Well he's no reason not to trust us. We've got our orders. We know what we have to do.

1<sup>ST</sup> MURDERER:   All right - join us.

3<sup>RD</sup> MURDERER:   Listen. Someone's coming.

*BANQUO calls from offstage "Give me a light there, will you."*

2<sup>ND</sup> MURDERER:   It's them.

1<sup>ST</sup> MURDERER:   They've got off the horses.

3<sup>RD</sup> MURDERER:   Most people do at this spot. They walk from here to the castle.

*BANQUO and FLEANCE enter with a lantern*

2<sup>ND</sup> MURDERER:   Look a light.

3<sup>RD</sup> MURDERER:   That's him!

1<sup>ST</sup> MURDERER:   Stand by!

BANQUO:           It looks like rain tonight.

1<sup>ST</sup> MURDERER:   Then, let it come down.

*They attack BANQUO.*

BANQUO:           Oh, treachery. Run, Fleance, run, run, run! You must revenge me, Oh ...

*BANQUO dies, as FLEANCE escapes.*

**ENSEMBLE:        Aaaah - aaah - aaah - aaah!**

**END OF ACT ONE**

**ACT TWO***(Act 3 Scene 4)***Screen: THE BANQUETING HALL AT FORRES**

*A long table with chairs has been set up stage centre. Stools, benches and chairs surround it. Guests are seated at the table enjoying the entertainment. Servants and attendants are bustling to and from. As the curtain rises a Dance is in full swing.*

**MUSIC/DANCE: THE LAND OF THE CELTS**

*As the dance finishes everyone cheers. With the banquet now in full flow, a ceremonial drinking cup is passed around. All lustily join in a traditional ceremonial song.*

**SONG: SCOTLAND FOREVER - Full Company**

**COMPANY:**           **Scotland Forever!**  
                          **One Land together**  
                          **Land of our people**  
                          **And home of our hearts**  
                          **Scotland Forever!**  
                          **One Land together**  
                          **Calling us again**  
                          **Back home**

*The music continues as MACBETH mingles with the guests. The 1<sup>ST</sup> MURDERER enters and MACBETH comes to speak with him.*

MACBETH:           There's blood on your face.

1<sup>ST</sup> MURDERER:    It must be Banquo's.

MACBETH:           Does that mean he's dead?

1<sup>ST</sup> MURDERER:    I cut his throat myself.

MACBETH:           And who killed Fleance?

1<sup>ST</sup> MURDERER:    Most royal sir - Fleance escaped.

*MACBETH visibly staggers at this news.*

MACBETH:           Fleance is still alive. This could be bad for me. It brings on my fit again.

*MACBETH is distant for a moment thinking of Fleance, but then recovers his composure*

MACBETH:           You're sure Banquo is dead?

1<sup>ST</sup> MURDERER:    Dead. In a ditch. With twenty fatal gashes to his head!

MACBETH: Thanks. At least the adult serpent is dead. The little worm that has wriggled away is harmless for now. Go now, I'll speak with you tomorrow.

*1<sup>ST</sup> MURDERER leaves - LADY MACBETH comes over to MACBETH and he sings to her, and his guests as he returns to the party.*

**COMPANY:**                   **Scotland Forever!**  
                                  **One Land together**  
                                  **Land of our people**  
                                  **And home of our hearts**

**MACBETH:**                   **Scotland Forever!**  
                                  **One Land together**  
                                  **Calling us again**  
                                  **Back ....**

*The GHOST OF BANQUO sits in Macbeth's chair. As MACBETH sees him, he suddenly breaks off from the song - the music stops.*

MACBETH: (*pointing to his chair*) Which of you has done this?

GUESTS:     (*bemused*) Done what, sire? (etc)

MACBETH:                It wasn't me! You can't say it was me!!

ROSS:                    Gentlemen, rise, his highness is not well.

LADY MACBETH: Sit, worthy friends. My lord is often like this. It's a fit that will soon pass. Please stay seated. It helps if you try and ignore it. (*To Macbeth*) What's wrong with you?

MACBETH:                Can't you see? It's enough to scare the devil.

LADY MACBETH: Oh, really?! It's not another "Is this a dagger I see before me" moment, is it? There's nothing there! When all is said and done, you're looking at a chair!

MACBETH:                Look there. Look! Now do you believe me? (*To the GHOST*) Speak. Speak if you can.

LADY MACBETH: Are you a man? Have you gone crazy?

MACBETH:                I see him as sure as I am standing here.

LADY MACBETH: Rubbish!

MACBETH: (*To himself*) In the old days, if you killed a man he stayed dead. But now it seems you stick twenty fatal gashes in their heads, they come back to haunt you.

LADY MACBETH: My worthy lord, you are forgetting your guests.

*BANQUO's GHOST disappears*

MACBETH: I'm sorry. *(To the guests)* Worthy friends, please forgive me. I have a strange illness that sometimes comes over me. It's nothing to worry about, I assure you. *(Raising his glass)* Let's have a toast: love and health to all!

*The GHOST returns*

MACBETH: I drink to the general joy of the whole table, and to absent friends: our dear friend Banquo – if only he were here. To you all!

*He raises his glass to rousing cheers from the GUESTS. He turns and sees BANQUO'S GHOST again.*

MACBETH: No! Get out of my sight! Go find a grave!!

LADY MACBETH: Ladies and Gentlemen, it sometimes gets worse like this before it gets better. (It does tend to ruin the evening, though.)

MACBETH: *(To the GHOST)* I'm not scared of you - come here. I dare you. Come on! Pretend you are a rugged Russian bear, a rhinoceros or a savage tiger, or whatever! If I tremble you can call me a baby girl. Go on, be off with you! Get out of here!

*The GHOST goes. MACBETH recovers again*

MACBETH: You see, he's gone. I am a man again. *(To the Guests)* Please be seated again.

LADY MACBETH: You've ruined the evening with your crazy, mad behaviour!

MACBETH: How can you stay so calm? I see these sights and turn white with fear.

*ROSS has come over to ensure Macbeth is all right*

ROSS: What sights, my lord?

LADY MACBETH: Don't say anything to him. It'll make things worse. Just pretend nothing happened. I think I should get him to bed. Goodnight to you all, there's no need any formal farewells. Goodnight!

LENNOX: Good night, and may his majesty feel better in the morning.

LADY MACBETH: A fond goodnight to you all.

LADY MACBETH ushers the guests away

MACBETH: What time is it?

LADY MACBETH: Almost morning.

MACBETH: What do you think about Macduff not being here tonight?

LADY MACBETH: Did you invite him?

MACBETH: I'll find out where he was. I'll plant a spy in his house. And tomorrow I'll go back to the three Weird Sisters. They must tell me more. They must tell me the worst that can happen.

LADY MACBETH: You need some sleep.

MACBETH: Yes, let's get some sleep. These visions are just the fears of an apprentice. We've only just started.

*They go*

**(Act 3 Scene 5)**

**Screen: A DESOLATE PLACE**

*Thunder. The three witches appear and then with a further more violent crash HECATE - the Queen of Witchcraft - appears.*

1<sup>ST</sup> WITCH: Why, how now, Hecate, you look angry.

HECATE: So I should be you saucy old bag!

Why did you dare to talk to Macbeth  
In riddles and affairs of death?  
When I, the mistress of your art  
Was never asked to play my part.

And what is worse, all you have done  
Has been to help a wayward son  
Spiteful and wrathful, who (as others do)  
Loves for his own ends, not for you.

But make amends now: get you gone  
And at the pit of Acheron  
Meet me in the morning, where he  
Will come to learn his destiny.

*The Witches go off to collect their cauldron and ingredients.*

HECATE: Your cauldrons and your spells provide,  
Your charms and everything beside.  
I'll disappear, tonight I'll spend  
Watching this mortal's fatal end.

*(Music starts)*

**(Act 4 Scene 1)**

*HECATE waves her arms and more thunder crashes. The Witches begin to chant and cast spells, dancing around the cauldron.*

1<sup>ST</sup> WITCH: Thrice the brindled cat has mewed.

2<sup>ND</sup> WITCH: Thrice and one the hedge-hog whined.

3<sup>RD</sup> WITCH: Harpier cries "It's time! It's time!"

*The Witches encircle the cauldron throwing ingredients into the pot*

**SONG: BLACK SPIRITS - Hecate, Witches, Ensemble**

(1<sup>ST</sup> WITCH): **Round about the cauldron go:  
In the poisoned entrails throw.  
Make it thick, and mix around  
Adder's fork, blindworm's sting  
Lizard's leg, owlet's wing!**

**Poisoned Toad, whose blood will clot  
Boil it in our charmed pot  
Take it from its ice cold stone, (with)  
Eye of newt, toe of frog,  
Wool of bat, tongue of dog!**

**ALL: Double, double toil and trouble,  
Fire burn and cauldron bubble.  
Double, double toil and trouble,  
Fire burn and cauldron bubble.  
Black spirits white, red spirits grey,  
Mingle, mingle, round, around,  
Ill come in,  
Good, keep out!**

(2<sup>ND</sup> WITCH): **Fillet of a fenland snake  
In the cauldron boil and bake:  
Make it thick, and mix around  
Adder's fork, blindworm's sting  
Lizard's leg, owlet's wing!**

**For a charm of trouble's toil  
Like a hell-broth bubble boil  
Round about the cauldron go  
Eye of newt, toe of frog,  
Wool of bat, tongue of dog!**

**ALL: Double, double toil and trouble,  
Fire burn and cauldron bubble.  
Double, double toil and trouble,**

**Fire burn and cauldron bubble.  
Black spirits white, red spirits grey,  
Mingle, mingle, round, around,  
Ill come in,  
Good, keep out!**

**3<sup>RD</sup> WITCH:** **Of the ravined salt-sea shark  
Root of hemlock digged in the dark,  
Scale of dragon, tooth of wolf  
Slivered in - moon's eclipse  
Nose of Turk, Tartar's lips.**

**Liver of blaspheming jew  
Gall of goat and slips of yew  
Witch's mummy, maw and gulf  
Eye of newt, toe of frog,  
Wool of bat, tongue of dog!**

**ALL:** **Double, double toil and trouble,  
Fire burn and cauldron bubble.  
Double, double toil and trouble,  
Fire burn and cauldron bubble.  
Black spirits white, red spirits grey,  
Mingle, mingle, round, around,  
Ill come in,  
Good, keep out!  
OUT!**

**2<sup>ND</sup> WITCH:** **By the pricking of my thumbs,  
Something wicked this way comes:  
Open locks,  
Whoever knocks!**

*MACBETH enters to a crash of thunder from HECATE. She steps into the background leaving MACBETH and the THREE WITCHES apparently alone.*

**MACBETH:** **How now, you secret, black and midnight hags! What are you doing now?**

**ALL:** **A deed without a name.**

**MACBETH:** **I summon you in the name of your black magic - or whatever it is - to answer me! Though you untie winds that batter churches; though you let stormy waves swallow up ships; though you let palaces and pyramids fall into their foundations - answer me when I ask!**

**1<sup>ST</sup> WITCH:** **Speak.**

**2<sup>ND</sup> WITCH:** **Demand.**

3<sup>RD</sup> WITCH: We'll answer.

1<sup>ST</sup> WITCH: Would you rather hear it from our mouths - or from our masters?

MACBETH: Call them. Let's see them!

ALL: Come, high or low;  
Let the apparition show

*With steam rising from the cauldron, and a clap of thunder HECATE leads on the 1<sup>ST</sup> APPARITION - "An armed head"*

MACBETH: Tell me, you unknown power -

1<sup>ST</sup> WITCH: He knows your thoughts - listen! But say nothing!

*The 1<sup>ST</sup> APPARITION stands before MACBETH*

1<sup>ST</sup> APPARITION: Macbeth! Macbeth! Macbeth! Beware Macduff! Beware the Thane of Fife! Dismiss me! Enough!

*The 1<sup>ST</sup> APPARITION is led off by HECATE*

MACBETH: Thank you, whoever you are! You're right about my concern about Macduff. But one more word -

HECATE: He will not be commanded. Here's another, more powerful than the first!

*With another clap of thunder HECATE leads on the 2<sup>ND</sup> APPARITION - "A bloody child"*

2<sup>ND</sup> APPARITION: Macbeth! Macbeth! Macbeth!

MACBETH: If I had three ears, I'd listen to you.

2<sup>ND</sup> APPARITION: Be bloody, bold and resolute. Laugh to scorn the power of man - for none of woman born shall harm Macbeth!

*The 2<sup>ND</sup> APPARITION is led off by HECATE*

MACBETH: Then Macduff, you might as well live. Why should I fear you? Why should I fear anyone? For nobody born of a woman can harm Macbeth! I'll make doubly sure - I'll kill him anyway!

*A third clap of thunder - and a THIRD APPARITION - "A child, crowned, with a tree in his hand"*

MACBETH: What's this? It looks like a young royal child wearing a crown.

HECATE: Listen - but do not speak!

3<sup>RD</sup> APPARITION: Be brave and lion-hearted - take no notice of rebels, plotters  
and your enemies:  
Macbeth shall never beaten be until  
Great Birnam Wood to high Dunsinane Hill  
Shall come against him.

*The 3<sup>RD</sup> APPARITION is led away.*

MACBETH: That will never be! That can never happen! Who can make the  
trees leave the ground and march as an army? No-one! There  
will be no rebellions or uprisings - not until Birnam Wood rises  
itself. And Macbeth will reign until he dies of natural old age.  
But tell me one thing more - do you know if Banquo's children  
shall ever reign in this kingdom?

ALL: Don't ask to know more!

MACBETH: You must! Tell me or be cursed forever!

*HECATE moves the cauldron off stage*

MACBETH: Where is the cauldron going? ~~What's that noise?~~

1<sup>ST</sup> WITCH: Show!

2<sup>ND</sup> WITCH: Show!

3<sup>RD</sup> WITCH: Show!

ALL: Show his eyes and grieve his heart -  
Come like shadows, then depart

*HECATE does an "open sesame" on the upstage doors and slowly a procession of  
EIGHT KINGS marches past MACBETH; the last of these holds a mirror in his hand  
- followed finally by BANQUO'S GHOST.*

MACBETH: *(To the first)* You look too much like the ghost of Banquo: Go!  
*(To the second)* And you look like the first!  
*(To the third)* The third is like the rest.  
*(To the Witches)* You filthy hags! Why did you show me this?

1<sup>ST</sup> WITCH: You did ask!

MACBETH: Four? Five? Six? Seven? And now the eighth, carries a mirror  
showing many more. Some have two kingdoms. And now

blood-covered Banquo smiles at me, and points to the kings as if they're his! What - is this so?

1<sup>ST</sup> WITCH: Yes - all this is so. But why is Macbeth so amazed? Come sisters - let's cheer him up.

**Reprise : "THE WITCHES' SONG" - The Witches & Ensemble**

**ALL:**                    **Weird sisters, hand in hand  
Posters of the sea and land  
Dancing as we sing and shout  
Thus we go about, about  
Thrice to thine, thrice to mine  
And thrice again to make up nine  
Thrice to thine, thrice to mine  
And thrice again to make - up - nine**

*At the end of the song everyone vanishes, leaving MACBETH alone onstage*

MACBETH:            Where are they? Gone? Hey, you there!

*MACBETH runs off. LENNOX and a LORD enter.*