

White Whale Theatre

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Mr Chris Reid
Secretary, Lorna Stirling Fund Committee
University of Melbourne
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By email: crei@unimelb.edu.au
cc: kmenezes@unimelb.edu.au

23 September 2006

Dear Mr Reid,

We are writing to sincerely thank the Lorna Stirling Estate Fund for its support of White Whale Theatre's Edinburgh Fringe Festival production of *Macbeth Re-Arisen*.

White Whale Theatre has just completed its highly successful season thanks to the financial and in-kind support provided by the Lorna Stirling Fund and other Victorian businesses and organizations.

Artistically, our production was lauded by key festival publications, and attracted unusually large crowds to our small but respected Fringe venue. Financially, we achieved what most Fringe shows failed to do by breaking even, due primarily to our pre-season fundraising and to the support of our sponsors. Individually, all 25 young Australians involved had an absolutely unforgettable time and in our future projects we will now be able to draw on a wide range of new skills and theatre experience.

Our show ran from the 6th - 28th August at the Hill Street Theatre and included the following season highlights:

- **Great Reviews:** We were given a 5-Star review by the main daily review broadsheet, 'Three Weeks'; a 4-Star review by the highly respected and more conservative permanent events publication 'The List'; and two very positive 3-Star reviews in the 'Edinburgh Guide' and 'The Scotsman' (available to read through our website blog).
- **Magazine Features:** *Macbeth Re-Arisen* appeared in a feature article on horror-themed productions in 'The List' before our season even started.
- **TV Appearances:** We performed, by invitation, a short segment on the BBC4 show, 'The Late Edition'. We also performed, upon request, behind the Adelaide Fringe Festival Director Christie Anthony for a live TV feed to Australia for the launch of the Adelaide Fringe registration.
- **Festival Awards:** Our producer, Kelly Farrow, was awarded a Universal Arts Award for 'Best Producer' on the final night of the Fringe.

- **Fantastic Connections:** We had the opportunity to meet other Australian performers at the Australian High Commission's Fringe Networking Event. During the Fringe in general we also forged many beneficial relationships with theatre companies and theatre goers from around the world, thus raising the profile of Australian (and particularly) Melbourne's arts scene and exchanging useful connections, skills and information.
- **Publicity Blitz:** Our 'zombie shuffles' quickly became known around Edinburgh – 20 of us in full costume with full zombie makeup lurching up the Royal Mile and around the New Town brandishing flyers, posters and a 2m banner. Our high-impact publicity approach was a key reason we got great audiences, and our occasional devouring of unsuspecting onlookers gave more than a thrill to many Fringe punters and camera-snapping tourists!

There are more tales, photos and highlights on our blog available at www.whitewhaletheatre.com. We thank you again for your fantastic support and hope to contact you again soon with news of White Whale Theatre's next project!

Yours sincerely

Kelly Farrow and David Mence
Managing Directors of White Whale Theatre

TWO OF OUR REVIEWS

THREE WEEKS (www.threeweeks.co.uk)

Macbeth Re-arisen

White Whale Theatre

“Macbeth is dead yet breathes this air”. That’s right, he’s back! This wonderfully written Australian production adds the sequel to the original Macbeth. Back from the dead, zombie Macbeth and his wife lead their very own zombie army to try and prise Scotland away from the arms of King Malcolm. It’s immensely funny and keeps the audience tied to their seats as they follow him on his latest quest to become king. This is an adventurous production that is pulled off perfectly by an enthusiastic and talented cast. Think Shakespeare meets ‘Shaun of the Dead’ and you have ‘Macbeth Re-arisen’. William is probably turning in his grave; but only because he wishes he could have written it himself.

Three Weeks Rating: 5/5

THE LIST (www.list.co.uk)

Macbeth Re-Arisen - Theatre ★★★★★

Macbeth is slain and Duncan is King, the witches prophecy is fulfilled. Or is it? Part two sees a bloodstained Macbeth supernaturally re-arisen. He resurrects his wife and they once again plot their rise to power, assisted by their zombie minions of course. Writing an entire play in Elizabethan pentameter is a risky task but David Mence's somewhat ludicrous script, seamlessly leads on from the first installment. He mixes Shakespearean verse with cheesy horror-esque conventions and creates new characters, like the gothic Hecate and the golum-like Cripple No-toes. These along with old favourites are performed by a talented cast of Aussies who handle this well balanced farce with wit and respect. This chainsaw wielding Macbeth is worth seeing!
(Greer Ogston)

Rating: 4/5

