

DRAMA - Rationale

Within this Individual Project & Performance, I aimed and intended to breathe life and reality into the words of Lady Macbeth and re-tell her famous story. This performance, in contrast to the original Shakespeare, is both a portrayal and a psychoanalysis of a woman fraying at the seams. With this piece I aimed to ignite the audience's interest in the story of this woman, who got so caught up in her own power that she combusted like a dying star and was reduced to a meek, incorporeal shadow of herself. I have greatly deviated from the original concept I intended to perform, in which Lady Macbeth spent the monologue in reflection, re-evaluating her life in the moments before her death/suicide. In the original concept I was leaning towards a realistic acting style though that has since changed, the result of many consultations and workshops.

The current iteration of this performance leans more towards the style of hyper-realism with influences drawn from Antonin Artaud's 'Theatre of Cruelty'. These influences include stark face makeup (very pale skin, dark eyes, red lips) along with intense depictions of emotion which peak and fall, imitating the techniques used by Artaud to shock the audiences.

Costume influences were drawn from both medieval nightgowns and Dame Judi Dench's portrayal of Lady Macbeth in which her costuming was dark, simple and did not draw attention away from the actress and the character. The dark clothing highlights the paleness of the exposed hands, feet and face, drawing audience attention towards them. I have focused on using specific and deliberate hand movements to convey meaning which Lady Macbeth may not verbalise.

Within this piece, I hoped to portray each side of Lady Macbeth and the intensity of her emotional journey, showing each aspect of her characterisation in the play. The journey Lady Macbeth goes on is one of realisation, beginning the piece deep in her own psyche as she reflects upon her life leading up to the moment that begins the piece. She then delves further into her own past, growing stronger as she lets herself reflect and immerse in the powerful woman she once was. The ending of the piece is the moment of horror and realisation that completes the psychoanalysis of Lady Macbeth, as she realises the reality of where her life has come to. This journey engages audiences, as the peak and fall of her mood, tone, psyche and physicality enhances the Shakespearean language.