



## “Fair is foul...” Macbeth at Antaeus, LA theater review

By [Pauline Adamek](#)

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Bo Foxworth and Ann Noble

Photo by Daniel Blinkoff

In **Shakespeare's** macabre and unsettling tragedy, a ruthlessly ambitious Scottish general seizes the throne with the help of his scheming wife and guidance from a trio of witches. He then commits further murders to maintain a tenuous grip on his newly won power.

Adopting an unusual approach, director **Jessica Kubzansky** opens her production of **Shakespeare's Macbeth**, now running at the **Antaeus** classical theater Company, with a scene not scripted by The Bard. We witness a somber *tableaux vivant*; basically a mute sequence depicting a funeral for the Macbeth's deceased baby. This prologue is followed by a brief scene between Hecate (**Kitty Swink**, who also plays Lady MacDuff) and the three witches (**Fran Bennett, Susan Boyd Joyce** and **Elizabeth Swain**) that pre-empt the play's usual first scene where the trio of weird sisters

waylays Macbeth on the heath. (This scene was lifted from later in the play and brought to the top.)

In the fully double-cast production **Bo Foxworth** and **Ann Noble** lead “*The Kinsmen*” cast as Macbeth and his Lady while **Rob Nagle** and **Tessa Auberjonois** lead “*The Thanes*” cast.

Slightly shifting the emphasis, we now see Macbeth succumbing to a predestined and hellish temptation, unexpectedly offered by the witches Macbeth in the moment of intoxication of his recent battlefield victory and subsequent accolades.

It’s an intriguing approach, and one well supported by the text. Suddenly certain lines leap out with new significance. Lady M’s grim admission that she would rip a suckling baby from her breast and murder her babe if Macbeth chose not to proceed.

I have given suck, and know  
How tender ‘tis to love the babe that milks me:  
I would, while it was smiling in my face,  
Have pluck’d my nipple from his boneless gums,  
And dash’d the brains out, had I so sworn as you  
Have done to this.

Macbeth also laments becoming King with no heir.

Importantly, in communing with the dark side of nature and denizens from the world of spirits, Macbeth sets himself on a fateful path to destruction.

This is a savage tale of Scottish legends, witches, hallucinations and bold and bloody grab for power. Both giving brilliant performances, **Bo Foxworth** and **Ann Noble** also bring a nervousness and uncertainty to their devious plotting. The witches’ baleful presence oversees all the evil deeds throughout the drama, sometimes on high ledge upstage above **Tom Buderwitz’** gloomy set of bare trees, boulders and doorways to dark corridors. The production seems unevenly cast, with some actors shining while other, more incidental characters failing to impress.

Above is a review of “*The Kinsmen*” cast.

“*The Kinsmen*” cast:

Fran Bennett • Sam Breen • Joe Delafield • Bo Foxworth • Steve Hofvendahl • Joe HoltSusan Boyd Joyce • Dylan La Rocque • Ian Littleworth • Adam Meyer • Ann NobleJesse Sharp • John Sloan • James Sutorius • Elizabeth Swain • Kitty Swink • Jason ThomasBrian Tichnell • Rebekah Tripp • Peter Van Norden

“*The Thanes*” cast:

Brian Abraham • Tessa Auberjonois • Christian Barillas • Daniel Blinkoff • Jane CarrPaul Culos • Ramón De Ocampo • Daniel Dorr • Jeff Thomas Gardner • Kimiko GelmanJack Lancaster • Gerard Marzilli • Sandra McClain • Rob Nagle • Lorna Raver • Alex KnoxNed Schmidtke • Armin Shimerman • Joanna Strapp • Todd Waring