Student 6: High Not Achieved

Research and analysis of the text for performance.

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Considering the development of the characters and action throughout the text

At the start of the play Macbeth plays a noble and honourable hero, battling forking and country and also being a dedicated husband....After hearing his wife tell him her plans for Duncan's murder and therefore their rise to power, he eventually agrees with her and goes along with the plot. However when the deed has been done he feels guiltier and guiltier of the atrocities that he has committed. He starts to 'see' things and the relationship with his wife becomes poisonous as the play goes on. Near the end of the play, we can see that he no longer cars bout her with the line "She should have died hereafter; there would have been time for such a word". Overall, Macbeth started out as a good man and with the help of his wife and the witches, he ended up being a cold, uncaring and power hungry, all resulting in his insanity at the end of the play. Lady Macbeth starts out in the play as scheming and conniving. We don't see her as innocent or humble anywhere in the ply, only ambitious. Though this ambition always appears to us to be in a way endearing and brilliant, yet on the other hand being evil and cold. We do see faint signals of her being a 'good person', I suppose. Such as when she calls for the spirits to strip her of her womanliness, because she knows, deep down that she would not be able to kill the king if not. This point is further reinforced later in the play when she goes to actually murder Duncan, but falls short – 'If he had not resembled my father as he slept, I had done it.' Towards the end of the play Lady Macbeth experiences, like her husband guilt on a superhuman level. This guilt then eats away at her, until finally she cannot take it any longer. She goes through sleepless nights and bouts of sleepwalking, until she ends up taking her life.

Character relationships are explained: Lady Macbeth and Macbeth / Doctor and Gentlewoman/Lady Macbeth and Gentlewoman

Formulating an explanation of the director's production concept.

It is the sleepwalking scene that needs the most technical lighting as this part of the play that I want to place emphasis on. I decided that I would use red gels to further reinforce the image of blood I wanted to portray throughout the play, so this fits really well.

Translating the scripted text to facilitate the enactment of the script from 'page to stage'

Communicating a concept to convey the intention of the play

I want my set to look kind of like a castle bedroom, to make it quite private, like the audience was looking into their most private affairs, their most private conversations...the audience looking through some sort of window into the lives of Macbeth and Lady Macbeth. The sheets made the bedroom look quite luxurious.

Costume: I really wanted something striking for Lady Macbeth. I think that a deep scarlet red foot length dress would reinforce images of blood I want to recur in my play.

Macbeth: He's a simple man and humble so it doesn't appeal to have him show off his wealth in the form of clothing. Black and white would be good for him as it reflects that he is a simple person and is easily influenced.

Gentle-woman: Needs to be low-class yet well kept. An apron would be ideal to reflect the role she plays in the Macbeth household.

Casting of actors

An audition poster is marketed.

Developing and implementing a rehearsal schedule

Supporting the development of roles and dramatic action

The script is annotated with drama Techniques and motivations. Blocking diagrams are evident in the portfolio.

Guiding the production team

Fostering a positive and co-operative working environment to enable the production to be realised.