

# MACBRA – KING OF THE CAPE FLATS

A contemporary musical comic retelling of a Shakespeare classic by

Jennifer Bryson Moorcroft

## Synopsis

*Macbra - King of the Cape Flats* is a hilariously fresh parody of the great Scottish play *Macbeth* by William Shakespeare, adapted with a hefty helping of local language and flavour for South African schools by Jennifer Bryson Moorcroft. Set in the gangster's paradise of the Cape Flats, the hitman Macbra is hungry for power, glory and some fish and chips. His beautiful (from a certain angle, in dim light) wife, Laydie, is even more ambitious for them to become the number one hot celebrity couple that all other gangster wives will envy. But standing between them and victory is Duncan, big boss of the Italian mafia who currently runs the Hood. Luckily, Macbra meets some sneaky and suspicious sangomas who promise to make all his dreams come true (for a small price, of course - just to cover cauldron costs). Join us in their comical quest for the throne with plenty of song, dance, gang-fights, corruption, load-shedding and a few ghosts that will have you saying, 'Dislekker!' by the end of it all.

## CAST OF CHARACTERS

There are 4 main female characters and 7 main male characters

\* Smaller roles and roles that can be doubled up in a smaller cast are indicated with a (\*) sign.

### MAIN CHARACTERS

**Witch 1**  
**Witch 2**  
**Witch 3**

The three witches are corrupt and false sangomas. They are very mysterious and evil. They speak in a 'township accent' and have no morals. The first witch is the brains of the operation. Witch 2 and 3 aren't so very clever...They love making money off unsuspecting victims.

**Macbra:** He is a rough 'Cape Coloured' gangster. He is brave and fearless at first but later on in the story he becomes guilty and paranoid and has strange hallucinations that he thinks are true. He speaks in a Cape Coloured accent with some Afrikaans thrown in to make it more authentic. He loves his switchblades called 'justice' and 'vengeance'. He also loves his wife, Laydie. He desires to be King of the Flats.

**Laydie:** Laydie is Macbra's wife. She is very obsessed with beauty although she is quite scary looking (but Macbra loves her anyway). She aspires to be the most famous, glamorous gangster-wife of the flats. She is very ruthless and bullies Macbra. Laydie would speak with quite a common, harsh voice and she also has a 'Cape Coloured' accent.

**Dr Duncan:** The King/boss of the flats. He is more classy, well-dressed and sophisticated. He can speak in an Italian accent because he has Mafia connections. He should be wearing a suit/hat and carries a cigar. He is a fair and good leader.

**Lenno**  
**Ross**

gangster henchmen loyal to Dr Duncan.

**Bang-Ou:** He is Macbra's close friend. He is also a gangster, but more of a scaredy cat, very cautious and careful. He is quite wise and prudent. He has a son, Baby Bang-Ou.

**Macdude:** He is a cop who is loyal to Dr Duncan. He is righteous and fearless, with a good heart. He is the 'hero' of the story. You might want to play him as a superhero with a superhero cape?

**Malco:** Eldest son of Dr Duncan who also part of the Italian mafia.

### SMALLER PARTS (can double up)

**\*Old Thane:**  
**\*Macksie:**

These are two gangster traitors who rebel against Dr Duncan/Macbra in Scene 1

- \*Porter:** Drunken guard at the door of Macbra's house, in one scene.
- \*Hired hitmen:** 2 or 3 hitmen who Macbra hires to do his killings.
- \*Baby Bang-Ou:** Bang-Ou's son, a small boy, too young to fight yet, with aspirations of one day being a gangster.
- \*Donnie:** Youngest son of Dr Duncan who is also part of the Italian mafia.
- \*Macdude's wife and son:** they are only in one scene, with a few lines.
- \*3 Apparitions:** three ghosts that the witches summon in one scene OR (You may want to use one DANCER who plays all the supernatural elements such as the floating dagger, Banquos ghost and the apparitions. Port Rex High School did this all with one character in a death/scream mask to a great effect.)
- \*Servant for Macbra:** Only in a few later scenes.
- \*Maid for Laydie:** Only in one later scene.
- \*Doctor for Laydie:** Only in one later scene.

#### **SIZE OF CAST:**

With actors doubling up to play multiple smaller parts, the full Macbra show could be performed with a minimum of sixteen actors (seven females and nine males). It would work better, however, with a larger cast of actors, dancers, singers, fighters and extras. There is no upper limit to cast size and I often perform my musicals with a cast of 30 – 50, including backstage assistants.

**SCENE 1 – WITCHES MEET (*Setting: Cape Flats – Township street*)**

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**(Cardboard boxes and tin shacks in background. The witches meet, warming their hands around a fire, wearing blankets and dressed like traditional sangomas. They speak in crackly, evil voices.)**

**Witch 2:** (*mysteriously*) When shall we three meet again?

**Witch 1:** At six o clock.

**Witch 2 and 3:** Why at six o clock?

**Witch 1:** Because it's load shedding and it will be ncaaa dark and no one will see our evil schemes!

**Witch 2 and 3:** Oooh....sounds like a plan your wicked witchyness!

**Witch 2:** Must I bring my pot?

**Witch 3:** Then we can all get hiiigh?

**Witch 2:** No you idiot, I mean, my cauldron?

**Witch 1:** (*angrily*) Of course. What do you think we are, the Care Bears? No, we're the Weird Sisters.

**Witch 2:** (*confused*) Sister...Isn't it weird calling you weird? Like are you saying we're freaks?

**Witch 3:** Why don't we call ourselves the dope sisters instead?

**Witch 1:** No, you morons! It's got to be the weird sisters – it means we hold the strings of fate – we're agents of the ancestors.

**Witch 3:** That IS pretty dope! I'm just going to read the bones for the next load shedding...

**(She accidentally throws the bones into Witch 1's face)**

**Witch 1:** Hey! Watch it, you sorry excuse for a sangoma! Or the bones we will be using next, will be yours!

**Witch 3:** OK chill, my sister...(picking up the bones) just tell me... who are we meeting with again?

**Witch 1:** Macbra! My sister...he doesn't know what's gonna hit him until...

**Witch 2:** Until...?

**Witch 1:** Until it's too late! Whahahahahaha!

**(Witches start dancing in a circle and chanting)**

**All Witches:** What's good is bad – what's bad is good – but there's a gang fight about to start – so let's get out of this hood!

***(Lots of evil laughter as gangsters start circling them. The gangsters are getting ready to fight the traitors. The witches disappear. Macbra steps forward, holding a flick-knife.)***

**Macbra:** My name is Mario Nigel Llewellyn Fabian Macbra – but you can sommer call me Macbra, my bra.

***(He spots Maksie and Old Thane, the traitors).***

**Maksie:** Macbra...I kill you to death!

**Macbra:** Hayihayihayi, you traitor! I will beat you stukkend!

**Old Thane:** Yeah, you and what army?

**Maksie:** Face it, you are outnumbered Macbra.

**Macbra:** ***(pointing to his weapon)*** Who needs an army when I've got justice and vengeance?

***(He holds out two flick-knives).***

This is justice. And vengeance is in my other pocket, you sorry piece of snoek.

***(They fight, others fight around them as song starts)***

**MUSIC ITEM 1: GRENADE Acapella upbeat CHORAL      *(Dance/Fight)***

***Macbra's side fights traitors. Ross and Lenno also fight on Macbra's side. Macbra kills Maksie and captures Old Thane. He hands Old Thane over to Ross and Lenno. Song can be played and danced or rapped by someone on stage. Macbra's side has won.***

**BLACKOUT – END OF SCENE 1**