

Theatre

A Shakespearean take on Hitler's rise and fall

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OP CONTRIBUTOR

Macbeth
St. James Hall
Through December 1

Prospectus Theatre is a local company dedicated to producing thought-provoking political theatre. Founders Bryan Wagman and Robert Light started the company in 1990 as a platform for their social activism. Previous productions have included a musical satire about the Reform Party, bio-plays on the lives of Abraham Lincoln, Charles Darwin, and the assassination of Marilyn Monroe.

Prospectus' current production of Shakespeare's *Macbeth* explores the horrors of dictatorship, oppression, and war. It transports the characters from Medireview, Scotland to a stage

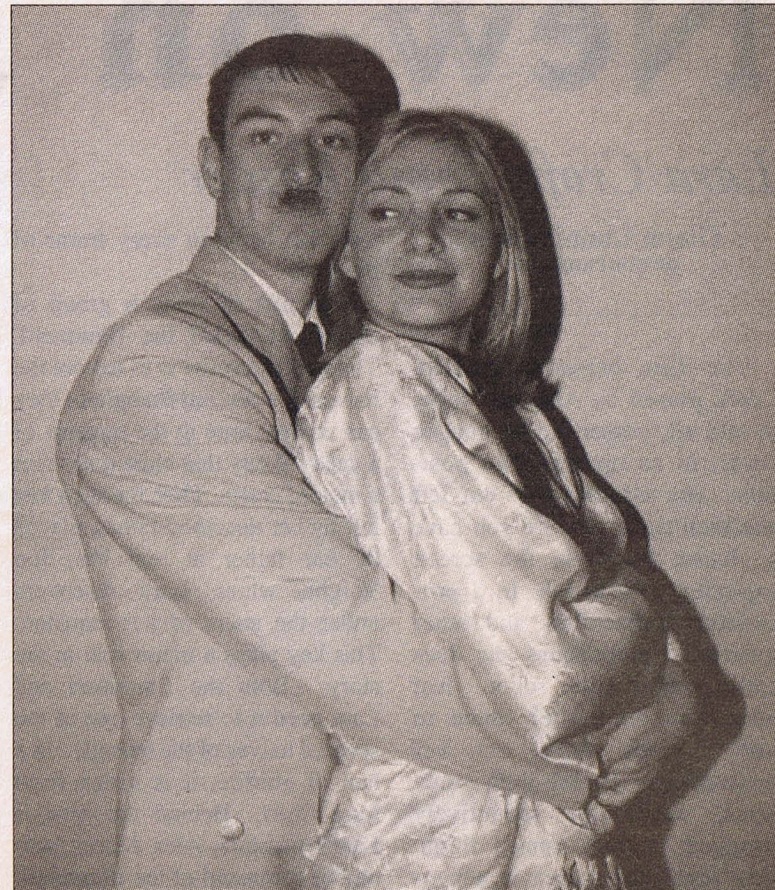
in recent history. Set in Nazi Germany, *Macbeth* follows Hitler's (Macbeth's) rise to power, his persecution of the Jews (the slaughter of Macduff's family), and the uniting of the allied countries to force him from power (Malcolm and Macduff's attack on Macbeth).

The connections Director Robert Light makes between the fictional character of Macbeth (Scott Campbell) and Adolf Hitler are very disturbing. Unlike the usual portrayal as history's most hated monster, Hitler is seen in a sympathetic light. He is a loyal subject of his King who is tempted by ambition. Macbeth struggles with his ambitious desires throughout the play, giving him a humane quality that Hitler is not often granted.

The quality of acting is very inconsistent. Campbell has moments of emotional intensity

scattered throughout a slightly rigid performance. Tricia Maras is wonderful as Lady Macbeth. Her appetite for power feeds her husband's desires, making the two a frightening pair. As well as directing, Light plays Duncan and Macduff. Duncan is light-hearted and lovable, while Macduff is clumsy, uneven, and a little too loud. Erik Termaat gives the best performance with his portrayal of Malcolm. His ease on stage and comfort with the language provides a constant ray of hope throughout the tale of murder and treachery.

Despite these inconsistencies, *Macbeth* is driven by a passion that is seen in every aspect of the production. It provides a window into what lies behind war, a view that we are not usually allowed to see. As we are entering a world that brings us face to face with terrorism, it is important that we know what we are looking at.



Scott Campbell and Tricia Maras take *Macbeth* to Berlin

Macbeth gives us something to think about, and it is thinking, not fighting, that will end this war.

Macbeth is showing at the St.

James Hall located at 3214 W.10th in Vancouver until December 1. Tickets are \$20 each. Call (604) 873-5373 for more information.