Eugene Ionesco was born in 1909 in Romania, but spent formative years living in France (1911-22). His father, Eugen Ionescu, was a Romanian national, who left a wife and two children in France to return to Romania to fight during WWI. He did not return, but divorced Ionesco’s mother in absentia, married another woman, and eventually sent for his two children. This was a difficult severance for the future playwright, as he had a great love and respect for his mother, and a dislike of his father. In his journals, Ionesco talks of his authoritarian father’s collaboration with fascists and later communists, supporting the violent politics of those regimes. During the 1930’s, Ionesco wrote public criticisms of his father’s politics, eventually severing all ties with him. “The last time that I saw him, he respected the State, I hated the State. He had called me ‘Jew-friendly’ - it is better to be ‘Jew-friendly’ than to be an idiot!” He later regretted blaming his father for his actions, realizing that his father was just the same as everybody else at the time.

Ionesco’s indictment of people “throwing their lot in with the stronger” also extended to the French student revolts of 1968. Although the students had combined politics with cultural and artistic influences (an ideal mixture in Ionesco’s view), revolutionary ideals lead to the same struggles for power and “lust for conquest.”

In Macbett there is no single historical moment or actuality the dramatist is targeting. He is commenting on the experiences of a lifetime. The Scottish myth/history is the basic tune upon which Ionesco riffs, using themes of violent overthrow and despotic thinking. The cyclic patterns of European politics during his own life (WWI, the Russian Revolution, Spanish Civil War, WWII, French Imperialism in East Asia and Algeria, and student revolts in France) sound throughout the piece. At the same time, relations with his father become the metaphoric high notes at clausmatic moments. The playwright has interlarded his ‘metaphysical farce’ with the propaganda and horror of a lifetime of conflicts, both personal and political.

Suggested Reading
CAST
(IN ORDER OF DISAPPEARANCE)
LEMONADE SELLER  HANA LASS
Witch
LADY-IN-WAITING
A POOR WOMAN
WOUNDED SOLDIER  JARON DANIOTH
A SICK MAN
SINGING SOLDIER
GUEST
CANDOR
SKYWITCH
MOONTWITCH
GUEST
FIELD OFFICER
DEAD SOLDIER
CASTLE SERVANT
GLAMISS
SKYWITCH
SCREAMING WOMAN
SHOPPING WOMAN
WALKING WOMAN
GUEST
A POOR WOMAN
CASTLE OFFICE
SOLDIER
RAG AND BONES
MAN
GUEST
ARCHDUKE DUNCAN  SAM ANDERSON
BANCO
MACOL
MACBETT  JOEL ISRAEL
LADY DUNCAN
WITCH
SOLDIER
SICKMAN

MACBETT
BY EUGENE IONESCO
TRANSLATED BY CHARLES MAROWITZ
DIRECTED BY J. DANIEL STANLEY

SET DESIGN  ELLEN C. KING
COSTUME DESIGN  NORAH TULLMAN-KALTENBACH
LIGHTING DESIGN  TIFFANY MITCHELL
COMPOSER  J. DANIEL STANLEY
PROP MASTER  STEVE TENEYCK
DRAMATURG  MARK WEITZENKAMP
STAGE MANAGER  DANIEL ENEBERG
NEIL MCLAUGHLIN
ASST DIRECTOR  JOBY EMMONS

"Power (n): The only Narcotic Regulated by the SEC instead of the FDA."
   - Anon

"And my more-having will be as a sauce
To make my hunger more..."
   - Macduff in Macbeth (IV.iii) and Macol in Macbett

"It will have blood; they say, blood will have blood."
   - Macbeth (III.iv)

"Power is the ultimate aphrodisiac."
   - Henry Kissinger

"Power corrupts, and absolute power corrupts absolutely."
   - Lord Acton

There will be one 15-minute intermission.

PRODUCTION STAFF
ASST STAGE MANAGER  ROBA SAYAD EL SHAMY
ASST COSTUME DESIGNER  MOLLY KRAYTOR
ASST LIGHTING DESIGNER  MYSTERY BRIDGES
ASST PROPS  RICARDO MASTROROCCO DA SILVA
LIGHT BOARD OP  AUSTIN ELSTON
SOUND BOARD OP  MEghAN DOYLE
RUNNING CREW  KASEY FRIX
   KRISTIE HOWE
   BOB NYDEGGER
   ALLEGRA ROY
   ANNA ROSENZWEIG
   ADAM SKRINE
   ROBERT WHITE
   DEAN WILSON
FACULTY ADVISORS  M.L. GEIGER
   BARRY WITHAM
HOUSE MANAGER  MICHAEL THOMPSON

Produced by Special Arrangement with Samuel French, Inc.

REFRESHMENTS ON OPENING NIGHT PROVIDED BY
RAINDANCER RESTAURANT
LOCATED ON UNIVERSITY AVENUE.

The School of Drama is proud to be a member of
THEATRE PUGET SOUND

SPECIAL THANKS TO VALUE FLOORING.

THANKS: STEVE BERGQUIST, BETH CHILTON, VALERIE CURTIS-NEWTON, JUDE DOMSKI, MARK HARRISON, ADAM KOPLAN, LAURIE SALES, KRIS SHAW, BARRY WITHAM, LAURA WORTHEN,