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SHAKESPEARE'S *MACBETH* TO BE PERFORMED AT CORNELIUS PASS ROADHOUSE

A new adaptation of Shakespeare's bloody Scottish tragedy will be performed by Bag&Baggage Productions in the historic Octagonal Barn

Hillsboro, OR – Bag&Baggage Productions, Washington County's newest professional theatre company, will present William Shakespeare's haunting tale of ambition and revenge at the McMenamins Cornelius Pass Roadhouse in Hillsboro this October. The performances will take place October 17, 18, 19 and 21 in the atmospheric surroundings of the Octagonal Barn on the McMenamins property in Hillsboro. This is the second production by Bag&Baggage at the venue and is a follow-up to their sell-out performances of *The Complete Works of William Shakespeare (abridged)* last February.

"We are delighted to be returning to the McMenamins Cornelius Pass Roadhouse for another show," said Hillsboro native Scott Palmer, Artistic Director of the company. "We had such an amazing response from audiences last time, and we are truly excited about doing *Macbeth* in the Octagonal Barn, especially around Halloween."

The script is a new adaptation of Shakespeare's savage tale of witchcraft and murder and features the return of Maggie Chapin to the Roadhouse, this time playing the bloodthirsty villainess, Lady Macbeth. Chapin will be familiar to Hillsboro audiences from her performance in *The Complete Works of Shakespeare (abridged)*. Chapin recently appeared as Beatrice in Shakespeare's *Much Ado About Nothing* this past summer at Oregon State University's Bard in the Quad outdoor summer Shakespeare festival. The role of Macbeth will be played by Portland native Peter Platt, recently seen as the villain Don John in OSU's *Much Ado About Nothing*. Platt has a long history of Shakespearean performances across Oregon and in New York.

The new script includes original source material used by Shakespeare when he wrote *Macbeth*, as well as Victorian and Georgian-era poetry and new verse written by Palmer, who also adapted the script.

"It is such a rich and wonderfully dark play," Palmer said. "There is just so much you can do with the characters, and particularly the witches. This version really focuses attention on the witches as players in the tragedy, and the three actors playing them will also be playing many of the other characters in the story."

The performances of *Macbeth* mark the second show commissioned by McMenamins for the historic Octagonal Barn. McMenamins have committed to multiple performances of work by Bag&Baggage in the Octagonal Barn throughout the year, including a two-week run of *The Complete History of America (abridged)* in January of 2008. Bag&Baggage have plans for other shows in Hillsboro, including a new adaptation of Charles Dickens' classic Christmas story, *A Christmas Carol*, at the Glenn & Viola Walters Cultural Center in downtown Hillsboro in November and December of this year.

"We have so many plans to do work in and around Hillsboro," Palmer said. "We want people living in Hillsboro to be able to go see professional, high quality theatre without having to go all the way into Portland to do so. Why shouldn't we be able to see great theatre here at home?"

The company are also in discussions with the soon-to-be remodeled Venetian Theatre (formerly the Hill Theatre) in downtown Hillsboro to begin performing three productions a year beginning at the end of 2008.

"It is possible that Bag&Baggage will be performing as many as 6 full-scale, professional theatre shows in Hillsboro each year. Our plans include new adaptations of Shakespeare, classics such as *To Kill A Mockingbird* and *Of Mice and Men*, and new plays like *Wit* and *Stones in their Pockets*, all in and around Hillsboro," Palmer said.

Performances of *Macbeth* take place on October 17, 18, 19 and 21 2007 at 7:00pm, with an additional 2:00pm matinee on Sunday October 21. Tickets are \$17 each and can be reserved by emailing macbeth2007@comcast.net, by calling 503 516 4840 or can be purchased at the Octagonal Barn one hour prior to the performances. Seating is limited so audiences are encouraged to reserve tickets early to avoid disappointment.

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Editor's Note: Photo-calls and interviews with actors available upon request. Production photos also available.