

# Harlem's Lord and Lady Macbeth in Full Regalia



JACK CARTER AND EDNA THOMAS, principals of the magnificent spectacle, "Macbeth," which had its premiere Tuesday night at the Lafayette Theatre under the sponsorship of the Federal Negro Theatre Project. Harlem proudly welcomed the new offering with a glittering first night appearance. The cast includes 175 beautifully costumed players.

"MACBETH," by William Shakespeare, arranged and staged by Orson Welles. Settings by Nat Karson, presented at the Lafayette Theatre by the Federal Negro Theatre.

PRINCIPALS:

Duncan.....Service Bell	Lady Macbeth.....Marie Young
Malcold.....Wardell Saunders	Young Macduff.....Bertram Holmes
Morduc.....Maurice Ellis	Fleance.....Carl Crawford
Banquo.....Canada Lee	Hecate.....Eric Burroughs
Macbeth.....Jack Carter	First Witch.....Wilhelmina Williams
Ross.....Frank Insid	Second Witch.....Josephine Williams
Lennox.....Thomas Anderson	Third Witch.....Zola King
Seward.....Ardie Savage	Witch Doctor.....Abdull

By ROI OTTLEY.

**T**HE PREMIERE of a magnificent and spectacular production of a Haitian "Macbeth" Tuesday night within the venerable portals of the Lafayette Theatre was the reward for those who had faith in the Federal Negro Theatre Project. It definitely justified its existence and made it clear that the government should continue to subsidize a Negro theatre project.

The play proved to be a handsome and gorgeous parade of costumes. The production had benefit of diverting sets, although some of the drops failed to evoke any loud applause from this department. These, of course, exclude the drops for the jungle scenes, which probably were the more stirring.

The presence of Broadway and Park avenue in the theatre added to the glamour of the occasion, but they could hardly be considered a particularly sympathetic audience for what was being revealed. Nor were they entirely cognizant of the implications of such a production.

**For Harlem Consumption.**  
We therefore warn downtown visitors that the play is purely for Harlem consumption, and is geared and produced accordingly.

In case you have forgotten, the play concerns the efforts of the ambitious and relentless Lady Macbeth's furious desire to have her husband ascend to the throne. No means short of murder, is spared to clear the way for Macbeth to be King. In the end the superstitious Macbeth dies at the revengeful hands of the murdered King Duncan's son. The morbid Lady Macbeth goes crazy and finally dies.

An honest appraisal of the acting would lead us to the conviction that it left much to be desired. In spots it was uncertain, stumbling and ragged. After the uncertainty of the first act, however, the cast seemed to warm up to the play and went through the remaining scenes with authority.

The success of a "Macbeth" production depends largely upon the artistry with which the soliloquies are delivered. In Edna Thomas' last scene as Lady Macbeth she literally tore the heart of the audience with her sensitive and magnificent portrayal of the crazed Lady Macbeth. Her work throughout the play was a competent interpretation of the role. In her hands Lady Macbeth was a strong and vicious female who knew what she wanted.

**Carter's Earnestness.**  
I have seen Jack Carter as Crown in "Porgy." And again I saw him as Lonnie in "Stevedore." But at no time in his career has he worked more earnestly and with as much success. After an uncertain start his stature in the part grew. He shaded his characterization competently and

emerged as a fine Macbeth. A less experienced actor would have fumbled the part Jack Carter was a happy choice for the role.

Eric Burroughs should come in for applause. His interpretation of Hecate was a gem. It was the type of part that easily allowed of a hammy performance. His work, however, was excellent.

The entire cast was admirable. The assemblage scenes were a joy to watch. Our hosannas are extended to Orson Welles for his direction; Nat Karson for his bizarre and colorful costumes; Feder's lighting contributed mightily.

Harlem need not journey to Broadway to see a play until it has witnessed the grand and clever production of "Macbeth" at the Lafayette.