



MACBETH

BY WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE

DIRECTOR DECLAN DONNELLAN

DESIGNER NICK ORMEROD

DATE Tuesday 22 to Saturday
26 September 2009 at 20h30
VENUE Namur Théâtre Royal /
Grande salle
00 32 81 226 026
www.theatredenamur.be

Jane Gibson: Associate and
Movement Director
Judith Greenwood: Lighting Designer
Catherine Jayes : Composer
Helen Atkinson: Sound Designer
Owen Horsley: Assistant Director

Produced by Cheek by Jowl in a co-
production with Théâtre de Namur /
Centre dramatique ; barbicanbite10;
Les Gémeaux/Sceaux/Scène
Nationale; Koninklijke Schouwburg,
The Hague; Grand Théâtre de
Luxembourg and Théâtre du Nord,
Lille

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Téléchargement image theatredenamur.be >
Fichiers et images pour la presse (tout en bas
de la page de chaque spectacle)
Mot de passe : Ulysse

During the European Year of creativity and innovation, the Theatre of Namur opens its season with the world première of Declan Donnellan's Macbeth, an unforgettable experience from one of the most acclaimed theatrical directors. The world premiere takes place in Namur before going on a European tour.



Performed in English, subtitled in French

Those who have seen Twelfth Night, Cymbeline or Andromache will know the genius of Declan Donnellan's work.

His lively productions celebrate the magic of theatre with breathtaking simplicity. Donnellan's unique talent also lies in his capacity to draw incredible energies from his cast.

Working in English, French and Russian, Cheek by Jowl have established an international reputation for bringing 'fresh life to the classics using intense, vivid performances like a laser of light to set the text ablaze' (The Guardian). Founded by Declan Donnellan and Nick Ormerod the company has toured to over 300 cities in 40 countries and is an Associate Company at the Barbican, London.

'Whatever Cheek by Jowl does next constitutes a major happening'
The Guardian

'Beautiful theatre... the actors are simply phenomenal'
Le Figaro

'Cheek by Jowl's enduring gift to theatre is its uncanny ability to live in an eternal, precarious present'
Daily Telegraph

MACBETH

Macbeth is the great tragedy of the imagination. A man and a woman, bound together in ambition, are destroyed in a welter of blood. Cheek by Jowl's ensemble conjures Shakespeare's world of witchcraft, ghosts and apparitions in an hallucinatory experience of sound and shadow.

DECLAN DONNELLAN

Declan Donnellan is joint founder of Cheek by Jowl with Nick Ormerod. He is joint Artistic Director of the company.

Declan Donnellan was born in England of Irish parents. He grew up in London and read English and Law at Queens' College, Cambridge. He was called to the Bar at Middle Temple in 1978.

He and his partner, Nick Ormerod, formed Cheek by Jowl in

1981 and he has directed 25 productions for the company.

In 1989 he was made Associate Director of the Royal National Theatre in London where his productions have included Fuenteovejuna, Sweeney Todd, The Mandate and both parts of Angels in America.

For the Royal Shakespeare Company he has directed The School for Scandal, King Lear (Academy 2002) and Great Expectations.

In 1997, at the invitation of Lev Dodin, he directed The Winter's Tale, still performing at the Maly Drama Theatre in St. Petersburg.

He directed Andromaque for Peter Brook at the Bouffes du Nord in Paris, Le Cid for the Avignon Festival, Falstaff for the Salzburg Festival and the ballet of Romeo and Juliet for the Bolshoi in Moscow. Other work in Russia includes The Winter's Tale for the Maly Drama Theatre of St Petersburg.

In 2000, under the auspices of The Moscow Chekhov International Theatre Festival, he formed with Nick Ormerod a company of actors in Moscow who are currently performing Boris Godunov, Twelfth Night and Three Sisters across the world. Next year they will embark on their fourth production for the Russian ensemble – The Tempest.

He has written a play, Lady Betty, which was performed by Cheek by Jowl in 1989. He has also adapted Don't Fool with Love by de Musset, Antigone by Sophocles, The Mandate by Erdman and Masquerade by Lermontov.

First published in Russian (2001), Declan Donnellan's book The Actor and the Target has subsequently been published in English (2002, reprinted 2005), French, Spanish, Italian, Romanian, Bulgarian, Czech, Polish and German. The Mandarin version is due next year.

He was made a Chevalier de l'ordre des Arts et des Lettres for his work in France, and is President of the Chekhov International Festival Foundation in Moscow. He has received awards in Moscow, Paris, New York and London, including three Laurence Olivier Awards — Director of the Year (1987), Best Director of a Play (1995) and the Olivier for Outstanding Achievement (1990).

THE COMPANY : HISTORY

Cheek by Jowl was established in 1981 by Declan Donnellan and Nick Ormerod.

Declan Donnellan and Nick Ormerod met at Cambridge University in the mid 1970s. Subsequently they worked together on various productions on the London Fringe, at the Arts Educational Drama School, and for the Young Activists at the Royal Court.

In 1981 they formed Cheek by Jowl. The company's manifesto was to re-examine classical texts, avoiding directorial and design concepts, and to focus on the actor's art. Its first production to tour was Wycherley's *The Country Wife* presented at the Edinburgh Festival and supported by a small Arts Council grant.

Before long the company received its first official invitations to perform abroad, taking their productions of *Vanity Fair* and *Pericles* to the festivals of Almagro, Valladolid and Jerusalem in 1984. These productions were also invited to perform in London at the Donmar Warehouse. This was to be the start of a long and fruitful collaboration with that theatre.

For that first London season Cheek by Jowl won the Laurence Olivier Award for Most Promising Newcomer in 1986. Over half of the company's plays receiving Olivier awards. The company grew rapidly throughout the 1980s — creating 18 productions in ten years, touring across five continents and giving over 1,500 performances. The tours were supported by the Arts Council and the British Council.

The core of the repertoire has always been Shakespeare and Cheek By Jowl has presented no fewer than 13 of Shakespeare's plays. Another principle of the company was to present major European classics in translation. To date Cheek by Jowl has given the British premières of 10 European classics including *The Cid* by Corneille and *Andromache* by Racine, over three hundred years since they were first presented in Paris.

By 1990, *The Independent* could say that, «If there is one company to have influenced British theatre in the 1980s, it is Cheek by Jowl». *City Limits* described Donnellan and Ormerod as, «the most exciting partnership in British Theatre», and the playwright David Edgar spoke of British theatre in a, «post Cheek by Jowl era».

In 1986 Donnellan and Ormerod first visited Russia, when

Lev Dodin invited them to Leningrad to see his company perform at the Maly Drama Theatre. Since then a close relationship developed, with the two companies regularly performing together at the same international festivals. In 1997, Donnellan and Ormerod directed and designed *THE WINTERS TALE* for the Maly, the first Shakespeare production performed by that company. Meanwhile the Russian Theatre Confederation had invited Cheek by Jowl to Moscow. *Measure for Measure* was performed at the Moscow Arts Theatre to great acclaim and the company was invited back the same year to perform *As You Like It*. This was followed closely by Russian tours of *The Duchess of Malfi* and *Much Ado About Nothing*.

This intense relationship between Cheek by Jowl and Russia culminated in 1999, when the Russian Theatre invited Donnellan and Ormerod to form their own company of Russian actors in Moscow.

This sister company performs in Russia and internationally and its current repertoire includes *BORIS GODUNOV* by Pushkin, *TWELFTH NIGHT* and *THREE SISTERS* by Anton Chekov.

In 2003 the Bolshoi invited the Cheek By Jowl team to stage a new version of the ballet of *ROMEO AND JULIET* by Prokofief. All five of Ormerod and Donnellan's Russian productions are still being performed in Russia.

In 2002 the Cheek by Jowl team presented the premiere of *HOMEBOY/KABUL* in the United States for the New York Theatre Workshop and at the Young Vic in London and in Barcelona for Cheek by Jowl. This was Tony Kushner's first major play since *ANGELS IN AMERICA* which Donnellan and Ormerod had earlier produced at the National Theatre.

With 2004's production of *Othello*, Cheek by Jowl embarked upon its most ambitious tour yet encompassing five continents, fourteen countries and 169 performances.

In 2005, Cheek by Jowl entered into a partnership with the Barbican theatre in London. As one of the Barbican's Associate Companies, with their co-production support and with funding through the Arts Council's Grants for the Arts programme each year from 2006 the company presents a season in the central London venue. Each season consists of a play in English, co-produced by the Barbican, and a play in Russian. This will be accompanied by masterclasses and workshops.

Cheek by Jowl continues to present work in Russian, English and French with support from the Barbican and Arts Council England.