

Naracoorte Caves host Shakespeare underground

On Saturday 12 and Sunday 13 April 2008, the Naracoorte Caves will host a performance of Shakespeare's *Macbeth* by OZACT, one of Australia's leading outdoor Shakespeare companies.

Steve Bourne, Manager of the Naracoorte and Tantanoola Caves for the Department for Environment and Heritage, said OZACT will be presenting four performances only at the World Heritage-listed site, at 2.00 pm and 7.30 pm each day.

"*Macbeth* is Shakespeare's most popular and well known play – a classic tale of political intrigue, greed, murder and the supernatural," Mr Bourne said.

"The atmosphere for the performances will be fantastic, with the underground caverns providing a hauntingly appropriate setting for this powerful dramatic experience.

"I urge people to attend, because it really is an event not to be missed," he said.

OZACT, a touring repertory theatre company, is well known throughout Victoria and South Australia for its excellent outdoor Shakespeare productions in environmentally significant settings.

In 2003, thousands of people visited the Naracoorte Caves to view the world's first underground Shakespeare production, where the jewel-like limestone caverns were transformed into a magical fairy kingdom for OZACT's performance of *A Midsummer Night's Dream*.

"I was overwhelmed by the beauty of the environment, and the passionate and exciting acting ... I truly felt part of the performance," one audience member said.

Since this landmark production, OZACT have also brought productions of *Romeo and Juliet* and *As You Like It* to the Limestone Coast area.

OZACT Director Bruce Widdop said the productions were popular with newcomers as well as Shakespeare lovers.

"The great Australian love of the outdoors, the casual atmosphere, the proximity to performers, the exciting acting, and the startling synergies between place and play leave an indelible impression on our growing and faithful following," Mr Widdop said.

"*Macbeth* is one of my favourite works of Shakespeare, because it has all those elements for which Shakespeare is revered – powerful images, gripping characters, intriguing relationships and plenty of action."

For bookings and further information, contact OZACT on 0419 330 516. For detailed production information, visit the OZACT website at www.ozact.com.

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