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Salem Press Announces a New Addition to the *Critical Insights* Series: *Critical Insights: Macbeth*

The *Critical Insights* series provides students and interested readers with original scholarship to help understand literature in fresh ways and from new perspectives. This volume, on Shakespeare's *Macbeth*, focuses on a single play that has had a profound influence on literature, film, and culture more broadly. Shakespeare's shortest tragedy has had a long and eventful afterlife, and like all of Shakespeare's works continues to accrue new and vital significance through both scholarly analysis and a series of continual reimagining on stage and screen. This volume is intended both as an introduction to *Macbeth* for those encountering it for the first time and as an example of the many ways it can be interpreted for those embarking on their own original written interpretations of the play.

About the Editor: **William W. Weber** received his BA at the University of the South at Sewanee, Tennessee with a major in English and a minor in Latin. He received his PhD at Yale University where he began his teaching career and wrote a dissertation, "Shakespearean Metamorphoses," exploring the interpretive and instructive dynamics of Ovidian allusions in Shakespeare's poetry and drama. Excerpts of this dissertation have appeared in *Shakespeare Survey and Studies in Philology*, with the article from the former winning the 2014 Renaissance Society of America—Text Creation Partnership Article Prize for Digital Renaissance Research. He augmented his research and teaching at Yale with adjunct teaching jobs at the University of New Haven and Fairfield University, and in 2014 both received his PhD and accepted a job as visiting assistant professor of English at Centre College in Danville, Kentucky. At Centre, William has taught introductory courses in the interdisciplinary Humanities program as well as upper-level courses on Shakespeare, Revenge Drama, and the English sonnet. In addition to teaching, he founded, advised, and coached the Centre College Rugby Football Club, and has won multiple institutional awards for service and scholarship.

The first major section of this book provides a broad overview of the play and several of its contexts. In addition to a general introduction by volume editor William W. Weber, this section also includes a biographical sketch of Shakespeare's life and career in the theater, as well as a set of four original essays approaching the play from four different contextual perspectives:

- The origin, evolution, and current diversity of critical responses to the play
- The play's historical context
- How viewing a classic text through a particular critical lens can refocus our attention on aspects of the original work
- Engaging discussion of the way that reading *Macbeth* alongside Shakespeare's earlier tragedy of *Hamlet* can help us understand both plays

The second section of the volume consists of nine new critical readings on a wide range of subjects touching on *Macbeth* and its broader cultural significance:

- The Poetic Soundscape of *Macbeth*, David Currell
- Dying Like a Man: Masculinity and Violence in *Macbeth*, Jim Casey
- Interpreting the Weird Sisters: Page, Stage, and Screen, Pamela Royston Macfie
- Lady Macbeth and Trauma: Filmed Versions of the Sleepwalking Scene, Robert C. Evans
- Blood and Milk: The Masculinity of Motherhood in Shakespeare's *Macbeth*, Savannah Xaver
- "Strange Images of Death": *Macbeth* and the *Vanitas* Still Life, Sophia Richardson
- Shakespeare in an Indian Classroom: Reflections on Guilt-Consciousness, *Rasa*, and Witchcraft in *Macbeth*, Rahul Chaturvedi
- Adapting *Macbeth* to the Screen: Between Faithfulness and *Joe Macbeth*, Fernando Gabriel Pagnoni Berns
- Living with *Macbeth*: Circles of Tragedy, Daniel Bender

The final section of the book includes several helpful resources, including a timeline of Shakespeare's life, a general **bibliography** combining the most fruitful avenues for further study, **information about the editor and the contributors**, and an **index**. All together, this volume should be a helpful resource for any and all who wish to explore all that is profound, disturbing, and fascinating about the worlds inhabited by Macbeth, by Shakespeare, and by ourselves.

The *Critical Insights* Series distills the best of both classic and current literary criticism of the world's most studied literature. Edited and written by some of academia's most distinguished literary scholars, *Critical Insights: Macbeth* provides authoritative, in-depth scholarship that students and researchers will rely on for years. This volume is destined to become a valuable purchase for all.

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Critical Insights: Macbeth

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