

Act 1, Scene 1  
Thunder and lightning.  
Enter three Witches.

1 Witch. When shall we three meet again  
In thunder, lightning, or in rain?  
1 Witch. When the hurlyburly's done,  
When the battle's lost and won.  
3 Witch. That will be ere the set of sun.  
1 Witch. Where the place?  
2 Witch. Upon the heath.  
3 Witch. There to meet with Macbeth.  
1 Witch. I come, Graymalkin!  
2 Witch. Paddock calls.  
3 Witch. Anon!  
All. Fair is foul, and foul is fair,  
Hover through the fog and filthy air.



Double, double toil and trouble;  
Fire burn, and cauldron bubble.  
2 Witch. Fillet of a fenny snake,  
In the cauldron boil and bake;  
Eye of newt and toe of frog,  
Wool of bat and tongue of dog,  
Adder's fork and blind-worm's sting,  
Lizard's leg and owlet's wing,  
For a charm of powerful trouble,  
Like a hell-broth boil and bubble.  
Double, double toil and trouble;  
Fire burn and cauldron bubble.  
Dragon, tooth of wolf,  
Belly of newt, maw and gulf,  
Ravin'd salt-sea shark,  
Loch digg'd i' the dark,  
Charms of blaspheming Jews,  
And sippets, and springes,

# NEVER SAY MACBETH

# NEVER SAY MACBETH

***The curse of Macbeth ... It brings fire! Death!  
Boring first dates! When a science teacher brings  
the curse upon his ex-girlfriend's play, he must battle  
new-age superstitious actors and a crazed director  
to win her back.***

## ***Contact us:***

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**Production stills and trailer available at  
[www.neversaymacbeth.com](http://www.neversaymacbeth.com)**

GOLD CAP



F I L M S

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818-692-0706

May 14, 2008

Contact: Joe Gold / Tammy Caplan

## **CURSED FILM *NEVER SAY MACBETH* COMES to DVD on AUGUST 26, 2008**

Los Angeles - *Never Say Macbeth* tells the story of a science teacher who brings a curse upon his ex-girlfriend's play and must battle new-age superstitious actors and a crazed director to win her back. The film had a successful run at film festivals, and now comes to DVD for the first time. To purchase or rent the DVD, go to [www.neversaymacbeth.com](http://www.neversaymacbeth.com) or your local video store. The DVD from Vanguard Cinema has many special features including an audio commentary with the director and producers, deleted scenes, and sword fighting outtakes.

Written by Joe Tyler Gold, this 86-minute comedy is a cross between *Waiting for Guffman* and *Beetlejuice*. The film takes on the 400-year-old *Macbeth* superstition. *Macbeth* is known to be a cursed play bringing tragedy and bad luck to all who touch it.

- When Alec Baldwin played Macbeth, he badly slashed his co-star's hand during a sword fight.
- During rehearsals of *Macbeth*, Laurence Olivier almost died when a twenty-five pound stage weight crashed within an inch of him.
- During a performance of *Macbeth*, Charlton Heston was severely burned in his groin from tights that had been mysteriously soaked in kerosene.

Actors are taught to never say the word "Macbeth" in a theater, nevertheless a group of filmmakers tempted fate and brought the curse upon themselves.

- Director C.J. Prouty suffered a terrible car accident on the way to the first production meeting.
- Cinematographer Michael Millikan had his film equipment stolen out of a storage unit including equipment to be used in the shoot.
- Five minutes into color correction, Los Angeles suffered a city-wide power outage.

Somehow producers Joe Tyler Gold and Tammy Caplan pressed on. The movie will come to DVD on August 26, 2008, hopefully free from incident. When viewing, keep your lucky rabbit's foot handy just in case.

###

## About the Production

Joe Tyler Gold was acting in a production of the classical play, *The Scarecrow* at the Pacific Resident Theatre in Venice, CA, when a backstage conversation turned to the subject of ghosts. Joe was shocked to discover that he was the only member of the very large cast who did not believe in ghosts. Many cast members insisted they had encounters with ghosts inside of that very theatre. That inspired Joe to write *Never Say Macbeth*, a comedy about a science teacher in the world of superstitious new-age actors.

While Joe worked as a database administrator at a major studio, and his co-producer, Tammy Caplan, temped as a file clerk at a law firm, they managed to make surreptitious phone calls, review actor headshots, and make a few illegal copies (give or take 10,000). To raise money, Joe and Tammy begged their friends (former) and family (former) for donations in exchange for getting their name in the credits. Some of them fell for it.

When setting up auditions, Joe and Tammy chose actors with strong theatre backgrounds, experience with Shakespeare, and stage combat skills. Joe's extensive theatre background put him in touch with some of the finest theatre actors in Los Angeles. Many of the actors came from various Los Angeles theatres including the Circle X Theatre Co. and the Pacific Resident Theatre. These actors came in to audition for director, C. J. Prouty, and a cast was assembled. The actors rehearsed for five weeks in the actual shooting location, learning fight choreography, improvising scenes, and coming together as an ensemble. This rehearsal process allowed the production team to complete the film in just twelve days.

*Never Say Macbeth* was shot on location using two Canon XL2 cameras at Stages Theatre in Hollywood, where the Circle X Theatre had residence. Because Joe was a long-time member of Circle X, they allowed him to use their theatre for free. Every corner of the building was used including the lighting booth, bathroom, and even the roof.

With a limited budget, the special effects expert, Alexander Enberg (who also plays Jason), searched through the junk-filled backyard of the theatre, and managed to construct a make-shift green screen. The production team transformed this dingy backyard into an elegant outdoor Los Angeles restaurant. One scene required the character of Danny (played by Joe Tyler Gold) to have acupuncture needles stuck into his foot. Unable to afford a real acupuncturist, Joe hired a student who was thrilled with the prospect of having someone to practice on.

# ***The Highlights***

***The curse of Macbeth . . . It brings fire! Death! Boring first dates!  
When a science teacher brings the curse upon his ex-girlfriend's play,  
he must battle new-age superstitious actors and a crazed director to win her back.***

## **What happens when you say Macbeth in a theatre?**

- In 1937, Laurence Olivier almost died when a 25 pound stage weight crashed within an inch of him.
- In 1953, Charlton Heston, was severely burned in his groin from tights that had been mysteriously soaked in kerosene.
- In 2008, science teacher Danny Teller is attacked by a sword-wielding pirate.

Danny shows up at auditions for Macbeth trying to get his girlfriend back. But the director mistakes Danny's story of love for a passionate acting monologue, and casts him as Witch #1. More comfortable with spacecraft than stagecraft, Danny struggles with rehearsals, and incurs the wrath of the cast when he breaks the cardinal rule of acting by saying "Macbeth" in the theatre.

That's when things get weird.

Falling lights, floating grapes, and a singing pirate-ghost...

Danny teams up with a new-age actress, a tough Italian self-help guru, and a sci-fi obsessed stage manager to save the actors and his ex-girlfriend from the curse of Macbeth.

# ***The Curse of Macbeth***

The superstition of *Macbeth* goes back to its first performance, four hundred years ago. Shakespeare's *Macbeth* is believed to be cursed with tragedy and bad luck. All actors are taught to never utter the word "Macbeth" inside of a theatre or terrible consequences will fall upon whatever play they might be working on. It is also considered bad luck to quote lines from *Macbeth* or include them in another work – which is why this film, *Never Say Macbeth*, is also cursed.

## ***Why is Macbeth an unlucky play? Here are some possible reasons:***

1. It is the only Shakespeare play in which the plot is hinged on black magic and witchcraft.
2. Shakespeare used actual wiccan spells in his text because King James was a known expert in witchcraft.
3. It is the Shakespeare play with the most battles, fights and murders.
4. *Macbeth* is the most produced Shakespeare play of all time, so due to simple probability, there's likely to be a large amount of accidents associated with its performances. When you consider that there is generally a large cast of actors rushing around a darkened set wearing heavy armor and carrying swords, it is not surprising to hear of accidents.

## ***And what types of accidents have occurred?***

- In 1998, Alec Baldwin played Macbeth Off-Broadway, and he sliced open the hand of the actor playing Macduff.
- In 1606, Shakespeare had to fill in for the role of Lady Macbeth when the young male actor who was supposed to play the role became sick with a fever and died.
- In 1936, Orson Welles produced his "voodoo Macbeth" and included in his cast some African drummers and a real witch doctor who were angry when critic Percy Hammond gave the show a bad review. They placed a curse on the critic and he died within a couple of weeks.
- In 1937, Laurence Olivier almost died when a 25 pound stage weight crashed within an inch of him.
- In 1953, Charlton Heston, was severely burned in his groin from tights that had been mysteriously soaked in kerosene.
- In 1942, John Gielgud directed a production in which three actors died during the run, and one of the designers committed suicide.
- In 1971, Rip Torn appeared in a production plagued by two fires and seven robberies.
- In 1904, Stanislavsky, the Father of Modern Acting, directed a production for his Moscow Arts Company. During the final dress rehearsal, the actor playing Macbeth forgot his lines. He turned to the prompter for help, but the prompter was dead!
- In 1865, Abraham Lincoln was reading passages from the play to a group of friends that depicted the character of Duncan being assassinated. One week later, Lincoln was assassinated.

# ***The Curse of Never Say Macbeth***

***For four hundred years, Shakespeare's Macbeth has been cursed with tragedy and bad luck. A group of filmmakers discovered that the only way to make a film about the curse was to bring the curse upon themselves.***

**During the production of *Never Say Macbeth*, the following disasters occurred:**

1. Michael Millikan (Director of Photography) had his storage space broken into, and he lost almost everything he owned, including tripods and equipment to be used on *Never Say Macbeth*.
2. Michael Millikan's car was rear-ended while parking near the theatre.
3. Michael Millikan locked his keys in his trunk.
4. C. J. Prouty (Director/Editor) returned from rehearsal to discover that his car's side mirror had been damaged.
5. Three days later, C.J. had a car accident one block from the theatre, and required months of physical therapy.
6. Tania Getty's (Tamara) convertible top was slashed and her headshots and CDs were stolen from the backseat.
7. Mercedes Martinez (Monique) was stranded at the theatre when her car battery died.
8. Alexander Enberg's (Jason) car was towed, and he had to break into the theatre in order to find a place to sleep.
9. Jun Teppang (Associate Producer) had his car stolen, with his doorway dolly inside.
10. Dean Lent's (2nd camera operator) car broke down on the freeway on the first day of shooting.
11. Ilana Turner, (Ruth) had a car accident one day after her convertible was used in the film.
12. Matt Rose (boom operator) had a car accident on the third day of shooting.
13. Melodee M. Spevack (Witch #1) broke her finger while trying to demonstrate an entrance through a trapdoor in the ceiling.
14. Linnea Liu Dakin (Major General's Daughter) twisted her ankle right before shooting the battle scene.
15. Sam Zeller (Pirate King) had an allergic reaction to the latex makeup, and suffered real second degree burns on his face.
16. On the final day of shooting, we lost power in the theatre, and could not get the lights to come back on for many hours.
17. The day before the final sound edit, Jonathan Wareham's (sound editor) hard drive crashed.
18. Five minutes into color correction Los Angeles suffered a city-wide power outage.

# Biographies

## **Bio of Joe Tyler Gold, Producer of Never Say Macbeth**

Joe Tyler Gold was inspired to write *Never Say Macbeth* after acting in a production of *The Scarecrow* at The Pacific Resident Theatre in Venice, CA and discovering he was the only member of the cast who did not believe in ghosts. After receiving a BFA in theatre from the University of Michigan, Joe went on to perform in numerous regional theatre productions including seven Shakespearean plays. Joe also wrote and produced the comedic short film, *Fartman: Caught in a Tight Ass*, which appeared on Howard Stern's In Demand cable channel, Howard TV, and is now showing on atomfilms.com. He recently produced the short film *Petrol* which was a finalist at the Almost Famous Film Festival. An accomplished magician, Joe also has experience producing and directing magic shows, as well as plays for the theatre. Joe's other comedic screenplay, *Betting on Abe*, was a quarterfinalist in the Slamdance Film Festival Screenwriting Competition.

## **Bio of Tammy Caplan, Producer of Never Say Macbeth**

Tammy Caplan graduated from the School of Theater, Film and Television at UCLA where she won the Chancellor's Marshall award. She recently directed, edited and co-wrote the short film, *Fartman: Caught in a Tight Ass*, which appeared on Howard Stern's In Demand cable channel, Howard TV, and is now showing on atomfilms.com. Other producing credits include the short film *Petrol* which was a finalist at the almost Famous Film Festival. Her acting credits include *Seventh Heaven*, *The Division*, and *The Man Show* as well as the recently released independent film *Fighting Words*. She is currently working on a screenplay called *8th Grade Sucks*.

## **Bio of Director, C.J. Prouty, Director of Never Say Macbeth**

C. J. (Christopher Jason) Prouty won the Best Children's Program Student Emmy from the Academy of Television Arts and Sciences for his USC Master's thesis film, *Saving Worms*. It also won Best Overall Family Film from the Thunderbird Film Festival and played in thirteen other festivals. Prouty has spent the past ten years working as a writer, producer, director, and editor for PBS, Educational Foundations, and other Los Angeles production companies. He is currently working as a script coordinator and assistant writer for Nickelodeon's: *Fairly Odd Parents*, *Danny Phantom*, and *The X's*.

# The Story

Young science teacher, Danny (Joe Tyler Gold, *Fartman: Caught in a Tight Ass*), has just been dumped by aspiring-actress girlfriend, Ruth (Ilana Turner, *Big Love*). He chases her to L.A. where she is auditioning for a production of *Macbeth*. He shows up at the theatre and the first thing he says is, "Are these the auditions for *Macbeth*?" Oh crap. Danny incurs the wrath of an angry mob of actors for breaking the cardinal rule of the theater. A mysterious actress, Betrovka (Velvet Rhodes, *Passions*), explains that saying *Macbeth* in a theater brings terrible bad luck, and he has now cursed the play. When Danny dismisses the superstition, Betrovka gets so upset that she has a heart attack and dies.

To remove the curse, the actors force him to do the cleansing ritual. But before Danny finishes the spinning and spitting of the ritual, Jeni - it rhymes with Jedi (Tammy Caplan, *Seventh Heaven*, *Fighting Words*), the Star-Wars obsessed stage manager, pulls Danny in to audition for the play. He tries to explain that he is just looking for Ruth, but Jason (Alexander Enberg, *Star Trek: Voyager*, *Gia*), the astrology-obsessed director, mistakes his story of love for a passionate acting monologue. Jason casts Danny in the play as Witch #1. Completely uninterested in becoming an actor, all Danny wants is to tell Ruth how much he loves her. But winning her back proves more challenging than Danny thought when the actor playing *Macbeth* shows up - Scott Deadle (Mark Deklin, *Desperate Housewives*, *Herbie Fully Loaded*), handsome, a sitcom star, and just out of a twelve step program. Frustrated and disillusioned, Danny plans to return to Ohio. But after a pep talk from Vinnie (Scott Conte, *Monk*, *Boston Legal*), an Italian, smoothie-slurping actor who's also a self-help guru, Danny accepts the role of Witch #1 so he can be closer to Ruth and win her back.

More comfortable with spacecraft than stagecraft, Danny struggles with his initiation into the world of L.A. new-age actors. It's a world of wicca books, bizarre movement rituals, and fast sword fights that are overwhelming for a teacher from Toledo, Ohio. When Danny is knocked unconscious on stage, he awakens to find the cast putting acupuncture needles in his foot.

And that's just the normal stuff. The curse of *Macbeth* kicks in and some really weird stuff starts happening. A light plunges to the stage revealing a charred lighting plot from fifty years ago, the last time someone said "Macbeth" in the theater. While rehearsing, Ruth starts coughing and choking from smoke that no one else can see. A can of paint tips over by itself and mysterious footsteps are heard when no one else is in the theater.

And then one day at rehearsal, Danny sees the Pirate King (Sam Zeller, *Numb3rs*, *Days of Our Lives*). Strong. Sword-wielding. Swash-buckling. And with a lovely singing voice. Yet to Danny's amazement, no one else can see or hear this pirate.

When Danny confides in Tamara (Tania Getty, *Fartman: Caught in a Tight Ass*), a new-age actress, about the pirate, she squeals with delight. Tamara has always sensed ghosts in the theatre. When Danny scoffs at the notion of supernatural beings she tells him that fifty years ago there was a fire in the theater, the last time someone said "Macbeth". Three shows were playing in repertory: *Pirates of Penzance*, *The Importance of Being Earnest*, and *Macbeth*. Tamara is convinced that Danny saw the ghost of the Pirate King who died in the fire. In their argument over the reality of ghosts, Tamara accidentally says "Macbeth". Before she can do the cleansing ritual, Jason and Jeni thrust the witches on stage to rehearse. And now both Danny and Tamara see a ghost - Algernon Moncrieff from the *Importance of Being Earnest*. Entranced by this debonair, handsome ghost, Tamara's complete lack of focus on the rehearsal throws Jason into a rage.

While Tamara goes ghost hunting, Danny formulates a scientific hypothesis for the strange occurrences. When Jeni bursts in on them, Danny turns on a stage light instantly causing the appearance of the three witches of *Macbeth* who suffocated in the fire. Yet Jeni is oblivious to them - until Tamara tricks her into saying "Macbeth".

Tamara, Vinnie, and Jeni do their best to put all the strange occurrences aside to help Danny stage a romantic picnic for Ruth. Danny brings Ruth back to the times when they went bird-watching in Ohio. For a brief moment, Ruth forgets about Scott Deadle and enjoys the picnic. But then a ghost appears - the ghost of the Porter (John Combs, *L.A. Dragnet*, *Judging Amy*) from *Macbeth* who died in the fire. Danny can see the ghost, but Ruth cannot. And the ghost is a lecherous creep trying to grab Ruth's ass. Danny pulls Ruth away from the Porter by dancing with her, and giving her a passionate kiss, but during the kiss the Porter sees the deadly fire of his past, and flies into Ruth, through his favorite orifice, her ass. When the kiss ends, Danny finds that Ruth has been possessed by the drunk Shakespearean Porter.

With ghosts destroying the rehearsals, his true love taken over by a slobbering, inebriated man, and a bitter, superstitious cast thinking he's crazy, Danny must use his knowledge of science to stop the curse of *Macbeth*.

# ***Never Say Macbeth Credits***

## ***Cast (in order of appearance)***

Danny  
Chuck  
Doug  
Robert  
Gordon  
Tamara  
Monique  
Vinnie  
Betrovka  
Jeni  
Jason  
Ruth  
Scott  
Pirate King  
Algernon  
Ghost Witch #1  
Ghost Witch #2  
Ghost Witch #3  
The Porter  
Gwendolyn  
Major General  
Major General's Daughter #1  
Major General's Daughter #2  
Radio Announcer

Joe Tyler Gold  
Gregory G. Giles  
Bayard Crawley  
Richard Williamson  
Luis de Amechazurra  
Tania Getty  
Mercedes Martinez  
Scott Conte  
Velvet Rhodes  
Tammy Caplan  
Alexander Enberg  
Ilana Turner  
Mark Deklin  
Sam Zeller  
Michael Gabiano  
Melodee M. Spevack  
Ruth Silveira  
Diane Hurley  
John Combs  
Andrea Ruth  
Ian Kerr  
Erika Davis-Marsh  
Linnea Liu Dakin  
Jonathan Levit

Camera Operator  
1st Assistant Camera  
Sound Mixer  
Sound Mixer  
Boom Operator  
Boom Operator  
Gaffer  
Gaffer/Key Grip  
Key Grip  
Key Grip  
Key Grip  
Grip  
Light Board Operator  
Fight Choreographer  
Asst. Fight Choreographer  
Graphic Artist  
Graphic Artist  
Poster Illustration  
Magic Consultant  
Special Effects Props  
Lighting Plot Designer  
Acupuncturist  
Puppeteer  
Workshop Camera  
Science Consultant  
Special Effects Consultant  
Production Assistant  
Production Assistant  
Production Assistant  
Production Assistant  
Production Assistant  
Production Consultant  
Production Consultant  
Still Photographer  
Still Photographer  
Still Photographer  
Caterer  
Caterer  
Additional Editing  
Additional Editing  
Additional Editing  
Sound Editor  
Assistant Sound Editor  
Additional Sound Editing  
Recording Engineer  
Animated Title Production  
Animation Producer  
Animation and Direction  
Animation Technical Direction  
Animation Technical Support  
Animation Technical Support  
Animation Technical Support  
Animation Technical Support  
Animation Technical Support  
FILMLOOK Colorist

Dean Lent  
Stephanie Koutrakos  
Antonio Moncada  
Jerry Wolfe  
Matt Rose  
Jason Viera  
Gene Fereaud  
Jesse Crusing  
Justin DeNino  
Tom Anderson  
Mike Witzak  
Jonathan Joy  
Heather Hisserich  
Mark Deklin  
Melodee M. Spevack  
Nolan Haims  
Barbara Gold  
Matt Flynn  
Tony Clark  
Chris Mabli  
Jonathan Klein  
Lily Nguyen  
Doug Chamberlin  
Caroline Roche  
Douglas Whittington, PH.D.  
Chris Newton  
Shara Kim Moradi  
Dan Wally  
Lesley Williams  
Hero Ngauv  
Trey Green  
Peter Rowan  
Jamie Bullock  
Jamie Graham  
Jonathan Levit  
Stephen C. Speidel  
Blue Tuesday  
Big Screen Cuisine  
Alexander Enberg  
Tammy Caplan  
Joe Tyler Gold  
Jonathan Wareham  
Benjamin Mahoney  
Jeff G. Peters  
Rudy Chaney  
Gang of Seven Animation  
Tom Tataranowicz  
Tom Sito  
Rich Arons  
Lindsey Butterworth  
Leila Tilghman  
Elizabeth Lee  
Nick Duenez  
Sharon Burian  
Edgar Tellez  
Allen P. Kelly

## ***Crew***

Director  
Writer  
Producer  
Producer  
Director of Photography  
Editor  
Editor  
Co-Producer  
Visual Effects  
Title Sequence  
Composer  
Costume Designer  
Executive Producer  
Executive Producer  
Associate Producer  
Associate Producer  
Associate Producer  
1st Assistant Director  
2nd Assistant Director  
Script Supervisor  
Art Director  
Production Coordinator  
Additional Music  
Guitarist  
Violist  
Closing Credits Music  
Wardrobe Supervisor  
Wardrobe Assistant  
Key Makeup and Hair  
Makeup/Hair Artist  
Makeup/Hair Artist  
Makeup/Hair Artist  
Makeup/Hair Artist

C. J. Prouty  
Joe Tyler Gold  
Joe Tyler Gold  
Tammy Caplan  
Michael Millikan  
C.J. Prouty  
B.S.L Editorial Services  
Jun Teppang  
Alexander Enberg  
Gang of Seven Animation  
Tim Labor  
Cynthia Herteg  
Marvin and Barbara Gold  
Edward Gold and Kerri Ruttenberg  
Ruby, Eugene, and Rachel Becker  
Lorraine and George Gutsche  
James E. and Catherine Hovis  
Chris Hall  
Ashley Contino  
John Mazza  
Shauna Schurman  
Elizabeth Greene  
Martin St. Pierre  
Jonathan Westerberg  
Agnes Gottschewski  
McFejj  
Todd Silver  
Abram Lewis-Rosenblum  
Judi Lewin  
Rochelle Kneisley  
Laura Blackburn  
Dennis Ramirez  
Florence Previtali

## **Press**

***"a brilliantly funny, entertaining, raucous, laugh-out loud, comedy"***

Debbie Lynn Elias, Movie Shark Deblore

***"Awesome, entertaining, funny and brilliant ... one of the top two or three indie films I've reviewed in the last three years."***

Duane L. Martin, Rogue Cinema

***"a laugh riot from beginning to end"***

Indie Express

***"a sweet little comedy that delivers plenty of smiles"***

David Cornelius, eFilmCritic.com

***"a blithely witty romp"***

Hollywood is Talking

***"Gold & Prouty serve up a sweet satire of our theatre"***

Steven Leigh Morris, L.A. Weekly

***"a playful spin on the jinx"***

Wayne Melton, Backstage West

***"the film . . . takes the famed curse head-on."***

Elizabeth Packer, Daily Bruin

***"the laughs don't stop"***

Amy Lyons, Studio City Sun