

## Welsh Willow Witchery!

On May 24 and 25 the infamous Scottish play came to the heart of Wales, in a production of *Macbeth* (ssshhhhhh!) by the Living Willow Community Company at their home base, The Living Willow Theatre near Llanwrthwl. The 20-strong local cast bravely tackled one of Shakespeare's most powerful tragedies in an intensive three week rehearsal period, rooting the production in the landscape and dusting it with Celtic mysticism.

Directors Sue Best and Philip Bowen said, "We're so proud that the production could be part of *Gwanwyn 2008* - this festival celebrates creativity in older age and cast members spanned the ages of eight to 80. We had a brilliant musical director, Benjie Talbot, who was one of the babies at 20, but the lead role was given a scorching interpretation by Stan Turner who has been retired for some years."

A truly magical production, the Saturday night performance took place against the mystical backdrop of willow walls, when thrilled members of the audience reported feeling cold shivers before the show even started! Due to wet weather, the Sunday night show was mounted in the barn where the intimate environment gave the play an incredible intensity and immediacy. This was community theatre at its best, giving the professionals a real run for their money!

If you didn't manage to get there this weekend, don't worry because *Macbeth* will play again on July 4 at The Living Willow Theatre and July 19 at the Serendipity Festival in Knighton.