

A DEED WITHOUT A NAME

Artist's Statement

EXCERPT FROM MACBETH, ACT 4, SCENE 1

FIRST WITCH

SPEAK.

SECOND WITCH

DEMAND.

THIRD WITCH

WE'LL ANSWER.

FIRST WITCH

SAY IF TH' HADST RATHER HEAR IT FROM OUR MOUTHS
OR FROM OUR MASTERS'.

MACBETH

CALL 'EM. LET ME SEE 'EM.

MACBETH, ACT 4 SCENE 1, LINES 65-70.

Created for Professor Stephen Wittek's *Shakespeare: Tragedies & Histories* course, "A DEED WITHOUT A NAME" is a video adaptation of an excerpt of *Macbeth*. This course highlighted the historical context of Shakespeare's plays, giving students insight into the social and political commentary the plays offered at the time. Carrying this through line of social commentary, I utilized a few lines of *Macbeth* to explore the Western world's relationship to digital assistants and internet search engines.

In the play, Macbeth and his wife murder the king, Macbeth takes his place on the throne, and in Act 4 Scene I, he ventures into the woods to seek council from the Three Witches. These mystical women appear a few times throughout the play, and seem to foresee the future. Using their steaming potion as a screen, three prophecies appear for Macbeth, who has turned to these witches for answers

I, unfortunately, do not have a gaggle of divinity to turn to in uncertain times.
I do, however, have an iPhone.

By casting the Three Witches as digital assistants, and their “Master” as a Google search engine, my video adaptation explores questions of faith, purpose, and modern, digital prophecy.

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MACBETH

HOW NOW, YOU SECRET, BLACK, AND MIDNIGHT HAGS?

WHAT IS 'T YOU DO?

ALL

A DEED WITHOUT A NAME.

MACBETH, ACT 4 SCENE 1, LINES 48-50.

Rowan