



present

THE TRAGEDY OF
HAMLET, PRINCE OF DENMARK

by

WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE

AT THE QUESTORS THEATRE
MATTOCK LANE, EALING, W. 5
NOVEMBER 5TH TO 19TH, 1955

SECOND PRODUCTION
TWENTY-SEVENTH SEASON
1955-56

PROGRAMME
SIXPENCE

1955

THE TRAGEDY OF HAMLET, PRINCE OF DENMARK

by

WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE



Characters in the order of their appearance :

Francisco ALAN DRAKE
Barnado DAVID LORRAINE
Marcellus JOHN CLEMOW
Horatio VINCENT McQUEEN
Ghost of King Hamlet CYRIL BOX
Polonius, *Lord Chamberlain* CLIFFORD WEBB
Claudius, *King of Denmark* FRANK WHITE
Gertrude, *Queen of Denmark and Mother to Hamlet*

GWENDOLEN THOMAS

Laertes, *Son to Polonius* PATRICK BOWLEY
Valtemand TONY WORTH
Cornelius BERNARD McLAUGHLIN

Hamlet, *Son to the Late and Nephew to the Present King*

JOHN MURRAY SCOTT

Ophelia, *Daughter to Polonius* SHIRLEY SIMMONDS

Rosencrantz } *Student friends of Hamlet* { GERALD RAWLING
Guildenstern } BRYAN EVANS

First Player (*Lucianus*) WILFRID SHARP

Second Player (*Queen*) ERIC ARNOLD or MARK KIRBY

Third Player (*King*) GORDON SHADRICK

Fourth Player (*Prologue*) MORTON NICHOLAS or STEPHEN KIRBY

Fortinbras, *Prince of Norway* EDWARD PITT

Captain MICHAEL GREEN

First Gravedigger HARRY IVES

Second Gravedigger DAVID LORRAINE

Priest TONY WORTH

Osric MICHAEL GREEN

Lords, Ladies, Councillors, Guards :

GILLIAN ANDREWS, ZOE BAILEY, CARLA CRAIK, RUTH TREMAYNE
NEIL CARMODY, JOHN CLEMOW, ALAN DRAKE, HARRY IVES, ERIC
KIRBY, BERNARD McLAUGHLIN, GORDON MILLAIS, GORDON SHADRICK

The play produced by BARBARA HUTCHINS
Setting designed by GRAHAM HEYWOOD
Costumes designed by JULIETTE HOWARD

Scene : ELSINORE

The play is divided into three parts, with one interval of five minutes and one of fifteen.

During the second interval you may remain in your seats and be served with tea and biscuits, at the fixed price of 6d., or cross to the Lounge where coffee and light snacks may also be obtained.

NOTE : The Lounge Bar will not be open for matinee performances.



Music composed by WILLIAM SKINNER and played by THE WALPOLE YOUTH ORCHESTRA under the direction of O. P. HOWELL.

Rapier and dagger fight kindly arranged by STAN BOYCE.

Stage Manager BOB POND
assisted by JUNE POND, MARY COLLINS, COYA BISGOOD
and AUDREY POVEY

Scenery constructed in the Questors workshop
under the direction of PETER TALBOT
and painted by MARJORIE McLACHLAN

Costumes made in the Questors wardrobe under
the direction of THERESA HEFFERNAN

Lighting MARTIN CARR
assisted by FRANCES FOAD

Sound DOUGLAS WEARE, MICHAEL GAMBLE
and STUART HARTLEY

Properties NANCY NICHOLAS and JOSE ROBERTS



Theatre Manager RENA RICE

House Manager ARCHIE COWAN

Press Representative BASIL HULL

BOX OFFICE (6.30—7.30 p.m.) EALing 5184

MEMBERS ARE RESPECTFULLY REMINDED THAT SMOKING IS NOT PERMITTED IN THE THEATRE WHILE THE PLAY IS IN PROGRESS.

PRODUCER'S NOTE

What I would describe as the start of my "serious" theatregoing was when I was taken as a schoolgirl to see John Gielgud's production of *Hamlet* in 1935.

I remember to this day the profound excitement which it engendered in me, far exceeding anything I had expected from reading Lamb's "Tales from Shakespeare"—until then my only source of information on the play.

I remember how I commandeered the family volume of the "Complete Works" and read the play through again and again, experiencing with each reading that same surging excitement. Yet I only understood the half of what I read, and as for the much discussed "problems" of the play,—I was entirely unaware of them. They didn't really matter—then.

But to-day they must matter, and the danger is that in the fascination of the chase after the solutions to these problems, may one not, as it were, take the wrong turning and find oneself no longer in the theatre, but in the study? How then to preserve the early (so perhaps not unimportant?) overall impression, at the same time facing up squarely to the complexities which more mature reflection must reveal, and not either pursue the solutions too hard, or slide dishonestly from them—our heels "kicking at heaven"? A formidable task—and we have sought the answer in simplicity.

We aim to give you nothing more than a clear and straightforward exposition of the play as we understand it, colouring this with nothing more than the text would seem to justify. We hope the result will be as exciting to see and hear as it has been to prepare.

B. M. H.

OUR NEXT PRODUCTION

On December 10th we shall present a special production of one of the most hilarious of Elizabethan novelties, a play called *Fratricide Punished*, which comes to us as the English translation of an early 17th century German prose text of a play believed to derive from an impromptu performance of *Hamlet*. *Fratricide Punished*, which will be given with the same décor, costumes and cast (but in different parts) under the direction of the same producer as for to-night's presentation of the parent play, will have a limited run of one week only, and members are reminded that they will **not** be entitled to free seats. In view of the short run and likely enormous appeal of this jewel of unconscious comedy, seats should be booked well in advance to avoid disappointment. **Box office opens November 30th.**

SPECIAL NOTE

Owing to the difficulty of finding a suitable hall, the Jumble Sale advertised for November 26th has had to be postponed.

Don't forget the Whist Drive in the Lounge on November 26th, at 7.30 p.m.

NEW THEATRE FUND PERFORMANCE

If you have enjoyed the performance this evening why not come again and bring a friend? A member may obtain two seats for the price of one on the New Theatre Fund Night; one for himself and one for a friend. New Theatre Fund Night for *Hamlet* is November 19th.

There will be an informal party after the show on the last night. If you would care to come along, please see the Chief Steward before you leave to-night. He will take your name and give you details.

DISCUSSION ON "HAMLET"

The discussion on "Hamlet" will take place in the theatre on Sunday, November 20th, at 7.00 p.m. All members and friends welcome. **MAKE A SPECIAL NOTE OF THE DATE AND TIME: SUNDAY AT SEVEN.**