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Presents

# HAMLET

by William Shakespeare

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presents

HAMLET

by William Shakespeare



HAMLET - W. Marshall



CLAUDIUS - I. Thompson



GERTRUDE - B. Spencer



OPHELIA - D. Humphreys



POLONIUS - D. Morris



HORATIO - I. Gillespie



LAERTES - D. Lewarne.

PHOTOGRAPHS - Harmon Cusack.

The play is set in strife-torn Denmark, probably about 1550. Young Hamlet is still lamenting his father's death when the Ghost of his father, Old Hamlet, the ex-king, appears to tell him what he had already suspected, namely that Old Hamlet's death had not been accidental.

Here we have our first problem. The Ghost cannot be simply a vision, as in *Macbeth*, for the Ghost of Hamlet speaks, and compels young Hamlet to swear the oath of vengeance upon which the whole play rests. Clearly our Ghost has to have some substance, without changing his fundamental ghostliness - if you see what I mean. From here the story should unfold itself.

Hamlet is a weak young man, quite unfitted for the task of avenging the foul murder of his father. His diffidence and procrastination are responsible for the death of more and more innocent people as the play proceeds. Most people, I think, at least pay lip service to this view of Hamlet, but very few seem prepared to portray Hamlet in this fashion on the stage. Much more often we see Hamlet on stage as a bellowing strongman, dominating the other characters.

Hamlet himself speaks some 30% of the total lines in the play and so it is difficult to subdue him as a character to the extent where he is dominated by the other characters, and, more important, by events, in the play. This is what we have tried to do.

For the rest we have tried to strike a balance between the drama of the situation and the poetry of the author. We have confined movement to the essential and persuaded our actors, where possible, to speak to the audience rather than to each other.

We hope you will enjoy this presentation of Hamlet.

## SYNOPSIS OF SCENES

### Act I

- SCENE 1: Elsinore Castle - The Battlements at night.
- SCENE 2: Elsinore Castle - The Council Chamber next day.
- SCENE 3: Elsinore - A room in Polonius' house - same day.
- SCENE 4: The Battlements - that night.

*INTERVAL OF 15 MINUTES*

### ACT II:

- SCENE 1: A room in Polonius' house some weeks later.
- SCENE 2: The Council Chamber - the same day.
- SCENE 3: The Queen's Apartment - that evening.
- SCENE 4: The Council Chamber - later that evening.
- SCENE 5: A Plain in Denmark - the next day.

*INTERVAL OF 15 MINUTES*

### ACT III

- SCENE 1: The Council Chamber - some months later.
- SCENE 2: A Churchyard - the next day.
- SCENE 3: The Council Chamber - that evening.

*Act II is as long as Acts I & III put together and the three Acts may be entitled 'Introduction, Body, Finale'. The subdivision into acts and scenes is our own, not Shakespeare's. We hope that the long and almost continuous Act II will serve to eliminate the 'bittiness' caused by a too slavish following of modern texts.*

# CAST

<b>BERNARDO</b>	.....	.....	.....	<i>ALAN GODDEN</i>
<b>FRANCISCO</b>	.....	.....	.....	<i>PER NODDEBOE</i>
<b>HORATIO</b>	.....	.....	.....	<i>IAN GILLESPIE</i>
<b>MARCELLUS</b>	.....	.....	.....	<i>ANTHONY WRIGHT</i>
<b>GHOST</b>	.....	.....	.....	<i>DAVID ROBERTS</i>
<b>CLAUDIUS</b>	.....	.....	.....	<i>IAN THOMPSON</i>
<b>GERTRUDE</b>	.....	.....	.....	<i>BEVERLEY SPENCER</i>
<b>HAMLET</b>	.....	.....	.....	<i>WILLIAM MARSHALL</i>
<b>POLONIUS</b>	.....	.....	.....	<i>DAVID MORRIS</i>
<b>LAERTES</b>	.....	.....	.....	<i>DAVID LEWARNE</i>
<b>VOLTIMAND</b>	.....	.....	.....	<i>ARTHUR JENNER</i>
<b>CORNELIUS</b>	.....	.....	.....	<i>BRIAN RAE</i>
<b>OPHELIA</b>	.....	.....	.....	<i>DIANE HUMPHREYS</i>
<b>REYNALDO</b>	.....	.....	.....	<i>LANCE MASFEN</i>
<b>ROSENCRANTZ</b>	.....	.....	.....	<i>ALAN ROMBURGH</i>
<b>GUILDENSTERN</b>	.....	.....	.....	<i>TIMOTHY PURCELL</i>
<b>PLAYER KING</b>	.....	.....	.....	<i>PAUL MARTIN</i>
<b>FIRST PLAYER</b>	.....	.....	.....	<i>COLIN HOWE</i>
<b>PLAYER QUEEN</b>	.....	.....	.....	<i>LINDA BALL</i>
<b>LUCIANUS</b>	.....	.....	.....	<i>RICHARD MILNE</i>
<b>PROLOGUE</b>	.....	.....	.....	<i>STEPHEN HURST</i>
<b>FORTINBRAS</b>	.....	.....	.....	<i>DAVID HEENAN</i>
<b>CAPTAIN</b>	.....	.....	.....	<i>IAN CUSACK</i>
<b>GENTLEMAN &amp; LORD</b>	.....	.....	.....	<i>DAVID BUNN</i>
<b>SAILORS</b>	.....	.....	.....	<i>BRIAN NICHOLSON</i>
	.....	.....	.....	<i>JACK DUIM</i>
<b>MESSENGER</b>	.....	.....	.....	<i>LAURENCE MAKUNYANE</i>
<b>FIRST CLOWN</b>	.....	.....	.....	<i>TERENCE PRICE</i>
<b>SECOND CLOWN</b>	.....	.....	.....	<i>CHRISTOPHER BRADFIELD</i>
<b>PRIEST</b>	.....	.....	.....	<i>PAUL MARTIN</i>
<b>OSRIC</b>	.....	.....	.....	<i>ANDREW THOMPSON</i>
<b>ENGLISH AMBASSADOR</b>	.....	.....	.....	<i>HARMON CUSACK</i>
<b>OPHELIA'S</b>	.....	.....	.....	<i>HELENE JACQUEMIN</i>
<b>Ladies in Waiting</b>	.....	.....	.....	<i>SUSAN BUNN</i>
<b>GERTRUDE'S</b>	.....	.....	.....	<i>CAROLINE LEE</i>
<b>Ladies in Waiting</b>	.....	.....	.....	<i>SHELAGH MASSON</i>
<b>PAGEBOYS</b>	.....	.....	.....	<i>JONATHAN CULLEN</i>
	.....	.....	.....	<i>GILL FOURIE</i>

## BEHIND THE SCENES

- SET BUILDING:** Mr. J. Budd and Mr. J. Cullen  
assisted by: H. Cusack; D. Conn; D. Heenan; L. Masten;  
W. Long; C. Bradfield; I. Cusack.
- LIGHTS:** Mr. R. Davis; assisted by P. Godden and W. Long.
- SOUND EFFECTS:** Harmon Cusack.
- FRONT OF HOUSE:** Jill Bennett
- BUSINESS MANAGER:** Mrs. C. Poulson
- PROMPT:** Karen Bradfield.
- MAKE-UP:** Mrs. J. Cullen assisted by J. Ogle; A. Barnett;  
D. Barnett; B. Smith; S. Bunn; M. Clapp.
- COSTUMES:** Mrs. Martin; Mrs. Park; Mrs. Masson; Mrs. Wail;  
Mrs. Roberts; Mrs. Hurst; Denise Humphreys;  
Penny Seago; Yda Gibbon; Vera van de Beeck;  
Kathryn Glen.
- PROPERTIES:** Elizabeth Hynd; Myfanwy Williams.

Our thanks to **JACKIE OGLE** for collecting and collating the information  
for this programme.

## **SPECIAL!!!**

*We owe a special word of thanks to Mrs. Bertram for her advice and supervision with the costumes.*

*Also to Mr. R. Davis for his help and advice with the lights.*

*A special thank you, too, to Mr. S. Dyk who very kindly tutored Hamlet and Laertes in fencing. And a thank you to Mr. S. Bowden for making the armour.*

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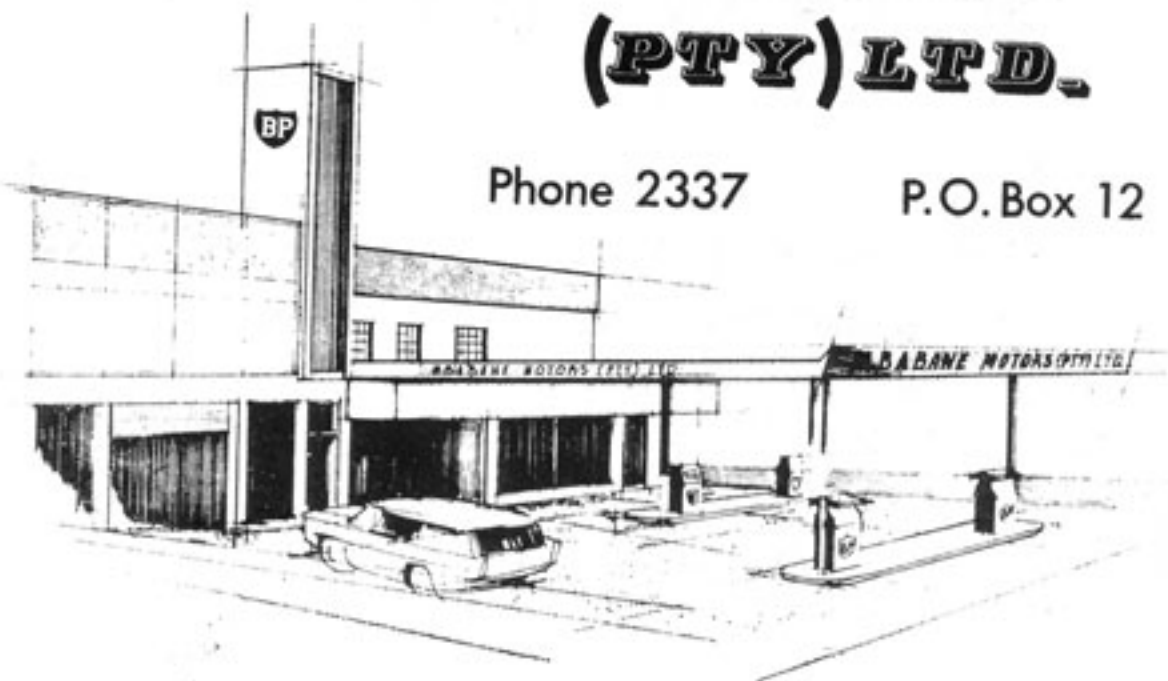
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