

Level Three Extended Diploma Performing Arts presents...

HAMILET

A PLAY BY WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE

Wednesday 18th May 2022



INTRODUCTION

A country under attack. A family falling apart. A mind in turmoil.

Step inside Solihull College and University Centre's Performing Arts department and be transported to the court of Elsinore. Intimately lit and warmly welcoming, it's the perfect palace.

However, 'something is rotten in the state of Denmark'. Prince Hamlet is shocked that his mother, the Queen, has married his uncle Claudius so soon after the death of his father, the King. And when his father's ghost reveals a dark secret, it's clear what he ought to do: exact revenge.

In a world of surveillance and counter-surveillance, no one – including Hamlet – knows quite who or what to believe. Caught between a perfect world of deceit, and an uglier underlying reality, Hamlet is horrified by the role he seems required to play, as madness threatens to rip apart the lie around him and expose the truth beneath.

Performed by Level Three Extended Diploma Students, this Solihull College production, led by Artistic Directors, Kelly Casey and Dewi Johnson sheds candlelight on Shakespeare's iconic tale of manipulation, disruption, coercion and masculinity.

This production contains on-stage depictions of murder, violence and some sensitive themes.



MEET THE HAMLET'S



JONATHAN HIGGINS-

**CHARACTER(S): HAMLET, CLAUDIUS, GHOST
PRODUCTION ROLE: FILMING**

“With this production, I’ve had the chance to explore the production and media side alongside understanding the characters and adapting them to the times we live in today. There are parts of the production where we’re using hi-tech cameras to incorporate The Ghost so it really is a multimedia piece and I’m excited to see how the audience will respond to that.”



MILLIE DODD-

**CHARACTER(S): HAMLET, CLAUDIUS, GHOST
PRODUCTION ROLE: FILMING,**

After my audition, I was absolutely delighted to be offered the role of ♪Hamlet, playing the role of ♪Hamlet is a big opportunity and I am excited to put my own spin on the role by portraying a female ♪Hamlet, whilst developing a different perspective!



ISAM HUSSEIN-

**CHARACTER(S): HAMLET, GHOST
PRODUCTION ROLE: FILMING**

“When we first started learning ♪Hamlet, it was like learning a whole new language. As a young British Asian man, I feel I’m the opposite to the role in every way and that actually plays to my advantage as I’m able to step into his shoes and empathise with ♪Hamlet and his grief. For my research of the character, I watched others’ performances and found most of my inspiration in Paapa Essiedu’s 2016 performance of ♪Hamlet.”



MEET THE PLAYERS



ASHLEIGH POPPITT-
CHARACTER: GERTRUDE
PRODUCTION ROLE: MUSIC & SOUND

“My production role is music and I’ve looked at the relationship Hamlet shares with the other characters to express the difference in emotions. We edited the script a lot to focus on mental health and questioned whether the ghost was actually there and the true cause of Ophelia’s death.”



COURTNEY LAMB-
CHARACTER: LAERTES
PRODUCTION ROLE: MARKETING & COSTUME

“I’m playing a male and I’m very feminine, which has been interesting. I found the discussions we had about Laertes relationship with his sister quite interesting and his behaviour towards her feels less taboo when being played by me, a female. I love Shakespeare and the historical themes; I’ve especially liked working with Aspen on the costume designs.”



CHARLOTTE CRUMP-
CHARACTER: OPHELIA
PRODUCTION ROLE: ASSISTANT DIRECTOR

“I delved into a range of themes quite deeply to understand and connect with my character, some of which wouldn’t have been a priority in Shakespeare’s time such as gender swap and masculinity.”



CHAD CLARKE-
CHARACTER: POLONIUS
PRODUCTION ROLE: FILMING

Receiving the opportunity to play Polonius in the production is something which has interested me since the project began, I quite enjoy exploring characters that are different and as the father of Ophelia in the play that allows me the chance to try playing a fatherly role.



MEET THE PLAYERS



ANGEL GARVEY HENDRICKSON-
CHARACTER: HORATIO
PRODUCTION ROLE: MOVEMENT & FILMING

“I have absolutely loved bringing physical theatre into the play and found inspiration from a Frantic Assembly workshop delivered at the College which encouraged us as practitioners to use our own experiences to create routines that convey parts of the story using movement and not our voices.”



JAMIE LUTON-
CHARACTER: OSRIC
PRODUCTION ROLE: MOVEMENT

“I’ve connected with the emotions of Hamlet and have enjoyed exploring emotional memories to understand the characters.”



CHARLIE COOKE-
CHARACTER: SERVANT/PLAYER
PRODUCTION ROLE: LIGHTING

“I did a lot of research into Shakespeare and got more involved in the backstage technical production side of it. I like the historical element to Hamlet.”



CERYS RATTIGAN-
CHARACTER: MARCELLUS
PRODUCTION ROLE: MOVEMENT

“I’m one of Hamlet’s soldiers and found it challenging playing a male character as I’m more feminine and I’ve had to learn to master speaking like a soldier.”



MEET THE PLAYERS



WILLIAM PULLEN

**CHARACTER: GUILDENSTERN, GRAVEDIGGER
PRODUCTION ROLE: MARKETING**

"I'm so excited to be able to bring my interest in marketing to this project, and to be able to utilise all of the digital and physical performance skills which I have developed since I began studying performing arts! I hope to bring an exciting spin to the characters which I have been cast as in this production and I hope the audience enjoy them as much as I have enjoyed developing them."



NIAMH SHEEHAN-

**CHARACTER: ROSENCRANTZ
PRODUCTION ROLE: CHARACTERISATION**

"I enjoy exploring performances from different perspectives as someone who is quite artsy. For my performance as Rosencrantz I have carried out a lot of research into different performances of the character on Stage and film."



ASPEN HUNT-

**CHARACTER: BERNARDO
PRODUCTION ROLE: COSTUME DESIGN**

"I've tried to create outfits that are reminiscent of the time and theme of Hamlet. It's been particularly interesting designing Ophelia's costume and exploring her femininity."



WORD-SEARCH

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DEATH
ENGLAND
GHOST
ROTTEN
MASCULINITY
HAMLET
SHAKESPEARE
DENMARK
POISON
FRANCE
CROWN
COURTIER
QUEEN
KING
SWORD



WORD-SEARCH SOLUTION





Solihull College & University Centre

Thank you to all of the departments who have supported us in the creation of this production.