

SHAKESPEARE'S
GLOBE

FREE ON YOUTUBE

6–19 April 2020

VISUAL STORY

HAMLET



Characters

Hamlet Prince of Denmark. Son of the Getrude and dead King(who was also called Hamlet)

Claudius King of Denmark, brother of former King Hamlet

Ghost of King Hamlet, former King of Denmark

Gertrude Queen of Denmark, widow of the late King and now wife of his brother Claudius

Polonius Counsellor to the King

Laertes Son of Polonius

Ophelia Daughter of Polonius

Horatio Companion to Prince Hamlet

Rosencrantz

Guildenstern

Barnardo

Marcellus

First Player Who leads the troupe and takes the part of a king

Second Player Who takes the part of a queen

Third Player

Fourth Player

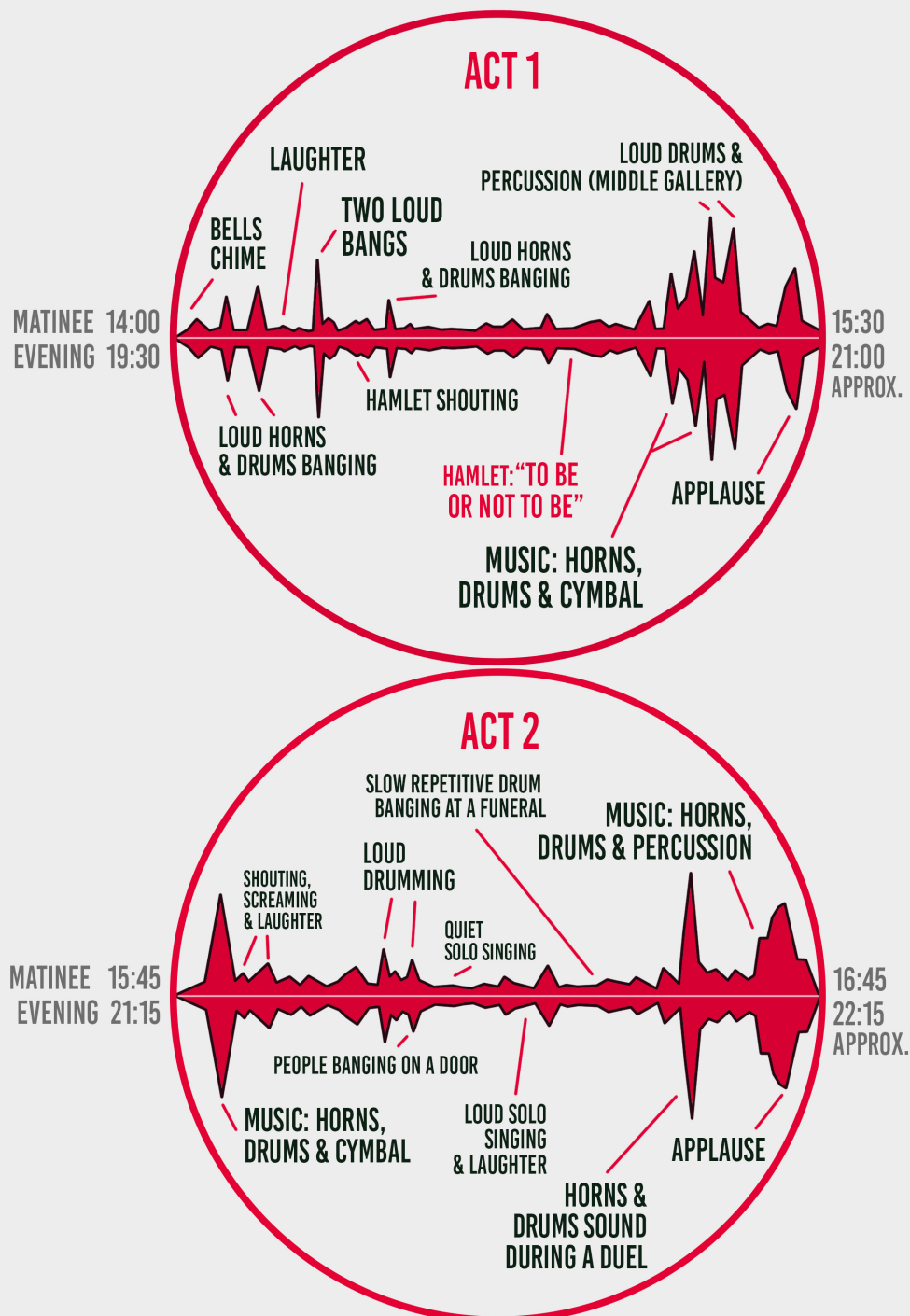
Fortinbras Prince of Norway

Gravedigger

Show Notes

- The themes of the show concern death and dying.
- The show starts with the ringing of a reasonably loud bell.
- Trumpets and drums sound throughout, and can be startling.
- For some of the play, Hamlet wears clown make up, which some people might find scary.
- One of the Players wears a mask during the play within the play. The mask looks like a deer's head.
- The play within the play has a lot of drums and music coming from the Middle gallery. The noise will sound as if it is coming from all around the theatre.
- There are weapons on the stage used by the guards and in the sword fight. They are blunt weapons.
- There is stage fighting. No one will be hurt.
- During the sword fighting, loud bangs are made in order to sound like cannons being fired.
- The theatre is open to the air, and sometimes birds, helicopters, planes and other noises from outside can be heard.

HAMLET SONIC STORY



The Play

At Elsinore Castle in Denmark, an officer called Bernardo is the watches over the castle walls. He is joined by Marcellus and Horatio, and all witness the ghost of King Hamlet. The ghost appears twice, but disappears.



Hamlet and Horatio

Claudius has been crowned and has married Gertrude. He grants Laertes permission to return to France but tells Hamlet he must remain in Denmark. Hamlet wishes he was dead. Horatio arrives and tells Hamlet about the ghost.



Claudius and Gertrude



Laertes

Laertes tells Ophelia to be careful near Hamlet. Laertes then leaves.

Hamlet joins the night watch and sees the ghost of his father.

Hamlet speaks to the ghost and it tells him that Claudius murdered him in order to get the crown. Hamlet swears revenge upon his uncle.

Ophelia comes to Polonius and tells him that Hamlet has been acting strangely. Polonius concludes Hamlet's madness is lovesickness and departs to tell Claudius.



Ghost and Hamlet

Rosencrantz and Guildenstern arrive from Wittenberg. Claudius and Gertrude ask Rosencrantz and Guildenstern to watch Hamlet. Polonius enters with the ambassadors and tells Claudius that Hamlet is mad with love for Ophelia. To test his theory, he talks to Hamlet alone. When Polonius leaves, Rosencrantz and Guildenstern confess to Hamlet that they have been sent to observe him. They also tell him that an acting troupe is approaching the castle. When they arrive, Hamlet asks them to perform a play for him.

Claudius and Gertrude agree to watch a performance. Polonius and Claudius spy on Hamlet talking to Ophelia. When Hamlet sees Ophelia he becomes angry. He tells her that women are untrustworthy.



Hamlet and the players get ready for the performance. The play begins and shows the murder of Hamlet's father. At the moment of the murder in the play, Claudius leaves the room and causes chaos. Hamlet and Horatio believe that Claudius is guilty of murder. Hamlet leaves to go to Gertrude's chamber.

Claudius tells Rosencrantz and Guildenstern to escort Hamlet on a ship going to England. After they leave the room, he shows regret over killing his brother and kneels to pray. Hamlet enters unseen and thinks about killing his uncle, but decides not to as a soul killed in prayer will go to heaven.

Polonius hides in Gertrude's room in an attempt to eavesdrop on Hamlet. Hamlet enters and shames his mother for her marriage to his uncle. He threatens her and Polonius calls out for help from behind a curtain. Hamlet thinks Claudius is behind the curtain. Hamlet stabs Polonius through the curtain. He convinces his mother that he has been pretending to be mad. Hamlet leaves her chamber dragging Polonius' body behind him.

Gertrude tells Claudius about Hamlet murdering Polonius. Claudius resolves to send Hamlet to England at once.

Rosencrantz and Guildenstern ask Hamlet where Polonius' body is. Hamlet refuses to answer.



Claudius demands to know where Polonius' body is hidden, which Hamlet eventually reveals. Claudius privately states that he has given Rosencrantz and Guildenstern a letter to take to England which asks for Hamlet to be killed upon arrival.

Fortinbras sends word to Claudius that he will travel through Denmark to Poland.

Gertrude and Horatio find that Ophelia has gone mad. Laertes, having secretly returned from France, demands vengeance for his father's death. Upon seeing Ophelia's madness, his rage deepens and Claudius tells him what has happened.

Horatio receives a letter from Hamlet that says the ship to England was overtaken by pirates and Hamlet has returned to Denmark.

Claudius and Laertes discuss Hamlet's actions. Laertes plans to enter into a fencing duel with Hamlet, and to sharpen his sword and cover it with poison. Claudius suggest that, as a backup plan, he will bring a poisoned cup of wine to give to Hamlet. Gertrude enters with news that Ophelia has drowned herself.

Hamlet and Horatio walk through a graveyard and meet a man who is digging Ophelia's grave. Hamlet picks up a skull and is told that it belonged to Yorick, his childhood jester. The funeral procession arrives and Hamlet hides.



As the body is lowered into the grave, Hamlet recognises Ophelia. A grief-stricken Laertes jumps into the grave to hold Ophelia one last time and is quickly joined by Hamlet. The two fight over who loved her more before Hamlet leaves with Horatio.

Hamlet describes to Horatio how he swapped the letter from Claudius so that it instead commanded Rosencrantz and Guildenstern be put to death in England.

A messenger comes to invite Hamlet to duel against Laertes. Hamlet accepts. Horatio thinks this is a bad idea.

Claudius says that cannons should be fired every time one of the swords hits someone. During the duel, Hamlet strikes the first hit and Claudius attempts to get him to drink from the poisoned cup, but Hamlet declines. After he scores the second hit, Gertrude drinks from the cup instead. They fight again and Laertes wounds Hamlet with his poisoned sword, but Hamlet manages to take the sword for himself, leaving Laertes with a blunt fencing sword. Hamlet strikes Laertes.



The players

Horatio receives a letter from Hamlet that says the ship to England was overtaken by pirates and Hamlet has returned to Denmark. Claudius and Laertes discuss Hamlet's actions. Laertes plans to enter into a fencing duel with Hamlet, and to sharpen his sword and cover it with poison. Claudius suggest that, as a backup plan, he will bring a poisoned cup of wine to give to Hamlet. Gertrude enters with news that Ophelia has drowned herself.

The queen falls ill and dies from the poisoned cup. Laertes has been poisoned. He tells Hamlet about Claudius' plot against him. Hamlet stabs Claudius and forces him to drink the poison. Drums signal Fortinbras's return from Poland, and in his final breaths Hamlet asks Horatio to tell his story, and that he wishes Fortinbras to be the next king of Denmark. Fortinbras enters and Horatio tells him the story. Fortinbras orders that Hamlet be given a soldier's funeral.