



Easy Read

A Visual Story

To support your visit to Shakespeare's Globe.

SHAKESPEARE'S
GLOBE

HAMLET

Madness and manipulation by candlelight

Writer

William Shakespeare

SAM WANAMAKER PLAYHOUSE

25 January – 9 April

#Hamlet

Getting to Shakespeare's Globe



This is the Foyer. If you need somewhere quiet at any time you can come back out of the Playhouse into the Foyer.



Your ticket will tell you which gallery, bay and row you are in. Once you have found your row you will need to find the part of the bench reserved for you which will match the number on your ticket.



This is the stage. For different plays, designers add pieces of set to make it look different.



These are stewards. You can recognise the stewards by their aprons. The stewards are there to help you. If you feel tired, or need to exit please ask a steward. They can also show you where the toilets are. Stewards are good people to go to if you feel worried about anything in the show.

The Cast



Horatio
Peter Bourke



Ophelia
Rachel Hannah Clarke



Hamlet
George Fouracres



Gertrude
Polly Frame



Rosencrantz
Francesca Henry



Laertes
Nadi Kemp-Sayfi



Polonius
John Lightbody



Guildenstern / Ghost
Ciarán O'Brien



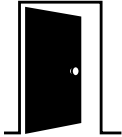
Claudius
Irfan Shamji

Show Notes



Relaxed Performance

On Saturday 26 March at 2pm, there will be a Relaxed Performance.



This will mean:

- There will be an open-door policy so that you can come and go as you please.



- Underseating lights will be on low.

- The show has had some changes to reduce loud noises and sudden movements.



- There are ear defenders available in different sizes to borrow from the Welcome Desk in the main foyer.



Content and Trigger Warnings

The production includes:

- Haze (smoke)

- Blackouts

- Stage blood

- Shouting

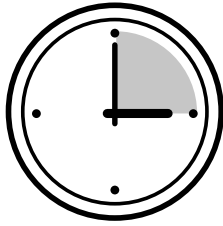
- Violence and murder

- Bullying

- Displays of madness, mental health and depression

- Actors move through the audience

Show Notes



Times

The show is about 3 hours 15 minutes

There are 3 parts, with 2 intervals:

- Part 1: 1 hour
- Interval 1: 15 minutes
- Part 2: 1 hour
- Interval 2: 15 minutes
- Part 3: 50 minutes



Music and sound

There is live music on stage, including singing.

Some music is original.
Some is by *The Smiths*.

The actors sometimes talk to each other from behind the audience.

There are loud noises, whispers and shouting.



Lighting

The stage is mostly lit by candlelight.

In part 2 and 3, there are also electric lights.

There are several blackouts. (The underseating lights will be on for the relaxed performance).

There are also times where the lighting changes quickly.



Show Notes



Set: There is a pond in the centre of the stage.

Begins with an Elizabethan feel and moves into modern day over the course of the play.

In Act II and III, Hamlet graffiti's the back wall of the set.

Costume: As with the set, the play begins in the Elizabethan era and moves into modern dress over the course of the play.

As each character connects with Hamlet, and his madness, they become more modern in their dress.

Design: The play starts in a world that feels quite stable, beautiful and tranquil (in costume, set and music).

Hamlet's madness corrupts and infects that world. The music becomes more modern, the costumes more modern and the set becomes chaotic.

Time period: 1700s to modern day.

The Story



The King of Denmark has died and his wife, Gertrude, has married his brother, Claudius. The king's son Hamlet has come home to Elsinore for his father's funeral.

Hamlet sees the ghost of his father. The ghost tells him that it was his brother Claudius, the new king, who killed him and commands Hamlet to get revenge.



Hamlet has been behaving strangely and Claudius asks Hamlet's childhood friends, Rosencrantz and Guildenstern, to find out why.

A group of travelling actors visit the castle and Hamlet asks them to perform a play about a man who murders a sleeping king, to see how Claudius reacts.



Hamlet tells his girlfriend Ophelia that he never loved her and then asks Gertrude how she can be happy when her husband has only just died.



Hamlet Synopsis



The actors perform the story of the murder of a sleeping king and Claudius storms out. This confirms Hamlet's belief that Claudius killed his father.

Hamlet and his mother Gertrude argue about his behaviour. During their argument Hamlet kills Polonius, Ophelia's father.



Hamlet will not tell anyone where Polonius' body is. Claudius sends him to England but he doesn't arrive.

Ophelia's brother, Laertes, comes home and finds Ophelia has gone mad with grief. She kills herself and Claudius and Laertes plot to murder Hamlet.



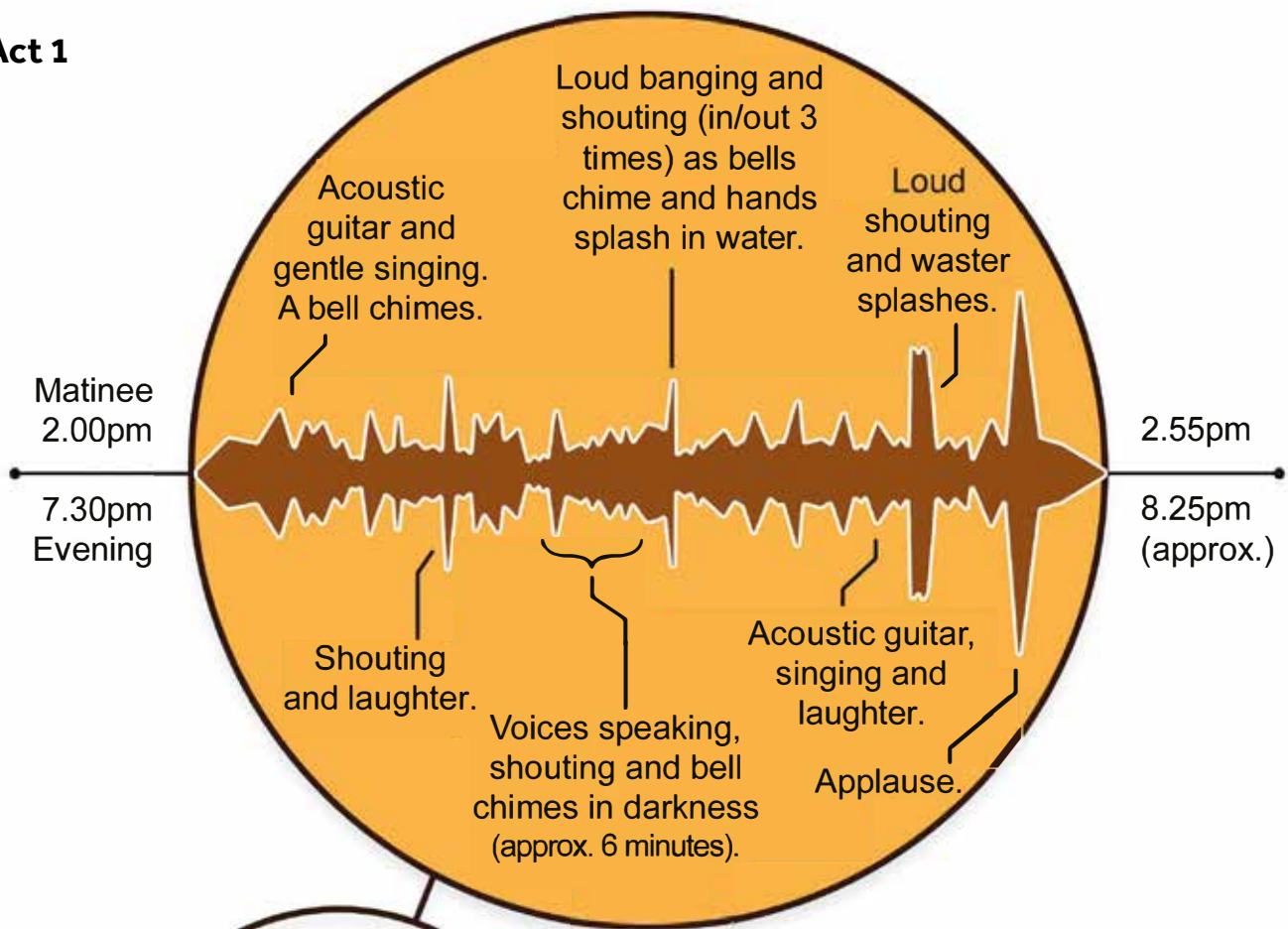
Hamlet agrees to fight Laertes. During the duel, Gertrude drinks poison and both Hamlet and Laertes are fatally wounded. Hamlet kills Claudius before he dies.

Sonic Story

This 'Sonic Story' provides information about what to expect from the music and sounds of Hamlet.

It shows the volume changes throughout the performance and highlights loud and quiet moments and moments when the sound changes suddenly.

Act 1



Sonic Summary:

Dialogue on stage

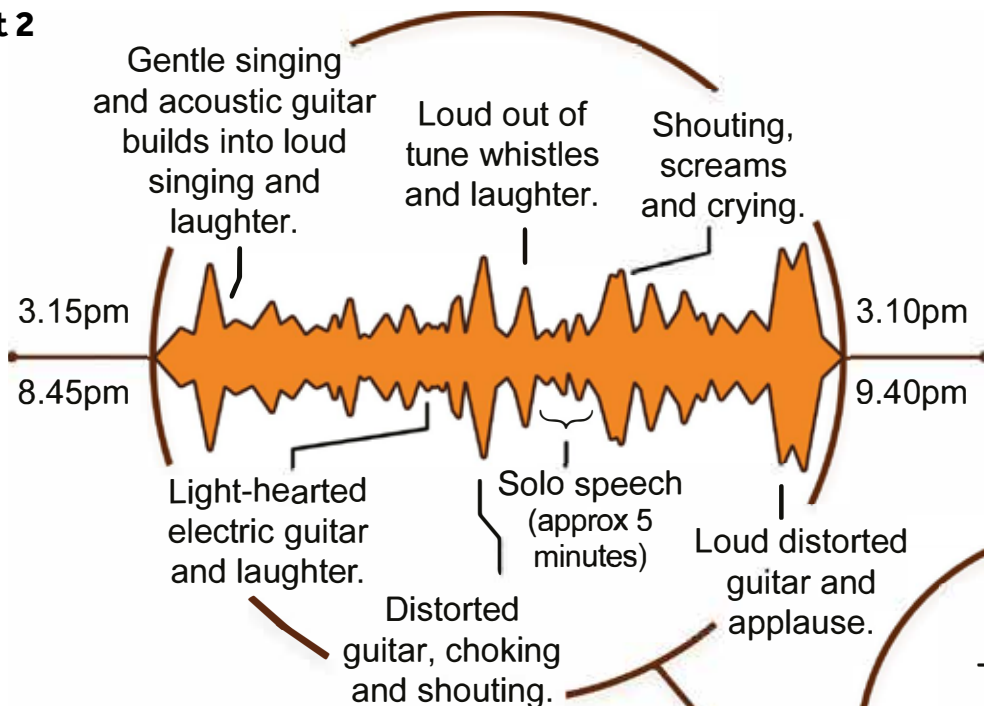
Acoustic guitar

Voices in darkness

Times are approximate

Sonic Story

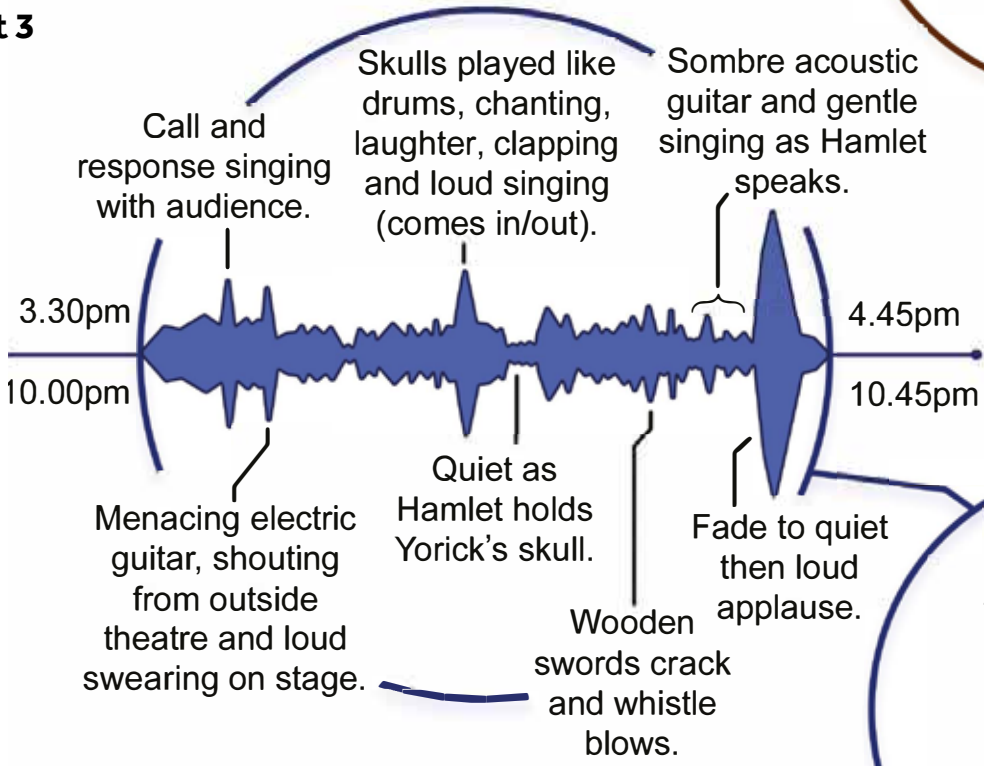
Act 2



Sonic Summary:

- The loudest act of the play
- Regular sudden shouting, screaming and laughter
- Electric guitar

Act 3

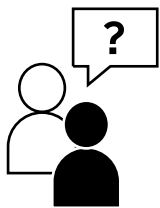


Sonic Summary:

- The quietest act of the play
- Dialogue on stage
- Regular quiet moments and soft speaking

Times are approximate

Further information



Have further questions about this performance?

Find out more about Shakespeare's Globe here:
<https://www.shakespearesglobe.com/>



Getting here:

Find directions and our Easy Read Guide to getting to Sam Wanamaker's Playhouse here:

<https://www.shakespearesglobe.com/visit/getting-here/>