

Hamlet, Prince of Denmark

by William Shakespeare

18th - 27th May 2023

It has been a particular pleasure to direct Medway Little Theatre's first production of *Hamlet* and I would like to thank all the enthusiastic team who have helped to put this together. It has a particular significance in my life: when I first joined MLT, as a schoolboy in 1961, I was cast as Malcolm in *Macbeth*, our very first Shakespeare. It featured our founder the late Duncan Rand in the title role and Dan Willis, then a teacher at Upbury Manor School, Gillingham, as Macduff. I am especially pleased that tonight his voice will be heard once again in our theatre as the ghost of Hamlet's father.

The production you will see tonight attempts, as far as possible, to recreate some of the ways in which it might have been staged in Shakespeare's lifetime. There was no scenery in his theatre - and no roof either. Performances started at 2pm and the only lighting was the sun. The list of characters suggests that there was considerable doubling: there are three soldiers in Act One, three players in Act 3 and three supporting roles in Act 5. So that explains this production's lighting design, its straightforward set and why three of our actors appear as different characters.

May I wish you an enjoyable evening.

Michael Bath, Director

Cast

| | |
|------------------------------|------------------|
| Hamlet | Barry Kearns |
| King Claudius | Robert Hall |
| Queen Gertrude | Mel de Lorme |
| Polonius, Secretary of State | Chris Loft |
| Ophelia, his daughter | Jessica Hayhow |
| Laertes, his son | Adam Wigmore |
| Ghost of Hamlet's father | Dan Willis |
| Horatio, Hamlet's friend | Luka Syplywczak |
| Francisco, a soldier | Chris Parnell |
| Marcellus, a soldier | Sean Stephens |
| Barnardo, a soldier | Louis Jones |
| Rosencrantz, a courtier | Matt Bowen |
| Guildenstern, a courtier | Hayley Bullivant |
| Reynaldo, a servant | Louis Jones |
| First Player/Lucianus | Sean Stephens |
| Player King | Chris Parnell |
| Player Queen | Louis Jones |
| Messenger | Sean Stephens |
| Gravedigger 1 | Del de Lorme |
| Gravedigger 2 | Louis Jones |
| Priest | Chris Parnell |
| Osric, a courtier | Sean Stephens |

Crew

Director Michael Bath
Stage Manager Peter Clark
ASM William Barnard
Sound Russ Carey
Derek Thompson
Amy Morgan
Reiss Foley
Mic Aldington
Lighting Menno Willemes
Set construction Del de Lorme
Set painting Paul Cumming-Benson
Jane Cumming-Benson
Wardrobe Elaine Thomas
Backstage Kerrie Thompson
Peter Steers
Sophia Salvini
Fight Director Barry Kearns

Coming Up

LILIES ON THE LAND
by the Lions part
12 – 17 June 2023

Set during the Second World War, this poignant play will have you laughing, crying and singing. *Lilies on The Land* is a collection of true stories and songs, some funny, some sad, told by a group of Land Army Girls whose lives were shaped and influenced by their experiences throughout the conflict.

HAMILET



18 - 27 May
Doors 7pm | Show 7.30pm
Tickets £11
www.mlt.org.uk