

Hamlet

Price of Denmark

By William Shakespeare

Play no. 78

Opening show: 28/05/1946

Hebrew by: A. Shlonsky

Staged by : Z. Friedland

Setting by: I. Kolbianski

Music by : Fordhaus Ben-Cissi

Cast

Claudius, King of Denmark: A. Meskin

Hamlet, son of the former king and nephew of his successor: S. Finkel

Polonius. Lord Chamberlain: M. Gnessin / L. Warshaver

Laertes, son of Polonius: R. Klatzkin

Horatio, friend of Hamlet: I. Shulmann

Rosenkrantz } : H. Amitat

Guildenstern } Courtiers : S. Bruk

Osric: A. Ninio

Nobleman: N. Buchman

Noblewoman: R. yishuvi

Priest: A. Asio

Marcellus } : I. Ben-Moshe

Bernardo } Officers : A. Asio

Player: A. Benyamini

First grave-digger: David Vardi

Second grave-digger: I. Rubinstein

King's of attendants: G. Abrevaya / A. Treibmaa

Gertrude, Queen of Denmark, Hamlet's mother: T. Robins

Players in the Court Play:

Prologue: A. Ninioi

King Gonzago: M. Benyamini

Queen Baptista: R. Goldin

Lucianus: N. Buchman / A. Asio

The King of Denmark has died and is succeeded by his brother, Claudius, who has married Gertrude, his brother's widow. Hamlet, the former King's son, sees his father's ghost who discloses to him that he has been murdered by Claudius and calls upon his son to avenge his death. Doubting the ghost's story, Hamlet decides to the test by arranging for a performance to be given at the King's court at which the murder would be reenacted. In watching the effect of the play on the King and his mother, he would be able to judge whether his suspicions are justified. Meanwhile he broods over his father's death and he shuns the company of all but Horatio, his friend, and Ophelia, Polonius' the Lord Chamberlain's daughter, with whom he is in love.

The performance is held in presence of the King and the Queen, who finally see through Hamlet's ruse, and they leave in anger and fear. Hamlet then goes to his mother, who cannot deny his accusations and pleads for for mercy. At that moment he discovers Polonius eavesdropping behind a curtain. Furious, Hamlet kills him and is banished from the kingdom.

Ophelia grieves bitterly over the murder of her father, and losing her mind through excess of sorrow, drowns herself. Laertes, her brother, blames Hamlet for the death of his father and sister, and when Hamlet returns to Denmark, Claudius and Laertes plot to kill him. A duel is arranged between Laertes and Hamlet, in which Laertes is to use a poisoned sword. In the course of the duel Hamlet is wounded but the swords change hands by mistake and Laertes, tog, is rounded by the poisoned sword. The Queen, Gertrude, unknowingly drinks wine from a poisoned cup which had been prepared for Hamlet. Laertes, dying, reveals the plot, and Hamlet avenges his father's death By killing Claudius.