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1987

Moot House Players  
present

H A M L E T  
Prince of Denmark

by William Shakespeare

Characters in order of their appearance:

FRANCISCO )	.. John Banks
BARNADO )	.. Stuart Everitt
MARCELLUS )	.. David Schacht
palace guards	
HORATIO, friend to Hamlet	.. Jon McNamara
GHOST OF HAMLET'S FATHER	.. Robin Harcourt
POLONIUS, the Lord Chamberlain	.. Gordon Whittle
LAERTES, son to Polonius	.. Michael Branwell
OPHELIA, sister to Laertes	.. Gillian Holland
CLAUDIUS, King of Denmark	.. Charles Hill
GERTRUDE, Queen of Denmark, mother to Hamlet	.. Yvonne Mitchley
HAMLET, son to the late King & nephew to Claudius	.. Michael Rawle-Cope
ROSENCRANTZ )	.. Ian Beckett
GUILDENSTERN )	.. Colin Hayman
Hamlet	
A COMPANY OF PLAYERS	.. Ken Collins
	Robin Harcourt
	Larry Saunders
	Simon Fox
FORTINBRAS, Prince of Norway	.. Larry Saunders
OSRIC, a courtier	.. Ian Beckett
TWO CLOWNS, as grave-diggers	.. Robin Harcourt
	Stuart Everitt
A PRIEST	.. John Banks
LADIES-IN-WAITING, SOLDIERS	.. Christine Scriven
	Sandra Child
	Paul Harcourt
	Robert Harcourt

The action takes place in and around the palace  
at Elsinore

The play produced by Jack Mitchley  
Setting devised and built by Roger Williamson and Robin  
Harcourt from a concept by Paul Regeli; painted by  
George Maskell; stagemanagement by Henrietta Branwell;

lighting by Christopher Driver; costumes by Laws;  
music arranged and played by Alison Cameron; duel  
arranged by Robin Harcourt. Special thanks to John  
Banks, Geoffrey Leeds and Jill Williams for their  
contributions back-stage.

The play will be given in two parts with one  
interval, during which refreshments will be served

THE PLAY AND THE PRODUCTION The play exists in three  
different printed versions which appeared in 1603,  
1604 and 1623; all three versions differ in length,  
quality of the text etc. and it will be seen that  
editing for performance presents considerable problems.  
The present acting version used for this production  
adheres closely to the 1623 text, with some cuts to  
reduce the playing time to approximately three hours.  
In spite of having been subjected to hundreds of  
different producers and actors, HAMLET survives as a  
great play but which cannot be fully appreciated with-  
out some knowledge of the conventions by which the  
theatre of its day operated. The present production  
does not attempt to re-create an Elizabethan playhouse  
but does provide an unlocalised acting area, jutting  
into the auditorium, which does allow the actors  
scope for direct and easy audience address and ensures  
a rapid flow of scene on scene - a technique closely  
resembling the rhythmic cutting in film and T.V.

Moot House Players last gave HAMLET in 1959 as their  
third Shakespearean production; since that date they  
have given 18 others so that this current show is  
their 22nd.

FUTURE PROGRAMME HAMLET is the last production of  
the 1986/7 season but plans for 87/88 are already  
under consideration. The first major production in  
Moot Hall will be the completion of the Ayckbourn  
Norman Conquest Trilogy - ROUND AND ROUND THE GARDEN  
in early November and a revival of Fry's THE LADY'S  
NOT FOR BURNING is scheduled for March 1988. Other  
plans include original one act plays by Donald Burton  
and a new edition of music hall.