

TUBS-PLAYERS PRESENT

THE REAL INSPECTOR HAMLET

AN ENTERTAINING EVENING OUT WITH
SHAKESPEARE AND STOPPARD



WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE & TOM STOPPARD: HAMLET
TOM STOPPARD: THE REAL INSPECTOR HOUND

ON TUESDAY, 23RD
WEDNESDAY, 24TH
THURSDAY, 25TH JUNE

AT 19.30 IN THE BRUNSVIGA,
KARLSTRASSE 35

tickets 8,-€ / pupils & students 5,-€
in the Mensa and at the door.

bookings:
c.perkins@tu-bs.de

THE REAL INSPECTOR HAMLET

HAMLET-TT..T.T:

WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE'S *HAMLET*(-ABDRIDGED)

&

TOM STOPPARD'S *15-MINUTE HAMLET*

Intermission

TOM STOPPARD: *THE REAL INSPECTOR HOUND*

After our production of Oscar Wilde and his *An Ideal Husband* in 2008, we now introduce an evening of Tom Stoppard and his interpretations of William Shakespeare's *Hamlet* as well as Agatha Christie's *The Mousetrap*. We are putting on a double bill, or almost a treble bill: first, an abridged version of Shakespeare's (originally 4 hour) revenge tragedy, followed by a short fun version of

Stoppard's *The 15-Minute Hamlet*.

After the break, we will entertain you with

Stoppard's *The Real Inspector Hound*.

Our abridged version of *Hamlet*, although considerably shortened, (hopefully) stays true to Shakespeare's plot and ideas. Stoppard's *The 15-Minute Hamlet* was first produced in 1976 and was performed as the play within the play in his *Dogg's Hamlet*. Despite its obvious brevity, it still manages to present the essential aspects of Shakespeare's play: the decline of Hamlet into madness, the madness and death of Ophelia, his revenge and killing of King Claudius, and

finally his own death - it has many of the quotable and famous lines: a masterpiece of parody and speed.

We have created a triple feature of *Hamlet* which is to present the topic in three different ways ranging from Shakespeare to Stoppard, from long to short, and from "dirge" to "mirth"; in other words: we will start a journey that takes you from the Renaissance to our Postmodern times and from tragedy to comedy... all in all, our evening out with Shakespeare and Stoppard... with lots of laughter and also beautiful serious moments.

The Real Inspector Hound is a play written originally in 1961, but not performed until 1968 in London. It is an absurd parody of the type of murder mystery in the style of Agatha Christie's *The Mousetrap*. It also makes fun of the critics that watch such plays. The play begins with two theatre critics, Moon and Birdboot, who are watching a country house murder mystery and who by chance get inextricably drawn into the action of the play. This play within a play has many twists and turns until the final unexpected conclusion.

Tom Stoppard, born in 1937, has written many plays over the years and is considered as one of the most witty and intellectual dramatists of the past few decades. Other well-known plays include *Rosencrantz and Guildenstern are Dead*, *Travesties*, *The Real Thing* and *Arcadia*. Stoppard has said that he writes plays "because dialogue is the most respectable way of contradicting" himself and that "the dislocation of the audience's assumptions" is a major part of his purpose.

William Shakespeare: *HAMLET*

Written: 1601

Setting: The royal court of Denmark

What happens: The ghost of Hamlet's father appears and tells Hamlet that he was murdered by his brother, CLAUDIUS (Hamlet's uncle). SHOCK!

CLAUDIUS has nicked the throne and married Hamlet's MOTHER. (NOW that was a busy day.) HAMLET is understandably a bit put out and vows revenge. After that, well, things get a bit messy...

HAMLET accidentally stabs his girlfriend Ophelia's father (POLONIUS) through a curtain. (Oops.) OPHELIA goes bonkers and drowns herself. (Gulp.) CLAUDIUS gives LAERTES (Ophelia`s brother) a poisoned sword to use on HAMLET in a duel but their swords get mixed up and Laertes dies instead. (Double oops.)

At the same time CLAUDIUS also gives LAERTES a cup of poison for Hamlet to drink in case the sword doesn't work. But don't worry; LAERTES doesn't drink the poison by accident. Oh no. Hamlet's MOM, the QUEEN, drinks the poison by accident instead. (Double gulp.)

A wounded HAMLET finally manages to get his revenge (that's what this was all about, remember?) and kills the evil, throne-stealing CLAUDIUS. HAMLET is then proclaimed king, makes full recovery and

lives happily ever after. Well no, actually he doesn't. He dies from his wounds as well. (This is a tragedy, remember?)

BEST PART: HAMLET is probably the best part in the whole of SHAKESPEARE! (Certainly the longest- HAMLET has over 1,500 lines to learn for the four-hour play!) HAMLET is the most complex of all Shakespeare's characters and playing him is usually considered the very peak of any actor's career. He delivers several key soliloquies in which he ponders the meaning of life. And that's his trouble, really. He thinks too much and acts too little.

Throughout the play he puts off and delays taking his revenge. HAMLET was once billed as 'the story of a man who cannot make up his mind'.

BASED ON: An ancient story by SAXO GRAMMATICUS (that's his name by the way, not how he wrote) telling the history of Denmark. [amongst others] ...

WHAT A PERFORMANCE: Hamlet has all the ingredients of a classic revenge tragedy: a ghost, people going insane, lovers breaking up, a sword fight, poison and murder, lots of murder. No wonder it was an immediate hit, especially with our old friend Richard Burbage, playing the title role and (it was said) Will himself playing the spooky spectre of Hamlet's father.

[1] Source: Andrew Donkin, *DEAD FAMOUS: William Shakespeare and his Dramatic Acts*, illustrated by Clive Goddard, Scholastic Children's Books (London: Scholastic, 2004) 164-167.

The TUBS-Players

The TUBS-Players are the student theatre group of the English Seminar of the TU Braunschweig. We have been performing plays in English for many years, including many of the "classics" like Oscar Wilde's Importance of Being Earnest or Shakespeare's Merchant of Venice. Not all of us are students of English: we also have members from other departments. Anyone who is interested in joining the group should contact m.marcsek@tu-bs.de or c.perkins@tu-bs.de.

Cast

HAMLET-TT.. T. T:

Hamlet: Andreas L. Fuchs

Horatio: Jill Bahadir

Hamlet, the Father: Melvin Haack

Claudius / Ophelia: Dennis Tappert

Gertrude / Polonius: Christiane Roßmann

Ophelia / Claudius: Judith Hahn

Polonius / Lady in Waiting: Chris Perkins

Laertes / Gertrude: Eric Wünschmann

Marcellus / Court Lady: Marie Brammer

Bernardo / Court Lady: Caroline Baule

Francisco / Court Lady: Janina Lawrence

Court Lady / Laertes: Franziska Soost

Gravedigger / Osric: Melvin Haack

Players: Caroline Baule, Franziska Soost, Eric Wünschmann, Melvin Haack

Director: Maria Marcsek-Fuchs

Assistant Directors: Jill Bahadir, Melvin Haack & TUBS-Players

Music (Arrangement): Andreas L. Fuchs

(inter alia: theme and variations based on Sergej Prokofiev's Romeo and Juliet [2] & John Cranko's choreography)

Choreography: Maria Marcsek-Fuchs

Sounds: Melvin Haack

Lights: Stefan Krupop

[2] Source: CD: Sergei Prokofiev, Romeo and Juliet, The Royal Opera House Orchestra Covent Garden, Mark Ermler (cond.), London 1994.

The Real Inspector Hound

Moon: Marie Brammer

Birdboot: Dennis Tappert

Mrs Drudge: Janina Lawrence

Simon Gascoyne: Eric Wünschmann

Felicity Cunningham: Caroline Baule

Cynthia Muldoon: Franziska Soost

Major Magnus Muldoon: Melvin Haack

Inspector Hound: Jill Bahadır

Higgs: Jack Mikkolson

Director: Chris Perkins

Assistant Directors:

TUBS-Players

Sounds: Melvin Haack

Lights: Stefan Krupop

Poster: Jonas Pfeiffer

Hairstylist: Franziska Soost

Set Artists: Marie Brammer, Christiane Roßmann

Photography: Moritz Rennecke

Our special thanks to:

Staatstheater Braunschweig,

Kulturzentrum Brunsviga

MoNo-Pics / Moritz Rennecke



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