

A Huddle of Hamlets

Presented by Harbourfront Centre



To our esteemed Hamlets,

What a piece of work is man! How noble in reason! how infinite in faculties! in form and moving, how express and admirable! in action how like an angel! in apprehension, how like a god! the beauty of the world! the paragon of animals! And yet, to me, what is this quintessence of dust?

Hamlet, Act II, scene ii

It's truly incredible how one script, Shakespeare's Hamlet, has continued to be one of the most celebrated, adapted, and influential works of English literature in the world. With the script being created over 400 years ago now, it is truly a testament to the power of the work and Shakespeare's genius that we continue to perform this piece; from traditional adaptations with exquisite detail given historical faithfulness, to raw and cutting edge productions that push the boundaries of theatrical tone and vision.

The role of Hamlet, as all that have experience the script, theatre productions, and film adaptations of the work know, has remained one of the most iconic and quoted characters of our time. From the actor's perspective, being cast as Hamlet remains one of the great honors and challenges in any thespians career. Yet, each actor's relationship with the character, and their subsequent performances with their productions, are often as unique and diverse as the actors themselves portraying Hamlet. Now, you should know ...

The Performing Arts Department at Harbourfront Centre, on occasion of the World Premiere of the acclaimed Toronto theatre company Necessary Angel's new production of *Hamlet*, would like to invite you to share your passion and insight for Hamlet with a Toronto audience. It will be intimate, it will be fun, it will be engaging, and with *your* support, it will be a wonderful success. Let's boast of The Bard and have a huddle about Hamlet! We hope that your experiences of performing Hamlet with can be shared with us this evening.

We are inviting actors that have performed as Hamlet from across the performance spectrum (Stage, Film, and Television) to join us in Toronto, Canada for a conversation and celebration of all things Hamlet. It will be held in the warm and relaxed environment of the Watermark Irish Pub (located right across from the Enwave Theatre) where our audiences can share in your stories regarding the choices and experiences you had on your particular production, and in playing this hallmark role.

The Necessary Angel's production of Hamlet (running November 19th – 29th, 2009) is another opportunity for audiences to experience a new perspective on the work, and with your participation, we can help audiences foster a new and/or deeper insight on the play, the character, the cultural significance of the Hamlet phenomenon, and even become more engaged in culture as a whole.

The event will be held on the evening of **Friday November 27th, 2009**. If you have any questions regarding the event, or the World Stage season, please contact:

Tina Rasmussen
Director - Performing Arts
Harbourfront Centre

Phone: (416) 973-4233
trasmussen@harbourfrontcentre.com

If you wish to RSVP for a Huddle of Hamlets, please email Bradley Kulay, Performing Arts Associate, at bkulay@harbourfrontcentre.com

About Necessary Angel's Hamlet

"A world-class company grounded in respect for word and actor alike." - Montreal Gazette

Toronto's Necessary Angel partners with one of the UK's most provocative theatre makers, director and designer Graham McLaren (Medea, Theatre Babel), to investigate a rigorously pared down Hamlet, combining the aesthetic of European theatre with the poetry of the British stage. A unique, immediate and violent 110-minute live theatre experiment seething with amorality where nothing is set and every performance is different. Quite simply, this will be a radical re-visioning of one of the world's greatest plays.

Performances run from November 19th, 2009 through to November 29th, 2009 at Harbourfront Centre's Enwave Theatre.

About Harbourfront Centre



Harbourfront Centre, located in Toronto, Canada, is an innovative non-profit cultural organization, which creates events and activities of excellence that enliven, educate and entertain a diverse public. The largest cultural centre of its kind in Canada, Harbourfront Centre occupies a 10-acre waterfront site that regularly sees over 12 million visitors a year.

The World Stage series at Harbourfront Centre presents unrivalled works of international and national theatre, dance, music and multidisciplinary performance from the globe's leading artists. These are the productions that challenge, enlighten and push boundaries from creators who defy expectations and redefine contemporary performance.

For more information on Harbourfront Centre's World Stage, please visit:
www.harbourfrontcentre.com/worldstage0910