



AUDITION NOTICE

Hamlet

By William Shakespeare

Audition: Sunday 5th February 2012 7.30pm
Free Church Hall, Northway, NW11

Performances: 6 – 14 July 2012
Little Oak Wood Open Air Theatre

Something is rotten in the state of Denmark....

Lawrence Olivier described Hamlet as ‘a play about a man who cannot make up his mind’. But it is also about the terrible consequences of that indecision. It is about human frailty and fragility, but also the lure of power, greed, loyalty and lust that can grip us all. Shakespeare’s genius is his ability to explore the extremes of human emotion and the futility of attempting to master them.

Old Hamlet is dead, slain against Nature’s will by Claudius in pursuit of title and power. It is left to Hamlet, Prince of Denmark, to avenge his father’s ‘most unnatural murder’. Nature sends many catalysts for encouragement – a ghost of the dead king, a band of players to incriminate his killer and the drowning of Ophelia, whom Hamlet claims to love. None prompt him to action. As Hamlet’s mind goes to sea and to seed, so does everything and everyone rot around him, with catastrophic consequences.

Characters

Hamlet, Prince of Denmark, son of the late king	Male (20-40)
Horatio, his friend	Male (20-40)
Claudius, King of Denmark	Male (40-70)
Gertrude, Queen of Denmark, Hamlet’s mother	Female (30-60)
Polonius, the Lord Chamberlain	Male (40-70)
Laertes, his son	Male (20-40)
Ophelia, his daughter	Female (20-35)
Rosencrantz, a courtier	M/F (30-50)
Guildenstern, a courtier	M/F (30-50)
Ghost/Player King/Pirate King/First Gravedigger	Male (40-60)
Ghosts/Player/Pirates/Pallbearers 5 M/F (mixed ages)	
Francisco/Osric	M/F (40-60)
Marcellus/Attendant/Priest	M/F (20-50)
Bernardo/Messenger	M/F (20-50)

Audition pieces available (from 22 Jan) on the website or from mary@muskernet.com

Please try to read the whole play before auditioning.

Please note that, though you do not have to join the GST to audition, all actors in a GST show are required to be members.