

VIEWER'S GUIDE

The Story



Prince Hamlet returns home for his father's funeral, but finds there his mother Gertrude marrying his father's brother, Claudius. The old king's Ghost reveals to Hamlet grim details of murder—by his own brother, now king—and commands his son's revenge.



Hamlet withdraws from everyone, including Ophelia, whom he has loved. Polonius, her father, suspects Hamlet is just lovesick, but Claudius suspects otherwise...



Hamlet wrestles with the Ghost's revelation. He tests the story by staging a re-enactment before the court. Claudius's guilty reaction is proof, and Hamlet confronts his mother with the truth. Thinking the king spies on them, Hamlet lunges at the hidden figure, killing Polonius instead. Claudius ships Hamlet to England and his death.



Hamlet escapes. Returning home, he discovers Ophelia dead and her brother Laertes, desperate for revenge. Claudius and Laertes together plot Hamlet's death in a fencing match, rigged with poisoned drink and blade.

**This Is I,
SLAMlet, the Dan^ce.**

Act V, sc. 1

Part of SLAM tradition, the dance summarizes Shakespeare's story—just a bit irreverently! Choreographed by SLAM 2020 Creative Leads Cage Sebastian Pierre and Aurora Real de Asua, you'll see the story of "Hamlet," told through a few funky dance moves. As an encore tonight, our SLAM community takes the stage for the dance. Here are the lyrics—join in!

DAD JUST DIED, I'M SO DEPRESSED.
NEW KING, OLD QUEEN: IT'S A MESS.
THAT'S A GHOST. WAIT, THAT'S MY DAD!
UNCLE POISONED HIM. I'MMA PLAY MAD.
OPHELIA THINKS THAT I'M INSANE.
CATCH MY UNCLE WITH A PLAY.
TALK TO MOM. KILL THE WRONG GUY.
JUST FOUND OUT OPHELIA DIED.
BROTHER WANTS TO DUEL, I SAY THAT'S COOL.
POISON ME, POISON YOU, TOO.
MOM TAKES A DRINK, THEN SHE DIES FAST.
BEFORE I GO, CLAUDIUS I'LL STAB.
HORATIO, I'M COUNTING ON YOU.
TELL OUR STORY AND TELL IT TRUE.

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Tips for watching ⚡

Typically, schools were assigned scenes with a different number of characters than team members—sometimes fewer, sometimes more. You'll find two common ways students approached this challenge...

- with multiple performers playing the same character
- with one performer playing multiple characters

The slate introducing a scene tells you when...

- color-coding will indicate characters →
- multiple performers share one role: for example, "(x 3)" means three actors play one character



WHO'S WHO

Throughout "Hamlet," you'll see the same character played by many different students, so a number of teams "COLOR CODED" these major characters:

HAMLET

Prince of Denmark, son to the late King Hamlet

GERTRUDE

Queen of Denmark, Hamlet's mother

CLAUDIUS

new King of Denmark, Hamlet's uncle

POLONIUS

advisor to King Claudius, father to Ophelia and Laertes

OPHELIA

daughter to Polonius, Hamlet's love interest

LAERTES

son to Polonius, brother to Ophelia

HORATIO

Hamlet's friend from university

ROSENCRANTZ & GUILDENSTERN

Hamlet's friends from school days, spies for the King and Queen

THE 2020 SLAM TEAMS

Addison Trail High School, Addison	Kenwood Academy High School, Chicago	Plainfield East High School, Plainfield
Alcott College Prep, Chicago	Lincoln Park High School, Chicago	Prosser Career Academy, Chicago
Beacon Academy, Evanston	Lindblom Math and Science Academy, Chicago	Proviso West High School, Hillside
Benet Academy, Lisle	Little Village Lawndale High School, Chicago	Rickover Naval Academy, Chicago
Benito Juarez Community Academy, Chicago	Marengo Community High School, Marengo	Ridgewood High School, Norridge
Bishop Noll Institute, Hammond	Morgan Park Academy, Chicago	Round Lake High School, Round Lake
Chicago High School for the Arts, Chicago	Mundelein High School, Mundelein	Senn Arts High School, Chicago
Crystal Lake South High School, Crystal Lake	New Trier High School, Winnetka	Simeon Career Academy, Chicago
Elk Grove High School, Elk Grove Village	Niles North High School, Skokie	South Shore International College Preparatory High School, Chicago
Francis W. Parker School, Chicago	Northside College Preparatory High School, Chicago	Sullivan House High School, Chicago
Homewood-Flossmoor High School, Flossmoor	Oak Park and River Forest High School, Oak Park	University of Chicago Laboratory School, Chicago
Huntley High School, Huntley	O-School, Chicago	Warren Township High School, Gurnee
John F. Kennedy High School, Chicago		William Howard Taft High School, Chicago

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