

HAMLET-911

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By **Ann-Marie MacDonald**

Based on an idea developed by

Alisa Palmer, Vita Brevis Arts

Directed by **Alisa Palmer**

GRADE RECOMMENDATION 9+

CONTENT ADVISORY

This play explores mature themes including suicide and assault. It contains sexual innuendo.

SYNOPSIS

Actor Guinness Menzies has landed his dream role: he's playing Hamlet at the Stratford Festival. But just before a matinee performance, he suddenly finds himself in the Underworld, a strange realm as frightening as it is hilarious, where time is seriously out of joint. Has he gone mad? Is he dreaming? Has he died...? Meanwhile, teenager Jeremy reaches out to Guinness online as he wrestles with his own version of Hamlet's famous life-or-death dilemma.

CURRICULUM CONNECTIONS

- Global Competencies
 - ◆ Collaboration, Communication, Critical Thinking, Creativity, Learning to Learn/Self-Awareness
- Grades 9-12
 - ◆ The Arts
 - ◆ English
 - ◆ Health and Physical Education
- Grades 11-12
 - ◆ Social Sciences and Humanities



From left –Andrew Iles, Mike Shara, Gordon Patrick White. Photography by David Hou

THEMES

- Action, Inaction and Responsibility
- Circles and Cycles
- Disorder, Uncertainty and Chaos
- Existence, Death and the Afterlife
- The Internet World, the Underworld and Vulnerability
- Isolation and Support
- Legacy
- Patriarchy, Privilege and Gender Inequity
- The Power of Theatre
- Wise Fools and Tricksters

DISCUSSION AND REFLECTION QUESTIONS

- What responsibility do adults have in terms of supporting young people's mental health and wellness? What did you think of the way the adults behaved in the play?
- In what ways can art make us feel less alone?
- Why do you think this play is centred around a performance of *Hamlet*? Can you imagine it having been focused on a different play? Why or why not?
- Which character did you connect with most in the play? Why do you think this is the case?

STUDY GUIDES

Study Guides for all 2022 productions are available free of charge online on our website:

>> [Link to Study Guides](#)

BOOKING INFORMATION: TICKETS, WORKSHOPS, CHATS AND TOURS

STUDENT MATINEES

You may book any available date, but selected student matinee performances for this show are at 2 p.m. on the following dates:

- Friday, September 2nd
- Tuesday, September 20th
- Thursday, September 22nd
- Tuesday, September 27th

WORKSHOPS, CHATS AND TOURS

Pre or Post-Show Workshops, Chats and Tours (virtual, onsite or at your school/centre) can be booked by calling the Box Office at 1.800.567.1600.

SOCIAL MEDIA



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TOOLS FOR TEACHERS SPONSORED BY



Tools for Teachers includes Prologues, Study Guides, and Stratford Shorts.

Production support for *Hamlet-911* is generously provided by the Harkins & Manning families in memory of Jim & Susan Harkins. Support for the creation of *Hamlet-911* is generously provided by The Foerster Bernstein New Play Development Program
