

ACORN PRODUCTIONS HAMLET INFO

Acorn Productions' version of Hamlet runs approximately 90 minutes and is designed for high school audiences. There is an optional question and answer session after the show with the actors that can last anywhere from 10 minutes to 1/2 hour depending on the school's schedule. The production is performed by 5 actors and a live musician. A program for your students will be provided in advance – we find it is very helpful to go over the plot of the play shortly before attending the production.

We ask that as many teachers as possible attend the show with the students. Teacher attendance accomplishes a number of goals: it sends a message to the students about the importance of this event, teachers can help keep students orderly during the performance, and teachers who have watched the production will be able to lead more effective post-performance discussions in the classrooms.

Acorn's adaptation follows the major plot developments of the play while tightening many of the scenes. As many modern productions of Hamlet do, we have eliminated the entire Fortinbras sub-plot to focus more on Hamlet's inability to take action. Most of the major speeches are included, though we did have to edit in order to allow the production to be accessible to high school students.

The Acorn Shakespeare Ensemble's ascetic is to present the text in a manner that places the imagination front and center. We follow certain theatrical conventions to increase understanding, such as the use of stage lights, but we do not seek to re-create the world on stage. Rather we wish the audience to listen to the words and rely on the power of the imagery in the language to create the environment. This staging style, with minimal scenery, no lights, and actors wearing contemporary clothes and performing in such an intimate fashion, hearkens back to the original performances at the Globe Theater, which featured a great deal of audience interaction.

All actors will be wearing a basic neutral costume with a very specific accessory to identify each character. The list of costumes will be provided in the program.

We request that no students leave the room for any reason during the performance. Please take a few minutes to explain basic theater etiquette to all students attending.

CAST OF CHARACTERS

Hamlet.....	Keith Ancil
Claudius, Polonius, Ghost.....	Paul Haley
Gertrude.....	Karen Ball
Laertes, Horatio, Rosencrantz, Player King.....	Randall Tuttle
Ophelia, Marcellus, Guildenstern, Player Queen, Gravedigger, Osric.....	Heather Scamman

More information about the Acorn Shakespeare Ensemble is available at

www.nakedshakespeare.com