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## audience reviews

### *Hamlet*, Big Idea Theatre

**Review:** This 7 person black box theatre production of Hamlet cuts you to the quick as you watch Hamlet struggle with his inner demons. The supporting actors do a great job of transitioning between one character to the next and I especially enjoyed the sword fight!

**Review:** This was my first time ever seeing Hamlet so that will give you an idea of my expertise. But I was enthralled with this production. I was able to follow along and was moved with the performances. Great job!

**Review:** I give this production 2 thumbs up! (Pardon the cliché) This was a very interesting version of the Bard's most famous play. I found the acting to be exceptional, and the fight scenes very believable! It would do you well to familiarize yourself with the plot, to make it easier to follow. All of the actors do at least 2, or more roles...so it helps (quite a bit) to know what's going on, before you see this show. All of the actors are well cast, and take their characters on very well. This production is for a more mature audience...as it contains some sexual tension, along with a healthy dose of good old fashioned violence. I would highly recommend this show to anyone who loves live theatre at it's best!!!  
- Craig Y

**Review:** This is a very clever interpretation of Hamlet! The lead, is played very well by Scott Divine, a brooding, revengeful son of a King, who is contemplating suicide-which turns into homicide! Shannon Mahoney does an outstanding job of transitioning from Gertrude(the Queen)...to Ophelia(Hamlet's love interest)-and brings a variety of emotions along with her. The villain of the play is King Claudius-a role that is expertly executed by veteran stage actor, Jan Lindman(Who also plays the Ghost of Hamlet's father)-and James E. Roberts does an amazing job as the very talkative Polonius. What I really loved was how the other actors played multiple roles, and kept the energy going throughout the production. Melissa Rae Frago, and brother and sister duo, Kirk and Melissa Blackinton-are an incredible addition to this very strong cast! This is definitely a show you won't want to miss!  
- Sarah Weisman

**Review:** I loved this play! The props were minimal taking nothing away from the acting and the passion for Shakespeare was truly transparent in each of the actors. Scott Divine was quirky and dramatic; perfectly

Hamlet! The actors with dual roles played each seamlessly and I found myself drawn to each character. I will recommend this play to all my friends with great enthusiasm!

**Review:** Please check this one out before it's gone. Me and my partner, David, went to see this together on our regular Saturday date night and we really had a wonderful time. Everyone was quite good with extra points going to Jan Lindman's King Claudius/King's Ghost and Shannon Mahoney as Ophelia/Queen Gertrude. Lindman played the newly appointed king with charismatic charm and wickedness without judgement. Mahoney's ability to go from regal to nut-bag in 1.3 seconds was extremely entertaining to watch. In a modest venue with minimal bells and whistles, this play truly is about the performances and there are some true gems in this one. Here's a quick top-5 of what I enjoyed most about the play.

1. Scott Divine's shirtless torso
2. Sword fight- Very well done
3. Jan Lindman's pipes. He'll startle you if you're not prepared!
4. The creepy music they played every time the king's ghost showed up.
5. I can't stress how wonderfully crazy Shannon Mahoney gets as Ophelia near the end of the play. Just check out her eyes!

Enjoy!

- David's Man

**Review:** This Hamlet is not your mother's Hamlet. A very thoughtful and thought provoking production with some Oedipal overtones. Well worth the time to see this show. As concise a Hamlet as there has ever been. The small cast was able to transition from role to role with seemingly no effort. Go see this show while you can. You won't be sorry.

- J

**Review:** I saw this play Sturday March 7th and I was ver impressed. The Big Idea Theater is a very intimate venue and in this case the audience is rewarded greatly by being in such close proximity to the actors. It is a play that you are not watching, but experiencing. The events are not happening in front of you, they are happening to you. The actory who plays Hamlet captures his madness very well and it is a harrowing experience watching him bring the character to life. Likewise, Ophelia and Gertrude are portrayed painstakingly as well, as is Polonius. Instead of listing them all, perhaps it is better to just say that the entire cast delivers very strong performances. My personal favorite was King Claudius. The scheming, the duplicity, and the arrogance are shown in this production with such subtle skill I was questioning whether the actor himself was a scoundrel. In summation, I would highly recommend this play for a number of reasons. The theater is a perfect venue and the acting is done at a very high level. I hope you enjoy it as much as I did!

**Review:** I really enjoyed this streamlined version of Hamlet. Noteworthy performances included Ophelia/Gertrude and Polonius. I also liked the music/heartbeat we heard every time the ghost of Hamlet's father appeared - very effective. Highly recommended

**Review:** Even though I wasn't that familiar with Hamlet, I realized how many things we say every day come from this play. The actors were first rate in this production. The guy playing Hamlet was very good in

the role, and I found him to be very real and even a little dangerous. I have an extra special appreciation of the actress playing Gertrude and Ophelia! It took me a little bit, but I soon realized that she was playing 2 characters, and playing them both very well. (It's a little confusing at first) She transitioned between the characters very nicely, and brought a lot of emotion into each scene she was in. The actor playing the king was very good! He was very charming, and it took awhile for me to realize that he really was NOT the nice guy he seemed to be! I LOVED the scene with the gravediggers! They were so funny! The swordplay was very realistic, and every actor transitioned from role to role seamlessly. This is a great opportunity to experience Shakespeare at it's finest! I would recommend this to anyone (over 16)!!

- Don

**Review:** My husband and I enjoyed our date night at Big Idea Theatre. I was afraid going to see a tragedy would be a downer...au contraire! We loved this production of Hamlet! Scott Divine was a great Hamlet--sullen, strong, confused, just a great performance. His opening pose, standing against the wall, set the stage so well...he was both distressed and annoyed by his uncle and mother's marriage and the death of his father. We were particularly impressed with Shannon Mahoney's transformations on stage between Gertrude and Ophelia. Wow, how does she do that with just a cape and a tiara? Jan Lindman as Claudius; when exposed for the murder of his brother, his rage takes over the stage. He also offers a passionate confession scene that makes you almost want to forgive him for murder. And the creative special effects used to turn Jan into the Ghost made for very effective "creepiness". The rest of the cast were fantastic playing anywhere from two to five characters each. I thought it would be confusing, but they were successful at convincing me they were different people. I enjoyed Scott Divine's Hamlet and would definitely recommend it.

**Review:** My wife, 86 year old mother (who would normally be in bed before the beginning of the 2nd act) and I attended the 3/13 performance of Hamlet and were very entertained by an excellent and thoughtful production. As a High School teacher I thought of how instructive it would be to have Lit class attend such a performance. Especially compelling were the performances of Ophelia in her descent into madness, Claudius' scheming opportunism, and Hamlet's vacillation between a decisive man of action and a fatherless son consumed by insecurities and self doubt. The question of whether Hamlet's strange behavior was part of a cunning plan or the product of his tortured mind and spirit was always present. It was a thoroughly enjoyable evening.

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