

Review of Hamlet by Charlotte Araya Moreland

Shakespeare's Globe at Trafalgar House

Salisbury International Arts Festival

Possibly one of Shakespeare's most famous and well-known plays, Hamlet tells the tragic story of Hamlet, Prince of Denmark. Upon hearing of his father's untimely death, Hamlet returns to find his mother newly wed to his own uncle, the dead king's brother. Conveniently though, Hamlet finds his friends have had strange sightings of the dead King. Hamlet seeks him out, and promises to avenge his father's murder at his uncle's hand. Hamlet promptly adopts a mood of madness, sending the play into the classic whirlwind of woe.

Performed outside by the Globe Theatre as part of their tour, this performance of the Shakespeare masterpiece was a masterpiece indeed. With the help of a beautiful Elizabethan style stage and a sparse amount of simple props, this production gave off all the expected Shakespearean, rustic and thoroughly English vibes, aided much by the rain!

The actors were evidently enjoying themselves as much as the audience as they leapt about the stage with much enthusiasm. They regularly entertained the crowd with their fiddle and flute music, all of which livened up the rather depressing play.

Mentionable performances came from Jade Anouka, who played Ophelia. Her moving portrayal of Hamlet's confused sweetheart was powerful and flawless, particularly during her last scenes of madness before she drowned.

Monstrously passionate, I was most impressed with this play, and it most certainly lived up to my expectations. Suitable for all ages, I would most certainly recommend this to anyone.

The Globe continue their tour of Hamlet the Georgian Theatre Royal, Richmond, 4 June.