

Set in the grounds of Trafalgar Park, Hamlet told a tale of tragedy with snippets of dry humour and wit. As the sky was overcast the audience members were wrapping in coats and blankets which really set the scene for a chilling evening in Denmark. The touring Globe Theatre Company of just eight actors filled the stage with an opening of folk music, many of the actors also doubling up as musicians, which gave a travelling theatre ambiance.

The set was simple, but depicted perfectly the Elizabethan era. The costumes were plain, but certainly enhanced the performance as when Hamlet deteriorated into his manic stupor his beginning costume of prim blazer, trousers and boots, vanished leaving him vulnerable in leggings with suspenders over a vest and barefoot running around the stage. However, Joshua McGuire's portrayal of Hamlet did lack some depth; although he did add a lively, young and spontaneous aspect to the performance, the manic, breathy grins throughout the performance detracted from the sincerity of the production - although Simon Armstrong gives a convincing performance of an unnerving ghost and a guilt-ridden Claudius.

But what really made the play incredible, was when it started to rain. It had been threatening to rain for the whole two and a half hours, but it chose to descend in the fight scene between Hamlet and Laertes. With the complex sword choreography they were performing, the pouring rain added that element of danger and suspense.

If you like Shakespeare and classical productions, you will love this take on Hamlet, which can keep you entertained and enthralled throughout the performance.