

# Salisbury International Arts Festival

## Shakespeare's Globe - Hamlet

By Zara Gillick

The performance of 'Hamlet' by the touring company from the Globe theatre surprised me at how dynamic and lively a Shakespeare play could be.

The play was performed outside on a small, Elizabethan-style stage against the backdrop of Trafalgar Park, which was perfect for a production like this as it was atmospheric. We settled down on our camping chairs along with the others who were sat enjoying picnics and chatting quietly, waiting for it to start.

Hamlet is a story of revenge and intrigue. After the death of his father, the king, Hamlet finds out that his uncle and his mother have taken the Danish throne. The ghost of his father demands that he avenge his 'foul and most unnatural death'.

The company consisted of eight actors, most of which played multiple parts. I thought that it would make it harder to understand, however it wasn't because they changed between the characters well. The actors also played all the music live, which added to the experience.

It's fair to say that it was different to what I expected. I didn't understand the whole of it; however, it was good to see Shakespeare in the traditional way and in context, as many young people only read the texts in the classroom at school.

This production is touring all over Europe until August, so be sure to check it out!