



TV Preview

Hamlet

Hamlet

Director: Gregory Doran

©: Illuminations, Royal Shakespeare Company

The Royal Shakespeare Company in association with WNET/Thirteen, Nippon Hoso Kyokai for BBC Thirteen/WNET.org Executive Producer: David Horn

RSC Executive Producer: Denise Wood

NHK Executive Producer: Taro Teraoka

BBC Executive Producer: Bethan Jones

Producers: John Wyver, Sebastian Grant

Production Co-ordinator: Kirsty Urquhart

Production Manager: Clare Bradbury

Post-production Coordinator: Yoni Smith

Production Runners: Kate Andrews, Suzy Brierley, Rachael Hewer

Production Development: Lucy Conrad

1st Assistant Director: Toni Staples

2nd Assistant Director: Jennie Fava

3rd Assistant Director: Ben Rogers

Script Supervisor: Jayne Spooner

Casting: Sam Jones

[Based on the play] by:

William Shakespeare

Director of Photography: Chris Seager

1st Assistant Camera: John Evans

2nd Assistant Camera: Chris Williams, Ossian Bacon

Grip: Colin Strachan

Gaffer: Brian Beaumont

Rigger: John Cooling

Electricians: Chris Griffith, Mark Thornton, Damo Smyth

Digital Imaging Technician: Nye Jones

Editor: Tony Cranstoun

On-line Editor: Adam Eddy

Assistant Editor: Laura Kettle

Art Directors: Rebecca Chippendale, James Hendy

Set Designer: Robert Jones

Set Decorators: Verity Sadler, Paul Roe

Set Dresser: Joe Lucas

Properties Master: Craig Almond

Construction Manager: Callum Andrews

Costume Designer: Robert Jones

Costume Supervisor: Andrew Joslin

Dressers: Manuela Harding, Sam Evans

Make-up: Deanne Turner

Make-up Artist: Issy Webbley

Make-up Assistant: Lucy Thompson

Colourist: Jet Omoshebi

Composer: Paul Englishby

Movement Director: Michael Ashcroft

Sound Recording: Clive Derbyshire

Sound Maintenance: Peter Margrave

Dubbing Mixer: Andrew Stirk

Sound Editor: Paul Davies

Fight Director: Terry King

Cast:

David Tennant (*Hamlet*)

Patrick Stewart (*Claudius/the ghost*)

Penny Downie (*Gertrude*)

Oliver Ford Davies (*Polonius*)

Mariah Gale (*Ophelia*)

Edward Bennett (*Laertes*)

Peter De Jersey (*Horatio*)

Sam Alexander

(*Rosencrantz/second gravedigger*)

Tom Davey (*Guildestern*)

Mark Hadfield (*gravedigger*)

John Woodvine (*player king*)

Ryan Gage (*Osric/player queen*)

Samuel Dutton (*dumbshow king*)

We are delighted to welcome to BFI Southbank director Gregory Doran and actor Patrick Stewart, who will take part in a Q&A hosted by Mark Lawson, following tonight's preview.

The Royal Shakespeare Company's award-winning production of *Hamlet*, directed by RSC Chief Associate Director Gregory Doran, and with David Tennant in the title role, will premiere on BBC Two on Boxing Day. Produced by Illuminations, the screen version of Shakespeare's great tragedy retains the quality and tone of the critically-acclaimed stage production but filming took place on location. All key original members of the cast, including Patrick Stewart as Claudius, star in this special 182-minute production, alongside the same creative team.

Janice Hadlow, Controller, BBC Two, says: 'This is a wonderful opportunity for BBC Two to bring one of the great stage successes of last year to a wider audience.' RSC Artistic Director Michael Boyd said: 'We are very pleased that this RSC production will be seen by so many people when broadcast. As the show was sold out for its entire run, this is a really great opportunity for our work to be seen by so many who could not come to the theatre and see it on stage.'

The original stage production of *Hamlet* played in repertoire at The Courtyard Theatre in Stratford-upon-Avon from 24 July to 15 November 2008, followed by performances at the Novello Theatre, London from 3 December 2008 to 10 January 2009

BBC press release

Extracts from the production blog by Hamlet co-producer John Wyver

30 May 2009: Now it gets exciting. I was on the *Hamlet* set this morning. The shiny floor was being laid, there's a substantial lighting rig that we've brought in, and the space looks fantastic. In a nearby props room there are rapiers and chandeliers and a large mirror that's crack'd from side to side. In the costumes space there are rails and rails of frocks and uniforms and djs. Nearby we've already dug a grave five feet down into the earth. Can't wait to turn over on Tuesday.

June 1: We're shooting *Hamlet* in High Definition with a RED camera system. This is a comparatively new – but nonetheless tried and tested – system that can capture wonderfully detailed and subtle images as digital files. So from tomorrow we'll be creating pixels to be stored on computer hard discs for our editor to work with. No film, no tape – which of course is sort of scary...

June 2: By the end of the day we're congratulating ourselves that Greg and David and Patrick and the whole team have got around 8 minutes or so laid down. (Remember, we need an average of 10.) Not bad for the first day. The digital rushes will have image and sound synched together overnight and tomorrow morning editor Tony Cranstoun starts the first assemblies. That's when we'll see whether we've missed anything today and what perhaps we need to pick up at a later point.

June 9: Much of the day revolved around shooting the main master shot of the fight which we got to just before lunch. David Tennant and Ed Bennett had been rehearsing in a side room with [fight director] Terry King, where they had broken the moves down into sections, expecting that the filming

Jim Hooper (*dumbshow queen/priest*)
David Ajala
(*Reynaldo/dumbshow poisoner*)
Keith Osborn (*Marcellus*)
Ewen Cummins (*Barnardo*)
Robert Curtis (*Francisco/Fortinbras*)
Roderick Smith (*Voltemand*)
Andrea Harris (*Cornelia*)
Ricky Champ (*Lucianus*)
Riann Steele, Zoe Thorne
(*ladies in waiting*)
United Kingdom/US/Japan 2009©
182 mins

To support the new film of *Hamlet*, a rich online BBC site has been created in collaboration with the RSC. bbc.co.uk/hamlet launches in two stages, the first this week. It will feature behind-the-scenes stills and footage; specially-shot interviews with the actors talking about their characters and how they approached the play; further interviews, with the director and other key backstage personnel; and a comprehensive range of links through to the BBC Learning's content on Shakespeare and RSC Education's content on Shakespeare in performance. Plus, a Past Productions feature which is a combination of archive video clips plus an illustrated review of RSC stage productions with an audio slideshow.

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would be similarly fragmented. But when they got on set, director Greg Doran decided that we would try to run the scene, including the fight, from start to close. Which meant remembering a complex combination of feints, parries, thrusts and blocks (at least that's what they looked like, although I have no technical knowledge of this at all). In the event, both actors and everyone else rose to the challenge brilliantly, imparting an energy and danger into the clash that was genuinely thrilling.

June 17: It was all going so well. Today, however, was far from the best of days. When we arrived at the location we discovered that despite our 24-hour security there had been a break-in and elements of our camera equipment had been stolen. This was distressing and to a degree disruptive (although all the rushes are quite safe), yet by the end of the day we had still completed our scheduled scenes. And that we'd done so was an extraordinary tribute to the crew and the cast. Yet again, I was deeply impressed by their focus and commitment.

June 23: On the final call sheet we included messages of thanks to the whole unit. This is mine (forgive the hyperbolic hostage to fortune): 'What you've all achieved is incredible. If we don't screw it up in the edit, this will set a new benchmark for screen Shakespeare. Which is down to each and every one of a spectacular cast and crew (and catering van). For this, much thanks...'

www.illuminationsmedia.co.uk

Gregory Doran is Chief Associate Director of the Royal Shakespeare Company and has been an Associate Director since 1996. Gregory's most recent productions include *Love's Labour's Lost*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream* and *Hamlet*, which he has also directed for film to be broadcast on the BBC this Christmas. His current production of *Twelfth Night* transfers to London in December having opened at The Courtyard Theatre in October 2009. He has just directed *Anjin*, a new play by Mike Poulton and Sho Kawai, with an Anglo-Japanese company in Tokyo. His next production with the RSC ensemble is Mike Poulton's new version of *Morte d'Arthur* in 2010.

Born in Yorkshire, **Patrick Stewart** began his professional stage career in 1959. He first worked with the Royal Shakespeare Company in 1966, playing in numerous productions. His recent appearances, in addition to *Hamlet*, include *The Tempest* and *Antony and Cleopatra*. He originated the role of Jean-Luc Picard in the television series *Star Trek: The Next Generation* (1987-1994) and he also appeared in three of the *Star Trek* feature films as well as the *X-Men* features. He recently finished filming *Macbeth*, directed by Rupert Goold. He is the Chancellor of the University of Huddersfield and a life-long supporter of Huddersfield Town Football Club.

Mark Lawson is a journalist, broadcaster and author. He presents BBC Radio 4's arts magazine *Front Row*. He was born on 11 April 1962 and went to school at St Columba's College in St Albans and went on to University College, London where he took a degree in English. He has been a freelance contributor to numerous publications since 1984 and a *Guardian* columnist since 1995. In the mid-90s he presented *The Late Show* on BBC2 and has presented *The Late Review* since 1994. He has twice been voted TV Critic of the Year and has won numerous awards for arts journalism.