

DC Draper Conway

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Subject: HamletScenen relaunches Shakespeare Festival with stunning 'Nordic noir' Hamlet, in the grounds of the Danish prince's castle in Elsinore this August

HamletScenen, Scandinavia's leading Shakespeare theatre company, relaunches its much-loved and hugely successful annual Shakespeare Festival this summer, with a powerful 'Nordic noir' production of *Hamlet* under the stars at Kronborg Castle.

From 1st August, audiences will be welcomed to a dramatic new open-air auditorium, built across the castle's moat, and to the company's very first in-house production, directed by HamletScenen Artistic Director **Lars Romann Engel**.

Just 30 minutes from Copenhagen, the spectacular Kronborg Castle provides the perfect backdrop for Engel's dark and brooding production of Shakespeare's classic drama, in which conflicts rage between the old world and the new, and the bloody vendettas of the elder generation stand in stark opposition to the humanist principles of the young.

2017 marks the 80th anniversary of the first international production of *Hamlet* at Kronborg Castle: an Old Vic Theatre Company production starring **Laurence Olivier** as the Danish prince and **Vivien Leigh** as Ophelia.

Starring **Cyron Melville** and **Natalie Madueño**, with music by **Mike Sheridan**, this summer's production of *Hamlet* will mark a brand new chapter in the visionary history of HamletScenen, supported by the **Danish Agency for Culture and Palaces**.

Cyron Melville is an award-winning half-Scottish, half-Danish actor who first came to fame playing Oliver Schandorff in the Danish TV series *The Killing*. Natalie Madueño is a rising star who was plucked straight from drama school to play Claudia in *Follow The Money*, the latest Scandinavian thriller to capture the imagination of the British public, currently airing on the BBC.

HamletScenen's Shakespeare Festival runs from 1st to 23rd August this summer. As well as nightly performances of *Hamlet* (except Mondays), the Festival also includes a limited run of *Ophelia – Noh*, a specially commissioned piece by the renowned Tokyo-based Koh Lo Sha theatre company, and an open-air cinema screening of Tom Stoppard's film *Rosencrantz and Guildenstern are Dead*.

This year also marks another important anniversary for the history of *Hamlet* in Denmark. Five hundred years ago, Martin Luther defiantly nailed his 95 Theses to the door of the cathedral in Wittenberg, Hamlet's university town. This act, questioning centuries of Catholic dogma, sparked enormous social, spiritual and cultural upheaval across Europe, and helped create the idea of the modern human being, responsible for and conscious of his own actions – the human being that Shakespeare named 'Hamlet'.

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NOTES FOR EDITORS

Shakespeare Festival 2017 programme

HAMLET

8pm 1st-19th August (except Monday 7th and 14th August)

Written by William Shakespeare
Directed by Lars Romann Engel
Composed by Mike Sheridan
Designed by Catia Hauberg Engel

Cast

Hamlet – Cyron Melville
Ophelia – Natalie Madueno
Claudius – Garry Cooper
Gertrude – Vivienne McKee
Polonius – David Horovitch
Laertes – Dominic Tighe
Horatio – Oliver Wilson
Rosenkrantz – Jack Johns
Guildenstern – Brett Brown

Language: English with Danish surtitles

Running time: 2 hours 20 minutes, including interval

Recommended age: 12+

[Ticket prices](#)

Group O: DKK 600 (£69)

Group A: DKK 500 (£57)

Group B: DKK 350 (£40)

Group C: DKK 250 (£29)

Group D: DKK 150 (£17)

(Discounts for groups and young people are available.)

Tickets are available from <http://hamletscenen.dk/en/homepage> or +45 7020 2096

A co-production between HamletScenen and London Toast Theatre

ROSENKRANTZ AND GUILDENSTERN ARE DEAD

9pm Sunday 20th August

Written and directed by Tom Stoppard

Language: English with Danish subtitles

Running time: 1 hour, 58 minutes

Presented in collaboration with Copenhagen Pix and Cinemateket

OPHELIA – NOH

8pm Tuesday 22nd and Wednesday 23rd August

Directed by Ujin Sakurama

Language: Japanese with Danish and English surtitles.

Running time: 2 hours, 20 minutes including interval

Recommended age: 12+

Specially commissioned by HamletScenen from Koh Lo Sha

About Kronborg Castle

Immortalized in Shakespeare's Hamlet, Kronborg Castle is one of the most important Renaissance castles in Northern Europe and a UNESCO world heritage site.

Although Shakespeare almost certainly never visited Kronborg Castle, three members of his acting company, the Lord Chamberlain's Men, performed there for King Frederick II of Denmark in 1586. When Shakespeare came to write the story of Hamlet, a tale drawn from Saxo Grammaticus' *Gesta Danorum* (*The Deeds of the Danes*), his colleagues would therefore have been in possession of a wealth of stories about Europe's most progressive and controversial Renaissance court. This is how Frederick II's castle came to be known as 'Hamlet's castle' and the symbolic residence of one of Western culture's first truly modern men.

Kronborg Castle has played host to some of the greatest actors in history, and their portraits line the walls of the castle's hall. Among them are Sir Laurence Olivier, Sir John Gielgud, Richard Burton, Sir Derek Jacobi, Sir Kenneth Branagh, Simon Russell Beale, David Dencik, Jens Albinus, Thure Lindhardt, Lars Eidinger and, most recently, Jude Law.

About the Shakespeare Festival

In August each year, HamletScenen presents the Shakespeare Festival, featuring a wealth of open-air theatre performances at the beautiful Kronborg Castle in Elsinore at the northern tip of Zealand. The Shakespeare Festival is a celebration of William Shakespeare's works and of original, open-air theatre. The Festival is a gathering point for Shakespeare enthusiasts and other interested visitors from all over the world. It is a place to experience spectacular, innovative Shakespeare productions in the open air on a late summer's evening. The productions are staged by some of the most acclaimed theatre companies and theatre artists of our time.

The Shakespeare Festival presents open-air theatre performances in a totally unique setting, uniting art, cultural heritage and nature to create a unique experience for our audiences. Our backdrop is the beautiful Kronborg Castle, the constantly changing Danish weather, the screech of gulls and the glimmer of stars.

2017 will see the inauguration of HamletScenen's new stage, constructed over the moat of Kronborg Castle. Every evening, prior to a performance, audiences can enjoy a pre-ordered picnic on the Princess's Bastion, enjoying stunning views right next to the stage area.