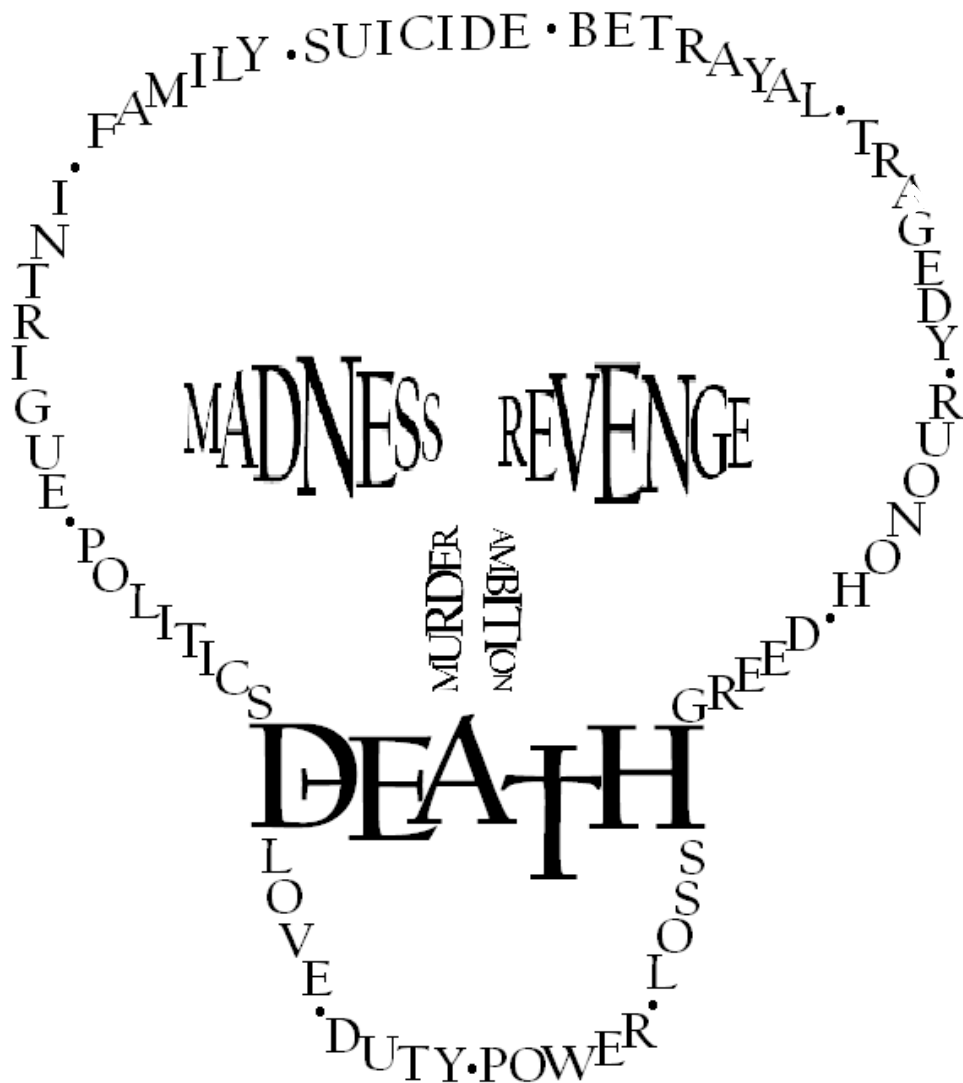


An Old Town  
Theatre Company  
Production

OTTC

Challenging  
Theatre in Swindon  
since 1993



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# HAMLET

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PRINCE OF DENMARK

by William Shakespeare

7.30 pm  
Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> to Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> December 2007  
Tickets £7.50/£5 Concessions  
Buy 8 tickets at £7.50 and get 2 FREE

The Arts Centre  
Devizes Road  
Swindon  
Box Office 01793 614837

[www.swindonweb.com/ottc](http://www.swindonweb.com/ottc)

FOR THE ENJOYMENT OF ALL WE WOULD LIKE TO REMIND YOU TO  
**PLEASE SWITCH OFF YOUR MOBILE PHONE**  
 FOR THE DURATION OF TONIGHT'S PERFORMANCE. THANK YOU.

**PREVIOUS PRODUCTIONS**

**WHAT THE PAPERS SAY ABOUT OTTC**

September 2007	BEST OF BRITISH	"The audience loved it and so did I"
May 2007	THE IMPORTANCE OF BEING EARNEST	"As always, OTTC managed to put on a performance that was entertaining"
March 2007	FRANKIE & JOHNNY IN THE CLAIR DE LUNE	"Duo pick up the gauntlet of tough play in style.....cracking, the lines just flowed."
Festival 2007	AUTUMN TERROR	'Playwrite' winner and Festival 2007
December 2006	COMFORT & JOY	Christmas comedy 2006
September 2006	ART	"An hour and half of dynamic acting. I enjoyed this more than the professional production"
June 2006	JULIUS CAESAR	"Inspirational"
March 2006	THE LION IN WINTER	"An enthralling flashback to the Christmas of 1183 in Michael Bull's excellent production"
Festival 2006	FOXES IN THE EARLY LIGHT	"A taut and thought-provoking piece"
December 2005	STAGS AND HENS	"OTTC have performed it with great gusto"
October 2005	WYRD SISTERS	"I am never disappointed by anything this company produces"
April 2005	A FEW GOOD MEN	"Excellent, enthralling, engrossing theatre"
Festival 2005	ORCA THE GOLDFISH	"Festival winners - 2005. "An absorbing array of diverse characters"
February 2005	THE VAGINA MONOLOGUES	"OTTC....produced the performance of a lifetime"
December 2004	A STOAT CALLED NANCY	"Ba-da-da-duck-duck-banana..."
October 2004	1984	"Quite simply the most gripping performance I've seen on an amateur stage"
May 2004	DON JUAN & TARTUFFE	"A thought-provoking evening"
Festival 2004	THE OFFICE PARTY (adapted)	Festival 2004
February 2004	THE OFFICE PARTY	"Perfectly captured slice of office life"
October 2003	POPCORN	"Another fantastic hit-and-run production"
May 2003	TWELVE ANGRY MEN	"Guilty of a great production"
March 2003	SHADOWLANDS	"A truly stunning piece...OTTC give another tremendous performance"
January 2003	HENRY 10 <sup>th</sup> (Part VII)	Arts Centre Re-Launch Night
May 2002	MURDER AT RUTHERFORD HOUSE	"Superb entertainment...OTTC have the ability to amaze me at every opportunity"
Festival 2002	THE ROADS TO MOSCOW & UNSUNG	"Festival winners & Junior Festival winners 2002. "This puts the group in the history books"
December 2001	ALLO, ALLO	"Did they succeed? I think they did"
October 2001	THE MADNESS OF GEORGE III	"OTTC produced theatre that not many amateur or professional companies would attempt"
May 2001	THE TAMING OF THE SHREW	"Forward-thinking and never frightened of trying something different...they have rare talent"
Festival 2001	THE OPEN COUPLE	Festival winners 2001. "This was impressive"
February 2001	BUS STOP	"Another triumph for this established amateur theatre company"
December 2000	MORT	"OTTC manage to succeed, while others may fail"
October 2000	CAN'T PAY, WON'T PAY	"If this company were to get marks out of 10, I would give them 10"
May 2000	LIFE OF BRIAN	"Will leave you laughing your socks off"
Literature Festival	SHORT STORIES	Literature Festival
February 2000	BOUNCERS & SHAKERS	"Very lively and watchable". Also Festival winners with 'Bouncers' adapted.
December 1999	GREGORY'S GIRL	"As smooth as a pass from David Beckham"
October 1999	LES LIAISONS DANGEREUSES	"OTTC excel themselves in this classic tale"
June 1999	DEAD FUNNY	"A happy mix of poignancy and frivolity"
Festival 1999	AMELIA AND THE MAN	Festival winners - 1999. "Fascinating and highly original new play"
December 1998	TALKING HEADS	"A brave decision by OTTC"
October 1998	MACBETH	"Magnificent.... made excellent viewing"
July 1998	AN EVENING WITH GARY LINEKER	"The audience is reduced to hysterics"
Festival/Tour 1998	P.V.T. WARS	Festival 1998
December 1997	THE DRACULA SPECTACULA	"Great family entertainment"
October 1997	ELIZABETH	"History was never like this"
July 1997	THE WOMAN WHO COOKED HER HUSBAND	"Delicious farce with a twist"

**THERE WILL BE TWO INTERVALS OF APPROXIMATELY 15 MINS EACH**

**DON'T FORGET TO ORDER YOUR INTERVAL DRINKS!**

## DIRECTOR'S INTRODUCTION

**Some shows are just plain easy.**

The set is easy, the casting's simple, the rehearsal process smooth and untroubling, finding the costumes and props a breeze, and nothing heavier than a hiccup happens... And it sells like hotcakes. But who wants *that*?!?

Some people may be sitting in the auditorium now, reading this, and worried that they're about to sit through four-and-a-half hours of indecipherable gibberish, delivered by *ak-torrts* in frilly shirts with plums in their mouths... Good.

Some people may be wishing they'd brought a pillow, a book, a TV, an iPod, dear God, *anything* that'll distract them from the surely-impending boredom of this slow, confusing and depressing show... Good.

And a few more may be wanting to enjoy seeing their partner/friend/ colleague/ family member/household pet?/whatever dressed in tights and panic-spouting words they can barely pronounce, never mind understand... Good.

Because these people have the chance to go through the same thing that my thirteen-year-old self went through. *A surprise.*

No, it's you unlucky learned few, who know the show backwards and have sections of it memorised as a way of impressing people at dinner parties that I worry for. For a start, you won't be going on the rollercoaster ride of emotions like the un-jaded up-for-it newbies will. You're not going to be meeting anew the soap-opera-like dysfunctional families and the quirky characters. You won't have the chance to see that story *for the first time.*

Can you even remember back to the first time you saw it? Or any Shakespeare, for that matter...? Some school trip, dragged kicking and screaming like scholastic hostages, that odd immersion into a world where everyone speaks differently, and then maybe... that one scene... that one phrase... that one performance that held your attention and made you forget all your fears...?

And suddenly Shakespeare needn't be the nightmare that you thought it was going to be... It's like a jigsaw where you suddenly got an edge and the puzzle's looking solvable! They talk funny... there's loads of Kings and Princes and whatnot... but *they're just like us!!*

**So, what do you need to know...?**

Okay, Old King Hamlet of Denmark (who has a *son* called Hamlet, confusingly enough) has been bashing and conquering neighbouring Kingdoms, and finally picks a fight with Old King Fortinbras of Norway (who has *also* called his son Fortinbras! What is it with Kings and unimaginative names?!?)

They decide to make the battle a fair fight for the land and Old Hamlet wins, killing Old Fortinbras. But then a few days later, in the midst of victory, Old Hamlet dies from a snake-bite whilst sleeping in his orchard.

But, rumour has it that new Prime Minister, Polonius, has leaked to the press that – despite being of age to rule – it won't be *young* Hamlet who takes the throne, but Old Hamlet's brother, Claudius! And Old Hamlet's Queen, Gertrude, is gearing up to *marry* Claudius, (her *brother in-law*!) There's talk of a war brewing in Norway... And rumour has it that there have been many strange occurrences around Castle Elsinore - odd lights....strange sounds....spectral figures....  
*Something* is rotten in the state of Denmark!

*David Howell*

# H A M L E T

PRINCE OF DENMARK

by William Shakespeare

## CAST & CREW

<b>Gertrude</b>	Wendy Vickery
<b>Claudius</b>	Gareth Williams
<b>Ghost (voice)</b>	Mike Bull
<b>Ghost (body)</b>	Mike Carpenter
<b>Polonius</b>	Peter Edge-Partington
<b>Laertes</b>	Luke Mooney
<b>Ophelia</b>	Emma Cowdry
<b>Horatio</b>	Vicky Blake
<b>Player King</b>	Steve Sprosson
<b>Player Queen</b>	Marta Leskard
<b>Guildestern</b>	Mark Soffe
<b>Gravedigger</b>	Mike Carpenter
<b>Fortinbras</b>	Richard Abrams
<b>Captain / Ambassador</b>	Steve Cowdry
<b>Marcellus / Osric</b>	Steve Wheeler
<b>Lucianus / Priest</b>	Stuart Quinn
<b>Director / Hamlet</b>	David Howell
<b>Director/Rosencrantz</b>	Fenella Harrop
<b>Stage Manager</b>	Janet Lovell
<b>ASM</b>	Paul Blonden
<b>Fight Co-ordinator</b>	Neil Bromley
<b>LX Rigging</b>	Richard Abrams
<b>LX Op</b>	Duncan MacDougall
<b>Sound</b>	John Marshall
<b>Sound FX and Music</b>	Ashley Heath
<b>Set Design</b>	David, Fenella, Paul, Duncan and OTTC members
<b>Production Assistant</b>	Jan Walters
<b>Set Build</b>	OTTC members
<b>Publicity</b>	Ashley Heath
<b>FOH Co-ordinator</b>	Jane Dale

## Many Thanks to:

Brian Carter & Swindonweb,  
Anchor Self Storage, B&Q, Adam Elvin,  
Toby "Bodysnatcher" Robson,  
Neil Bromley at Swindon Fencing Club,  
Derrick Nicholls at Del's Military,  
Ashley Heath and Geoff Baker at BBC Radio Swindon,  
Matt Davies, Clarry Bean and all the Arts Centre staff,  
Rob Shimwell at Dialogue Language School,  
Paul Felix and John Fowler at Intel, Phil Chappell,  
...And everyone else who generously helped to make this play possible – we'd be nothing without you!!

# Old Town Theatre Company

## THE COMPANY

Since Old Town Theatre Company was set up in 1992 we've added another dimension to Swindon's drama scene. Particularly focused on the works of contemporary playwrights, we aim to offer entertainment appealing to the more adventurous theatre-goer.

This has established OTTC as one of Swindon's most ambitious and innovative theatre companies. This reputation has been built from the desire of the members to challenge themselves as performers, and from a common shared philosophy within the company to break down the barriers of what an 'amateur' company 'can' or 'should' perform.

## FRIENDS OF OTTC

As well as helping to support your local theatre, becoming a Friend of OTTC will also entitle you to concessionary rates to all our shows. The minimum subscription to be a Friend is £5 per year. We're grateful to the Friends of OTTC for their support::

*Brian Carter & SwindonWeb    Harry Bromley  
Laurence Chase                    Joan Cheshire  
Tony & Margaret Hyden        Jon Slade  
Mollie Tanner                    Janice Thompson  
Mr & Mrs D Williams*

## OUR NEXT PRODUCTION

### BREAKFAST WITH JONNY WILKINSON

By Chris England

Greyhaws rugby club is under threat from local land developers, and Dave's position as chairman is being challenged by an extremely loud Australian.

The faithful few have gathered on the morning before the club elections to watch England in the Rugby World Cup Final and tensions are running high for more reasons than one.

This sparky and engaging comedy returns to that golden morning in 2003 when the unthinkable happened and England were victorious.

28<sup>th</sup> Feb - 1<sup>st</sup> March 2008

THE ARTS CENTRE, SWINDON,  
FOR TICKETS TEL: 01793 614837

## HOW TO JOIN OTTC

Our membership is open to all. If you are interested in acting, directing or working behind the scenes you're very welcome.

*As an OTTC member you will receive:*

- Opportunities to audition for all OTTC productions
- OTTC newsletters
- Concessionary price tickets for OTTC productions

Yearly membership costs just £20 for adults and £10 for junior members under 18. However, you are welcome to make an additional donation! To help cover production costs, we ask cast members to pay an acting fee of £7.50 per play.

To find out more please write to us at:

Old Town Theatre Company, P O Box 594, Swindon SN1 3UQ. Or visit our website and use the enquiry form there.

## THE WEBSITE

Why not pay us a visit? Our extensive website is at [www.swindonweb.com/ottc](http://www.swindonweb.com/ottc)

## JOIN OUR MAILING LIST!

If you'd like to receive details of other OTTC shows, please give your name & address to a Front of House member.



[www.swindonweb.co](http://www.swindonweb.co)



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