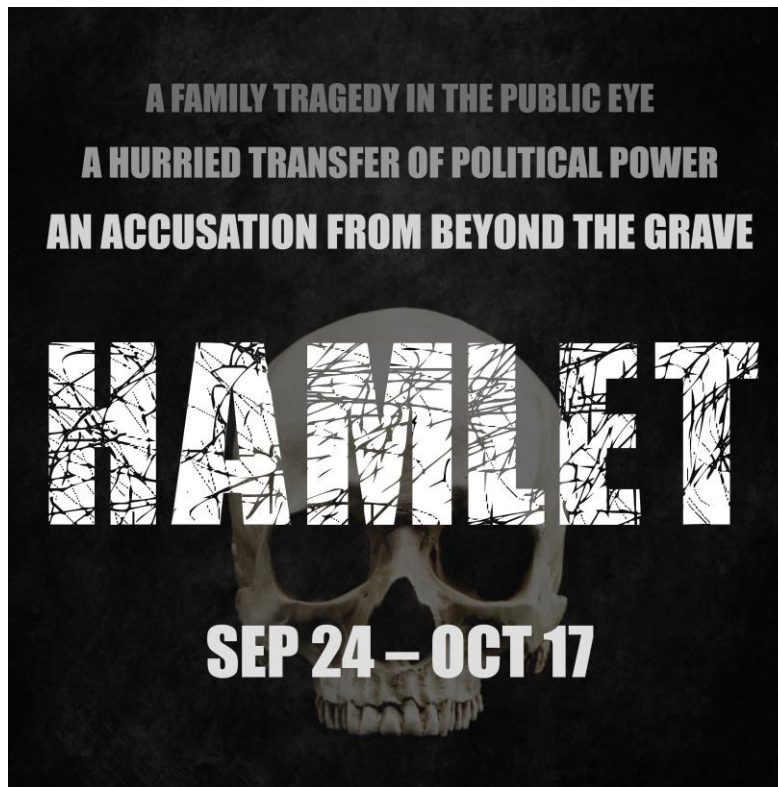


CLASSICAL · ACTORS · ENSEMBLE



September 13, 2021

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PRESS IMAGE: classicalactorsensemble.org/press/

Media contact: Joseph Papke, Producing Artistic Director

612.819.4598, info@classicalactorsensemble.org

MASKS REQUIRED AT UPCOMING *HAMLET*

Performances September 24 – October 17 at the Elision Playhouse

(*Minneapolis, MN*) – Classical Actors Ensemble (CAE), the Twin Cities' theater company exclusively dedicated to English Renaissance drama, will require audiences to wear masks while attending stage Shakespeare's masterpiece, *Hamlet*, from September 24 to October 17 at the Elision Playhouse in Crystal, MN.

"Out of concern for audience safety we will follow the current CDC recommendation for indoor spaces in areas of high transmission," said Producing Artistic Director Joseph Papke. "Regardless of vaccination status, we ask that all audience members wear masks."

Young Hamlet's father, the king of Denmark, has died. The old king's brother, Hamlet's uncle Claudius, has been swiftly elected the new king and has married his brother's widow, Hamlet's mother, within two months. Political and military tensions are on the rise with neighboring countries and the kingdom is at once in mourning, in celebration, and very much on edge. This is the world Hamlet and his contemporaries must navigate as they forge their own paths and discover who they are. The production will have a contemporary setting—a first for CAE—and will focus on the young characters' experiences of finding themselves.

(cont.)

Since its premiere circa 1600, *Hamlet* has remained not only one of the most popular and well-known plays in the English language, but also ranks among the greatest works of world literature. It has had a tremendously deep impact on language and culture, with echoes ranging from Milton's *Paradise Lost* to Disney's *The Lion King*.

WHERE/WHEN

The production will run September 24 – October 17 at the Elision Playhouse, 6105 North 42nd Avenue, Crystal, MN 55422. Thursday through Saturday evenings at 7:30pm, Sunday matinees at 2:00pm. Special pay-what-you-can performance Monday, October 4, 7:30pm.

TICKETS

Tickets are \$18 – 42 and can be purchased online at classicalactorsensemble.org or at the door. Questions may be directed to the box office at boxoffice@classicalactorsensemble.org or 651.321.4024.

ACCESSIBILITY

Open captioned performance: Sunday, October 3, 2:00pm

Audio described performance: Thursday, October 7, 7:30pm (Rick Jacobsen, describer)

Questions may be directed to the box office at boxoffice@classicalactorsensemble.org or 651.321.4024.

COVID-19

Masks are required for all audience members. CAE cast and crew are fully vaccinated and will be unmasked in the course of their work.

THE ARTISTS

The skilled cast of 19 includes Brennan Bassett (Laertes), Lucas Gerstner (Polonius), Jacob Hooper (Hamlet), Carin Leonard-Gorrill (Gertrude), Kyle Marks (Guildenstern), Aamer Mian (Rosencrantz), James Ramlet (Ghost), Dominic Rodgers (Horatio), Caroline Vodacek (Ophelia), and Joe Wiener (Claudius).

Scenic design by Justin Hooper, lighting design by Dietrich Poppen, and costumes by Lolly Foy and Molly Smith. The production is directed by Joseph Papke.

ABOUT CLASSICAL ACTORS ENSEMBLE

Classical Actors Ensemble is a Twin Cities theater company that performs plays of the English Renaissance as they were originally intended: as popular entertainment for everyone. Since its founding by Producing Artistic Director Joseph Papke in 2009, CAE has presented thirty works by Shakespeare, Ford, Middleton, Dekker, Webster, Jonson, and Marlowe. CAE annually produces a Shakespeare in Our Schools tour to secondary schools and the free Shakespeare in Our Parks summer tour. Recent indoor productions include *Arden of Faversham* and *Much Ado About Nothing* in repertory at the LAB Theater in fall 2019. CAE's goal is to demonstrate why these works of art are considered classics and to freshly prove their relevance in today's world.

To learn more about the company, please visit classicalactorsensemble.org.