hamlet (solo)

banff summer arts festival

TRAGEDIE OF
AMLET, Prince of Denmark

The Banff Centre
inspiring creativity
THE BANFF CENTRE PRESENTS

Hamlet (solo)
performed by Raoul Bhaneja

Raoul Bhaneja in Hamlet (solo). Photo: Andrew Kenneth Martin

Friday, July 21 at 7:30 p.m.
Saturday, July 22 at 2:00 p.m.
Sunday, July 23 at 7:30 p.m.

Margaret Greenham Theatre
Running Time: 2 hours
Intermission: 15 minutes

The Banff Summer Arts Festival is supported by:
Hamlet (solo)
Raoul Bhaneja
Performer
Robert Ross Parker
Director

Hamlet (solo)
Creation Timeline

1974 Raoul Bhaneja is born.
1991 Raoul encounters Hamlet in English Class.
1993 Raoul enters the National Theatre School.
1993 Robert enters Concordia University.
1994 Raoul sees Clare Coulter perform solo show The Fever by Wallace Shawn.
1995 Raoul sees Robert Lepage perform solo show Elsinore based on Hamlet.
2000 January – Raoul appears in Hamlet as Laertes at The Neptune Theatre.
2000 Summer – Raoul begins interviewing Canadian actors who have played Hamlet while a member of Soulpepper Theatre Young Company. He reads full length Hamlet for friend and director Chris Abraham - it takes four hours. Chris suggests the one man show.
2001 Robert Ross Parker directs Hamlet at Ohio University while obtaining his Master Of Fine Arts in directing. Later that year he joins Hamlet (solo) as director.
2002 July – The first staged workshop of a portion of Part I.
2002 August – Raoul joins the International Company at Shakespeare’s Globe Theatre UK.
2003 January – The second staged workshop of Part II. Raoul has back surgery.
2005 Fall – Rehearsals begin for the world premiere in Toronto at Theatre Passe Muraille.
2006 January 4 – Hamlet (solo) opens. The run is extended a week and closes January 21.
2006 May – BRAVO commissions documentary Hamlet: To Be Or Not about the process of creating Hamlet (solo) along with interviews with notable Canadian Hamlets.
2006 July – Banff Summer Arts Festival. Will play New York City, at Center Stage, in August, and in Montréal at The New Classical Theatre Festival in September.

To be continued....
Hamlet by William Shakespeare
A Synopsis

Prince Hamlet is the son of the late King Hamlet of Denmark. After King Hamlet’s death, his brother, Claudius, becomes king, and marries King Hamlet’s widow, Gertrude, Queen of Denmark. Two officers in the Danish army, Marcellus and Bernardo, bring Hamlet’s friend Horatio, and later Hamlet himself to see the late King Hamlet’s ghost appear at midnight. The ghost tells Hamlet privately that Claudius murdered King Hamlet by pouring poison in his ear. Hamlet is enraged and plots to avenge his father’s death.

Hamlet begins to act like a madman. King Claudius, Gertrude, and his advisor Polonius send Rosencrantz and Guildenstern (old school chums of Hamlet) to spy on the prince and discover the reason for his madness. Hamlet treats Polonius’ daughter Ophelia rudely, prompting Polonius to believe Hamlet is madly in love with her, though Claudius suspects otherwise.

Hamlet then convinces a troupe of traveling players to re-enact King Hamlet’s death before Claudius, in the hopes of causing Claudius to break down. Before the performance is even finished, an enraged Claudius storms out of the play.

Later that night, Hamlet’s mother tries to reason with him, while Polonius spies on them from behind a curtain. Hamlet hears Polonius, and thinking he is Claudius, stabs him through the curtain. In response, Claudius sends Hamlet to England, accompanied by Rosencrantz and Guildenstern with sealed orders for the English to kill Hamlet as soon as he arrives. Soon after their departure, the hot-headed son of Polonius - Laertes - returns from France. Enraged over his father’s murder, he storms the castle and attempts to seize the throne. Ophelia reacts to her father’s death with utter madness and eventually falls in a stream and drowns, further angering Laertes. Claudius skillfully convinces Laertes that Hamlet is his true enemy.

Meanwhile, en route to England, Hamlet finds the order to kill him and re-writes it to order Rosencrantz and Guildenstern killed. Soon after, their ship is attacked by pirates. In the commotion, Hamlet boards the pirate ship and they return him to Denmark.

Learning of Hamlet’s return, Claudius and Laertes plans to eliminate the prince by arranging a sword duel with Hamlet. The trick, however, is that the tip of Laertes’ sword is poisoned. As a backup precaution, Claudius poisons the victory cup in case Hamlet wins. During the fight, the poisoned drink is offered to Hamlet, he declines, and instead his mother, Gertrude, drinks it. Laertes, losing to Hamlet, illegally scratches him with the poisoned sword to ensure Hamlet’s death. Hamlet then switches swords with Laertes, and cuts and poisons him. The queen dies, screaming that she has been poisoned. As Laertes dies, he confesses to Claudius’ treachery. Hamlet fatally stabs Claudius. Laertes dies. Hamlet, with his dying breath, entreats his good friend Horatio to tell the world his story.
Biographies

Raoul Bhaneja
PERFORMER

Born in Manchester, U.K., Raoul grew up in Ottawa and Bonn, Germany. After attending the Drama Program at Canterbury Arts High School in Ottawa, he was accepted into the prestigious National Theatre School of Canada. Since graduating in 1996 he has worked extensively in theatre, television, radio, and film. Bhaneja was one of the stars of the improvised hit Train 48 (Global TV), which he also had the opportunity to direct. Selected credits include the Gemini nominated Open Heart (CBC) opposite Megan Follows, a recurring role on At The Hotel (CBC), and roles in two upcoming US series Runaway (CW) and Dresden Files (Sci Fi). Bhaneja’s feature film credits include Ararat, Extraordinary Visitor, Violet, Cold Creek Manor, Picture Claire, Godsend, Touch Of Pink, and most recently The Sentinel, opposite Michael Douglas. He has appeared in a number of short films including Dermott’s Quest, opposite Sarah Polley, and stared in, co-wrote, and co-produced Just Visiting for BRAVO. He recently "voiced" Steve The First and Second, the successful CBC Radio comedy created by Matt Watts and directed by Mark McKinney.

In Toronto, Raoul appeared to critical acclaim in the Dora nominated productions of The Domino Heart and the remount of Helen’s Necklace at the Tarragon Theatre. Other selected theatre credits include Savage Sensuality at Shakespeare’s Globe Theatre, London, U.K. (Christopher Plummer Artistic Fellowship Award), Sin City (2002 Canadian Comedy Award Nomination), The School For Wives (Soulpepper Theatre), Hamlet (Neptune Theatre), Speak (Praire Theatre Exchange), and two seasons at The Blyth Festival. His Maple Blues and Real Blues Award winning band, Raoul and The Big Time, have released two recordings (Cold Outside and Big Time Blues) to great acclaim and have played at many major festivals across Canada. Their second video, Baby Don’t Stop, was selected as one of the Top 10 videos of 2005 on BRAVO.

For more information visit www.raoulbhaneja.com
Robert Ross Parker
DIRECTOR

Robert Ross Parker is a Brooklyn based director, writer, and actor. He is the co-artistic director of Vampire Cowboys with Qui Nguyen (Nguyen, he, and the company were listed among NYtheatre.com's 2004 people of the year). For Vampire Cowboys he has co-authored and directed Vampire Cowboy Trilogy (published by New York Theatre Experience), A Beginner's Guide To Deicide, and Drowning In Denmark. Other recent directing credits include Children's Letter's To God (national tour), Stained Glass Ugly, Slicing Andre (both by Nguyen) Justin Reinsilber's F*cking Love, and numerous readings for Ensemble Studio Theatre where he just finished a season as young director in residence. At the Toronto Fringe, Parker directed Pseudolus and A Midsummer Night's Dream Project for Cabbagetown Theatre. He was the associate director for Silent Laughter off Broadway, and has assistant directed at many theatres including EST, People's Light and Theatre Co, Soulpepper, and Barrington Stage Co where he served as assistant to the artistic director. For LAByrinth Theatre he co-produced the Barn Series in 2002 and 2003.

As an actor, Parker recently played the title role in The Flying Machine's Frankenstein at Soho Rep, and on tour. He spent three summers with the highly physical Odyssey Theatre, and has toured his solo work Confessions Of An Undead Actor extensively in Canada. In addition to writing Confessions, other projects as playwright include Chasing Napoleon, Dunghill, Dunghill, Dunghill!, Pseudolus, and co-authoring the Vampire Cowboy plays.

Parker is a graduate of Ottawa's Arts Canterbury High School and its legendary BOFA improv team. He holds a BFA in theatre performance from Concordia University (Henry Gamer award for acting) and an MFA in directing from Ohio University.

Hope And Hell Theatre

Hope And Hell Theatre was founded by Raoul Bhaneja and Birgitte Solem in 1995 and toured across the Canada with Sad Surgeon by Chris Ralph. In addition to the future tours of Hamlet (solo) they are in the early stages of developing a new multi disciplinary theatrical event B.L.U.E.S.
The Banff Centre Theatre Arts Staff

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Katherine Ross, first hand
Hazel Whitehead, first hand
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Holly Musaik, stitcher
Cindy Rottenbacher, stitcher
Désirée Turcotte, stitcher
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The Banff Centre inspires and empowers artists, the mountain community, and business and community leaders from Alberta, Canada, and around the world.

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