

## THE TRAGEDY OF HAMLET, PRINCE OF DENMARK

Hamlet  
King  
Queen  
Polonius  
Ophelia  
Laertes  
Horatio  
Rosencrantz  
Gildenstern  
Marcellus  
Bernardo  
Francisco  
3 players  
2 Gravediggers

Note: There will be some characters that will be playing multiple roles

Hamlet (Male) 25-35

The Prince of Denmark. Son of Gertrude and the late King Hamlet, and nephew of the present King Claudius. Seeks to genuinely find answers to the questions he is asking of himself and the world around him. Highly intellect and sense of comedy even amongst the grief and trauma he is experiencing. Prince of Denmark, son of Gertrude and the late King Hamlet and nephew of Claudius, who has married Hamlet's mother. Melancholy, bitter and cynical, full of hatred for Claudius's scheming and disgust for Gertrude's sexuality. A reflective young man, he is often indecisive and hesitant but at other times prone to rash and impulsive acts. Seems to be mad but he is conflicted and troubled.

King Claudius (Male) 45-65

Present King of Denmark, Uncle to Hamlet and married to Gertrude. Inherently an Alpha, high status and conveys confidence and power. He is new to the political game but is great at reading people and strategizing within the moment. Imposing, carnal, charismatic; a man of voracious appetites; with a genius for manipulating both the individuals and the public. Once the poker face crumbles (after The Mousetrap), he is even more dangerous.

Queen Gertrude (Female) 45-60

The Queen of Denmark, Hamlet's mother, widow of the late King Hamlet, and married to the present King Claudius. Strategic politician frustrated by her son and the younger generation not being able to see the long game strategy she is playing. High status, powerful and intelligent. Skilled at being in the public eye.

Ophelia (Female) 20-30

Polonius's daughter, Laertes's sister, and Hamlet's sometime love. Genuine, heartbreaking vulnerability and beauty; intelligent, sensitive, shy, literate, manipulated, stifled, broken; strong, has a difficult time dealing with multiple layers of complex grief. Only later in the play she goes into madness; Must be comfortable to sing some unearthly music in her last scene.

Polonius (Male) 50-75

The Lord Chamberlain of Claudius's court, Father to Ophelia and Laertes. Pompous and confident within the political realm. Strategic and intelligent, is not bothered by the fact he is not an Alpha. There's a new order and he's clinging, trying very hard to stay relevant, and to appear essential to the court. He gains his status by supporting the person in the highest power. He manipulates every aspect of his children's lives and treats them as extensions of his own ambitions.

Horatio (Male or Female) 25-35

Hamlet's close friend. Loyal and has ease connecting with anyone at any level of status personally and politically. Perceptive and warm, trusted and genuinely good at heart, and uncorrupted to the very end; a dream friend. Seems to have the skill of disappearing (not calling attention to himself) in the public scenes, and perhaps survives for that very reason.

Laertes (Male) 25-35

Polonius's son and Ophelia's brother. Passionate and quick to action. In the beginning of the play he is intelligent, attractive, and forthright; the role model, the poster boy, that Hamlet clearly is not; he says and does the right, expected things. But all of this just fuels his later fury and explains his cloudy judgment at the end of the play, since toeing the line brings nothing but misery to him and his family. Must be athletically inclined to pull off the fight scene in the end.

Player King/Gravedigger (Male), 60+:

He speaks the Hecuba speech in the old, heightened, yet genuinely moving style; he represents the dying traditions and standards that Hamlet associates with his father. Actor will also play the Gravedigger and possibly one more character

Rosencrantz (Male) 25-35

A courtier and former friend of Hamlet. Not nearly as harmless as in the Tom Stoppard play; the charm of the reunion with Hamlet wears off rather quickly; and the routine with Guildenstern seems like a sickly ploy; they are all too ready to serve as Claudius's stage managers. Actor will most likely be playing multiple roles.

Guildenstern (Male), 25-35:

Like Rosencrantz, a courtier and former friend of Hamlet. The same description applies to Guildenstern. Actor will most likely be playing multiple roles.

Osric (Male or Female) Age open

The foolish courtier who summons Hamlet to his duel with Laertes. Actor will most likely be playing multiple roles.

Marcellus and Bernardo (Male or Female) Age open

The officers who first see the ghost walking the ramparts of Elsinore and who summon Horatio to witness it. Marcellus is present when Hamlet first encounters the ghost. Actor will most likely be playing multiple roles.

Francisco (Male or Female) Age open

A soldier and guardsman at Elsinore. Actor will most likely be playing multiple roles.