

Document Citation

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|---------------|---|
| Title | Hamlet |
| Author(s) | |
| Source | <i>Publisher name not available</i> |
| Date | |
| Type | program note |
| Language | English |
| Pagination | |
| No. of Pages | 1 |
| Subjects | |
| Film Subjects | Gamlet (Hamlet), Kozintsev, Grigorii Mikhailovich, 1964 |



•Rare and unusual films brought back to life and light •

Sun, 3/2 9:00pm, Wed, 3/5 9:15, Sun, 3/9 9:00pm, &
Mon, 3/10 9:15pm

HAMLET

USSR 1964 (150 min)

"Perhaps the best film based on Shakespeare," according to the critic Georges Sadoul, and an hour and a half less than than Branagh's HAMLET! The Russians filmed Shakespeare's most famous tragedy to commemorate the 400th anniversary of the playwright's birth. Shot in Cinemascope, the images, enriched by the dramatic Shostakovitch score, are sweeping and powerful. Kozintsev's HAMLET moves through striking visual compositions of towering rocks, turbulent seas, massive portcullises, and endless corridors of stone. What is memorable is the superb visual detail, notably the appearance of the ghost on the battlements like a titan striding across the sea. At the end of a long film career, begun at the early age of 19, Kozintsev wrote: "I am certain that everyone of us in the course of his whole life shoots a single film of his own... this film is made in your head... but it lives, breathes, somehow prolongs into age, something that began its existence in childhood"

DIRECTED BY GRIGORI KOZINTSEV • with Innokenti Smokunovsky, Mikhail Nazvanov, Elsa Radzin-Szolkonis (Russian with English subtitles, b/w, 35mm cinemascope)