

## Document Citation

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| Title         | <b>Hamlet</b>   |
| Author(s)     | John L. Wasserman                                       |
| Source        | <i>Publisher name not available</i>                     |
| Date          | 1966  |
| Type          | review  |
| Language      | English   |
| Pagination    |   |
| No. of Pages  | 1   |
| Subjects      |   |
| Film Subjects | Gamlet (Hamlet), Kozintsev, Grigorii Mikhailovich, 1964 |

"HAMLET" (U S S R), the second film of the evening, is a distinguished production, and as such won the David O. Selznick Memorial Golden Laurel Award the following evening. Its inclusion in the Festival, however, had nothing to do with the award, given annually to a foreign film of excellence with a universal theme. The originally scheduled "Pharaoh," from Poland, could not be subtitled in time for showing.

"H a m l e t," as the credits say, "after the tragedy of William Shakespeare," had some pretty good people helping out. Boris Pasternak did the translation, and Dimitri Shostakovich wrote the tunes. Director is Grigori Kozintsev, with Innokenti Smoktunovski as the Prince of Denmark and Anastasia Vertinska as Ophelia. This version, which runs two hours and 25 minutes, has been cut from an original three hours, 45 minutes, but does not seem either too short or too choppy.

### BRILLIANT

Hamlet, both as a play and as a person, is quite human in the Soviet work. This is a traditional production, but within that context, quite informal. Some may think this lessens its stature, but it is actually the reverse. The nunnery scene with Ophelia is not histrionic, the "To be, or not to be" soliloquy and other such solos are believably mused (with the voice on the soundtrack, of course) rather than spoken in the normal sense and many scenes — the first major confrontation of Hamlet with the Queen (Elas Radzin), for example — are brilliantly effective.

Each contribution, from Smoktunovski's brooding Prince to Shostakovich's dark, string-laden compositions and the majestic camera work of Jonas Gritzius, marks an extraordinary expression of Shakespeare's classic.