



HAMLET IN ANTARCTICA
BY
DANIEL WEBSTER

Extract

A SMITH SCRIPT

**This script is protected by copyright laws.
No performance of this script -IN ANY MEDIA – may be undertaken without
payment of the appropriate fee and obtaining a licence.
For further information, please contact SMITH SCRIPTS at
info@smithscripts.co.uk**

HAMLET IN ANTARCTICA

A sketch

By Daniel Webster

Characters

Jake Morrison - 30s

Tan - 20+

Poel van der Zee - 40+

Mags Fitzpatrick - 50+

Freddie Ashbourne - early 20s

5 people sit around a table.

JAKE So, if we can just go around the table and introduce ourselves. I will start. I am Jake Morrison. Founder of TIMA - Theatre in the Modern Age - which I am sure you all know. I am here as the nominated convener of this group.

TAN Hi everyone. Tan. Partner in GAMBIT - Girls Against Male Bastards in Theatre. Seeking to flip the dominance of gender in arts. Take control. More than redress the balance.

POEL Good afternoon. Poel van der Zee - Head of the Dutch Fringe Theatre Movement, Varkens

MAGS Mags Fitzpatrick. Theatre Director at the University of the South Liverpool

FRED Freddie Ashbourne. Student. Slough Academy of Drama

JAKE Great. So here we all are and I am glad to meet you all at last. It has taken some time to get this group together and I am hopeful we will be able to achieve the aim of this working group in coming up with a new production of the greatest play ever written. Hamlet

TAN Discuss.

JAKE Pardon?

TAN The greatest ever play? Hamlet? I think we should discuss that. I happen to disagree.

JAKE Hold on a moment please Tan. I thought we had signed up to an agreement to this being the central discussion.

TAN I never sign anything. It's an infringement of my rights as a human.

JAKE Well I don't think it is, but if you hadn't wanted to discuss Hamlet then you shouldn't really be here.

TAN I never said I would not discuss Hamlet. I just don't think you should claim it as the greatest play ever written. I could name hundreds that are better?

POEL That is very interesting. Do you have a favourite.

TAN I don't deal in favourites, that is such a Capitalist concept.

POEL Interesting.

JAKE So, if we can just get back on track here for a moment.

MAGS Just a point of order from the floor to the chair.

JAKE Mags

MAGS We are gender imbalanced.

JAKE Sorry?

MAGS On the committee or whatever we are calling ourselves. We are gender imbalanced. Three males.

JAKE Ah yes, I meant to say that Bluebird couldn't make it.

POEL Bluebird?

JAKE She is a performance artist from Dagenham.

TAN And I identify as gender fluid, so you can't pigeon hole me as a female.

POEL Interesting.

JAKE Yes I take your point. We are not trying to pigeon hole anyone and I am sorry that Bluebird can't be here, but its unavoidable. We do need to try and make some progress on the production, so if we can leave all other issues at the door then that would be most useful. The make up of the group should become more flexible as we go along, but we have to stick with who we have at the moment and take it from there. Is everyone ok with that? Good. I am sure we will muddle along in the end.

Now, the proposal is that as a group we mount a major production of Hamlet to celebrate the centenary of the Royal Palace Theatre. I know we can come up with a huge number of ideas. Now, Poel, I know you have volunteered to take some notes, that's very good of you.

POEL It is, of course, not a problem.

JAKE So, would someone like to get the ball rolling?

TAN Well, there is no way that the central character should be gender specific.

MAGS Why not?

TAN Why is any character gender specific?

POEL There have, of course, been many productions of Hamlet where the central character has been played by a woman.

JAKE And indeed by a black man.

MAGS What about a black woman?

JAKE I am not sure, but that's an angle certainly.

TAN You are still talking about gender. I am very uncomfortable with this.