

A New Adaptation
of
The Tragedy of Hamlet, Prince of Denmark
by William Shakespeare



2b Hamlet

by Olivia Negrón & Brian Hardgroove
Original songs by Brian Hardgroove
Lyrics by Olivia Negrón & Brian Hardgroove

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The Players

Reporter #1 (Pat Harper)/Secret Service Agent/Truth Sayer/Panelist #1 (Lois Dern Godwit) [mature, female, any color/ethnicity, versatile]

Reporter #2 (Jessica Savage)/Truth Sayer/Panelist #2 (X-Pat Le Britt) [female, any color/ethnicity, versatile]

Reporter #3 (Bernarda Marx)/Officer at the Door/Truth Sayer/Another Shouting Person/Swat Team Leader/Panelist #3 (Prof. S. Gonzales) [versatile]

Bailiff/First Truth Sayer/Anhelino 1 [any sex, any color/ethnicity, powerful]

Rosencrantz/Peace Officer Bernarda Alba/Anhelino 3/ Protocol Officer Osric [female, Black or Latina]

Guildenstern/Peace Officer Marcella Stone/A Shouting Person/The Medical Examiner [female, Black or Latina]

Horatio/Anhelino 2 [male, attractive, intelligent, empathetic,]

Claudius/The Ghost of Hamlet's Father [male, mature, Black]

Hamlet [female, feminine, Black, valiant, young, amputee, exemplary, charismatic]

Judge Teeto Klee/Truth Sayer [female, mature, any color/ethnicity]

Laertes [male, any color/ethnicity, young, valiant, exemplary, a nascent Hamlet, only male]

Queen Gertrude Sky Canuté/Truth Sayer [female, Black, mature, complex, passionate, paranoid]

Lord Polonius/Coroner (GRAVE DIGGER) [male, any color/ethnicity, mature, wily, diplomatic]



PROLOGUE: We Can See the Light (song)



*Click image to hear sample
(may require Adobe Reader)*

Noah was given the Rainbow sign
"No more water; the fire next time"
Black skin's wrong Kinky hair too long
They're all so willing to steal your song
Structural, institutional
Stained and ingrained so casual
a gravity completely insurmountable
cancer on the nation
I dare damnation
We can see the light ah ah ah oh
To be or not to be is not the quandary
What's the world that we want to see
To be or not to be is not the quandary
What's the world that we want to see
The sands are drippin'
the bomb is tickin'
To be or not to be is not the quandary

But how to survive in the land of the free

The final chord transports us to the future.

Act 1

Hall of Justice, Anhelus, May Thirty-First, Thirty Twenty-Three.

The audience waits before the closed door to a Courtroom. SECURITY SCREENS display continuous news feeds.

**SECURITY SCREEN 1
(REPORTER
PAT HARPER):**

...a nation in mourning.
So shaken as we are,
so wan with care,
Grief-struck are all by our
awesome great King's death,
and terrible fears abound
throughout the realm
that el nuevo King Claudius
cannot assuage or calm...

**SECURITY SCREEN 2
(REPORTER
JESSICA SAVAGE):**

...rumors buzz in every ear
as to the cause
of the great King's death.
There are those within
the Palace who imply
that mysterious as gruesome
was the autopsy.
Sentimento in the populi
is truly running high...

**SECURITY SCREEN 3
(REPORTER
BERNARDA MARX):**

...cada Anhelino will
remember now forever
when and where
first they heard
the dreadful news
that our great
King Hamlet
was
dead...

The Bailiff throws the doors open and announces:

BAILIFF

Oye, oye. The Grand Jury Inquest
into the Death of King Hamlet
will be heard on this,
the Thirty-First Day of May, Three Thousand Twenty-Three.
The Honorable Judge Teeto Klee, presiding.

All tu who have business with this Court,
draw near and tu shall be heard.

Viva the Sovereign City State of Anhelus. Viva the King and Queen.

A bevy of cameras, camera operators and reporters buzz about.

The Bailiff is about disable the Force-Field that bars the audience from entering the open doors of the court, when a Court Officer rushes up to the Bailiff, and engages the Bailiff in a furious whispered conversation.

The SCREENS in the Courtroom and SCREENS in the lobby and the Force Field itself flicker alive with the surveillance tapes from the night before. They show:

Anhelus. A foggy night on a skyway overpass.

Peace Officer Bernarda sits in her hovercraft.

Peace Officer Marcella taps at the window.

[knock, knock]

BERNARDA

¿Who's there?

MARCELLA *[with take-out]*

Taco Bell

BERNARDA

For this relief, much thanks, Marcella.

¿Is that Horatio?

HORATIO

A piece of him.

BERNARDA

Swell.

Well get in, it is bitter cold

And the night has eyes

MARCELLA

What, ¿has this thing appeared to-night?

BERNARDA *[eating]*

Not yet.

MARCELLA

Horatio says it's all in our heads
¿And will not believe in it!
so I have invited him along,
So he can see for it himself ... and speak to it.

HORATIO

Shut up, 'twill not appear.

BERNARDA *[emphatic]*

¿Didn't you tell him that we've seen it twice?

HORATIO *[conciliatory]*

Well, go on, Bernarda, spit.

BERNARDA

Last night of all,
Marcella and myself,
My cell just beeping one o'clock--

SOUND CUE SUGGESTING THE PRESENCE OF THE GHOST

MARCELLA

Stop, check it out; look, ¿here it comes!

BERNARDA

The same figure, like the king that's dead.

They all pile out of the hovercraft and stand by the open doors

They back up to the sound wall as the Ghost, a tall figure in full-body riot gear advances on them.

MARCELLA

¡Go ahead! ¡Speak to it, Horatio,!

BERNARDA

¡Check it out, Horatio!

HORATIO

It shivers me with fear.

BERNARDA

It wants to talk.

MARCELLA

Question it, Horatio.

HORATIO

¿What are you that walks the Anhelus night?
by Heaven, I command you, ¡speak!

VIBE CHANGES FROM ENGAGED TO DISENGAGED

MARCELLA

Now you've done it.

BERNARDA

¡There it goes!

HORATIO

¡Stay! ¡Speak, speak! I command you, ¡speak!

MARCELLA

It's gone, and will not answer,
command it how you will.

BERNARDA

¡What now, Horatio! you tremble and look pale:
¿Is this not something more than fantasy?
¿What do you think now?

HORATIO

Before the Angels, I wouldn't believe this
Without the witless witness
Of my own two eyes.

MARCELLA

¿Wasn't it like the king?

HORATIO

As you are like yourself:
How strange.

MARCELLA

Two times before, and just at this dead hour,
Exactly so he marched right past our spot.

HORATIO

This isn't good.

MUSICAL CUE OF GHOST VIBE

BERNARDA

¡Look! ¡Here it comes again!

HORATIO *[falls to his knees]*

Stay, ¡illusion!

If you have any sound, or use of voice,
Speak to me:

If there be any good thing to be done,
Speak to me:

A GIGA-TRANSPORT HORN BLOWS [DOPPLER FX?]

If you are privy to your country's fate,
;O, speak!
;Stop it, Marcella!

BERNARDA

;Phasers on stun!

MARCELLA FIRES PHASER SOUND FX

HORATIO

;It's here!

BERNARDA FIRES PHASER SOUND FX

MARCELLA

;It's gone!
We do it wrong, being so majestic,
To offer it this show of violence

BERNARDA

It was about to speak when the horn blew.

HORATIO

And then it started like a guilty thing.
Let us report what we have seen to-night
To our Kha Hamlet; for, upon my life,
This spirit, mute to us, will speak to her.

MARCELLA

If she can speak to it!
To see mí dead papá andando
Would put me in a fit.

HORATIO

I have seen Kha Hamlet under fire and under ice
None more cool-headed, resourceful or more wise.
I was with her in Nueva York when she lost her hand
striking with the Sanitors
The sight was appalling to all who saw,
but Hamlet accepted her wound as heroically
as if she'd rehearsed the calamity.

BERNARDA

You were there? How did it happen?

HORATIO

We were formed up smartly with the picket line
That the Sanitors had surrounding City Hall
When the MuniPo deployed the Citi Kiddie Corps,
Filling the street with Cadets eight lines deep.
The children were lambs to the slaughter
brave in their red, white, and blue
when the MuniPo sounded the charge
It was clear what they meant to do;
Fire their grenades into the parade
And blame the carnage on the Sanitors rage.
Hamlet drew her sword and leapt to the fore,
She struck away a grenade and then one more
A third clattered to the street right at the feet of the children's crusade
Faster than light the calculation was made;
She fielded the bomb barehanded, she rolled and then she thrust
it deep into an exposed sewer-slot.
She pulled back quickly, but not quick enough

The explosion raised the pavement and a cloud of dust
her hand...it hung in shreds when they stood her up
but she spoke out for the union as they carried her off...
The rest I think you know. They wired her up with a
Brand-new hand now they use her just for show.

BERNARDA

And therefore is she called the Angel of NuYork

MARCELLA

Let's tell her right away. And most conveniently
I this morning know where she's supposed to be.

The screens flicker out.

Queen Gertrude and King Claudius burst onto the scene like rock stars.

They sweep towards the courtroom, surrounded by Security Guards.

REPORTER 1 (PAT HARPER)

¿Do your majesties a Statement care to make?

REPORTER 2 (JESSICA SAVAGE)

¿To fill the eager ears of the wonder-wounded world?

REPORTER 3 (BERNARDA MARX)

¿The will! ¿The will! ¿Are we to hear the will?

REPORTER 1 (PAT HARPER)

¿Will you break the Security Corridor to go on Honeymoon? ¿Hmmm?

REPORTER 3 (BERNARDA MARX)

¿The King has often promised us that he would leave a will!

REPORTER 2 (JESSICA SAVAGE)

¿Was Kha Hamletus the maid of Honor? hmmm?

REPORTER 3 (BERNARDA MARX)

Good Queen, ¿what did you wear?

REPORTER 1 (PAT HARPER)

¿And was it white?

REPORTER 2 (JESSICA SAVITCH)

¿Did you wear white?

REPORTER 3 (BERNARDA MARX)

¿Was Great King Hamlet ill?

REPORTER 1 (PAT HARPER)

¿Will the death be ruled an accident--

REPORTER 2 (JESSICA SAVITCH)

¿Or can we say that there are indications of foul play?

Polonius hands Claudius a Porta-Prompter from which he reads:

THE PORTA-PROMPTER SUPPLIES AN ATTENTION-GRABBING FLOURISH

KING CLAUDIUS

We grieve my brother Hamlet, so recently deceased
and honor him most highly
By taking up his Crown, his Kingdom, and his Queen
(as he would wont)
and making common cause with the welfare of our State.
Now, since we two are married,
conjoined, compact, and made one flesh
we thank you all, who strongly urgéd us
To forgo grief and to perform the duty that is pleasure
by wedding strength to...strength,
to deepen the will and steepen the walls

of our Security State, [the big finish]

We dedicate ourselves to the City State of Anhelus,
your King Claudius and Queen Gertrude Sky Canuté!

For all, gracias!

Recorded Cheers.

Claudius tosses the Porta-Prompter to Polonius who makes a sign at which fancy gift bags are distributed among the people and reporters.

They contain jeweled miniatures portraits of Gertrude and Claudius on golden chains that everyone feels constrained to wear, like Marathon Medals.

REPORTER 1 (PAT HARPER)

In this, her first appearance since the funeral of the King,
It seems Kha Hamlet has lost both weight and light;
the strain of grief is clear, upon her clouded face,
and now the brightest aspect of our royal star
is the glittering pearlescence of her cybertronic hand...

The monitors come alive with footage of the Royal Kha Hamletus Canuté; Winning awards for laser-fencing, at kung-fu, demonstrating CPR, informal shots with the Sanitation Guild, at the Pyramids, in hospital with a bandaged right wrist and amputated hand, in fitting and rehab of the prosthetic hand, fencing with the new hand, piloting a hovercraft, with The Sanitation Guild., etc.

PANELIST 1 (Lois Dern Godwit) [1st of panel of 3 historians à la PBS on screen]

Kha Hamlet has been groomed from the cradle to lead Anhelus.

When she was maimed and lost her hand in the action in defense of the Nuyorican Sanitation Guild, the experimental bionic hand rendered her technically Cyborg and ineligible to succeed (according to the Royal Parliamentarian.)

The election of her uncle Claudius must have been a cruel disappointment to our large-minded and ambitious young Royal in the muddle of her grief.

PANELIST 2 (Ex-Pat Le Brit)

¡Yes! Her mother, Queen Gertrude, the only daughter of the great King Canuté, inspired young Hamlet to serve in Nueva York where her heroics in the Citi Corps

on behalf of Free the People led to her unprecedented promotion as Kha;
Her Majesty must be aware of the stunning reversal
that this crushing political blow has handed to her brilliant and unpredictable daughter--

PANELIST 3 (Prof. S. Gonzales)

¡Esso es!

But apparently the Queen is the sparkle-eyed picture of devotion
to her assertive and charismatic husband...we are at a flexion point and
Under King Claude the heavy hand of the State will surely gain more weight,
and this Inquest into the Death of the King may shed more heat than light...

AT A SIGN FROM THE IRRITATED KING CLAUDIUS THE MONITORS GO DARK

CLAUDIUS

But now, my noble Hamlet, my dear child--

HAMLET

[*Aside*] A little more than kin, and less than kind.

CLAUDIUS

How is it that the clouds still hang on you?

HAMLET

Not so, my lord; I am too much in the sun.

GERTRUDE

Hamletus, cast your whited color off,
And let your eye look like a friend on Anhelus.
You know it's common; all that lives must die,
Passing through nature to eternity.

HAMLET

Ay, madam, it is common.

GERTRUDE

If it be true,
Why seems it so particular with tu?

HAMLET

¿Seems, madre! No, it is; howsoever it 'seems.'
It's not just my cropped hair, good mother,
Nor mourning clothes of simple white
Nor the effort just to breathe that expresses as my sighs,
No, nor the tearful rivers of my eyes,
Nor the downturned corners of my mouth,
Together with all the forms, moods, and shapes of grief,
That show me as "bereaved": these indeed "seem,"
For they are actions that anyone might play:
But I have grief inside that's more than a show;
These but the symbols and the suits of woe.

Hamlet turns to enter the court.

REPORTER 2 (JESSICA SAVAGE)

¿Have you good councilors or advocates
To advance your royal claim?

REPORTER 1 (PAT HARPER)

¿Or are you now content to wait on time and tide?

REPORTER 2 (JESSICA SAVAGE)

¿Or will you turn your back on Anhelus?
Returning to Nueva York, and a life of ease?

KING CLAUDIUS *[taking control]*

O Hamlet, throw to earth
This most unseemly woe, and think of me

As of a father: for let the world take note,
 You are the most immediate to my throne;
 I know you had such fun in Nueva York,
 "Khaleesi" of the Law School Citi Corps,
 But I beseech you, bend you, to remain
 Here, in the cheer and comfort of my eye,
 My Senior Adviser, Daughter, and my Heir.

HAMLET glares at Claudius, when Gertrude steps between them.

GERTRUDE

Let not your mother lose her prayer, Hamletus:
 I beg you, stay; no vayas a Nu York.

HAMLET

A sus ordenes, mí madre.

KING CLAUDIUS

Why, it is a loving and a fair reply:
 Madam, come;
 This gentle and unforced accord of Hamlet
 Sits smiling to my heart: Vente conmigo.
 We'll have laser lights from the parapets at midnight!

As Claudius and Gertrude sweep into the courtroom (along with the audience), Hamlet shrinks in humiliation in a corner of the lobby.

SECURITY SCREEN 1

PAT HARPER

live from the Hall of Justice
 There it is,
 King Claudius names
 Kha Hamlet
 as his successor

SECURITY SCREEN 2

JESSICA SAVAGE

in the curious phrase
 "most immediate
 to our throne,"
 which sounds
 just a little paranoid.

SECURITY SCREEN 3

BERNARDA MARX

There had been
 speculation ...
 when and where she earned
 the legendary adulation

*Hidden cameras trained on Hamlet broadcast to monitors inside the courtroom***HAMLET**

O, that this too, too solid flesh would melt,
 Thaw, and atomize myself into a nothingness!
 Or that Great Goddess had not set her laws
 Against self-slaughter! O Great Goddess!
 How weary, stale, flat, and useless,
 Seems to me each aspect of this world!
 That it should come to this!
 But two months dead: no, not so much, not two:
 A little month, before those shoes were old
 With which she followed my poor father's body,
 Goddess! a beast that lacks the power of reason
 Would have mourned longer--she married with my uncle,
 My father's brother, but no more like my father
 Than I'm like Aphrodite: within a month
 She married. O, what wicked speed, to bounce
 With such alacrity to incestuous sheets!
 It is not nor it cannot come to good:
 But break, my heart; for I must hold my tongue.

*HORATIO, MARCELLA, and BERNARDA approach***HORATIO**

¡Hail Kha Hamlet, favored of the Angels!

HAMLET

'Well beneath their wings—
 ¡Horatio! – ¡Is that really you?

HORATIO

The same, Majór, ever at your service.

HAMLET

Horatio my dear, dear friend;

¿What make you from Nueva York, Horatio? [*Salutes*] ¿Marcella?

MARCELLA

Your Highness—

HAMLET

I am very glad to see you. [*Nods to Bernarda*] Health to you, Peace Officer.

[*to Horatio*] But why, Horatio, ¿came you from Nueva York?

HORATIO

Majór, I came to see your father's funeral.

HAMLET

Do not mock me, Science Officer;

I think it was to see my mother's wedding.

HORATIO

Indeed, Majór, it followed hard upon.

HAMLET

¿Thrift, thrift, Horatio! the funeral baked meats

Did coldly furnish forth the marriage tables.

¿Would I had met my dearest foe in heaven

Before ever I had seen that day, Horatio!

¿My father!— I think I see my father--

HORATIO

¿Where, Majór?

HAMLET

In my mind's eye, Horatio.

HORATIO

Majór, I think I saw him just last night.

HAMLET

¿Saw? ¿Who?

HORATIO

Majór, the king your father.

HAMLET

¡The king my father!

HORATIO

"But wait there's more"

HAMLET

Great Goddess, let me hear.

HORATIO

Twice have these Peace Officers, Marcella
and Bernarda, loyal Anhelinos,
On the skyway in the dark of night,
Been confronted by a figure like your father,
In battle-gear arrayed from head to foot.
Three times did it walk slowly by,
Within the very vapor of their breath; while they,
reduced almost to jell-o with the fear,
Stand mute and speak not to it.
They told me all of this
in strictest confidence;
And I with them the third night kept the watch;
Where, just as they had promised, right on time,
Exactly as advertised, every word made true and good,

The Apparition comes: I knew your father;
These hands are not more like.

HAMLET

¿But where was this?

MARCELLA

Above the Grand Street on-ramp to the skyway where we...hang.

HAMLET

¿Did you not speak to it?

HORATIO

Majór, I did;

But answer made it none: Tho' once I thought
It lifted up its head and did address
Itself to motion, like it was about to speak;
But just right then a passing skysport
blew its horn on the One-Oh-One
And at the sound it seemed to shrink,
And vanished from our sight.

HAMLET

It's very strange.

HORATIO

As I do live, my honored Kha, it's true;

HAMLET

¿Hold you the watch to-night?

MARCELLA and BERNARDA

We do, Majór.

HAMLET

Then I will watch to-night;
Let it walk again.

HORATIO

I wager that it will.

HAMLET

And if it walks tonight in my dead father's image,
by these pickers and stealers,
I will speak to it, though hell itself should yell
and bid me keep my peace.
I pray you all,
Keep on keeping this strange story
closely to yourselves;
You won't regret it, for I shall never forget it
So, farewell:
The skyway onramp, 'twixt 'leven and twelve,
I will be with you.

HORATIO, MARCELLA AND BERNARDA *[bowing]*

Our duty to you,
O favored of the Angels.

HAMLET

... well beneath their wings: Adios.

Horatio, Marcella and Bernarda go into the Courtroom, where they take their seats.

HAMLET *(con't)*

¡My father's spirit in Kelvar! all is not well;
¡I wish the night were come!
Till then sit still, my soul: foul deeds will rise,
Tho' the whole earth hide them from our eyes.

Exit

Court is still not in session.

Laertes approaches the King near the prosecutorial table.

CLAUDIUS

Bueno, Laertes, ¿que pasa contigo?
Your father and the King
are head and heart, hand and mouth;
I heard you have an ask, ¡Laertes! Dígame.

LAERTES

My dread lord,
Your royal permission to return to 'Pulco;

SHOWS HIS transport Ticket to Claudius

LAERTES (*con't*)

From whence tho' happily I came to Anhelus,
To bend the knee at your coronation,
Yet now, I must admit, that duty done,
My thoughts and wishes bend again toward 'Pulco
And my mission to maintain the Border Wall.

CLAUDIUS

Have you your father's leave? What says Polonius?

POLONIUS

He has, my lord. (***Hands Claudius a Visa***)
Yes, please do, give him leave to go.

CLAUDIUS

(***Sigs the Visa, gives Laertes money, too***)
Take your fair hour, Laertes; time be thine,

Vaya con Dios!

LAERTES

Live long and prosper, ¡O King and Queen of Anhelus! ¡Adios!

Polonius takes his seat at the Prosecutor's table with Claudius and Gertrude

Hamlet enters and takes a seat at the back of the courtroom .

The Judge enters .

BAILIFF

Oye, oye. All rise. The Grand Jury Inquest into the Death of King Hamlet of the City State of Anhelus is now in session, the Honorable Judge Teeto Klee, presiding. All tu who have business with this Honorable Court, draw near and tu shall be heard. Long Live the City State of Anhelus Long live the—

A Shouting Person attempts to penetrate the circle of press and security that surround the bench, waving a green banner and directing his fury at the Judge.

A SHOUTING PERSON

Nukes out of Anhelus! Freedom for the Conscripted! Release the Nevada Nine!

ALARMS GO OFF

Another Shouting Person rushes the bench.

ANOTHER SHOUTING PERSON

¡Freedom! ¡Freedom! ¡Freedom for the Conscripted!

Security wrestles the two ring leaders to the ground, subduing them with phasers.

At the crest of this energy, a loud, strange sound cuts the air, and simultaneously the disturbance goes silent and slo-mo, and a beam of light spears Hamlet where she sits in the back of the Courtroom.

The center screen crackles alive to show the Ghost of Hamlet's Father, who speaks to Hamlet from the screen. No other character sees the Ghost.

HAMLET

¡Angels and ministers of grace, defend us!

GHOST

Escúchame.

HAMLET

I will.

GHOST

I am your father's spirit,
Doomed for a certain term to walk the night,
And for the day confined to fast in fires,
Till the foul crimes done in my days of nature
Are burnt and purged away. ¡Oye!
If you did ever your dear father love-

HAMLET

¡O Goddess!

GHOST

Revenge his foul and most unnatural murder.

HAMLET

¡Murder!

GHOST

Murder most foul, as in the best it is;
But this most foul, strange and unnatural.

HAMLET

Haste me to know it, that I, with wings as swift
As thoughts
May sweep to my revenge.

GHOST

I find thee apt;

Now, daughter, hear:
It is reported that, sleeping in my orchard,
A serpent stung me; but know, my noble girl,
The serpent that did sting your father's life
Now wears his crown.

HAMLET

¡O my prophetic soul! ¡My uncle!

GHOST

Sleeping inside my orchard walls,
My custom always of the afternoon,
Into my sanctuary your uncle stole,
With juice of poison hebenon in a vial,
And in the porches of my ears did pour
The leperous distilment; whose effect
Holds such an enmity with blood of man
That swift as quicksilver it courses through
The natural gates and alleys of the body,
And with a sudden vigor does curdle
And spoil, like acid droppings into milk,
The thin and wholesome blood: so did it mine;
And a most instant tetter bark'd about,
Most laser-like, with vile and loathsome crust,
All my smooth body.
Thus was I, sleeping, by a brother's hand
Of life, of crown, of Queen, at once bereft:
Unconfessed, with no absolution or extreme unction
but sent into my death
With all my imperfections on my head.

HAMLET

¡O, horrible!

GHOST

O my noble daughter, bear it not;
 Let not the royal bed of Anhelus be
 A couch for luxury and damned incest.
 But howsoever tu pursue this act,
 Taint not your mind, nor let your soul conspire
 Against your mother, no. Leave her to heaven.
 Hamlet, remember me.

The Screen goes gray and static flickers as the image of the GHOST fades.

HAMLET

"Remember me!" ;I swear it!
[takes out an electronic device and begins swiping left]
 ;Yes! from the table of my memory
 I'll wipe away all useless facts that 'til now seemed important
 And your commandment all alone shall live
 Within the throne-room of my brain,
 Unmixed with lesser thoughts:
 ;yes, by heaven! *[recording in the device]*
 ;O villain, villain, smiling, damned villain!
 O, let me note it well and keep it ever by
 let it be engraved and emblazoned on the sky
 That one may smile, and smile, and be a villain;
 At least I'm sure it may be so in Anhelus: *[turns off recording]*
 So, uncle, there you are. *[throws the device to the floor, furiously stomps it to pieces]*
 Now to my Word;
 It is ";Revenge... remember me."
 I have sworn 't.

Hamlet falls to her knees.

Horatio, Marcella and Bernarda rush to her aid.

The entire Courtroom re-animates and watches.

HORATIO

¿What cheer, Majór?

HAMLET

¿O, wonderful!

HORATIO

O, Majór, ¿tell me!

HAMLET

¿But you'll keep it secret?

HORATIO, BERNARDA, MARCELLA

Ay, Your Highness.

As HAMLET rises to her feet, they reach out to support her, but suddenly spooked, she shakes them off and draws her dagger.

HAMLET

¿Unhand me, or I'll make a ghost of them that tries to stop me!

HORATIO

Her imagination has run wild--

HAMLET

¿It has made me mad! Why right, you are in the right,
And so, without more circumstance at all
I hold it fit that we should shake hands and part
You, as your business and desire shall point you,
For everyone has business and desires,
such as they are. As for my poor part, look you, I'll go pray.

HORATIO

These are but wild and whirling words, my Kha.

HAMLET [*Spinning and pin-wheeling her arms*]

I am sorry they offend you, heartily,
Yes, indeed, heartily.

BERNARDA

This is most strange

HAMLET

Then as a stranger give it welcome.
There are more things in Heaven and Earth, Horatio,
Than are dreamt of in your philosophy.
The Time is out of joint. O cursed spite
that ever I was born to set it right.

Exit HAMLET through the house.

MARCELLA

Something is rotten in the State of Anhelus.

Exeunt Horatio, Marcella, and Bernarda

JUDGE

¡Order! ¡Order! We will have order in the court, ¡or the Court Room shall be cleared!
[*Claudius rises*]

The Court recognizes His Majesty.

CLAUDIUS [*Opening a Porta-Prompter which SOUNDS A MUSICAL CUE FOR ATTENTION*]

Your Honor,
I entreat this Court to open a royal inquiry
Into the cause of Hamlet's woes
and if We may...help...her cause.

King Claudius sits. The Judge eyes him intently.

JUDGE

She will be questioned as may suit this inquiry.
Now, as our charge is grave, we will move on to
The solemn task at hand with no delay.

Judge taps her gavel and gestures at Polonius.

POLONIUS

The Crown calls on the Medical Examiner.

BAILIFF

Do you swear that the testimony that you do give before this court
Shall be the truth, all of the truth, and nothing but the truth,
¿So help you God?

MEDICAL EXAMINER

I do

BAILIFF

You may be seated.

POLONIUS

Medical Examiner, ¿did you examine the Body of the King?

The screens show footage of the King's funeral and his autopsy.

MEDICAL EXAMINER

I did indeed; he was a goodly king.
We shall not look upon his like again.

POLONIUS

¿What, if anything, did you observe?

MEDICAL EXAMINER

A vile and loathsome crust all over his smooth body.

POLONIUS

¿To what did you attribute this effect?

MEDICAL EXAMINER

A most instant tetter barked all about,
most laser-like.

POLONIUS

¿But what would cause such a disastrous hap?

THE MEDICAL EXAMINER turns to look directly at Claudius

MEDICAL EXAMINER

The introduction of a leperous distilment; whose effect
Holds such an enmity with blood of man
That swift as quicksilver it courses through
The natural gates and alleys of the body,
And with a sudden vigor it does curdle
And spoil, like acid droppings into milk,
The thin and wholesome blood.

POLONIUS

¿But how could such a dreadful “distilment”
be introduced into the closely guarded
and sacred precious body of the King?
¿What, conclude you, was the cause of his death?

The Medical Examiner pauses and looks down at her notes, while in the silence may be heard a metallic clinking as Claudius absently fingers the coins in his pocket.

MEDICAL EXAMINER

A Serpent stung him.

POLONIUS

No further questions.

JUDGE

You may step down.

After a quick consult w/ King Claudius, Polonius addresses the Court

POLONIUS

By your leave, Sire. Call Hamlet to the stand.

CLAUDIUS

Be it so.

JUDGE

Call Kha Hamlet to the stand.

BAILIFF

Call Kha Hamlet to the stand.

OFFICER AT THE DOOR

Call Kha Hamletta to the stand.

HAMLET rushes in, disheveled and seeming confused.

BAILIFF

Do you swear that the testimony you are about to give before this court shall be the truth, all of the truth, and nothing but the truth?

HAMLET

I do.

The Bailiff starts to turn away when he realizes that HAMLET will not let go of the Bible. She holds it delicately, but with her artificial hand, Bailiff cannot prise it away. A brief but fierce tug-of-war ensues, and the Bailiff looks to the Judge for direction. The Judge indicates that the Bailiff should let it go. The Bailiff retreats and Hamlet sits with the Bible, opens and starts to read. She calmly tears a page out and begins to eat it.

POLONIUS

¿How does my Kha Hamlet?

HAMLET

Well, Goddess-a-mercy.

POLONIUS

¿Do you know me, Majór?

HAMLET

Excellent well; you are a pimp.

POLONIUS

Not I, Majór.

HAMLET

Then I would you were so honest a man.

POLONIUS

Honest, ¿your Highness?

HAMLET

Ay, sir; to be honest, as this world goes, is to be one out of ten thousand.

POLONIUS

That's very true, Majór.

HAMLET

¿Have you a daughter?

POLONIUS

I have, Majór.

HAMLET

I'm pulling your coat: Let her not walk in the sun. Friend, see to it.

POLONIUS

[*Aside to Jury*] ¿How about that?

She didn't know me; she said I
was a pimp: she is far gone, far gone

[*Returning to Ka Hamlet*]

¿What do you read, Majór?

HAMLET

Words, words, words.

She eats another page

POLONIUS

¿What is the matter, Majór?

HAMLET

¿Between who?

POLONIUS

I mean, the matter that you read, Majór.

HAMLET

Slanders, sir: for the satirical rogue says here
that old men have grey hair,
that their faces are wrinkled,
and that they have a plentiful lack of wit,

all which, sir,
 tho' I most powerfully believe,
 yet
 I do not think it Honesty to have it written down,
 for yourself, sir, should be young as I am,
 if like a crab you could go backward.

POLONIUS [*Aside, to the Jury*]

Tho' this be madness, yet there is method
 in 't.
 Majór, I will most humbly take my leave of you.

HAMLET

You cannot, sir, take from me anything
 that I will more willingly part with:
 except my life, except my life, except my life.

POLONIUS

Fare you well, Majór.
 Nothing further, Your Honor

HAMLET

¡These tedious old fools!

JUDGE:

You may step down. [*Bangs gavel.*] We will now recess for lunch. Bailiff, you may sequester the Jury. ¿May I offer your Majesties the poor hospitality of my chambers?

Gertrude, Claudius and Judge Exit. The Jury is escorted out.

All leave the Courtroom except Hamlet & one Officer standing at the door.

Polonius hurries out the center aisle as Rosencrantz and Guildenstern enter, holding hands.

POLONIUS [*To Rosencrantz and Guildenstern*]

You seek the Kha Hamlet; there she is.

ROSENCRANTZ

[To POLONIUS] ;God save you, sir!

GUILDENSTERN [bowing to Hamlet]

;Your Highness!

ROSENCRANTZ

;My dear Majór!

ROSENCRANTZ and GUILDENSTERN [bowing to HAMLET]

;Well met, Kha Hamlet, O favored of the Angels!

HAMLET

May they keep you ever well beneath their wings—

;my excellent good friends!

All the way from Nueva York, ;my mad Knickerbockers!

How are you,

¿Guildenstern? ;Ah, Rosencrantz!

ROSENCRANTZ

As the indifferent children of the earth.

GUILDENSTERN

Happy, in that we're not over-happy;

On Fortune's cap we're not the very button.

HAMLET

¿Not the soles of her shoe?

ROSENCRANTZ

Neither, Majór.

HAMLET

Then you live about her waist, ¿or in the middle of

her favors?

GUILDENSTERN

'Faith, her privates we.

HAMLET

¿In the secret parts of Dame Fortune? O, most true; ¿she is a brazen hussy! ¿What's the news?

ROSENCRANTZ

None, Majór, but that the world's grown Honest.

HAMLET

(Then is doomsday near) But your news is not true.
Let me rephrase. In particular: what evil have you done,
my good friends,
that Fortune sent you to prison here?

GUILDENSTERN

¿Prison, Majór!

HAMLET

Anhelus is a prison.

ROSENCRANTZ

Then is the world one.

HAMLET

A big one; in which there are many cell-blocks,
wards and dungeons, Anhelus being one of the worst.

ROSENCRANTZ

We don't think so, Majór

HAMLET

Why, then, it's not, to you;
 for there is nothing either good or bad, but thinking makes it so:
 to me it's a prison.

ROSENCRANTZ

Why then, your ambition makes it one; it's too narrow for your mind.

HAMLET

O Goddess, I could be bounded in a nutshell
 and count myself a Queen of infinite space,
 were it not that I have bad dreams.
 But at the risk of repeating myself,
 why did you come to Anhelus?

ROSENCRANTZ & GUILDENSTERN

¡We thought you could use a hand!

HAMLET

Ahahahahahahahahaha--
 But that journey is no laughing matter!
 The Salt Flats, the Badlands, the dreaded Donner Pass,
 To say nothing of the Monsanto Sea, where you could drown in grass--
 ¿Were you not sent for? ¿Was it really your idea to make the trek?
 ¿Is it a free visitation?
 Come, come; no, spit, no, speak,
 spill it, talk!

GUILDENSTERN

¿What should we say, Majór?

HAMLET

Nothing but the truth, the whole truth.
 I know the good King and Queen have sent for you.

ROSENCRANTZ

To what end, Majór?

HAMLET

That you must teach me. But if you please,
be honest with me,
whether you were sent for, or no.

ROSENCRANTZ

[*Aside to GUILDENSTERN*] What say you?

HAMLET

¡I am looking right at you!—If you
love me, be honest with me.

GUILDENSTERN

Majór, we were sent for.

HAMLET

Buzz, buzz!
and I will tell tu why;
I have of late—
but why I do not know—
lost all my joy, all my happiness, and have
left off all my virtuous habits of exercise
and indeed it goes so heavily with me
that that this fantastic frame,
the Earth,
seems to me a barren bump,
this most excellent canopy,
the air,
look you, this sky-blue vault,
this majestical roof edged with golden fire,

why, it appears to me as nothing but a foul and pestilent miasma of vapors.

¿What a piece of work is Human!

¿how noble in reason!

¿how infinite in faculty!

¿in action how like an angel!

¿in comprehension how like a god!

And yet, to me,

¿what is this quintessence of dust?

man delights not me: no, nor woman neither,

tho' by your smiling you seem to say so.

ROSENCRANTZ

Majór, there was no such stuff in my thoughts.

HAMLET

¿Why did you laugh then, when I said “man delights not me?”

ROSENCRANTZ

To think, Majór, if you delight not in man, what
dismal entertainment the Sayers shall receive from
you: we passed them on the skyway;
(they broke down at the Stacks Collapse) and they are
Coming here, to offer you their service. *[They dance a step together]*
The serv-o-bots are fetching them!

HAMLET

He that plays the King shall be welcome; His Majesty
shall have tribute from me. ¿What Sayers are they?

ROSENCRANTZ

¿Exactly those Channelers who were your favorites!
The Truth Tellers; the official re-enactors of Nueva York.

THE TRUTH SAYERS OFFSTAGE SINGING AND PLAYING

THE BALLAD OF HAMLET'S HAND**GUILDENSTERN**

¡There are The Truth Sayers!

HAMLET

Manhatta, you are welcome to Anhelus.
Your hands, come then: *[She pulls them in close]*
You are welcome: but my
uncle-father and aunt-mother are deceived.

ROSENCRANTZ

¿In what, Majór?

HAMLET

I am but mad north-north-west: when the wind is
southerly I know a hawk from a handsaw.

Enter POLONIUS

POLONIUS

¡Ford be with you, Kha Hamlet!

HAMLET

I predict he comes to tell me of the Sayers;
watch...
— You say right, sir: on Monday morning;
it was so indeed.

POLONIUS

Majór, I have news to tell you.
¡The Truth Sayers have arrived in Anhelus, Majór!

HAMLET

¡Buzz, buzz!

POLONIUS

¡It's true!—

The best re-enactors in the world, either for
tragedy, comedy, history, pastoral,
pastoral-comical,

historical-pastoral, tragical-historical,

tragical-comical-historical-pastoral,

scene individable, or poem unlimited:

History is never too heavy, nor Dreamtime ever too light.

For verbatim re-enactment or improvisation,

¡these are the only ones!

Enter four or five Truth Sayers

Song for the Entrance of the Truth Sayers: The Angel of Nu York



*Click image to hear sample
(may require Adobe Reader)*

She's the Angel of Nu York
Hamlet of the Citi Corps so noble in her mind
A sense of justice so exquisitely refined
A flashing sword, her sterling word,
And love for all things in this World
She's the Angel of Nu York
Forces of Evil she's sworn to resist
Now, here is the fierceness,
Here is the twist
She lost her hand then she raised her fist
for the angel band and it goes like this...
She's the Angel of Nu York

HAMLET

Well that was perfectly dreadful...

ALL TRUTH SAYERS

¡Hail Khalisi Hamletus Canuté, favored of the Angels!

HAMLET

May They keep you ever well beneath Their wings.
 You are welcome, Sayers; welcome, all. I am so glad
 to see you well. Welcome, good friends.
 O, my old friend, I'll have a speech immediately:
 come, give us a taste of your quality; come, a passionate speech.

FIRST TRUTH SAYER

¿What speech, Majór?

HAMLET

I heard you channel me a speech once,
 from The Tragedy of Queen Kennedy;
 and thereabout of it especially, where it speaks of
 Kennedy's slaughter: if it live in your memory,
 begin at this line: let me see, let me see,
 --it begins at the airport:--
 'We remember now forever/ her smiling in the Dallas sun.'
 So, proceed you.

FIRST TRUTH SAYER

'We remember now forever
 her smiling in the Dallas sun.
 Her pillbox crown on raven hair
 The saucy suit of pink she wore;
 the color contrast wild,
 When a spray of scarlet roses was presented
 by a pretty child
 As they got off the plane.

The President was tall and slim; a golden glow surrounded him
As they mounted the wide, black, open car that joined the motorcade.
We never stopped to think,
“How like gouts of blood those roses look
Against her suit of pink!”
His Campaign smile is firmly fixed
On the silent film that captured him like a movie star,
Enthroned beside his radiant queen in the black Death Car
Whose stately pace the loyal Secret Service raced
As they trotted, armed attendants, to the doom`ed king.

POLONIUS

This is too long.

HAMLET

Ignore him: He wants a lapdance or a strip-tease, or else he falls asleep:
Go on: come to Jacqueline.

FIRST TRUTH SAYER

'But who, O, who had seen the bloodied queen--'

HAMLET

'The bloodied queen?'

POLONIUS

That's good; 'bloodied queen' is good.

FIRST TRUTH SAYER

'When his handsome head exploded in an obscene
rose-colored cloud that spewed and spattered scarlet gore
Onto the pink suit that she wore.
Now Time itself takes pause
and stretches in an endless clause,
Her agony as frame by frame she reaches out on hands and knees--'

The nameless Secret Service man who crawls toward as best he can
His stricken king across the black trunk of the limousine.
If the gods themselves did see them then
As the country's soul was lost
Unless things mortal move them not,
Tears were wrung from the burning Sun,
And pity from the gods.'

POLONIUS

Look, whether he has not turned his color and has
tears in his eyes. Pray you, no more.

HAMLET

Yes, let's stop: I'll have you speak out the rest soon.
Good Señor, ¿will you see the Sayers well bestowed?

POLONIUS

Majór, I'll use them as they deserve.

HAMLET

Angel's mercy, Polly, much better: use every one
as they deserve, ¿and who escapes whipping?
Use them after your own honor and dignity: the less
they deserve, the more golden is your generosity.
Take them in.

POLONIUS

Come, honored guests.

HAMLET

Follow him, friends: we'll hear a re-enactment to-night.

***Exit Polonius with all the Truth Sayers except The First Truth Sayer, who HAMLET pulls
aside***

Do you hear me, old friend, ¿can you channel
The Murder of Gonzago?

FIRST TRUTH SAYER

Ay, Majór.

HAMLET

We'll have it to-night.

FIRST TRUTH SAYER

Ay, Majór.

HAMLET

Very well. Follow that lord; and look you mock him not.

Exit First Truth Sayer. HAMLET turns to Rosencrantz and Guildenstern.

My good friends, I'll leave you until night: you are
welcome to Anhelus. [*Kha Hamlet gives them a purse.*]

ROSENCRANTZ

¿Good majór!

HAMLET

Ay, so, and Goddess go with you.

Exeunt ROSENCRANTZ and GUILDENSTERN Kha HAMLET tosses a large gold coin to the Officer at the Door. Exit Officer at the Door.

Now I am alone.

¿O, what a waste of time and space am I!
Isn't it monstrous that this Sayer here,
But in a fiction, in a dream of emotion,

Could with his soul play "let's pretend" so completely
 That from her working his very skin turned pale,
 Tears in his eyes, freak-out in his face,
 A broken voice, and his whole body seeming
 To re-live his story? and all for nothing!
 For Jacqueline!
 What's Jacqueline to him, or he to Jaqueline
 That he should weep for her? What would he do,
 Had he the motive and the cue for emotion
 That I have? He would drown the stage with tears
 And split the public ear by speaking truth to power
 Yet I,
 A dull and muddy-mettled spudling, sleep,
 Lost in my dreams, empty of my cause,
 And can say nothing; no, not for a king,
 Cravenly slaughtered in his sleep
 Bloody, bawdy villain!
 Remorseless, treacherous, lecherous, kindless villain!
 O, vengeance!
 Why, what an ass am I! This is most noble,
 That I, the royal child of a dear father murdered,
 Prompted to my revenge by heaven and hell,
 Must, like a whore, unpack my heart with words,
 And fall a-cursing, like a kitchen wench,
 A slave!

I have heard

That guilty people sitting at a play
 Have by the very aptness of the scene
 Been struck so to the soul that on-the-spot
 They have confessed their crimes;
 For murder, tho' it have no tongue,
 will speak ... by any means necessary.
 I'll have these Sayers
 Play something like the murder of my father

Before my uncle: if he but blink,
I'll know my course. The spirit that I've seen
May be the devil: and the devil has power
To assume a pleasing shape;
I'll have grounds
More relative than this: the play's the thing
Wherein I'll catch the conscience of the king.

Exit HAMLET

The Lobby of the Courthouse, at the end of the Lunch Recess. Queen Gertrude, King Claudius, Lord Polonius, Rosencrantz, and Guildenstern

CLAUDIUS

...¿And couldn't tu
Get from her why she puts on this lunacy?

ROSENCRANTZ

She does confess she feels a stranger to herself;
But from what causes she will by no means speak.

GUILDENSTERN

Nor do we find her willing to be sounded,
But, with a crafty madness, keeps aloof,
When we would bring her on to some confession
Of her true state.

GERTRUDE

¿Did she receive tu well?

ROSENCRANTZ

O very well.

GUILDENSTERN

But with much forcing of her disposition.

ROSENCRANTZ

Wary of question; but, in conversation
Most free of reply.

GERTRUDE

¿Did you invite her to any pastime?

ROSENCRANTZ

Your Grace, it so fell out that certain Truth Sayers
We passed on the way: of these we told her;
And there did seem in her a kind of joy
To hear of it: they are about the court,
And, in fact they already have an order
This night to re-enact for her.

POLONIUS

'Tis most true:
And she asked me to invite your Majesties
To also hear and see the ... play.

CLAUDIUS

We'll be delighted; and I'm most pleased
To hear her so inclined.
Encourage her, my loyal friends.
And drive her purpose on to these ... activities.

GUILDENSTERN

We shall, my lord.

Hamlet enters a courtyard. She accepts a beverage from an R2D2 Serv-o-Bot and dismisses it brusquely.

To be, or not to be: that's the question:
Whether it's nobler in the mind to suffer
The slings and arrows of outrageous fortune,

Or to take arms against a sea of troubles and by la lucha, end them.
 To die, to sleep;
No mas; and by a sleep to say we end
 The heart-ache and the thousand natural shocks that flesh is heir to,
 It's a consummation devoutly to be wished. To die, to sleep;
 to sleep, perchance to dream; Yup, there's the rub,
 For in that sleep of Death what dreams may come
 When we have shuffled off this mortal mess
 must give us pause
 Else, who would bear the whips and scorns of time,
 the oppressor's wrong, the law's delay,
 When she herself might her quietus make
 With a bare bodkin? Who would burdens bear,
 to grunt and sweat under a weary life
 but that the threat of something after death,
 The dark destination from which no one returns,
 Gives us brain-freeze
 And makes us rather bear those ills we have
 Than fly to others that we know not of?

Exit HAMLET, continuing... Claudius and Polonius in the Courtroom, watching.

CLAUDIUS

...what she spoke; that was not madness.
 There's something in her soul,
 This "insanity" is masking
 And I fear that the reveal will be explosive.
 ¿What do you think, Polonius?

POLONIUS

My lord, it very well may be;
 Therefore, if you agree, after the display
 Let her Queen mother all alone ask Hamlet
 To share her grief:
 And I'll be placed, what do you think, secretly,

To overhear their talk.
If the Queen unlock her not,
Then you should lock her up.

CLAUDIUS

It shall be so.
"Madness" in great ones must not unwatched go.

BAILIFF

All rise.

The Judge enters

JUDGE

Order!

[Claudius rises]

JUDGE (con't)

The Court recognizes His Majesty.

CLAUDIUS

Permission to approach, your Honor?

JUDGE

Permission granted.

As the Judge and Claudius confer in a whisper, the lights dim and screens light up, showing the Lobby of the Courtroom, where Hamlet is coaching the re-enactors.

HAMLET `

Speak the speech, I ask you, as I pronounced it to
you, trippingly on the tongue: but if you mouth it,
as many of your players do, I had as soon the
Bailiff spoke my lines. Nor do not saw the air
too much with your hand, so, but use all gently;
for in the very torrent, tempest, and whirlwind
of your emotion you must burn with
an ease that may give it smoothness.
;Just don't let me catch you "acting"!

FIRST TRUTH SAYER

Khalisi, please.

HAMLET

Be not too tame neither,
 but summon your good taste to be your guide.
 Suit the action to the word, the word to the action;
 With this strict rule:
 that you overstep NOT the modesty of Nature.
 For anything overdone is
 contrary to the purpose of Saying
 Which is (and always was)
 To hold a mirror up to Nature, [*Hamlet flashes her dagger as a mirror*]
 To show Virtue her own feature, Scorn her own image, [*peering at herself*]
 and the very age and body of the Time her form and impression...
 Go on, get ready.

Exeunt Truth Sayers

POSSIBLE ACT BREAK

Enter POLONIUS, ROSENCRANTZ, and GUILDENSTERN

HAMLET throws her dagger, THONK! into a pillar near Polonius' head.

HAMLET (con't)

How now, my lord! ¿Will King Claude hear this piece of work?

POLONIUS

And the Queen too, immediately.

HAMLET

Ask the Sayers to snap it along.

Exit POLONIUS

HAMLET (*con't*)

¿Will you two help hurry them?

ROSENCRANTZ & GUILDENSTERN

We will, Majór.

Exeunt ROSENCRANTZ and GUILDENSTER

HAMLET

¡Hello! ¡Horatio!

HORATIO

Here, Majór, at your service.

HAMLET

Horatio, you are about as just a man
As ever I have met in life.

HORATIO

O, my dear Kha—

HAMLET

No, this is not flattery
¿Why should the poor be flattered?
Hear me, Horatio;
I swear
That ever since my mind could reason
And note the differences between all the ones around me
Tu have been the Chosen of my soul.

HORATIO

My heart leaps up. I dared not speak--

HAMLET

Nor I. I am not free, my duty and honor they bind me.

HAMLET gives Horatio a ring from her hand.

By this my signet ring upon my death

All that was mine is held in trust for you and yours,
excepting those lands granted for future Anhelinos.

HORATIO

¡My dear Majór!

HAMLET

--Something too much of this—

As you know, according to our law I stand accused.

And therefore have some right to re-address

The charges in whatever form I choose.

I have petitioned of the puppet court

Immediately to hear and see performed

A version of what may be said to be

A true enactment of my father's death.

I ask you, when you see that act afoot,

With every atom of your being

Observe my uncle: if his hidden guilt

Doesn't break out in one particular speech, then

It's a lying ghost that we've seen,

And my imaginations are as foul

As toxic waste.

HORATIO

I my eyes will rivet to his face.

HAMLET

They're coming to the display; I must be idle:

Go, get you a place.

*Horatio kisses Hamlet's fingers and goes. The Bailiff announces the Truth Sayers. Enter The Truth Sayers, **WITH MUSICAL ACCOMPANIMENT** in the white robes and masks of truth, and arrange the playing area.*

CLAUDIUS

¿How fares our daughter Hamlet?

HAMLET

Excellent, I vow; of the chameleon's dish: I eat
the air, promise-crammed: ¿you cannot fatten geese that way!

CLAUDIUS

I have nothing with this answer, Hamlet; these words
are not mine.

HAMLET

No, nor mine now.

GERTRUDE

Come here my dear Hamlet, sit by me.

HAMLET

No, good mother, here's metal more attractive. *(Pulls the knife from the pillar)*

POLONIUS

You are merry, Majór.

HAMLET

¿Who, I?

POLONIUS

Ay, Majór.

HAMLET

O God, your cosmic joke-maker. ¿What should one do

but be merry? for, look you, how cheerfully my
mother looks, and my father died within these two hours.

POLONIUS

No, 'tis twice two months, Majór.

HAMLET

So long?

¡Angel feathers! died two months ago, ¿and not forgotten yet?
Then there's hope a great man's memory
may outlive his life by half a year.

The First Truth Sayer enters and hands the Judge a document. The Judge glances at it and hands it to the Bailiff.

BAILIFF

The following testimony is offered for consideration
as a Notarized Channeled Re-enactment under the Validity of Psychic Phenomena Act
of Thirty-Fifteen. Behold, Exhibit 3.2.

THE LIGHTS DIM, MUSICAL ACCOMPANIMENT BEGINS

The Re-enactors stand in a circle holding hands with heads bowed, then slowly, ceremoniously, take their hoods away, revealing their masks and crowns. They step away from each other and portray the following scene:

Enter a King and a Queen very lovingly;

the Queen embracing him, and he her.

She kneels, and makes show of affection unto him.

He takes her up, and declines his head upon her neck:

She lays him down: and, seeing him asleep, leaves him.

*Anon comes in a fellow, takes the crown, kisses it, sets it aside,
then pours poison in the King's ear, then exits.*

The Queen returns; finds the King dead, and makes lamentation.

The Poisoner comes in again, seeming to lament with her.

*The dead body is carried away.
The Poisoner woos the Queen:
she seems loath and unwilling a while,
but then accepts his love
and places the crown on his head.*

CLAUDIUS chokes and struggles to his feet

POLONIUS

The king rises.

HAMLET

What, frightened with false fire!

GERTRUDE

How fares my lord?

POLONIUS

Give o'er the play! **MUSIC IS CUT OFF**

CLAUDIUS

Give me some light: away!

ALL

Lights, lights, lights!

Mayhem ensues; Claudius fights his way out of the court Room as Gertrude and others clutch at him, attempting to support him but actually hindering his mad flight.

Exeunt Claudius, Gertrude, Polonius, Rosencrantz, Guildenstern, and others of the King's retinue. Above, the screens stream the news:

REPORTER 1 (Pat Harper)

Live from the Hall of Justice: Kha Hamlet's re-enactment has been abruptly terminated before the traditional pre-show had properly finished. The Truth Sayers, The official re-enactors of the City State of Nueva York...

The Officer at the Door wades in against the exiting Court, targeting the Sayers, kicking at them and firing his phaser. The Sayers scramble for cover. A bomb alarm goes off.

REPORTER 2 (Jessica Savage)

His Majesty has made a hasty exit
Which won't go down well with his set
Who expect him to maintain
Order and Law and to contain
Above all any suspicion regarding
The succession—

A SWAT team in riot gear burst in, perform a quick and dirty bomb search, then rush out through the judge's door.

REPORTER 3 (Bernarda Marx)

Security forces in full view of The People and The Press
Have entered the court causing chaos and stress
To every Anhelino who values our laws and Constitution
And knows that violence is never the solution.

Over all, the Judge vainly calls for order, repeatedly banging her gavel, but she has lost all control. Bomb alarms go off again. The Bailiff hustles to the bench and urgently engages the Judge in whispered conversation. The Judge looks alarmed and hastily gavels an adjournment, and is escorted from the Court Room under heavy guard .

HAMLET

O good Horatio, I'll take the ghost's word all night long.
¿Did you see?

HORATIO

Very well, Major.

HAMLET

¿Upon the act of the poisoning?

HORATIO

I did very well note him.

HAMLET

¡Ah, ha! ¡Come, some music! ¡come, the recorders!

¡For if the king like not the comedy,

Why then he likes it not, poor me!

Come, ¡some music!

The Re-enactors creep out from their various hiding places to play recorders and bongos. The screens come alive with scenes of wild nature, thunder and lightning storms, chaparral fires, of the ocean breaking against a rocky shore.
Enter POLONIUS

POLONIUS

Majór, the Queen would speak with you, immediately.

HAMLET *[referring to a screen]*

¿Do you see yonder cloud that's almost in shape of a camel?

POLONIUS

By the mass, and it is like a camel, indeed.

HAMLET

¡Miraló! a weasel with measles.

POLONIUS

It is backed like a weasel.

HAMLET

¿Or like a whale? ¿Around the tail?

POLONIUS

Very like a whale.

HAMLET

Then I'll come to my mother by and by.

They're working my very last nerve.

I'll come by and by.

POLONIUS

I will say so.

HAMLET

"By and by" is easily said.

Exit POLONIUS

Leave me, friends.

Exeunt all but HAMLET. Fireworks in the distance.

'Tis now the very witching time of night,
When churchyards yawn and hell itself breathes
Hatred into this world: now could I drink hot blood,
And do such bitter business as the day
Would quake to look upon. Shh! now to my mother.
I swore to "leave her to heaven."
Let me be cruel, but not crazy:
I will speak daggers to her, but use none;
My words and soul in this be opposites;
However in my words I may assign her blame,
;To punish her myself would only bring me shame

Exit HAMLET

Enter POLONIUS & CLAUDIUS

POLONIUS

My lord, she's going to her mother's chambers:
 Behind a pull-down I'll conceal myself,
 To hear the parlay
 and to guarantee the Queen will not back down:
 For, as you said (and wisely was it said)
 It's only right that some more audience than a mother,
 (Since nature makes them partial,)
 should listen to their speech, be-screened.
 Good night, my liege:
 I'll call on you before you go to bed,
 And tell you all I know.

CLAUDIUS

Thanks, dear Señor.

Exit POLONIUS

O, my offence is rank it smells to heaven;
 It carries the world's first curse:
 A brother's murder. A brother's murder. A brother's murder.
 I cannot pray...
 Bow, stubborn knees; and, heart with strings of steel,
 May angels play upon you, until remorse you feel!

Claudius retires and kneels at prayer***Enter Hamlet above*****HAMLET**

Now might I do it pat, now he is praying;
 And now I'll do it. I'll run him through
 My sacred sword in my new right hand
 now he is praying--
 And so he goes to heaven;
 And so am I revenged. That would be scanned:
 A villain kills my father; and for that,
 I, his sole child, do this same villain send
 To heaven.
 Why, this is Uber ExPort, not revenge.
 ¡No! Up, sword; and
 When he is drunk asleep, or in his rage,
 Or in the incestuous pleasure of his bed;
 The Queen a witness to justice administered.
 At gaming, swearing, or about some act
 That has no flavor of salvation in it;

Then trip him, that his heels may kick at heaven,
And that his sick soul may be as damned
As hell, whereto it goes.
My mother stays:
This pardon just prolongs your sickly days.

Exit Hamlet

CLAUDIUS RISES TO HIS FEET

KING CLAUDIUS

My words fly up, my thoughts remain below:
Words without thoughts never to heaven go.

In Her Majesty's Chambers. Video screens silently display continuous news feeds.

POLONIUS

She will come soon. Look, you lay in to her:
Tell her that her pranks have been too broad to bear,
And that Your Grace has screened and stood between
Much deadly heat and her. I'll hide me over there.

Polonius pulls a screen down.

POLONIUS (CON'T)

Majesty, I beg you, be plain and straight with her

HAMLET (off)

Mother, mother, mother...

GERTRUDE

Withdraw, I hear her coming.
Fear me not: ;I got this!

Polonius hides behind the screen

HAMLET

Now, Mother, ¿what's the matter?

GERTRUDE

Hamletus, you have made your father very angry

HAMLET

Mother, you have made my father very angry.

GERTRUDE

Stop, stop! you answer with an idle tongue.

HAMLET

Go, go! you question with a wicked tongue.

GERTRUDE

Why, ¿how dare you, Hamletus!

HAMLET

¿What's the matter now?

GERTRUDE

¿Have you forgot me?

HAMLET

No, I think I've got it straight:
You are the Queen, your husband's brother's wife;
And--¿worse luck!--you're my Mother.

GERTRUDE

What, ¿have you Hamlet lost your mind?
¿I will not endure it! ¿I will not be spoken to this way!
I warn you, lady, you go too far--

HAMLET

O you won't listen? Then you just look
Come, sit you down; you shall not budge;
You go not till I set you up a glass
Where you may see the truth of you.

Draws her dagger to show Gertrude her reflection in the blade.

GERTRUDE

¿What are you doing? ¿you wouldn't murder me?
¿Help, help, ho!

POLONIUS [Behind the screen]

¿What, ho! ¿help, help, help!

HAMLET

¿How now! ¿A rat? ¿Dead!

Hamlet thrusts her dagger through the screen.

¿Dead for a dollar, dead!

Gertrude stifles a scream.

POLONIUS [Behind the screen]

¡O, I am slain!

Polonius falls, pulling down the pull-down screen over himself, and dies.

GERTRUDE

¿Angels above, what have you done?

HAMLET

I don't know: ¿Is it the king?

GERTRUDE

¡O, what a bloody deed is this!

HAMLET

¡A bloody deed! almost as bad, good mother,
As kill a King, and marry with his brother.

GERTRUDE

¡As kill a King!

HAMLET

You heard me.

Hamlet pushes the screen aside and discovers Polonius.

¡You wretched, rash, intruding fool, farewell!
I mistook you for the King: take your fortune;

Hamlet lays golden coins on Polonius' eyes.

Tu find to be too busy is some danger...

[To Gertrude] Leave wringing of your hands: ¡Shut it! sit you down,
And let me wring your heart;

GERTRUDE

¿What have I done, Daughter,
that you dare speak so rudely to me?

HAMLET

Such an act
That blurs the grace and blush of modesty,
the sky itself turns red with shame:

Yes, this very globe and spinning planet
Is thought-sick at the act.

GERTRUDE

My goddess ¿what act?

***Hamlet yanks at the miniature of Claudius around Gertrude's neck and compares it w/
the picture of King Hamlet that she wears around her neck.***

HAMLET

Look here, upon this picture, and on this,
Here we have copies of two brothers.
See, what a grace was seated on this brow;
This was your husband. Look you now, what follows:
Here is your husband.
¿Who
Would go from this to this?
O shame! ¿where is your blush?

GERTRUDE

O Hamlet, say no more:

HAMLET

No, but to live
In the rank sweat of an enseamed bed,
Stewing in corruption, honeying and making love
Over the nasty sty—

GERTRUDE

These words are daggers, stabbing at my ears;
¿No more, sweet Hamlet!

HAMLET

A murderer and a villain;
A worm that is not a twentieth part the tenth
Of your previous lord; a vice of kings;
A trump against the Empire and the Law,
Who stole the precious Crown,
And put it in his pocket!

GERTRUDE

No more!

GHOST VIBE IS HEARD

The Ghost walks into the chamber through a wall.

HAMLET

¿Save me, and hover over me with your wings,
My guardian angels!
¿Bless me, your Majesty!

GERTRUDE *[She does not see The Ghost]*

Alas, ¿she's mad!

The Ghost marches onto the furniture and stands like a statue.

HAMLET

¿Do you not come your tardy child to chide?
Father, King, Royal Anhelino--

GHOST

Do not forget my word, Hamlet, Revenge--
But, look, amazement on your mother sits:
O, step between her and her fighting soul:
Speak to her, Hamlet.

HAMLET

¿Wh-What's up with you, Your Majesty?

GERTRUDE

¿Why, what? ¿What's up with tu,
That you do stare at nothingness
And hold a conversation with thin air?
¿O Hamletus, whereon do you look?

HAMLET

¿On him, on him! ¿Look you, how he glares!
[To Ghost] Do not look upon me--

GERTRUDE

¿To whom do you speak this?

HAMLET

¿Do you see nothing there?

GERTRUDE

Nothing at all; yet all that is I see.

HAMLET

¿Do you nothing hear?

GERTRUDE

No, nothing but ourselves.

HAMLET

Why, ¡look you there!
My father, it's my father as he lived!
¡Look, where he goes, even now!

GHOST VIBE FADES

The Ghost fizzles out like a hologram.

Hamlet runs her hands over where the Ghost had stood, turns it upside down, frantically feels the wall where the Ghost appeared.

GERTRUDE

This the very coinage of your brain:
Insanity is baffling, cunning, strong,
and has minted here your mad hallucinations.

HAMLET

¡Insanity! Lay not that flattering unction to the wound
that not your trespass, but my madness speaks
My pulse, as yours, does temperately keep time,
And makes as healthful music: it is not madness
That I have uttered. Mother, for love of grace,
Confess yourself to heaven;
Repent what's past; avoid what is to come.

GERTRUDE

O Hamlet, you have broke my heart in two.

HAMLET

O, throw away the rotten part,
And live the purer with the other half.
Good night: but go not to my uncle's bed;
Assume a virtue, if you have it not.
Once more, good night: [*wrapping Polonius' head with a scarf.*]
For this same lord,
I am sorry: but heaven hath pleased it so,
To punish me with this and this with me,
That I must be their scourge and minister.
So, again, good night. [*arranging Polonius' body on the pull-down*]
I must be cruel, only to be kind:
Thus bad begins and worse remains behind.
Good night, mother.

Hamlet drags Polonius' body OFF. Exit Gertrude.

IN THE JUDGES CHAMBERS. *[seen on screens]* **Claudius** waits, attended by Officers.

CLAUDIUS

How now! ¿What has happened?

ROSENCRANTZ

Where the dead body is hid, my lord,
We cannot get from her.

CLAUDIUS

¿But where is she?

ROSENCRANTZ

Outside, my lord; guarded, awaiting your pleasure.

CLAUDIUS

Bring her before us.

ROSENCRANTZ

¿Ho, Guildenstern! bring in Kha Hamlet

Enter Hamlet, guarded, and Guildenstern with Peace Officer.

CLAUDIUS

Now, Hamletus ¿where's Polonius?

HAMLET

At supper.

CLAUDIUS

¿At supper! ¿where?

HAMLET

Not where he eats, but where he is eaten:
a certain convocation of politic worms
are at him even as we speak.

CLAUDIUS

O my god.

HAMLET *[breaking it down]*

A man may fish with the worm that has eaten of a king,
and eat of the fish that has eaten of that worm.

CLAUDIUS

¿What do you mean by this?

HAMLET

Nothing, it's just a verbal pert chart that shows how a King may process through the guts of a beggar, and presumably be pooped out at the--

CLAUDIUS

¿Where is Polonius?

HAMLET

In heaven; send there to see:
if your messenger find him not there,
go seek him in the hotter place yourself.
But indeed, if you find him not within this week,
you shall nose him as you go up the stairs into the lobby.
Behind the potted plants.

CLAUDIUS

Go seek him there.

Two Peace Officers salute and Exit..

HAMLET

He will stay till you come.

CLAUDIUS

For that which you have done I must have you detained.

HAMLET

Good.

CLAUDIUS

So is it, if you but knew our purposes.

HAMLET

I see an angel that sees them.
¿But, come! Farewell, dear mother.

CLAUDIUS

Your loving father, Hamlet

HAMLET

My mother: father and mother is man and wife; man
and wife is one flesh; and so, my mother.

Exit Hamlet under arrest.

CLAUDIUS

Guard her close, I'd have none speak with her.

EXUENT Rosencrantz and Guildenstern

REPORTER 2 (JESSICA SAVAGE)

we have yet to see Kha Hamlet since reporters were ejected from the Re-Enactment. Is this Anhelino Justice?

REPORTER 3 (BERNARDA MARX)

Palace watchers and friends of Kha Hamlet became deeply concerned when her Website was taken down without explanation at 3:40 AM CALI time

REPORTER 1 (PAT HARPER)

... a hot-mike moment in which the Bailiff ordered that the satellite feed to the news crews be cut...

REPORTER 2 (JESSICA SAVAGE)

The latest rift between the powerful Queen Gertrude and her popular daughter Kha Hamlet has prompted questions about a new royal heir, and palace spies are on Baby Bump Watch.

One by one the screens go blank, as the State- sponsored blackout takes effect.

All rise and the Jury are led out. Exit the Judge.

CLAUDIUS

O Gertrude, Gertrude,
 When sorrows come, they come not single spies
 But in battalions. First, Polonius slain:
 Next, Kha Hamlet forces us to lock her up:
 the people muddled, in their thoughts and whispers,
 For good Polonius' death;
 for we have done nothing to honor him.
 Last, and worse than all these,
 Laertes is in secret come from 'Pulco;
 And plenty of buzzers infect his ear
 With misinformation about his father's death--

A noise within

GERTRUDE

Our Ford, ¿what noise is this?

CLAUDIUS

¿Where is the Secret Service? Let them guard the door.

Enter A Secret Service Agent

CLAUDIUS (con't)

¿What is the matter?

SECRET SERVICE AGENT

Save yourself, my lord:

The ocean in tsunami

Swallows the land with less impetuous haste

Than young Laertes, who with a rioting mob,

Has breached our perimeters. The rabble call him King!

They cry, “¿We vote: Laertes shall be King!”

Flags, signs, chants, they cheer it to the clouds:

“¿Laertes shall be King, Laertes King!”

GERTRUDE

¿O, this is insurrection, mad Anhelino dogs!

A NOISE WITHIN SOUND OF THE RABBLE BREAKING IN

CLAUDIUS

The doors are broke.

Enter LAERTES, armed; Anhelinos following LAERTES

LAERTES

¿Where is this king?

Sirs, stand you all without.

ANHELINO 1

No, let's come in.

ANHELINO 2

¿They can't be trusted!

ANHELINO 3

We will be your guard

ANHELINO 1

¿We the people will see what's to be seen!

LAERTES

I pray you, give me leave.

I shall be faithful.

ALL ANHELINOS

We will, we will.

Anhelinos retire outside the door

LAERTES

I thank you: keep the door.
O you vile king,
Give me my father!

GERTRUDE steps between them.

GERTRUDE

Calmly, good Laertes.

CLAUDIUS

Let him go, Gertrude. Speak, man.

LAERTES

¿Where is my father?

CLAUDIUS

Dead.

GERTRUDE

But not by him.

CLAUDIUS

Let him demand his fill.

LAERTES

¿How came he dead? Do not play with me:
Call me King Slayer, call me Traitor
I dare damnation;
only I'll be revenged for my father.

CLAUDIUS

Good Laertes, ¿is it writ in your revenge,
That, scorched earth,
you'll destroy both friend and foe,
Winner and loser?

LAERTES

To his good friends my arms are open wide.

CLAUDIUS

Why, now you speak
 Like a good child and a true gentleman.
 That I am guiltless of your father's death,
 And am most sensibly in grief for it,
 Shall as brightly to your judgment pierce
 As daylight to your eye.
 Gertrude, double the guard on young Hamlet
 Lest the rabble in their rage do find her out
 And do her some violence.

Exit Gertrude

Laertes, I must commune with your grief,
 Or you deny me right.

LAERTES

Let this be said: My father's
 death, his secret funeral—
 No trophy, sword, no honor over his bones,
 No noble rite or formal show of mourning—
 Cry to be heard-from heaven to earth.
 All this I must call in question.

CLAUDIUS

So you shall;
 And where the offence is let the great axe fall.
 Young Hamlet in her cunning did command
 A mockery to be held before the Court
 Of happenstance that ultimately led
 To our dear brother's still-suspicious death.
 The false Truth Sayers, loyal to her gold,
 scorned not to foul
 My royal name with sin of Fratricide.

LAERTES

I had heard as much.

CLAUDIUS

Our Queen and your dear father,
 Did lovingly complot to draw confession
 From Kha Hamlet of why she did persist
 In such a ruinous course, to put on an appearance
 Of complete and dangerous lunacy.

LAERTES

I pray you, more.

CLAUDIUS

You shall know all. The Queen
 Demanded private parlay with her wayward daughter,
 Your father in his duty couched, concealed,
 Behind a screen to hear their speech as witness.
 I myself would have been there, but for some Affair
 of State. Hamlet comes, and, hearing something stir behind the screen,
 whips out her dagger, cries “¡A rat, a rat!”
 And in this lawless fit kills the unseen good old man.

LAERTES

¡Exterminated, on a whim! By god, I’ll be revenged.

CLAUDIUS

It had been so with me, had I been there.
 Her liberty is full of threats to all.

LAERTES

It well appears: but tell me
 Why you proceeded not against the murderer;
 and ¿Why not indict her now?

CLAUDIUS

O, for two special reasons;
 The Queen her mother
 Lives almost by her looks; and for myself--
 The Queen is so conjunctive to my life and soul,
 That, as the star moves not but in his sphere,
 I could not but by her. Y otra razón,
 Why to a public count I might not go,
 Is the great love the Anhelinos bear for Hamlet.
 Since the sacrifice of her hand in the Sani Wars of Nueva York
 The populi adore her and bless her every word.

LAERTES

And so I have a noble father lost;
 but my revenge will come.

CLAUDIUS

¿Will you be ruled by me?

LAERTES

As long as you don't rule me to a peace.

CLAUDIUS

Will you do this: keep close within your chamber
 While challenges are brought to her
 As is within your right, to single combat
 Waged between you both before the Judge?
 This Hamlet in all honor needs must answer, but,
 Being careless, free, and generous in nature
 And having no wish to contrive against your life,
 For weapons sure she will choose laser-swords,
 For tho' your skill is famed, she was a champion
 and now the cyborg arm gives her super-strength
 and she must believe herself superior to your sword.
 She will hazard both your lives in combat to the death,
 Believing that, with but some little show of blood,
 Your outrage will be satisfied and that she,
 With grace, may escape the need to take your life.

LAERTES

I will do it:

And, for that purpose, I will paint my laser-sword.
 I bought a poison from the Amazon
 So lethal that,
 If I just wound her slightly,
 It will be certain death.

CLAUDIUS

This project
 Should have a back or a Plan B, for insurance,
 Should your plan fall through.
 ;Hmm! let me see: I have it.
 When in the match you two are hot and dry—
 And she always calls for drink--
 I'll have prepared her
 A chalice (just in case,) whereon but sipping,
 If she by chance escape your poisoned point
 The cup assures that she will meet her Death..

LAERTES

And so I am revenged. It is my duty as his only son
 to kill my father's killer, and so it must be done.

EXUENT CLAUDIUS, LAERTES

Basement Hall of Justice Detainment Center/Morgue

Enter HAMLET and HORATIO, HORATIO unlocks HAMLET'S handcuffs and tosses them to a Peace Officer.

HAMLET

For this relief, much thanks, Horatio,
 But know, dear friend, my time
 Confined has been most profitably spent
 Communing with the forces of my fate.
 What galaxies lie within the mind.
 Why were we designed by a power divine
 with such huge capacity to imagine a future,
 to remember the past and to act in the present
 If not to choose what is right and to shape the moment
 with the stamp of our decision, to carve the time
 with the sword of our action.

They come upon the Morgue.

***There is a skeleton hanging on a rack, and a row of skulls on a shelf nearby.
 A hinged-lid coffin lies open on a gurney,
 Enter Two Coroners, wheeling in a shrouded body.
 Coroners prepare the body for cremation by transferring it into a coffin. One leaves
 and the other continues to arrange the body.***

CORONER [*sings*]



*Click image to hear sample
 (may require Adobe Reader)*

Bang 'em in the head, bang 'em on the bed
 a bang from a gun or just bang for fun
 bang bang bang bang
 bang it bang 'til the day is done.

HAMLET

¿Has this fellow no feeling of his business, that he sings at his work?

HORATIO

I guess he's used to it

CORONER [*Sings*]

So what else is there bang bang bang
 O stick it here, and stick it there, bang bang bang
 I stick my joystick everywhere bang bang
 Almost anywhere bang bang
 I spread my seed without a care, bang bang bang
 A dutiful son of Adam, yeah, bang bang bang
 Grab any lass and hit the grass bang bang bang
 Bang like a lusty pair oh yeah bang bang
 Bang 'em in the head bang 'em on the bed
 A bang from a gun or just bang for fun bang bang bang bang bang it
 Bang 'til the day is done.

The Coroner leaves the room, bumping skeleton as he goes.

Hamlet and Horatio come forward.

The Skeleton rattles and swings as Hamlet and Horatio look about.

Hamlet picks up a skull.

HAMLET

This skull had a tongue in it, and could sing once:
 It might be the head of a God-defying politician,
 which this clown here now over-reaches;
 ¿might it not?

HORATIO

It might, Majór.

Hamlet picks up another skull

HAMLET

There's another: why may not this be the skull of a lawyer?
 Where be her quiddities now, her quilllets, her cases, her tenures, and her tricks?
 Hum! [*another skull*]
 This fellow might be
 in his time a great buyer of land, with his statutes,
 his recognizances, his fines, his double vouchers,
 his recoveries: is this the fine of his fines, and
 the recovery of his recoveries?
 The very mortgages of his lands will hardly fit in
 this box; and the landlord himself gets no more, huh?

HORATIO

Not much more, Majór.

CORONER [*Sings within*]

Bang in the air bang on the stair
it never really mattered where...

HAMLET

I will speak to this hot Señor. [*Calling within*] ¿Whose coffin is this, Coroner?

CORONER (*Enters*)

Mine, Madonna.

HAMLET

I think it be yours, indeed; for you lie in it.

CORONER

You lie out on it, Madonna, and therefore it is not
yours: for my part, I do not lie in it, and yet it is mine.

HAMLET

You do lie in it, to be out of it and to say it is yours:
It's for the dead, not for the quick; therefore you lie.

CORONER

'Tis a quick lie, 'Don, 'twill away again, from me to you.

[HAMLET and Horatio laugh]

HAMLET

¿What man do you prepare it for?

CORONER

For no man, 'Donna.

HAMLET

¿What woman, then?

CORONER

For none, neither.

HAMLET

¿Who is to be cremated in it?

CORONER

One that was a man, Madonna; but, rest his soul, he's dead.

HAMLET

How absolute el tipo es!
We must speak quite literally, or he will equivocate us to death.

CORONER

Here's a skull now...

HAMLET

¿Whose was that?

CORONER

A mad funny fellow's it was: ¿whose do you think it was?

HAMLET

I don't know.

CORONER

¡A virus on him for a crazy bastard! He poured a
bottle of tequila on my head once.
This same skull, Madonna, was Yorick's skull,
King Hamlet's comedian.

HAMLET

This?

CORONER

Even that. (*Exits*)

HAMLET

Let me see. [*Takes the skull*] ¡Alas, poor Yorick!
I knew him, Horatio: a fellow of infinite jest,
of most excellent fancy:
he has carried me piggy-back a thousand times;
and now, ¡how abhorred in my imagination it is!
my gorge rises at it. Here hung those lips
that I have kissed I know not how many times.
¿Where be your sallies now?¿your songs?
¿your flashes of merriment, that were wont to set the table on a roar?
¿Not one now, to mock your own grinning?
¿quite chap-fallen?
Now get you to my lady's chamber, and tell her,
let her paint an inch thick, this will be her final face;
make her laugh at that.
Truly, Horatio, tell me one thing.

HORATIO

¿What's that, Majór?

HAMLET

¿Do you think Cleopatra looked like this in the earth?

HAMLET puts down the skull.

HORATIO

Even so, Majór.

HAMLET

¿To what low estate we must return, Horatio!

¿Why may not Imagination trace the noble dust of Cleopatra,
till it find it stopping a beer keg?

HORATIO

'Twere to consider too curiously, to consider so.

HAMLET

No, faith, not a jot; follow it this way, like so:
Cleopatra died, Cleopatra was buried,
Cleopatra returned to dust; the dust is earth;
Of earth is grown cork; and that cork
whereto she was converted, might pork a beer keg!
[raps] Cleopatra, dead and turned to clay,
Might stop a hole to keep the wind away:
O, that such a queen who kept the world in awe,
Becomes a spackle for to patch a wall!
[speaks] There's a divinity that shapes our ends,
Rough-hew them how we will--

HORATIO

That's most certain.

HAMLET

He that has killed my king and whored my mother,
Stolen the election and dashed my hopes,
¿is it not perfect conscience,
To kill him with this arm? and ¿am I not to be damned,
If I let this cancer on humanity continue to breathe?
Yet here he lives, while to my shame
My revenge is cold and Polonius' blood
Stains my hands and cries out for justice.

HORATIO

What a king this is!

HAMLET

A man's life is no more than to say 'One,'
 Tho' a woman through her children may live on--
 But I am very sorry, good Horatio,
 That Laertes and I are enemies
 For, by the image of my cause,
 I see the portraiture of his:
 I would court his favors
 Had I but time. Now, he is bound to resolve
 His grief by single combat to the death.
 His pardon needs must wait 'til he or I or both are dead.
 But Peace, ¿who comes here?
 Ah, Protocol Officer Osric. Her father held the post before her.

Enter PROTOCOL OFFICER OSRIC POSSIBLY ATTENDED BY MUSICIANS

PROTOCOL OFFICER OSRIC

Kha Hamletus, her Honor the Judge does commend herself to you
 By young Laertes, who does send now to know
 If your intention hold to face him here and now,
 Or that you will take a longer time before
 you will engage in trial of Truth by Single Combat.

HAMLET

I am constant to my purpose; I follow the Court's pleasure:
 if Laertes is ready, so am I;
 ¿Will our Trial take place in view of all the world?

PROTOCOL OFFICER OSRIC

Against the strictest protocol, Reporters have been Barred,
 Tho' the proceeding for archival purposes is subject to record--
 However, Her Honor and Their Majesties and all are coming in.

HAMLET *[Hamlet tilts her head, regarding Osric, and at great length replies]*
 In happy time.

PROTOCOL OFFICER OSRIC

The Queen desires you to use some gentle entertainment to
 Laertes before you fall to combat.

HAMLET

She schools me well.

Exit PROTOCOL OFFICER OSRIC MUSICAL FLOURISH?

HORATIO

'Tis certain you will win this trial, Majór.

HAMLET

I doubt it not: since he went to 'Pulco, I
have been training hard:
The miracle of this hand is such
I fear me I shall win,
determined as I am Laertes shall not lose.
But tu would not think how ill all's here
about my heart: but it is no matter.

HORATIO

No, my dear Majór—

HAMLET

It is just foolery; a kind of gain-giving,
as perhaps would trouble a goose.

HORATIO

If your mind dislike anything, obey it:
If they forego the witness of the world, what won't they dare?
I will stop them from coming here, and say you are not fit.

HAMLET

Not a bit, we defy augury:
there's a special providence in the fall of a sparrow.
If it be now, 'tis not to come;
if it be not to come, it will be now;
if it be not now, yet it will come:
the readiness is all.

***Enter KING CLAUDIUS, QUEEN GERTRUDE, LAERTES, BAILIFF, PROTOCOL OFFICER
OSRIC, Lords, and Attendants with laser-swords.***

BAILIFF

¡Order in the Court! ¡Order in the Court! ¡Oye, oye, this Court is now in Session! The
Honorable, Teeto Klee, presiding.

JUDGE

Ladies and Gentlemen of the Jury:
Lord Laertes has served Kha Hamlet with a
Summons to Appear in Single Combat to Ascertain Truth by Trial of Arms.
This action is empowered by the Establishment of Monarchy Act of Twenty-Twenty
Two, Section Four.
He does so, however, against the advice of Counsel and of this Court.

PROTOCOL OFFICER OSRIC

Give them the laser-blades, Bailiff .

LAERTES

This is too heavy, let me see another.

HAMLET

This suits me well. ¿These swords have all a length?

BAILIFF

Sí, Kha Hamlet. Lasers of matched Valerian steel.

They prepare to fight

KING CLAUDIUS

Set me the cups of wine upon that table.
 The king shall drink to Liberty and to Justice;
 And as a special prize for The First Hit
 Into the cup a pearl shall he throw,
 [Pointing to musicians] Go!***MUSICAL FLOURISH
 You may begin.

P. O. OSRIC

Two bouts of three hits each shall pass
 before the laser-points are bared
 For the Duel to the Death.
 Agree you now, these are bouts of courtesy
 and shall be decorous and measured,
 bespeaking a temperance as befits
 Reason in this, our modern and enlightened age.
 Before the third bout there shall breathe
 a momentary chance for Peace to pray,
 and for Mediation to have her gentle say.

JUDGE

State your causes and begin.

LAERTES

I am Laertes, son of Polonius,
 Brother to all men and loyal subject to the State of Anhelus,
 and to our King and Queen.
 I come before this Court with grievance against Kha Hamlet,
 Who with callous disregard did slay my father.
 This do I propose to prove by force of arms, as is my right.
 I hereby commit my fortune, my honor and my life
 To single combat to the Death.

Defend me, Angels, as my cause is just.

HAMLET

I am Khalisi Hamletus Canuté, daughter of Queen Gertrude Canuté
and King Hamlet, late of Anhelus.

Friend to all Freedom-Loving Peoples
and Loyal Subject to the State of Anhelus,
and to the rightful King and Queen.

I come before this Court in answer of accusations by Laertes.

That I am innocent of all but madness and accident,

And am most sensibly in grief for the tragic loss

Laertes has endured, my conscience and my Goddess both do know.

All this do I propose to prove by force of arms, as is my right.

I hereby commit my fortune, my honor, and my life

To single combat to the Death.

Defend me, Angels, as my cause is just.

CLAUDIUS

And you, the judges, bear a wary eye.

HAMLET

Come on, sir.

LAERTES

Come, Majór.

At a sign from Osric They duel.

HAMLET

One.

LAERTES

No.

JUDGE

Judgment.

P.O. OSRIC

A hit, a very palpable hit.

LAERTES

Well; again.

CLAUDIUS

There it is~! The First Hit! Give me drink.

¡Here's to Life! Hamletus, this royal pearl is yours;

Claudius places a pearl in the drink.

CLAUDIUS (*con't*)

Give her the cup.

HAMLET

I'll fight this bout first; set it by awhile. Come.

At a sign from Osric ***They duel.

Another hit; ¿what say you?

LAERTES

A touch, a touch, I do confess.

P. O. OSRIC

Two

CLAUDIUS

Hamlet shall thrive.

GERTRUDE

She's pale, and short of breath.

Here, Hamletus, let me pin your hair...

The Queen now drinks to your long life, noble girl!

HAMLET

¿Your Majesty!

CLAUDIUS

Gertrude, do not drink.

GERTRUDE

I will, my lord; I pray you, pardon me.

CLAUDIUS [*Aside*]

It is the poisoned cup: it is too late.

HAMLET

I dare not drink yet, madam; by and by.

GERTRUDE

Come, let me wipe your face.

LAERTES

My lord, I'll hit her now.

CLAUDIUS

I doubt it, boy. She's just too good.

HAMLET

Come, for the third, Laertes:
 You think me disabled;
 I know you're going easy
 Hit me with your best shot
 Or I'm afraid you'll spoil me.

LAERTES

¿Say you so? come on

At a sign from Osric ***They duel, then part.

P.O. OSRIC

Nothing, neither way.

LAERTES

¡Have at you now!

***In a sneak attack, LAERTES suddenly lunges and wounds HAMLET.
 HAMLET, baffled and enraged, trips and flips Laertes in a dazzling Kung-Fu move.
 Then, in scuffling, they change rapiers, and HAMLET wounds LAERTES.
 GERTRUDE falls.***

BAILIFF

¡Look to the Queen there, ho!

HORATIO

They bleed on both sides. ¿How bad is it, majór?

HAMLET

¿How fares the Queen?

CLAUDIUS:

She swoons to see them bleed.

GERTRUDE:

No, no, the drink, the drink,--
 O my dear Hamlet,--
 ¡The drink, the drink! I am poisoned.

QUEEN GERTRUDE DIES

HAMLET

¿How is Laertes?

LAERTES

Why, precisely like a pigeon, caught in my own snare,
I'm justly killed with my own treachery.

CLAUDIUS

¡O treachery! ¡Ho! let the door be locked: ¡Villany! Seek it out.

JUDGE

¿Treason!

HAMLET

¿Villainy!

BAILIFF

¿Treachery!

LAERTES

It is here, Hamlet: Hamlet, you are dead.
No medicine in the world can do you good;
You have scant seconds left of life;
The murder weapon is right there in your hand,
Poisoned, and most deadly: the sabotage
Has turned itself on me – look, here I lie,
Never to rise again: your mother's poisoned:
I can no more: the king, the king's to blame.

HAMLET

The point—¡poisoned! Then, poison, do your work.

HAMLET runs KING CLAUDIUS through with Laertes' sword.

CLAUDIUS

¿Treason! ¿treason!
O, yet defend me, friends; I'm only hurt.

HAMLET snatches up the Queen's cup and pours it down the King's throat.

HAMLET

Here, you incestuous, murderous, damned King,
Drown in this potion.
Follow my mother.

CLAUDIUS dies.

LAERTES

Kharma is a bitch;
Exchange forgiveness with me, noble Hamlet:
Mine and my father's death come not upon you,
Nor yours on me.

HAMLET

¡I forgive you, Laertes! [*Laertes dies*] ...and I follow you.
Wretched Queen, ¡farewell!
Horatio, I am dead;
You will live; give good report of me
At the bar of History.

HORATIO

Never believe it:
I'll follow you still.
Here's yet some liquor left.

HAMLET

Give me the cup: let go; by heaven, ¡I'll have it;
¡O good Horatio, what a wounded name,
Things standing thus unknown, shall live behind me!
If ever you did hold me in your heart
live, love, and tell my story.
I die, Horatio;
The rest is silence.

HORATIO

Now cracks a noble heart.
Are you free, love, are you finally free?

A SWAT team storm in, sound of Hovercraft, sirens, boots on the ground—

HORATIO (*con't*)(*To the SAWT Team Leader*)

Order that this body
High on a stage be placed to the view;
And let me speak to the wondering world
How these things came about.

SWAT TEAM LEADER

Let Kha Hamlet be born aloft
Like a **soldier** to the stage;
Take up the bodies.

***The bodies of GERTRUDE, CLAUDIUS, and LAERTES are carried from the space.
Four CAPTAINS lift HAMLET's body to a conveyance, and secure it with lines to the
hovercraft. It is borne aloft as the CAPTAINS salute. ******

JUDGE [TO BAILIFF]

Go, bid the soldiers shoot.
For if she had ascended to the throne
She was like to have proved most royal
and to have been our greatest Queen.

HORATIO

Good night sweet Prince:
;And flights of angels sing thee to thy rest!

***as the twenty-one gun salute reports.
The Hovercraft Search Lights grow brighter and brighter until they are blinding.
Whiteout at Crescendo.
Blackout and Silence.***

~End of play~