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Hamlet and Zombies!

Or Something's Rotting in the State of Denmark

By

WILL AVERILL

Dramatic Publishing Company

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(HAMLET AND ZOMBIES!
OR SOMETHING'S ROTTING IN THE STATE OF DENMARK)

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Hamlet and Zombies! Or Something's Rotting in the State of Denmark was produced by The Lawrence Arts Center Summer Youth Theatre program in July 2010 (Ric Averill, artistic director; Susan Tate, executive director).

CAST:

CLAUDIUS	Christian Espinosa
GERTRUDE	Abby Ilardi
ZOMBIE KING	Jerry Mitchell
HAMLET	Evan Frook
OPHELIA.....	Sadie Keller
HORATIO	Celie Davison
POLONIUS.....	Ian Pepin
LAERTES	Eli Jost
VOLTIMAND.....	Isabel Rummell
OSRIC.....	Jackson Berland
CORNELIUS	Mariah Kaufman
ROSENCRANTZ	Kieran Spears
GULDENSTERN	Killian Scott
A GENTLEMAN.....	Alder Cromwell
A MESSENGER	Juliana Hill
A PRIEST.....	Anastasia Wilds
MARCELLUS	Kyle Berkley
BERNARDO.....	Tristan Delnevo
FRANCISCO	Joaquin Dorado Mariscal
REYNALDO.....	Dylan McManis
FORTINBRAS	Ted Wiklund
SENTINAL #1	Aubin Murphy
PLAYER #1	Alexis Kriegh
PLAYER #2	Karen McCain
PLAYER #3	Nicole Berkley
PLAYER #4	Allison Rood
PLAYER #5	Josie Wiklund

GRAVEDIGGER #1Chloe O’Dell
 GRAVEDIGGER #2Anna Patterson
 A NORWEGIAN CAPTAINJai Strecker
 AN ENGLISH AMBASSADOR Rose Uhrich
 YORICKBess Davison
 ZOMBIES Ashley Dykes, Grace Fell,
 Elizabeth Godinez, George Wedge, Rylinn Gipp
 LORDS/LADIES/AMBASSADORS Louisa Delnevo,
 Calliope Taylor, Asha Tolliver
 SOLDIERS/OFFICERS.....Madisyn Bell,
 Steele Jacobs, Brenden Lyons, Keegan West

PRODUCTION:

Director Elizabeth Sullivan
 Assistant Director..... Jerry Mitchell
 Stage Manager Danny Rogovein
 Light Board Operator.....Kelsey Ranjbar
 Followspot Operators.....Austin Bailey, Kat Sterbenz
 Sound Board Operators.....Lexi Adams, Leila Abdelrazaq
 Fly Rail.....Sydney Keizer
 Props Master Sean Bowen
 Running Crew Forest Lassman
 Set/Lighting Design Danny Rogovein
 Set/Prop ConstructionSYT Technical Theatre Crew
 Costume Design/Construction Steffani Day
 Fight Choreographer Doug Weaver
 Makeup Design and Crew..... Josie Naron
 Bobby Gamage, Josh Robinson
 Original MusicAdrian Rees
 Intern Elise Loney
 Shakespeare ConsultantJeanne Averill

This adaptation is dedicated to
Andy Bennett and Tom Butterworth,
two true friends and excellent players.

Hamlet and Zombies!

Or Something's Rotting in the State of Denmark

CHARACTERS

CLAUDIUS: King of Denmark, Hamlet's uncle.

GERTRUDE: Queen of Denmark, Hamlet's mother.

ZOMBIE KING: Hamlet's father.

HAMLET: The late king's son.

OPHELIA: Polonius' daughter.

HORATIO: Hamlet's friend.

POLONIUS: Lord Chamberlain, Claudius' advisor.

LAERTES: Polonius' son.

VOLTIMAND: A courtier.

ROSENCRANTZ: A courtier.

GUILDENSTERN: A courtier.

MARCELLUS: An officer.

BERNARDO: An officer.

FRANCISCO: A soldier.

REYNALDO: Polonius' servant.

FORTINBRAS: Prince of Norway.

SENTINEL #1: A guard.

PLAYERS #1-5

GRAVEDIGGERS #1-2

CAPTAIN: From Norway.

AMBASSADOR: From England.

LEAD PRIEST

**Various LORDS, OFFICERS, SOLDIERS, ATTENDANTS,
AMBASSADORS, PRIESTS and ZOMBIES**

Hamlet and Zombies!

Or Something's Rotting in the State of Denmark

Scene 1

(Elsinore. A platform before the castle.

*BERNARDO and FRANCISCO enter on the platform.
SENTINEL #1 enters on the ground.)*

BERNARDO. Who's there?

FRANCISCO. Stand and unfold yourself!

BERNARDO. 'Tis now struck twelve. Get thee to bed, Francisco.

FRANCISCO. For this relief much thanks. 'Tis bitter cold,
And I am sick at heart.

(Points to SENTINEL #1.) And he's freezing.

SENTINEL #1. Brrrrr!

BERNARDO. Have you had quiet guard?

FRANCISCO. Not a mouse stirring.

BERNARDO. Well, good night.

If you do meet Horatio and Marcellus, bid them make haste.

(FRANCISCO exits.)

BERNARDO *(cont'd)*. Stand, ho! Who is there?

(HORATIO and MARCELLUS enter.)

HORATIO. Friends to this ground.

MARCELLUS. And liegemen to the Dane.

BERNARDO. Welcome, Horatio. Welcome, good Marcellus.

(Sounds of screaming offstage. FRANCISCO starts to run onstage but trips and is dragged off by some evil unseen being. SENTINEL #1 looks terrified.)

MARCELLUS. Horatio says 'tis but our fantasy,
And will not let belief take hold of him
Touching this dreaded sight, twice seen of us.
But I know what I saw, and it was undead!

(The ZOMBIE KING enters.)

MARCELLUS *(cont'd)*. Peace! Break thee off! Look where it comes again!

BERNARDO. In the same form, alike our old dead king.

(ZOMBIE KING gets upset and starts to go for SENTINEL #1.)

MARCELLUS. It is offended.

SENTINEL #1. Yipes!

HORATIO. Stay! Speak, speak! I charge thee, speak!

(Exit the ZOMBIE KING, chasing SENTINEL #1 offstage.)

MARCELLUS. 'Tis gone, and will not answer.

(SENTINEL #1 screams offstage.)

HORATIO. Before my God, I might not this believe
Without the sensible and true avouch
Of mine own eyes. That's a zombie!

MARCELLUS. Thus twice before, hath he gone by our watch,
And totally eaten three of our best guards.

MARCELLUS. Moreso than young Fortinbras of Norway,
Who gathers in the skirts of Norway troops,
For what dread purpose, we know not thereof,
Which is why we must always keep the watch.

BERNARDO. So like the king that zombie was in gait,
Perhaps he's trying to tell us something.

(ZOMBIE KING re-enters.)

ZOMBIE KING. Brains!!!!!!

(ZOMBIE KING stalks MARCELLUS.)

HORATIO. Stop it, Marcellus!

(MARCELLUS attempts to strike the ZOMBIE KING, who continues to go after him. MARCELLUS turns and runs, but the ZOMBIE KING grabs and bites him. He runs off, yelping, with the ZOMBIE KING following.)

HORATIO. Let us impart what we have seen tonight
Unto young Hamlet.

BERNARDO. Let's do't, I pray: and I this morning know
Where we shall find him most conveniently.

(Exeunt.)

Scene 2

(A room of state in the castle.)

Flourish. CLAUDIUS, GERTRUDE, HAMLET, POLONIUS, LAERTES, OPHELIA, VOLTIMAND and an ATTENDANT enter.)

CLAUDIUS. Though yet of Hamlet our dear brother's death
The memory be green, yet so far hath
Discretion fought with nature
That we with wisest sorrow think on him
Together with remembrance of ourselves.

Therefore our sometime sister, now our queen,
Have we, with mirth in funeral,
And with dirge in marriage, taken to wife.
Now follows, that you know, young Fortinbras, of Norway
Holding a weak supposal of our worth,
Hath not fail'd to pester us with message,
Importing the surrender of those lands
Lost by his father.

You, good and gentle Voltimand,
Will act as my emissaries to Norway.
Tell them it's our land, and they ain't gettin' it back.
Farewell, and let your haste commend your duty.

VOLTIMAND. In that and all things will I show my duty.

CLAUDIUS. We doubt it nothing. Heartily farewell.

(VOLTIMAND exits.)

CLAUDIUS *(cont'd)*. And now, Laertes, what's the news
with you?

LAERTES. Dread my lord,

Your leave and favour to return to France.

CLAUDIUS. Take thy fair hour, Laertes. Time be thine,

And thy best graces spend it at thy will!

But now, my cousin Hamlet, and my son—

HAMLET. A little more than kin, and less than kind!

GERTRUDE. Good Hamlet, cast thy nighted color off,

Thou know'st 'tis common. All that lives must die,

Passing through nature to eternity.

HAMLET. Ay, madam, it is common.

GERTRUDE. Let not thy mother lose her prayers, Hamlet.

I pray thee, stay with us, go not to Wittenberg.

HAMLET. I shall in all my best obey you, madam.

CLAUDIUS. Why, 'tis a loving and a fair reply.
Be as ourself in Denmark. Madam, come.

(Flourish. Exeunt all but HAMLET.)

HAMLET. O, that this too too sullied flesh would melt,
Thaw and resolve itself into a dew,
O God! God! My father's brother,
Within a month, my mother married,
Too soon! O yes! Oh my yes is way too soon!
It is not, nor it cannot come to, good.
But break, my heart, for I must hold my tongue!

(HORATIO, BERNARDO and a slightly zombified MARCELLUS enter.)

HORATIO. Hail to your lordship!

HAMLET. I am glad to see you well.

Horatio—or I do forget myself?

HORATIO. The same, my lord, and your poor servant ever.

HAMLET. Sir, my good friend; I'll change that name with you.

Marcellus? You do not look so well.

MARCELLUS. Uuuuuhhhhh

HAMLET. I am very glad to see you—

(To BERNARDO.) Good even, sir.—

But what, in faith, make you from Wittenberg?

HORATIO. My lord, I came to see your father's funeral.

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

HORATIO. Indeed, my lord, it followed hard upon.

HAMLET. Thrift, thrift, Horatio. The funeral baked meats

Did coldly furnish forth the marriage tables.

See what I did there? Pretty good, I think,

My father—methinks I see my father.

(All but HAMLET look around, panicked.)

HORATIO. O, where, my lord?

HAMLET. In my mind's eye, Horatio.

(They all visibly relax.)

HORATIO. My lord, I think I saw him yesternight.

HAMLET. The king my father?

HORATIO. Two nights together had this gentleman

Been thus encountered. A figure like your father,

Appears before them,

Thrice he walk'd,

Sort of wobbling and groaning a lot.

HAMLET. 'Tis very strange. And saw you not his face?

HORATIO. Ay, very pale. And somewhat blood-spattered.

HAMLET. I will watch tonight.

Perchance 'twill walk again.

HORATIO. I warrant it will.

HAMLET. I'll visit you tonight,

Oh, and take him to a doctor. He's sick.

MARCELLUS. Uuuuhhhhhh ...

(Exeunt all but HAMLET. MARCELLUS exits last, groaning.)

HAMLET. My father's spirit in arms! All is not well.

Eating guards is not usually Dad's style,

I shall visit and find the truth of this,

Till then sit still, my soul. Foul deeds will rise,

Though all the earth o'erwhelm them, to men's eyes.

(He exits.)

Scene 3

(A room in POLONIUS' house.

LAERTES and OPHELIA enter.)

LAERTES. My necessities are embark'd. Farewell.

And, sister, let me hear from you.

OPHELIA. Do you doubt that?

(POLONIUS enter.)

LAERTES. I stay too long. But here my father comes.

POLONIUS. Yet here, Laertes? Aboard, aboard, for shame!

Let me just give you some advice, my son.

Neither a borrower nor a lender be;

For loan oft loses both itself and friend.

This above all: to thine own self be true,

Oh, and watch out for Hamlet, he's weird.

LAERTES. Farewell, Ophelia, and remember well

What I have said to you.

(LAERTES exits.)

POLONIUS. What is between you? Give me up the truth.

OPHELIA. Hamlet hath, my lord, of late made many tenders

Of his affection to me.

POLONIUS. Do not believe his vows! For I believe him
strange and smitten.

OPHELIA. I shall obey, my lord.

*(POLONIUS exits. OPHELIA crosses her arms, enraged.
MARCELLUS enters, fully zombified.)*

MARCELLUS. Uuuuuhhhh—uhhhhh!!!

(OPHELIA slams past him.)

OPHELIA *(while exiting)*. What do you want?!?

(She leaves, ignoring him. He stalks after her, moaning.)

Scene 4

(Elsinore. The platform before the castle.

HAMLET, HORATIO and BERNARDO enter. They look around for a moment, then the ZOMBIE KING enters.)

HORATIO. Look, my lord, it comes!

HAMLET. King, father, royal Dane. O, answer me!

Tell me why thy canonized bones,
Have burst their cerements,
And why you look so bad?

(ZOMBIE KING beckons HAMLET.)

HORATIO. It beckons you to go away with it.

(BERNARDO grabs HAMLET.)

BERNARDO. You shall not go, my lord.

HAMLET *(as ZOMBIE KING beckons again)*. Still am I
call'd. Unhand me, gentlemen.

I say, away! Go on. I'll follow thee.

(ZOMBIE KING and HAMLET exit.)

BERNARDO. Did you get a whiff of our former king?

Something is rotting in the state of Denmark.

Let's follow him.

(Exeunt.)

Scene 5

(The castle. Another part of the fortifications.)

ZOMBIE KING and HAMLET enter. The ZOMBIE KING is clearly torn between eating HAMLET and telling him something.)

HAMLET. Whither wilt thou lead me? Speak! I'll go no further.

ZOMBIE KING. Uuuhhhh!!!

HAMLET. What!

(ZOMBIE KING points to HAMLET and then to himself.)

HAMLET (*cont'd*). You're my zombie father?

(ZOMBIE KING points to the castle and makes a throat cutting motion.)

HAMLET (*cont'd*). Revenge for a foul and most unnatural murder? Whose?

Yours?

ZOMBIE KING. Uuuhhhhnnnn—kkkl!!!!!!!

(ZOMBIE KING motions to the castle again, then mimes putting a crown on his head.)

HAMLET. Mine own uncle? He hath killed you?

The better to marry my mother, and take the crown.

ZOMBIE KING. Uuuuhhhhhnnnn—kkkl!!!!!!!

(ZOMBIE KING mimes taking out a vial of potion, pouring it in his ear and dying a horrible death.)

HAMLET. O, horrible! O, horrible! Most horrible!

He hath put some unnatural poison,
Through your ear, into your—

(ZOMBIE KING nods excitedly. Points to his brains.)

ZOMBIE KING. Brains!!!

(During this speech, the ZOMBIE KING twitches, losing the last of his humanity and becoming fully evil. He looks at HAMLET in hunger. Zombie MARCELLUS and zombie SENTINEL #1 enter from R. HAMLET is oblivious to the coming danger.)

HAMLET. If this is true, I shall have my revenge,

O villain, villain, smiling, damned villain!
He will pay, I have sworn't.

(HORATIO and BERNARDO enter. They group around HAMLET. The three ZOMBIES shuffle towards them slowly. Zombie SENTINEL #1 takes a swipe at HORATIO, who ducks and weaves during the next line.)

HORATIO. My lord, my lord! Here now stand more zombies!

O day and night, but this is wondrous strange!

HAMLET. There are more things in heaven and earth, Horatio,

Than are dreamt of in your philosophy.
But come! These zombies won't quit.

(HAMLET, HORATIO and BERNARDO make a quick exit. The ZOMBIES groan and continue to shuffle.)

ZOMBIE KING. Brains!!!

(Exeunt.)