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Why Not Theatre Brings its Bilingual
Prince Hamlet to Stanford Live

Director Ravi Jain’s new production features American Sign Language alongside spoken Shakespearean text

Stanford, CA, September 28, 2022—Stanford Live presents a fresh take on Shakespeare’s Hamlet with Why Not Theatre’s production of Prince Hamlet (Oct 27 & 28). Directed by Ravi Jain, the remixed, reimagined, and bilingual Prince Hamlet features a cross-cultural, gender-bent cast—breathing new life into the 400-year-old play by challenging traditional ideas of who gets to tell this story.
“I’ve known Ravi for many years and have watched him grow, both as an accomplished actor and director,” says Chris Lorway, Stanford Live’s Executive Director. “His creative approach to storytelling offers powerful new insight into the stories that we thought we knew.”

Jain founded Why Not Theatre to establish a theater company that values inventive, cross-cultural work that examines difference. The company’s version of Hamlet reframes the universal experiences of grief, loss, and death from the perspective of Horatio, played by Toronto Theatre Critics Award-winning actor Dawn Jani Birley. Birley worked with Jain to translate the play into ASL, giving radical new expression to the old play. As each scene unfolds on stage, Horatio narrates in ASL, creating a bilingual fusion of the classic Shakespearean tragedy.

Casting includes Dawn Jani Birley as Horatio; Miriam Fernandes as Rosencrantz/Player King/Gravedigger/Bernardo; Jeff Ho as Ophelia; Eli Pauley as Hamlet; Barbara Gordon as Polonius; Sturla Alvsvaag as Guildenstern/Player Queen/Oseric/Marcellus; Andrew Musselman as Claudius; Dante Jemmott as Laertes/Player; and Monice Peter as Gertrude.

Runtime: 2 hours 45 mins with intermission

Tickets and More Information
Tickets are on sale now at live.stanford.edu.

Deaf Zone Accessible Seats
Prince Hamlet uses English and American Sign Language. Deaf zone seat locations for those who use ASL. Click here to see seat locations.

Prince Hamlet
Why Not Theatre | Adapted and directed by Ravi Jain
Thursday, Oct 27, 7:30 pm
Friday, Oct 28, 7:30 PM
Bing Concert Hall
Tickets start at $32

About Stanford Live
Stanford Live presents a wide range of fine performances from around the world, fostering a vibrant learning community and providing distinctive experiences through
the performing arts. From its home at Bing Concert Hall and Frost Amphitheater, Stanford Live functions simultaneously as a public square, a sanctuary and a lab, drawing from all Stanford University has to offer to connect performance to the most significant issues, ideas and discoveries of our time.

We take a moment to recognize that Stanford sits on the territory of Huichin, the ancestral and unceded land of the Muwekma Ohlone Tribe, who are the successors of the historic and sovereign Verona Band of Alameda County. This land was and continues to be of great importance to the Ohlone people. We recognize that every member of the community has benefited—and continues to benefit—from the use and occupation of this land. Consistent with our values of community and diversity, we have a responsibility to acknowledge and make visible the University’s relationship to Native people.

The Stanford Live season is sponsored by Stanford Medicine

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