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Hamlet (Arkangel Shakespeare)



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Synopsis

[Full-Cast Audio Theater Dramatization. Hamlet is played by Simon Russell Beale. Imogen Stubbs plays Ophelia, Jane Lapotaire is Gertrude, and Bob Peck is Claudius. Polonius is played by Norman Rodway.] Shakespeare's most famous play is one of the greatest stories in the literature of the world. Distressed by his father's death and his mother's over-hasty remarriage, Hamlet, prince of Denmark is faced by a specter from beyond the grave bearing a grim message of murder and revenge. The young prince is driven to the edge of madness by his struggle to understand the situation he finds himself in and to do his duty. Many others, including Hamlet's beloved, the innocent Ophelia, are swept up in his tragedy.

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Customer Reviews

William Shakespeare (1564-1616), English poet and dramatist of the Elizabethan and early Jacobean period, is the most widely known author in all of English literature and often considered the greatest. He was an active member of a theater company for at least twenty years, during which time he wrote many great plays. Plays were not prized as literature at the time, and Shakespeare was not widely read until the middle of the eighteenth century, when a great upsurge of interest in his works began that continues today.

Simon Russell Beale portrays the tragic Prince of Denmark in Shakespeare's most quoted play, with actress Imogen Stubbs playing the fair Ophelia. This production of HAMLET, produced exclusively for the Archangel Shakespeare audio collection, is a gem worthy of repeated listening. Paul Jesson

provides a beautifully dramatic, but strangely un-ghostly, soliloquy as the King's ghost. Also in the cast are Jane Lapotaire as Gertrude, Bob Peck as the murderous and incestuous Claudius, and the late Norman Rodway as the garrulous Polonius. Music composed by Dominique Le Gendre supplies evocative interludes between scenes, and a handy printed insert provides a track list, cast list, and scene-by-scene summary of the play. S.E.S. Ã Â© AudioFile 2008, Portland, Maine--Copyright Ã Â© AudioFile, Portland, Maine

We love the Arkangel Shakespeare productions. Well done! I have a Shakespeare-loving nine and thirteen year old. Watching most made-into-movie Shakespeare plays is out of the question. We also don't have a lot of live Shakespeare plays produced in our area - and some wouldn't be appropriate for kids anyway. That said, these dramatized audio versions of Shakespeare's plays are great for all ages. We currently own only a couple of Arkangel Shakespeare but I will be adding to our collection.

I purchased the HAMLET (ARKANGEL SHAKESPEARE) AUDIOBOOK CD to use in my high school senior English classes. I also enjoy listening to the CD myself on occasion just for fun because the vocal performances are so well done. The music is a more modern than on other recordings of Hamlet, but that didn't really bother me too much (the students enjoyed it more than period music they've listened to before on other recordings). The cast on this album includes:Simon Russell Beale - HamletImogen Stubbs - OpheliaJane Lapotaire - GertrudeBob Peck - ClaudiusNorman Rodway - PoloniusPaul Jesson - Ghost/GravediggerAlan Cox - HoratioDamian Lewis - LaertesJohn McAndrew - RosencrantzClarence Smith - GuildensternClifford Rose - Player KingChook Sibtain - FortinbrasNicholas Rowe - Marcellus/OsricAlex Boyd-Williams - Cornelius/ReynaldoNicholas Murchie - Prologue/Lucianus/DoctorSteven O'Neill - Player QueenAlan Westaway -BarnardoAlex McSweenty - FranciscoNick Monn - VoltemandIt's not the best HAMLET AUDIOBOOK CD out there, but overall the HAMLET (ARKANGEL SHAKESPEARE) AUDIOBOOK CD is a good one.

I teach high school English, and I always have my students follow along with the CD in class. I teach both accelerated and regular level classes, and my students all thank me for using the CD. I tell them in the beginning it will help them, and they are amazed when they find out it actually does. They tell me it really does make it easier to understand when they can listen to it (versus just reading it by themselves). We stop periodically to discuss, and my students take notes, and with

these three things, I have had much more success with Shakespeare in the classroom than in the past. And I have to admit - it has also helped me to understand some of it.

My daughter kept sneaking off to her room to listen to this. So well done!

A great audiotape. The voices capture the emotions of the characters and the background music fits the scenes. A benefit in the classroom!

Superior reading! I am using this in my classroom. It follows our text exactly and students understand it much better because of the expression the readers use. Excellent investment for instruction!

with a lot of theese plays one either enjoys them or not, the production engages one or not. This one I both eenjoyed and found engaging. I think it is well done.

Love how the sense are different tracks, and music always intros them. The actors are clear with good, meaningful inflection.

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