

The Tiger Lillies

HAMMLET



REPUBLIQUE

COPENHAGEN CONTEMPORARY THEATRE

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THE TIGER LILLIES PERFORM HAMLET

THEATRE REPUBLIQUE and British cult band **THE TIGER LILLIES** join forces in turning Shakespeare's **HAMLET** into an explosion of music and images.

A two-hour blast of theatrical seduction, deception, death, dark humour and the utter futility of existence.



Nothing
is as it seems.
No one
can be trusted.
The darkest
tragedy
is inevitable.

*“Do you believe in good and bad
Are you happy when you’re sad?
Do you believe in your fate
When you’re alone?
You’ll be raped you’re a pawn
You’re hair ripped and burned
You’ll be handled crucified
When you’re alone”*

ALONE, Martyn Jaques

*“What is the point of this life that we lead?
The filth and the fury the neurotic need
Where are we going where does it lead
The strife and the striving as life from us bleeds
Sin, sin
What is its point, its purpose, its goal?
Where is it going each one plays his role?”*

SIN, Martyn Jaques

The Tiger Lillies. Photo: Miklos Szabo

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Caspar Phillipson as HAMLET and
Charlotte Engelkes as GERTRUD. Photo: Miklos Szabo

HAMLET – THE DIRECTOR’S CUT

HAMLET is the gruesome tale of a young man faced with the truth of his family history and the duty to revenge his father’s murder. When this potent drama is coupled with the exceptional and eerie musical powers of The Tiger Lillies, and the excellent creative imagination of Republique, scenic alchemy forms a unique adventure for lovers of classics and contemporary theatre alike.

SHAKESPEARE’S ORIGINAL text has been cleverly condensed – soliloquies, side plots, drawn out combats and verbal banter is transformed into macabre cabaret tunes about the darkest corners of the human soul, and into brilliant, extravagantly poetic images that eloquently convey the core of Hamlet.

THIS CORE discloses a portrait of a dysfunctional family, where everyone has hidden motives, and little solace can be found. Image by image the audience is taken into the turbulent world of Hamlet. The young lovers meet in a poetic dance through the air, a twisted, orgiastic feast covers up all kinds of betrayals, the royal family hang

like puppets on strings without control of their destiny and an immense video projected river swallows up the ill-fated Ophelia. Hamlet folds in on itself, it shifts and transforms within the brilliantly crafted ominous castle set design by Martin Tulinius.

AND WITH dangerous seduction The Tiger Lillies drive the story forward in 21 newly composed songs. Singer Martyn Jaques plays the role of an omnipotent game master, pushing Hamlet towards his inevitable destruction.

THEATRE REPUBLIQUE reinvents Shakespeare’s famous play in collaboration with the outrageous and genius cult band The Tiger Lillies. In two intense hours the tale of Hamlet is unfolded in ways never seen on stage before. Shakespeare’s text is cut to the bone and extracted from this is a visually and musically powerful interpretation of family and fate conveyed with elements from the Brechtian theatre, dark humour, enticing songs and overwhelming imagery.

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THE PRESS ON THE TIGER LILLIES PERFORM HAMLET

"How can Hamlet ever be as good again? ... Piercing, penetrating, perfect."

Broadway World Westend

"Cleverly staged and suggestive remix."

Evening Standard

"Martyn Jacques, plus circus, puppetry and video projection. A palpable hit?"

TimeOut London

"Terror and intimacy alternate in the kaleidoscopic turmoil, to stunning effect."

This is Cabaret

"A sinful 'HAMLET' that is innovative, imaginative and incredible. It's an evening that will haunt you for all the right reasons."

Copenhagen Post

"Tiger Lillies perform Hamlet is an extravagantly grand performance that will do well on the international arena. A performance that proves how skilled Danish stage design is at creating remarkable spaces – and shows the way for new forms of music theatre."

Anne Middelboe Christensen, Information

"Martin Tulinius, the five actors, and the musicians pull everything together with accomplished theatricality making Shakespeare explode with vitality ... This performance will leave its mark on the Hamlet history."

Theresa Benér, Sydsvenska Dagbladet

"It's pure magic when Tulinius' skills as a director and set designer unite ... It's fascinating to watch how Martyn Jaques' game master – like Death – controls everything and by just applying arrogant taps with his shoe can fling Hamlet across the floor"

Monna Dithmer, Politiken

"You'll be dragged to the edge of your chair, and to the limit of your senses and emotions, in attempts to follow the impressions hurled at you from the stage... you have never seen Hamlet like this before. And it shouldn't be missed."

Louise Nabe, Teateranmeldelse



Photo: Miklos Szabo

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THE PLAYERS

TIGER LILLIES PERFORM HAMLET was initiated by Theatre Republique in 2011 with the ambition of uniting the dark, seductive world of cult band The Tiger Lillies with Shakespeare's epic story and some of the most talented theatre-makers in Denmark.

THE CAST AND CREW

TIGER LILLIES PERFORM HAMLET is directed by Theatre Republique's Artistic Director Martin Tulinus, who also has created the impressive set design. His artistic collaborators are Tiger Lillies' singer and Musical Director Martyn Jaques, and Republique's International Director Hans Christian Gimbel. Five actors tread the boards as Hamlet's disturbed relations; Caspar Phillipson (Hamlet), Charlotte Engelkes (Gertrude), Zlatko Buric (Claudius) Nanna Finding Koppel (Ophelia), Morten Christensen (Pelonious/ Leartes). The mischievous narrators are the Tiger Lillies: Martyn Jaques, Adrian Stout and Adrian Huge/ Mike Pickering.

THE TIGER LILLIES

THE TIGER LILLIES defy any singular description and operate within their own eccentric definitions. Since 1989 they have toured the world both with the breathtaking performance, Shockheaded Peter, and by themselves, developing a dedicated following from New York and San Francisco in the US to St Petersburg in Russia. Their songs (once described as 'Surrealist Pornography') are captured on numerous self-released albums including Brothel to the Cemetery, Farmyard Filth, Ad Nauseam, Shockheaded Peter and Circus Songs.

THE TIGER LILLIES consist of Martyn Jaques, Adrian Stout and Adrian Huge. Huge is temporarily replaced by Mike Pickering.



Photo: Miklos Szabo

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INTERVIEW WITH STAGE DIRECTOR AND VISUAL DESIGNER MARTIN TULINIUS

Why did you choose to do a staging of Hamlet?

I wanted to work with a great classic. And actually I wanted to do King Lear. But in my collaboration with The Tiger Lillies and lead singer Martyn Jacques I realized that Hamlet fits The Tiger Lillies universe much better. With murder, insanity and strange sexual relations it was a perfect match. The Tiger Lillies songs are like the musical counterpart to the incidents in Hamlet.

What has been your interest in your staging of Hamlet?

My wish was to make a staging of Hamlet where the story is told just as much through music and visuality. And I wanted to cut the story down to the bone, find the essence of the story and intensify it.

Rather than making a historical staging, I would like the audience to be able to see themselves in a story. This is why I find it so important to develop different and new expressions in theatre.

The music for example talks to our feelings and opens up other ways of perceiving. In this staging a lot of Ophelia's character is played out in the music. It can make us engage differently with the characters and makes us understand them with our hearts rather than with our minds. The visuality and the physicality is a just so important storyteller as the text and it is a way of communicating with the audience.

It also makes it interesting for us to see the audience reactions, because with the visuality it apparently has been appealing to so many different people, both young and old. The young are so used to engaging in sound, music and im-

ages in their everyday life and love to see that in the theatre. And older people have found it fantastic because they have seen a Hamlet, they never saw before.

What is it the actor Caspar Phillipson is able to give the Hamlet character?



Director and Scenographer, Martin Tulinius
Photo: Per Morten Abrahamsen

Caspar playing Hamlet is a gift to the show. He has an ability to work with music, text and physical scenes and he has such a physical strong presence that on the same time contains fragility. Those are exactly the qualities that are needed to complete this Hamlet. And he has great experience with international productions from working at the National Theatre in London.

But for Ophelia you chose a very young and unexperienced girl?

Yes when I casted Nanna, she was 15 years old and competing with 4 professional actresses to get the part. But Nanna took my breath away. She has an extraordinary mental and physical presence and can give Ophelia such a fine emotional character. Plus she is able to build Ophelia's character through a physical body language. It is something that regular actresses could not do at all. Nanna is a star in the making.

Now she is 18 and I think having a young actress helps showing the extreme vulnerability of the youth. Ophelia killing herself over lost love corresponds better with the fragile youth, where you are more easily thrown off course.

TOUR DATES:

2014

OCTOBER 18 – 19 Cervantiano Festival, Teatro principal, Guanajuato, Mexico
NOVEMBER 12 – 18 Place des Arts, Montreal, Canada
(Nov. 17 as part of the OFF-CINARS program)

2015

JANUARY 16 + 17 Amsterdam, Stadsschouwburg
JANUARY 20 Arnhem, Schouwburg
JANUARY 27 Groningen, Stadsschouwburg
APRIL, DATES TBA London, Southbank Centre
APRIL 8 - 25 Republique, Copenhagen

ORIGINAL RUN:

Copenhagen: 25/2 – 2/3 + 21/4 – 12/5, 2012

PREVIUOS TOUR PRESENTATIONS:

Göteborg, Sweden, Göteborgs Dans & Teater Festival: 19/5 + 20/5, 2012
London, Southbank Centre: 18/9 – 21/9, 2012

Photo: Miklos Szabo

FOUNDED IN 2009 THEATRE REPUBLIQUE is located in the residential area of Østerbro in Copenhagen and consists of two stages that seat approximately 400 and 150 audiences. The theatre presents new productions as well as international and local guest performances. The entire Republique team are greatly experienced, and dedicate themselves to creating new visual interpretations of theatre classics, producing international performances, family productions, and presenting work that challenges limitations set by conventional concepts of theatre.

THEATRE REPUBLIQUE is run by Artistic Director Martin Tulinius and International Director Hans Christian Gimbel. This duo also initiated the Tiger Lillies perform Hamlet project, as one of their international ventures. Republique performances have been shown at the Nordic House in Reykjavik, Nordkraft in Ålborg and London's South Bank Centre, Spielart in Munich and at the Göteborg Festival.

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