

How has your
interpretation of
hamlet changed



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How has your interpretation of hamlet changed Refer to Bondi Production and Zeffirelli. The play Hamlet was written by Shakespeare in 1601.

Since then there has been many re-enactments of the play, differed by the interpretation of the director. After watching Zeffirelli's version as my own introduction to the play, it seemed like a drama based around solely on a tragic revenge story. But after analyzing and breaking down the play and watching another version of the production in Bond by Ritchy.

Dominant features in my mind about the play is Hamlets nature is too methodical, cunning and smart to be truly as mad and the constant deception or disguise from most of the characters in the play. As Hamlet does say he is putting on an antic disposition there is some speculation to whether he is truly mad or just pretending. As stated previously I interpret Hamlet's character as too smart and methodical to be actually mad. An example of this is when Hamlet says I am but mad north-north-west: when the wind is southerly I know a hawk from a handsaw. Hamlet admits to Rosencrantz and Guildenstern that even though hes acting like a raving lunatic, he definitely has his wits about him. In other words, he knows theyve been sent by Claudius to spy on him. This scene also includes deception as Rosencrantz and Guildenstern disguise themselves as Hamlets friends but are really just spying on him. This deception of being two faced, conveys the fact that no one can be trusted in this play Another example of this interpretation is the scene where Hamlet is approached by Polonius as he is reading.

In this scene Hamlet is acting quite eccentric, when Polonius asks what Hamlet is reading and he simply replies with, "Words, words, words". This is a prime example of how he is just acting as he is only just mocking Polonius because he knows Polonius is a deceptive person and is not to be trusted. In the Bondi Production by Ritchy, Hamlet seemed less interested in mocking him but more focused on seeming incoherent. In Zeffirelli's version, in the scene when Hamlet confronts Ophelia, Zeffirelli has interpreted that Hamlet sees Polonius hiding which then spurs his rage against Ophelia. I agree with this interpretation, as Hamlet has no real reason to be angry with Ophelia other than if she deceives him. But of course Ophelia believes in Hamlet is disguised madness, "O what a noble mind is here o'erthrown!" One scene that can be interpreted differently is the scene where Hamlet stabs Polonius from behind the curtain.

My interpretation of this scene is that Hamlet feels remorse for killing Polonius but does not grieve, as he sees Polonius as an untrustworthy fool, "what a rash...intruding fool." In the Bondi Production, this scene Gertrude and Hamlet break into hysterical laughter as if it was a big joke and was no big deal even though Gertrude even says "O, what a rash and bloody deed!" Hamlet does not act mad in this scene but it is a strange scene as Hamlet actually acts with pure adrenaline rather than thinking, ironically this is the time where he should of thought before acting.

Finally in the final act, Hamlet says "you must needs have heard, how I am punished; With a sore distraction" I interpret this as a true admission about his antic disposition as it was a distraction. This is different from my first interpretation as I thought this scene was about Hamlet keeping his

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pride and justifying his accidental murder of Polonius. Overall my interpretation of this play has dramatically changed from thinking it was a simple revenge, actions and consequence play. I see now there was more to the play especially in Hamlets character and his supposed madness and also the deceptive nature of appearances.