

# CHARACTERS

## PEOPLE YOU WILL MEET IN *HAMLET*

### Hamlet

The Prince of Denmark.

### The Ghost of Hamlet's Father

Hamlet's dead father, the late King of Denmark, murdered by his brother Claudius.

### Gertrude

Hamlet's mother, the Queen.

### Claudius

Hamlet's uncle, the newly crowned King of Denmark. Recently married to Gertrude, so he is also Hamlet's stepfather.

### Polonius

King Claudius' chief councilor. Father to Ophelia and Laertes.

### Ophelia

Daughter to Polonius, and sister of Laertes. She was courted by Hamlet, though the status of their relationship is never made clear.

### Laertes

Son to Polonius, and brother of Ophelia.

### Horatio

Hamlet's close friend from Wittenberg.

### Rosencrantz & Guildenstern

Acquaintances and schoolfellows of Hamlet, brought in by Claudius to spy on the Prince.

Also assorted guards, courtiers, messengers, players, a priest and a grave-digger.

The Classical Theatre Project production of *Hamlet* is performed by eight actors, several of whom play multiple roles. In Shakespeare's time it was accepted that a single actor might take on several minor roles (particularly when a company was on tour), and the practice has continued into modern times. WATCH for ways in which the actors use tone, gesture, and body language to differentiate one character from another.