

The Boy Who Couldn't Make Up His Mind (Hamlet)

SCENE 1 **Zach** – Penn, **Mum** – Sophia Lilly, **Maisie** – Azaria, **Jodie** – Nyla.
N Once upon a time Maisie and her friends were playing Monopoly at Maisie's house but they COULD NOT even get started because Zach couldn't decide if he wanted to be the hat or the car.

ZACH - But I like both. What should I do? *(all shrug)* What if I pick the car and then I lose? What if Jodie gets the car and she wins?

(Maisie's mum comes in)

MUM - Would you like pepperoni on your pizza?

ALL - Yes please!

ZACH - I'm not sure *(he puts his head in his hands)*

N - You see he couldn't decide about the car OR the hat OR the Pepperoni and it was

ALL IN SCENE - STRESSING HIM OUT

JODIE - So that's when I told him: Zach you're being EXACTLY like Hamlet out of the Shakespeare play.

ZACH - No I'm not!

MAISIE – I remember that one!

NEO – To be or not to be! That is the question!

(Maisie's mum burst out laughing)

MUM - You are like Hamlet, actually.

ZACH - I'm definitely not!

Jodie - Do you know who Hamlet was?

ZACH – No...

(The scene fades away like a dream, children go back to their benches)

SCENE 2 **Hamlet** – Eadie, **Gertrude** – Audrey.

N - Hamlet was the Prince of Denmark and had been at university for about twenty years because he couldn't decide what to be when he grew up. So he just kept going back to college and doing LOADS of stuff like history (historical fact PEGGY) and biology (biology fact ALLEGRA) and hairdressing (anecdote KITTY). But one day when Hamlet came home to get his mum to do his washing for him he found out that his dad, the King of Denmark, had died. And then his mum said:

GERTRUDE - I'm going on a date with your uncle Claudius. There's some left-over lasagne in the fridge.

HAMLET - Mum! That's insane! Why aren't you crying? Dad's dead and you're going out with his brother!

GERTRUDE - So? Calm down darling, you always get yourself in such a pickle!

HAMLET - This is...

ALL NOT IN SCENE - TOTALLY WEIRD!

GERTRUDE - Don't be silly darling...byeeeee

END OF SCENE – Hamlet sash goes to KITTY, Gertrude crown to JULIA

SCENE 3 **Hamlet** – Kitty, **Claudius** – Allegra, **Gertrude** – Julia, **Minister** – Katherine.

N - Hamlet's mum and his Uncle Claudius got back from their date JUST in time for the king's funeral

(THE KING IS LAID OUT DEAD. GERTRUDE, CLAUDIUS AND HORATIO LOOK SAD)

(HAMLET kneels down beside his dad's body)

HAMLET - I'll miss you dad.

CLAUDIUS - Come on love, what do you say?

HAMLET - Eh?

(Gertrude wipes tears away and looks at the huge bejewelled ring he is holding out to her)

GERTRUDE - oh.....alright then.....go on.

CLAUDIUS - Great! Now all you funeral guests stay where you are 'cos me and Gertrude are about to get MARRIED and I'm going to be the KING OF DENMARK!

(HE LIFTS THE CROWN OFF THE DEAD KING'S CHEST AND PUTS IT ON HIS HEAD.)

ALL FREEZE APART FROM HAMLET

N - Hamlet was totally SHOCKED because his uncle was about to become his STEPDAD and also because HE was supposed to become King of Denmark. He probably should have grabbed the minister's microphone and shouted:

HAMLET - Mum! You CAN'T marry Dad's BROTHER That's disgusting! And also I'M THE KING NOW!

N - But Hamlet didn't shout any of those things. He just sat there trying to decide what to do to stop the wedding until the minister said:

MINISTER - I now pronounce you husband and wife.

N - and it was too late.

END OF SCENE -

Hamlet sash to EADIE

Horatio sash to JULIA

Claudis crown to ROSABELLE

Gertrude crown to AYA

SCENE 4 **Hamlet** – Eadie, **Horatio** - Julia

N - After the Funeral-Wedding Hamlet went up to the castle roof and moaned for HOURS to his best friend, Horatio (who was very good at listening, which was a good thing because Hamlet talked a LOT)

HAMLET - What do you think I should do about the King thing?

HORATIO - Well if I was....

HAMLET - Should I get the castle locks changed so Claudius can't move in?

HORATIO - Well you could.....

HAMLET - Should I become a hairdresser?

N - But Horatio never got a chance to answer ANY of the questions because as SOON as Hamlet asked a question he ALWAYS asked ANOTHER one right away (which was very annoying).

END OF SCENE:

Hamlet sash to PEGGY

Horatio sash to AUDREY

SCENE 5 Hamlet – Peggy, Ghost – Kitty.

N - SUDDENLY A GHOST APPEARS

ALL - WOOOOOOOOOOOO!

GHOST (*ghostly voice*) - You've been eating MY lasagne! I can smell it on your breath.

HAMLET - That's my dad's favourite food!

GHOST - That's right son! And someone else is getting my portions! You know, I really used to like the melted cheese on top bubbling away under the oven grill.....(*SOBS*) but I'll never being able to eat lasagne EVER again, because Hamlet, I am here to tell you that I was MURDERED by my own BROTHER!

HAMLET - Dad, is that really you?! I can't believe it. Are you sure it was Uncle Claudius?

GHOST - Yes! and what's worse - he crept up on me when I was sleeping in the garden and poured POISON in my EAR!

HAMLET – Ew! That's gross.

GHOST - In fact it's still a bit sore and itchy even now, even though I'm dead. Look son, I need you to do two very important things for me. And you must do them because I am your ghost dad. You must AVENGE my death!

N - which meant he wanted him to kill his uncle.

GHOST - And bring me some lasagne so I can smell it and try and lick the air.

(THE GHOST disappears)

END OF SCENE:

Hamlet sash to ALLEGRA

SCENE 7 (6 cut) **Hamlet** – Allegra, **Ophelia** – Eadie, **Horatio** – Audrey.

N - Hamlet needed to spy on everyone to see who was acting guilty. So Hamlet decided to PRETEND he was in a terrible mood and be MEAN to EVERYONE, even his girlfriend Ophelia, so that they would be so shocked by his bad behaviour they wouldn't notice the SPYING.

Hamlet coughed on ALL the scrambled eggs at breakfast. He left ALL the royal toilet seats up and made up a song about Claudius's best friend Polonius looking like an evil guinea pig and sang it to him (even though Polonius was Ophelia's dad so that was a bit of a bad idea)

HAMLET - Polonius, Bolonius, with your evil guinea pig face.....you're a hairy disgrace, get out of my face!

N - EVERYONE was talking about how RUDE Hamlet was now. And when anyone caught him SPYING on his uncle he would just call them the WORST name he could think of and they'd forget all about the spying.

(OPHELIA comes in and finds HAMLET spying - he's under a chair with a pair of binoculars)

OPHELIA - Hey Hamlet, haven't seen you for a bit - when exactly are we getting married, I don't want you to forget.

HAMLET - Do what? I DEFINITELY DON'T want to marry you Ophelia! Just go away and be a NUN ok?

OPHELIA - But I really love you! I can't believe it! You know the wedding dress is non-refundable!

HAMLET - Toughski buffski.

(SHE GIVES HIM A SMACK AND STALKS OFF.)

HORATIO - I think you don't have to pretend you're in a mad, bad mood anymore.

HAMLET - Why's that?

HORATIO - Cos you really are in a mad, bad mood.

HAMLET - Yes that's true, I'm actually in a terrible mood because I'm thinking about MURDER and AVENGING all the time and I need to do something about Claudius.

HORATIO – Maybe you should take a break... Go watch the Royal Actors rehearse or something...

END OF SCENE:

Horatio sash to AZARIA

Hamlet sash to BIANCA

BIANCA takes script and voucher prop

SCENE 8 **Actor One** – Penn, **Actor 2** – Neo, **Hamlet** - Bianca

N - But Hamlet got an IDEA while he was watching the Royal Actors rehearse. Hamlet's IDEA was to write a NEW PLAY about a man who kills a king by pouring poison in his ear while he's sleeping. Then make the actors do that one to see if Claudius would FREAK OUT when he saw it.

ACTOR 1 (*LOOKING AT THE SCRIPT*) - No, no, no, no! There's too many spelling mistakes in this love....

ACTOR 2 Yes, bit of a dog's dinner if you ask me...

HAMLET Well I'm not asking you dog's breath! I had to write it in a hurry! Look just do it! Here's a bag of gold and a voucher for an "all you can eat" Chinese buffet - deal?

ACTORS 1 and 2 - DEAL! (*THEY GRAB THE LOOT AND SCARPER TO PUT ON THEIR CLOAKS*)

SCENE 9 Same as previous PLUS Claudius – Aya, Gertrude – Azaria.
(THEY REAPPEAR PRONTO IN THEIR CLOAKS. GERTRUDE AND CLAUDIUS AND HORATIO ARE IN THE AUDIENCE WATCHING. HAMLET IS IN THE NEAR DISTANCE HALFWAY UP A TREE/LADDER WITH HIS BINOCULARS, WATCHING.)

(ACTOR 1 WEARING A CROWN RECLINING IN A GARDEN)

ACTOR 1 - Methinks me will lay me KINGLY body here, eating grapes, relaxing and not noticing ANYTHING.....

ACTOR 2 - I thinks I will just creep up on the KING poison him while he's dreaming of fairies...

(HE CREEPS UP AND POURS POISON IN HIS EAR.)

(Claudius turns white and nearly faints).

CLAUDIUS - THIS IS THE WORST PLAY I HAVE EVER SEEN!

(And then he runs away)

(HAMLET FROM HIS PERCH YELLS)

HAMLET - The ghost WAS my ghost dad and it was telling the TRUTH about the Brother Murderer.

GERTRUDE – Oh, Hamlet! No! No! NO!

EVERYONE STARTS TALKING AT ONCE AND RUSHING AROUND. THE ACTORS ARE COUNTING THEIR GOLD AND ASKING WHICH WAY TO THE CHINESE ALL YOU CAN EAT BUFFET.

HAMLET - Mum go to your room! I'll meet her there in a minute, just got to go to the toilet first.

END OF SCENE:

Hamlet sash to SOPHIA LILLY

SCENE 10 **Hamlet** – Sophia-Lilly, **Horatio** - Azaria

N - But Hamlet DIDN'T go to the toilet because he didn't need to go and he'd only pretended that he needed to go because he was on his way to KILL CLAUDIUS and AVENGE his father's death!

(Hamlet finds Claudius on his knees, praying with his eyes closed so he raised his dagger in the air behind him. But then he changes his mind. Claudius, oblivious gets up and walks away.)

HORATIO - Have you done it yet?

HAMLET - No I don't really want to kill anyone while they're saying their prayers, but I DO want to avenge my dad. Actually I really DO need a wee!
(So he ran to the bathroom but then stopped halfway and cries...)

HAMLET - To WEE or NOT to wee? That is the question!

N - Because he wasn't sure. Hamlet talked to himself for half an hour he'd forgotten what he was doing there. And then he went to see his mum for a cuddle because his brain was hurting.

END OF SCENE:

Hamlet sash to AUDREY

Horatio sash to KITTY

SCENE 11 **Hamlet** – Audrey, **Gertrude** – Peggy, **Polonius** – Katherine.
(Katherine gets in place behind the 'curtain', Eadie and Julia hold up sheet).

HAMLET - Come on mum, just a little cuddle, I feel terrible! I mean, Claudius killed dad, then he married you, then he stole the crown and you just keep on not seeing it!

GERTRUDE - I certainly will not cuddle you! Stop saying those awful things about your stepdad, he's really nice man.

HAMLET - But mum! He's a beast! He even...

(Gertrude didn't like what she was hearing that so she covered her ears) saying:

LA LA LA LA
I'M NOT
LISTENING.
TO YOU
LA LA LA LA LA

HAMLET - Mum take your hands off your ears and listen to me!
(Hamlet tries to take her hands off her ears she SCREAMS THE WHOLE PALACE DOWN)

(ALL PUT YOUR HANDS OVER YOUR EARS)

N - Then Hamlet noticed something moving behind one of the curtains...

HAMLET - SSSHHH! (he creeps toward the curtains)
(HAMLET sticks it RIGHT THROUGH the curtain)

POLONIUS - AGHHHHH!! (HE STAGGERS OUT DYING)

HAMLET - Oh no! It's Polonius, Ophelia's dad, but I thought you were Claudius spying on us!

POLONIUS - Wrong! (HE DROPS DOWN DEAD)

GERTRUDE - Oh my poor boy, you FINALLY made a decision and then curtain-stabbed someone and it wasn't even the RIGHT person!

END OF SCENE:

Hamlet sash to PEGGY

Gertrude crown to ALLEGRA

SCENE 13 (12 cut) **Hamlet** – Peggy, **Gertrude** – Allegra, **Laertes** – Julia, **Claudius** – Eadie.

N - Hamlet then found out that Ophelia had been so upset about her dad that she'd run away, tripped and fallen into a river and died. Laertes, Ophelia's brother and Polonius's son, was so upset by what Hamlet had done that he challenged him to a duel to the death!

Claudius LOVED the idea of the sword fight because he wanted Hamlet dead. So he told Laertes to cover his sword with POISON because he was obsessed with killing people with poison. And he even had a poisoned glass of wine ready to give to Hamlet in case the sword didn't work. (*PLACE THIS WINE BESIDE GERTRUDE*)

(A HUGE crowd are waiting)

GERTRUDE *(waves LOADS and shouts:)* - Love you! I hope you win!

LAERTES – I'm going to batter you, you donut! You'll be more Omelette than Hamlet! Because of you, my sister Ophelia and my dad Polonius are both DEAD!

HAMLET - Look Laertes, can I just say I didn't actually mean to stab your dad through the curtain....

LAERTES - Yeah, right! It's time for a proper sword fight to the death!

(The crowd CHEERS! Laertes ANGRILY swings his sword and cuts Hamlet's finger. So Hamlet fights back hard, he does so well that Laertes falls and slices his leg with his OWN SWORD. Gertrude gets excited that Hamlet was doing so well, so she picks up the glass Claudius meant for Hamlet)

GERTRUDE - Cheers to my son!

CLAUDIUS - NOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOO!!!

N - But it was too late. Hamlet's mum gulped down the WHOLE glass because fizzy wine was her favourite and she hadn't had any since Christmas.

HAMLET Aghhhh this cut on my finger is burning and the burning is spreading up my arm and into my chest.....

(He looks at the cut on Laertes' leg and sees that he is in serious pain too)

LAERTES - AGHHHHH!!!!

(Then Laertes falls dramatically to the ground and cries)

LAERTES - The King is a POISON MURDERER!

(Then Hamlet's mum GERTRUDE clutches her throat and topples off her throne into the buffet. Custard pie in the face)

HAMLET - We've ALL been poisoned and it's...

ALL - ALL CLAUDIUS'S FAULT!

SCENE 14 **Claudius** – Eadie, **Hamlet** – Peggy, **Horatio** - Kitty

N - Hamlet EVENTUALLY avenges his ghost dad's murder:

(He staggers towards Claudius and poison-stabs him. Claudius falls down dead)

CLAUDIUS - AGGHHHH!!!!

N - And then Hamlet dies too.

HAMLET - AGGHHHHH!!!! OOHHH!!!! RRRRRRrrrrrr!!!!!!

N - But then he opens his eyes and says:

HAMLET - Horatio. Will you tell the story of me and what happened to me forever, even if it makes you cry?

HORATIO - Yes I promise.

N - And then Hamlet dies again. But then he opened his eyes AGAIN and says:

HAMLET Horatio. Do you think I would have been a good hairdresser?

HORATIO Yes I think you would have been a fine hairdresser.

N - He didn't really mean it because his hair was STILL longer on one side than it was on the other from when he'd let Hamlet cut it. But that wasn't the right time to bring it up. And then Hamlet died again.

But he kept opening his eyes and saying more things because even when he was almost dead Hamlet could NOT stop talking and saying one more thing and it went on like that for about forty-five minutes.

END OF SCENE:

AUDREY takes crown from CLAUDIUS'S body to become Fortinbras.

SCENE 15

N - Once Hamlet was DEFINITELY DEAD the Prince of Norway, who was called Fortinbras, came to be king.

FORTINBRAS (To Horatio) - You and all the other people who have nowhere to go can come and live in the palace, cos it's a big place and I'm one hell of a nice guy.

N - And even though Horatio never saw the ghost of Hamlet or Hamlet's dad again, he always made lasagne on a Thursday and left two bowls in a spooky bit of the castle before he went to bed.

SCENE 16 CASTING SAME AS SCENE ONE WITH EXTRA LINES.
N - BACK IN MAISIE'S HOUSE

JODIE - So Zach. Do you want to end up like Hamlet?"

ZACH - No I am DEFINITELY going to be the HAT and I DEFINITELY wanted pepperoni on my pizza. And I'm going to decide EVERYTHING on from now on.

AYA – Well done, Zach!

JODIE - Great! What film do you want to watch later then?

Zach doesn't say anything for a beat and then he says

ZACH - Er.....em..... I think I just need to go to the toilet first....

THEY ALL BURST OUT LAUGHING AND SAY:

ALL - To wee, or not to wee? Zach. That is the question!!

THE END