




ALEXANDER H. COHEN  
PRESENTS

JOHN GIELGUD'S  
PRODUCTION OF

# HAMLET


by WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE

RICHARD  BURTON

HUME  CRONYN

PATRI  ALFRED DRAKE

EILEEN  HERLIE

WILLIAM  REDFIELD

GEORGE  ROSE

GEORGE  VOSKOVEC

PRODUCED FOR RECORDS BY Goddard LieBERSON

The fact to be stated at once is that Richard Burton is a very fine Hamlet, indeed. His Prince of Denmark is forceful, direct, unpretentiously eloquent, more thoughtfully introspective than darkly melancholy, with the glint of ironic humor, and decidedly a man of action and feeling. And John Gielgud's production of Shakespeare's towering masterpiece is stirring and skillful, with Hume Cronyn presenting a memorable characterization of the blundering old Polonius.

Mr. Cronyn's Polonius is nothing short of superb.

The vitality and imagination of the whole production and Mr. Burton's distinguished performance provide a notable theatre event."

*Richard Watts Jr./N.Y. Post*

"Mr. Burton is, in my opinion, a most dominant and distinctive Hamlet. . . .

I believe you will come away from the Lunt-Fontanne Theatre with respect for him as a true professional and the conviction that he has brought to the role a certain vigor and compulsion which is rarely dispensed by the ethereal lads who have taken on the assignment in the past.

The illusion that all this is taking place on-stage at a rehearsal has been very skillfully carried out. The cast is of course almost overwhelming: Hume Cronyn, particularly effective as Polonius; Alfred Drake, a magnificently insidious Claudius; Eileen Herlie, buxom and beguiling as Queen Gertrude; and other expert contributions of William Redfield, George Rose and George Voskovec."

*John McClain/N.Y. Journal-American*

"Last night in the Lunt-Fontanne Theatre, Richard Burton swept mind and memory clean of all other Hamlets, in a performance so lucid and sensible that people will speak of it for years. What a problem he has posed for Hamlets to come.

Burton's Hamlet is consistent—and this is not easy to achieve with a man whose behavior embraces comedy, craftiness and murder. You are always seeing Hamlet—not Burton—and a Hamlet whose power of personality mounts

steadily as the play pursues its ever-onishing course.

As King and Queen, Alfred Drake and Eileen Herlie bring their roles the flourish we expect from two such distinguished players."

*Norman Nadel/World-Telegram & Sun*

"Richard Burton dominates the drama, as Hamlet should. For his is a performance of electrical power and sweeping virility.

Mr. Gielgud has pitched the performance to match Mr. Burton's range and intensity. It is clear early on that Mr. Burton means to play Hamlet with all the stops out—when power is wanted. He is aware of the risk of seeming to rant. For it is he who warns that the players must not tear a passion to tatters. But he is unafraid—and he is right.

I do not recall a Hamlet of such tempestuous manliness. Mr. Burton's Hamlet is full of pride and wit and mettle. He is warm and forthright with Horatio. Mr. Burton's voice is not mellifluous like those of a few highly cultivated classic actors. It has a hearty ring and a rough edge, attributes that suit his interpretation. He has a fine sense of rhythm. It is very much his own, with a flair for accenting words and phrases in unexpected ways.

Worthy of being on the stage with this Hamlet is Hume Cronyn's superbly managed and richly fatuous Polonius. As one sits through a long evening that seems all too short, one is humbled afresh by the surge of Shakespeare's poetry, by his tenderness and by his disillusioned awareness of man and his ways."

*Howard Taubman/N.Y. Times*

"Richard Burton is one of the most magnificently equipped actors living, and in John Gielgud's rehearsal clothes production of 'Hamlet' he places on open display, not only all of his own reverberating resources—a face that is illuminated in repose, a voice that seems to prove that sound spirals outward, an intelligence that hears wit when wit is trying to steal by tiptoe—but also all of the myriad qualities which the man Hamlet requires."

*Walter Kerr/N.Y. Herald Tribune*