



DUBROVAČKE LJETNE IGRE DUBROVNIK SUMMER FESTIVAL

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THE PRINCE OF DENMARK RETURNS TO LOVRJENAC

Triumphant First Premiere Theatre Production of the Anniversary 70th Festival, *Hamlet*

Dubrovnik, 28 July 2019 – The first premiere title of this Festival season, Shakespeare's *Hamlet* as directed by **Paolo Magelli** and performed by the **Festival Drama Ensemble**, was put on last night, **27 July**, on the **Lovrjenac fort**. The outstanding cast led by the first-ever Hamlet from Dubrovnik, **Frano Mašković**, and the breath-taking Lovrjenac as Elsinore more than justified the high expectations. The play attracted people from all over the region and many Croatian dignitaries attended the premiere, including Prime Minister **Andrej Plenković** and Minister of Culture **Nina Obuljen Koržinek**.

In the adaptation by the dramaturge **Željka Udovičić Pleština**, Hamlet is our contemporary, an intellectual who has the power to reform his state but instead does nothing. The Hamlet of the 70th Festival is a grim reminder that there are no more intellectuals who can be the society's conscience, a warning that Europe has become an intellectual wasteland. The thematic relevance, along with the magnificent performance and setting, awed the Festival audience. The eagerly awaited premiere met, even surpassed, all expectations which was evidenced by the thunderous applause and ovations, the Ensemble taking a bow five times.

Paolo Magelli directed some of the central Festival productions: *the Phoenetian Women* on Lovrjenac to which he now returns with *Hamlet*, *Držić's Uncle Maroye*, *Grižula* and countless others. He made his directing debut at the 1974 Festival – its silver jubilee – with *Mandragola* and now, 45 years later, he returns on the Festival's 70th anniversary, returns to Lovrjenac, to direct a title he had been refusing to tackle for a long time. Magelli stated that he worked hard on the play, to his very limits, but with utmost love; adding that it was truly a joy to collaborate with such an amazing ensemble and that the play turned out exactly as he had wanted it, as all that he'd imagined it being.

Frano Mašković in the role of Hamlet was joined by **Milan Pleština** as the king, **Nikša Butijer** as Polonius, **Ermin Bravo** as Horatio, **Ivan Colarić** as Laertes, **Enes Vejzović** and **Pjer Meničanin** played Rosencrantz and Guildenstern, while **Ranko Zidarić** played Fortinbras. **Nina Violić** was Gertrude and **Andela Ramljak** Ophelia. The brilliant cast also included, as actors, soldiers and gravediggers: **Hrvojka Begović**, **Domagoj Janković**, **Matija Čigir**, **Bernard Tomić**, **Karlo Mrkša** and **Pavle Vrkljan**. Hamlet's father was voiced by **Miše Martinović**. The adaptation and dramaturgy based on the Vladimir Gerić translation of Shakespeare was done by **Željka Udovičić Pleština**, while set design was done by **Lorenzo Banci**, costumes by **Leo Kulaš**, music by **Ljupče Konstantinov**, video production by **Ivan Marušić Klif** and lighting design by **Aleksandar Čavlek** and **Marko Mijatović**. **Lovro Buva** taught the actors swordsmanship. Assistants to the creative team are **Tamara Damjanović**, **Ana Fucijaš** and **Miran Brautović**, while **Roko Grbin** is in charge of stage management.

Hamlet returns to Lovrjenac after almost ten years when it was last performed on the Festival stage and, notably, it is a City Myth illustrative of this year's Festival tag-line, a myth both physical and metaphysical. This year Lovrjenac will see its thirteenth *Hamlet*, which was first put on there in 1952, at the third-ever Dubrovnik Summer Festival season, then directed by Marko Fotez and *Hamlet* played by Veljko Maričić. Many productions of *Hamlet* followed over the decades, with legendary directors and actors both – Lovrjenac became Elsinore for, among others, the directors Denis Carrey, Dino Radojević, Toby Robertson, Mladen Škiljan, Jiří Menzel, Christopher Fettes, Richard Eyre, Joško Juvančić and Ivica Kunčević, while the actors playing the tragic Danish prince include Rade Šerbedžija, Derek Jacobi, Lazar Ristovski, Daniel Day-Lewis and Goran Višnjić.

Hamlet is on the Festival's theatre programme until 31 July. All performances are sold out. The production is sponsored by HEP, and Tekstilpromet who are also celebrating their 70th anniversary this year.

The Dubrovnik Summer Festival – the centre of Croatian and global spirit and culture, a place of creation and not just a place of visit, a place of community, ideas and new artistic expressions, is traditionally supported this year by the Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Croatia, the City of Dubrovnik, the Dubrovnik-neretva county and numerous other sponsors and benefactors who helped bring this most prestigious cultural event in Croatia to fruition.

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