**Hamlet Fun Facts**

* Shakespeare’s *Hamlet* was first produced in 1600 or 1601.
* In the first productions of *Hamlet* the Ghost may have been played by Shakespeare.
* When Shakespeare’s plays were first produced they were performed by all male casts.
* Shakespeare had a son named Hamnet.
* *Hamlet* is based on numerous versions of a revenge tale whose roots stretch back to

a 9th century Icelandic saga called *Amleth.*

* The character, Hamlet, has some 1438.
* *Hamlet* is the longest of Shakespeare’s plays at 4042 lines.
* There have been some 30 English language film versions of Hamlet since 1900.
* One of the first film versions of *Hamlet* starred Sarah Berhhardt (as Hamlet) in 1900.

It was a silent movie!

* Laurence Olivier’s 1948 version of *Hamlet* is the only Shakespeare play to win the

Academy Award for Best Picture.

The Hamlet Family Trees

Queen **Gertrude**

**King Claudius**, Brother to King Hamlet. Prince Hamlet’s Uncle and (now) Step-father

King Hamlet (**Ghost**)

**Hamlet**, Prince of Denmark

**Rosencrantz and Guildenstern** are summoned by Claudius to keep an eye on Hamlet’s strange behavior.

**Marcellus**

**Osric**

**Yorick, court jester**

**Player King**

**Gravedigger**

Various Soldiers, Courtiers, Entertainers and Citizens of Denmark

**Guildenstern**, friend to Hamlet

**Rosencrantz**, friend to Hamlet

**Horatio**, Hamlet’s good friend from University

**Ophelia**, Polonius’ daughter and Prince Hamlet’s girlfriend

**Leartes**, Polonius’ son

**Polonius,** Right-hand-man to the King