

Theatrical Whisperer

Naše Divadlo Calgary

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SPECIAL EDITION: THEATRE COMES ALIVE – STEP INTO THE PREMIERE AND ENCORE PERFORMANCES!



We are thrilled to welcome you into our world of Elsinore! This production began back in March 2025 with our very first table read, where we explored who might take on each role, and continued with Stage Combat 101. Before the summer break, the actors studied their texts independently, while the scenography team built the set and prepared costumes. Full rehearsals began in September, and after months of dedicated work, we are proud to present the official premiere on January 16.

It is important to emphasize that Naše Divadlo is a fully volunteer-run, non-profit organization—every dollar goes directly back into the theatre, supporting costumes, set design, venue rentals, and new scripts. We are proud to create high-quality productions while honoring the tradition of Czech and Slovak amateur theatre, which is today recognized as part of UNESCO's Intangible Cultural Heritage.

And now—meet the people who bring our characters and this world to life. On the following pages, our actors and creators share their brief reflections, thoughts, and messages, together forming a living portrait of Hamlet V.

Editor: Natália Vaněčková

Contributors: The Cast and Crew of Hamlet V: What's New in Elsinore?

Meet the cast and crew – who we are in this production

Each of us brings something unique to this production. Here are the voices, brief reflections, and thoughts of both our cast and creative team, which together shape the picture of our theatre.



"For me, Hamlet V. was above all a meeting of people who weren't afraid to take risks, experiment, and find joy in theatre. As dramaturg and director, I had the opportunity to watch ideas on paper gradually transform into a living stage production – thanks to the dedication, humor, and mutual trust of the entire ensemble. This team worked with incredible energy and openness, and I believe that the audience will see not just the story on stage, but also the joy of its creation. Working with this ensemble has been a true pleasure and a reminder that theatre is born above all from collaboration and human connection."

František Vaněček – director and dramaturge



"From the very first moment, two years ago, when we tried to start an amateur theatre in Calgary, I didn't plan on acting – I thought I'd stay behind the scenes as a technician or support. Today, I'm glad I gave it a try; it's been an amazing experience. We're a fantastic crew/family, and whether at rehearsals or other events, there's always lots of fun. Hamlet, as directed by our incredible Ferek, is an engaging, funny, and timeless production, full of music, action, humor, and unexpected twists. I'm grateful for this family and look forward to our future projects."

Martin Lacko – Hamlet

*"King Claudius invites you to the theatre, where he finally rules his kingdom. He's very much looking forward to the performance." **Peter Zizler – Claudius***

"At Naše Divadlo, I found a group of enthusiasts of my own kind – passionate about the shared mission and always up for a laugh. To drink or not to drink? And what does the king think? Come and find out."

Ján Jelínek – Polonius

"Every theatre production – and this one is no exception – represents an escape from reality for me. It's a time when you can momentarily forget your worries, the cold outside, and whatever didn't go right. Theatre has the power to stop time and create a space where only the present moment exists. Being part of a play is an unforgettable feeling – a mix of nerves, joy, focus, and sharing with other actors and the audience. Every performance is different, even though the text remains the same. In rehearsals, my favorite part is exploring a character that was just words on a page not long ago. Step by step, we give them a voice, movement, emotion – and above all, life. This process is as important to me as the performance itself. To the audience, I'd like to say that this production is unique. The director has transformed a classic drama into a lively, contemporary, and sometimes surprisingly relevant theatrical work. I hope you take away from Elsinore an experience as powerful as the one we live on stage during its creation."

Dagmar Rakušan – Gertrude

"This production, for me, is about discovering the characters and the relationships that shape the lives of everyone on stage. My favorite moment from rehearsals? Exploring Ophelia's character and emotions together – watching the text come alive. To the audience, I say: come and enjoy – Hamlet V. balances tragedy and comedy, promising laughter, music, and wonderful company."

Martina Vaněčková – Ophelia

"The entire preparation of this production was a wonderful comedy full of fun moments. I think if the audience lets themselves be carried away by the Danish-Slovak-Czech-Calgary storyline, they'll enjoy a pleasant escape and laugh heartily. For me, performing in this play is the fulfillment of a dream I had long forgotten. My amazing partner-in-crime, Gwendolinka, helped me return to my teenage years with her energy. We look forward to welcoming all our guests to the performances of Hamlet!"

Alenka Sláčková – marquise Rosencrantz

"The stage boards that mean the world... yes, that is theatre! I'm glad that I can, even for a moment, experience this extraordinary and diverse world, to appear in another time and place, and to transform into someone completely different. Thanks to theatre, I can forget the everyday worries and obligations of daily life. Thank you to the director and to all the theatre people!"

Zdeňka Zizlerová – IV. Actor

"If someone had told me six months ago that I would be standing on stage and acting in a play, I would have definitely laughed at them, saying they were delusional and that no one could ever convince me to do something like that – not even with a team of oxen. And yet, it happened. And I don't regret it at all, because this theatre team is fantastic, what we do is fantastic, and the energy of the group is amazing. It has brought an entirely new breeze – or perhaps a better word is a hurricane – into my daily routine.

I don't know how I'll do on stage, but all of it is worth it, even if there's an occasional slip-up, because on stage it's not really a mistake, just another funny moment among many that we laugh at wholeheartedly. And I am convinced that our audience will laugh and have fun too, because we are preparing it all for them."

Jaroslav Matej – First Gravedigger

"Being part of this team is an incredible gift for me. Those who know me well know that when I commit to something, I give it my all – half measures don't make sense to me. It is all the more a blessing to see that this group shares the same mindset. Each of us has poured countless hours into this production – learning lines, movements, stage combat, singing – and more than that. Each of us has also put a piece of ourselves into our characters, and I am convinced the audience will feel that on stage.

I grew up in theatre – it could hardly have been otherwise, as my father is a director, dramaturg, and actor – and it was this particular production of Hamlet that awakened in me, even at a young age, a love for literature and for all that can be achieved through storytelling. Standing on stage again is incredibly exciting for me and deeply personal. I hope you enjoy this comedic take on a classic as much as we enjoyed creating it."

Natália Vaněčková – Second Gravedigger

"The play is fun for me and brought to life through its humorous approach. My favorite moments from rehearsals are any situations we manage to perform in a way that brings a smile to 'Rejza's' face. To the audience, I would say: come see us and our 'hard acting work' – you definitely won't regret it and will enjoy yourselves."

Marcela Mitrengová – I. Actor

"I've always been fascinated by theatre, but I never dared to try it myself. Today, I'm thrilled to be part of this production – it's a unique experience to be on stage with such a wonderful group of theatre enthusiasts. I believe the audience will be pleasantly surprised to see that even a challenging play like Hamlet can be approached with lightness and perspective, just as our amazing director Ferko Vaneček has achieved."

Lubomír Plaskoň – Laertes

"My name is Gven Goluska, I'm an actress and a kayaker. This production means so much to me. I love this cast with all my heart – they are my family. They are always there for me. When I'm feeling down, I come to the theatre and I'm immediately surrounded by joy and playful energy. My favorite moments are when someone starts improvising their own lines – it always makes everyone laugh.

A message to the audience? Sit back, relax, and get ready for fun. These are evenings you'll remember."

Gwendolína Golušková – marquise Guildenstern

"I'm glad that Naše Divadlo has the opportunity to bring Czechs and Slovaks together again. I believe that everyone will enjoy the theatrical performance."

Pavel Zizler – Priest

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"Working on Hamlet was like watching a puzzle come together from backstage. My favorite part of rehearsals was seeing the tension build during the king's scenes. To the audience: get ready for a story full of secrets, where every glance tells its own tale."

Jonathan Matey – Erik

"After the first performance of Heaven on Earth, I was amazed by how the audience's focus and laughter merged into one shared energy. Theatre brings people together, and behind every show are countless hours of work by our dedicated volunteers. What I love most is watching performers grow, push past their limits, and discover new dimensions of themselves on stage."

Janka Špiláková – prompter

"For me, Naše Divadlo represents a space where I can combine technical skill and creativity to contribute to a unique theatrical experience. What I enjoy most is when the theatre fills with an audience and everything we've prepared backstage—lights, sound, effects—comes together into a living performance. It's amazing to see the play gradually take shape, filled with the energy of both the actors and the technical team."

Viktor Kulha – primary tech crew

"This production is, for me, the fulfillment of a long-held dream to start acting, because dreams are meant to be realized. Stepping into different characters and their destinies brings me genuine joy and fulfillment. Every rehearsal is interesting, full of laughter, fun, and good energy, and some of my favorite moments are when someone is absent, and I get to play their role as well. Our theatre is an amateur company, brought to life by people who dedicate their free time with passion and full commitment. The performance is Czech-Slovak, and I believe many of our compatriots will be delighted to see a play again in their native language. And to finish, a little Shakespearean joke: "I'm saving the world, but opening a door without a key is beyond my abilities." "To be, or not to be – that is the question. But I'll postpone the answer until tomorrow."

Monika Kadlček – Laura

"To be or not to be? Irrelevant. I choose to sail away with Hamlet. I hope the fjord's current is on our side."

Júlia Aleksandrov – II. Actor

"For me, this production highlights current societal issues; at the moment, it most reflects the situation in Slovakia, as it points to corruption, power struggles, and intrigues that destroy the integrity of both the state and the individual. I have several favorite moments from rehearsals – the first was the initial read-through, when the actors read the text together for the first time, some unsure if they could manage it, and others bold, immediately bringing their characters to life. It was fascinating to watch the dynamics shift from early uncertainty to uproarious laughter by the end. My second favorite moment was discovering my role as the ghost in the scenes; experimenting with light to bring Hamlet's father to life gave me something entirely new that I had never experienced in my creative work before. I would like to invite the audience to come and support another theatrical endeavor by Naše Divadlo in Calgary. The story of the Danish prince Hamlet is not just a historical drama, but above all a mirror of our own present – asking the question, 'What does it mean to be in a world full of uncertainty?' is especially vital today, as we witness societal upheaval across the globe. 'When does hesitation become cowardice, and when is it a search for truth?' – this production is our attempt to understand a person who, amid a chaos of intrigues, strives to remain honest and true to themselves."

Lenka Plaskoňová – the prettiest ghost in all of Denmark

Hamlet V. came to life thanks to the voluntary work of people who do theatre out of passion and love for the amateur tradition, and who believe that theatre has the power to connect people across languages and generations.

Theatrical Gems from Elsinore

Did you know that during the creation of our production, there's always at least one unplanned moment that becomes a legend just for our company? Sometimes we turn a line into an improvisation, other times an actor trips, and it's precisely these moments that make rehearsals and the production come alive. Already, there's chatter about the laughter that erupted during the first rehearsals and the spontaneous moments that even surprised the director. Every rehearsal, every step of preparation, and every shared moment brings new surprises – and perhaps, if you decide to see the performance again, you might catch some of these amazing improvs!

Our Journey – From First Reading to Premiere



March 2025 – The spark of the story

First Table Read: We explored who might play each role and felt the first sparks of excitement for the story. Each actor engaged with the text and with their fellow cast members, and everything began to take shape.



April/May 2025 – Stage Combat 101

The actors dove into the basics of stage combat and fencing techniques. It was fun, a little chaotic, and sometimes very comical, but we laid a solid foundation for the physical aspect of the play.

Summer 2025 – Study time and Preparation

The acting team had a free summer to learn their lines and deepen their understanding of their characters. Meanwhile, the scenography team continued building the set and preparing costumes, ensuring everything would be ready for rehearsals.

September/October 2025 – Rehearsals start

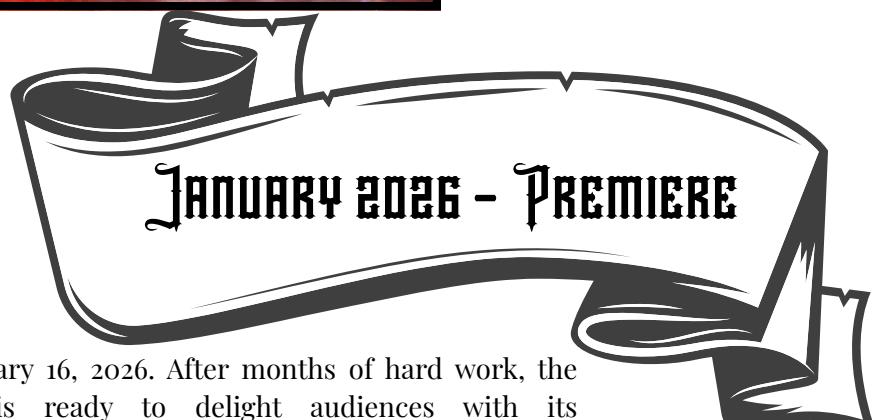
The first full-cast reading of the text, getting to know the dynamics of the characters, and establishing actor relationships. We began rehearsing specific scenes and actor movements, combining the text with stage action and initial choreographies.



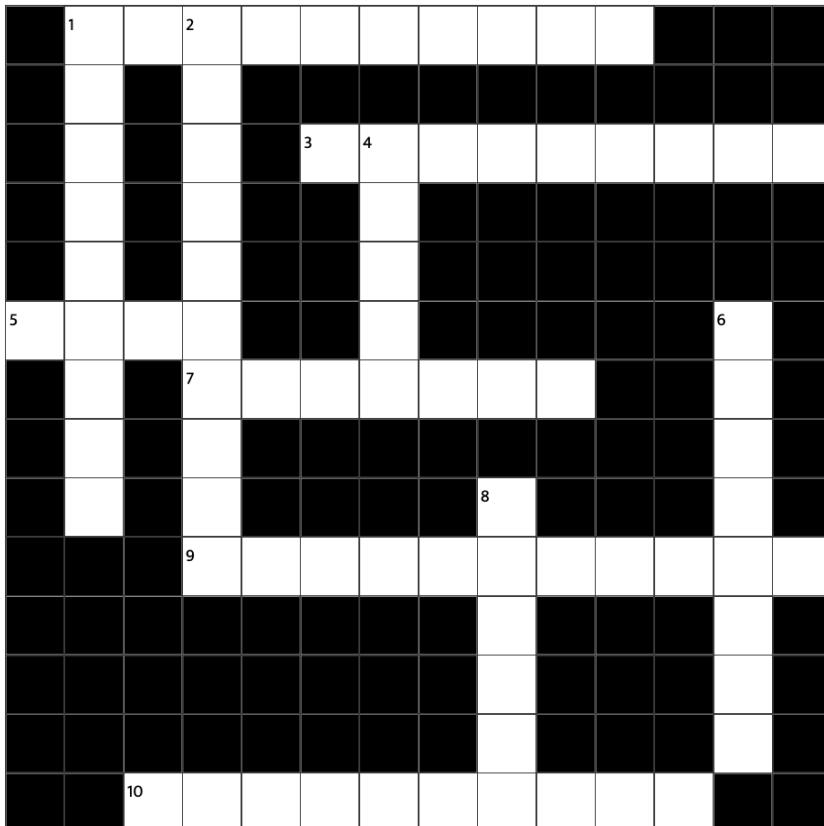
November/December 2025 –

The move to the stage and finalization

We moved to our theater stage and began rehearsing with the full technical setup: lights, sound, effects, and props. Complete scenes were fine-tuned, musical numbers and stage combat choreographies were directed and prepared for the final dress rehearsal.



Premiere: January 16, 2026. After months of hard work, the performance is ready to delight audiences with its tragicomedy story, full of music, intrigue, and laughter.



Down

- 1 Greek playwright, tragedian
- 2 Greek term for a sudden plot twist
- 4 Ancient Greek musical instrument that accompanied tragedies
- 6 a choral ode sung between episodes in an ancient Greek drama
- 8 German poet, playwright, and novelist, author of Faust

Across

- 1 Play's opening setup
- 3 emotional release in tragedy
- 5 a character's spoken part in a play
- 7 first actor of Ancient Greece - his name now denotes actors.
- 9 tragic hero's sudden realization
- 10 character from Italian commedia dell'arte, forerunner of the modern clown

HUNTING CLUB HONEC
Invites you to our
THIRD ANNUAL
HUNTER'S BALL

FEBRUARY 7, 2026
FROM 6 PM TO 2 AM

Calgary Hellenic Banquet Hall
1 Tamarac Crescent, SW

\$115

Includes: welcome drink, dinner crafted by Chef from Austrian Canadian Centre, midnight venison goulash, raffle, photo booth and more

Program: DJ Luki, live music by SemTam, and Slovak Folk Group

Dress Code: Formal
Cash Bar

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(e-transfer only, deadline February 2, 2026)

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