

ALMEREYDA'S *HAMLET*: FACTS AND TRIVIA

<http://www.imdb.com/title/tt0171359/>

Diane Venora, who plays Queen Gertrude, played Ophelia in a made-for-television version of *Hamlet* starring and directed by Kevin Kline; she also starred as Hamlet in Joseph Papp's production of the play.

Sam Shepard also played Ethan Hawke's father in *Snow Falling on Cedars*.

Ophelia removes a rubber duck from her bag. This is a reference to Finnish director Aki Kaurismäki's version of *Hamlet*, *Hamlet liikemaailmassa*, where after the death of his father, Hamlet's uncle controls the board of a company that decides to move into the rubber duck market.

The only lines in the movie which are not from the original play are messages played by machines or the Grave Digger's song "All Along the Watchtower."

In the scene in which Claudius confronts Hamlet in the laundromat, he pushes Hamlet from machine 2 to machine 3. This correlates with Shakespeare's play, in which the confrontation begins in Act IV, scene 2 and continues into scene 3.

The Fax machine near the end of the film replaces Osric, who informed Hamlet Laertes has challenged him.

In keeping with the modernized presence of all things Shakespeare, Hamlet travels on a plane. This is also a play on words because in the original text of the play the scene takes place in "A plain in Denmark."

The average full stage production of *Hamlet* takes about 4 hours. This film version only lasts 112 minutes.

Lev Schreiber previously acted in a production of *Hamlet* on the New York stage.

This was the third screen adaptation in nine years of *Hamlet*.

At 29, Ethan Hawke is the youngest actor to play Hamlet on film.

This was Paul Bartel's final film role.

The music that plays during the film *The Mousetrap* is from Tchaikovsky's *Hamlet*, op. 67.

When Hamlet stops the limo after deciding not to kill Claudius, he exits at a theater billing the Best Musical of 1998, the live-action stage version of *The Lion King*. *The Lion King* is inspired by *Hamlet*.

Shakespeare was both a playwright and an actor, and he is widely believed to have played the ghost of Hamlet's father. In this film, the Ghost is played by Sam Shepard, who is also both an actor and a playwright.

When Hamlet is in Blockbusters, saying his soliloquy, the film that is playing is *The Crow: City of Angels*, the second installment of the Crow series; in the series, the protagonists are sent to avenge the dead and set things right.