

## HAMLET CRITICS

### GHOST

**John Wilson** - "The ghost is the linchpin of the play"

### CLAUDIUS

**Wilson Knight** - "Claudius shows every sign of being an excellent diplomat and King"

**Arnold** - "Claudius' soliloquy gives the impression of rhetorical pageantry rather than sincere contrition"

**Richard D Altick** - "The cunning and lecherousness of Claudius' evil has corrupted the whole kingdom of Denmark"

### OPHELIA

**Edwards** - "We can imagine Hamlet's story without Ophelia, but Ophelia literally has no story without Hamlet"

**Showalter** - "Ophelia is deprived of thought, sexuality and language"

**Rogers** - "In Shakespeare's society, the ideal female is cherished for her youth, beauty and purity"

**Charney** - "Through madness, Ophelia suddenly makes a forceful assertion of her being"

**Showalter** - "Hamlet's madness is associated with intellectual and imaginative genius but Ophelia's affliction is erotomania, or love madness"

### POLONIUS

**Smith** - "Polonius seems to love his children; he seems to have the welfare of the kingdom in mind. His means of action however, are totally corrupt"

### HAMLET

**Mack** - "Hamlet is privileged in madness to say things"

**Newell** - "Hamlet is motivated by reason and untouched by passion"

**Sutcliffe** - "Hamlet is supposed to be a hero who occupies centre stage but he spends most of the play watching himself as a hero doing nothing"

**Bloom** - "Despite the urgings of Freud, the Hamlet complex is not incestuous but theatrical"

**Belsey** - "Revenge is not justice. It is rather an act of injustice on behalf of justice"

**Wilson Knight** - "Hamlet is an element of evil in the state of Denmark"

**Coleridge** - "Hamlet is obliged to act on the spur of the moment"

**Lee** - "Hamlet talks more than any other character in Shakespeare"