

## **Hamlet: A Televised Tragedy**

### **Cast of characters, in order of appearance:**

**Neils Kleinfest:** Liberal news analyst modeled Keith Obermann. (scene 1)

**Steve Shanahan:** Conservative news analyst modeled on Sean Hannity. (scene 1)

**Hamlet:** The eponymous hero of Shakespeare's play, with fewer lines and less indecision. (scenes 2, 8, 10)

**Guildenstern & Rosencrantz:** two parts but inseparable. College acquaintances of Hamlet's, funny & obsequious in their betrayal of him, here as in the original. (scene 2)

**Ken Barbee:** Host of 'The Now Show', modeled on Matt Lauer when he hosted 'Today'. He seems reasonable and friendly, but underneath, cunning and unscrupulous. (scene 2)

**Cameraman,** only has a couple of lines in scene two, but is a presence throughout, whether maneuvering a large studio camera around sets or working the red carpet with a handheld)

**Bill O'Malley:** The host of 'The O'Malley Factor' based on Bill O'Reilly and 'The O'Reilly Factor'. Cynical and conservative, delights in 'exposing' his guests as phonies and contemptible losers. (scene 3)

**Francisco:** a soldier of the watch and spokesman for Barnardo. Sincere, uneducated. (scene 3)

**Barnardo:** Has seen the ghost of the dead king and is suffering PTSD as a result. He sits mute, staring out at the audience for much of the interview, until he finally speaks. (scene 3)

**Barbara,** host of 'Vista', modeled on Barbara Walters when she hosted 'The View'. A strong controlling presence tempered with motherly concern and a gossip's need to know. (scene 4)

**Pearl,** modeled on Joy Behar from 'The View'. Funny, but with the common touch. (scene 4)

**Aretha,** loosely modeled on a combination of Whoopi Goldberg and Star Jones from 'The View'. Funny, at times outrageous. Not afraid to speak her mind, regardless of whose feathers it may ruffle. (scene 4)

**Cindy,** prim, proper conservative. Modeled on Elizabeth Hasselbeck. (scene 4)

**Ophelia,** another core character from the original work but with more of a backstory. (scenes 4, 6, 8)

**Don**, play-by-play baseball announcer loosely based on a combination of Joe Buck & Bob Costas. Smooth, professional but deferential to power. (scene 5)

**Luke**, former player, now color commentator, a combination of Tim McCarver and Joe Garagiola. Simple, sincere, often captivated by his own stories/analysis. (scene 5)

**Claudius**, the villain of the piece, but it's not as obvious in this re-telling. He makes an effort to seem likeable. (Scenes 5, 6, 10)

**Bob**, co-host of 'People, Places and Bling!', modeled on Ron Hendren of 'Entertainment Tonight'. Full of energy. Very excited about what they are presenting. Smooth, professional. (scene 6)

**Joyce**, co-host of 'P, P & B' and modeled on Mary Hart. Perpetually smiling and amused by the goings-on around her. Also smooth at transitioning to the next thing. (scene 6)

**Marcie**, the reporter assigned to the 'Red Carpet'. Thrilled to be where she is doing what she's doing. (scene 6)

**Horatio**, Hamlet's closest friend and another student at Wittenberg. Honest, cultured, and devoted supporter of his friend.. (scenes 6, 10, 12)

**Serge**, designer and fashion commentator for 'People, Places and Bling!' Flamboyant, opinionated, gay. (scene 6)

**Polonius**, another core character from the original play. Doesn't have nearly as many lines or any as good as in the original, but the aura of self-importance is maintained. (scene 6)

**Laertes**, foil to Hamlet, brother to Ophelia, he is handsome, dashing and a bit dim.(scenes 6, 10)

**Gertrude**, mother of Hamlet, recently married to the late King's brother. Imperial, mysterious. (scenes 6, 10)

**Fox Torrid**, host of 'Ground Zero', modeled on Wolf Blitzer and his show, 'The Situation Room'. He is like a carnival barker presenting attractions. Always transitioning to the next thing. (scene 7)

**Rob**, reporter for 'Ground Zero' relaying announcements from the press room at the castle. (scene 7)

**Liz Sharpe**, television journalist and a regular on 'Ground Zero'. Tries to bring a 'common sense' approach to the news. (scene 7)

**Lord Bromide**, former head of the army. A bit stuffy, a bit pompous. (scene 7)

**Archy Pressler**, editor for a small, liberal publication, there to represent the views of the left. (scene 7)

**Maryanne Montgomery**, conservative former speech writer, there to represent view of the right. (scene 7)

**Kevin Grimmeyer**, Castle spokesperson, curt, professional. (scene 7)

**Ethel**, host of 'Ethel!', modeled on Oprah Winfrey and her show, 'Oprah!'. Articulate, empathetic, curious. (scene 8)

**Dr. Fred**, psychologist, regular guest on 'Ethel!', based on Dr. Phil who is a regular guest on 'Oprah!'. Insightful, opinionated and loves explaining things to others. (scene 8)

**Roberta Medoc**, host of the show baring her name, modeled on Rachel Maddow. Smart, opinionated, sarcastic. (scene 9)

**Jon Berzerac**, co-host of, 'Fencing with the Stars', modeled on Tom Bergeron, co-host of 'Dancing with the Stars'. Excited, energized, happy to be at the center of attention. (Scene 10)

**Kelly Muffin**, co-host of the same show, modeled on Erin Andrews. Enjoys celebrity journalism and is good at it. (scene 10)

**Gene Bink**, host of 'Bink', based on Glenn Beck and his show of the same name. Never more himself than when he is talking to a camera. Delusional. Sees himself as the only one who sees the 'big picture' – and he wants to share! (scene 11)

**Marty Duke**, host of 'Marty Duke Live!', modeled on Larry King and 'Larry King Live!' Weathered old pro, seen it all, but still gets a kick from being near the action. Cynical, beneath a well polished veneer. (scene 12)