Subject: Re:Hamlet, I was transfixed
Posted by BillEpstein on Mon, 07 Feb 2005 08:52:28 GMT
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Ran it thru again instead of watching you-know-what. One knows the story and still can be drawn into the murder mystery, juxtaposition of the melancholy Dane's "feigned" madness and the real lunatic, Ophelia, action adventure with Laertes and the supernatural aspect of the Ghost.The dialogue one was forced to puzzle out by one's high school teacher with threats of 'pop quiz's'which was as obscure as could be just comes to life when the emotion of the actors and the action of the characters comes into play.If the story was by Nelson DeMille, screenplay by William Goldman and directed by Peter Weir we'd be hearing about "Best Picture" nominations. Instead, it's a curiosity owing to forced reading in high school and starring the Lethal Weapon. What a shame.This is absolutely the best movie I have seen in years.

Subject: Re:Hamlet, I was transfixed
Posted by Wayne Parham on Mon, 07 Feb 2005 15:09:12 GMT
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Thanks Bill, I'll check that out. I remember seeing it before, but it was a long time ago. Thanks for reminding me; I'll watch it again for certain.

Subject: Re:Hamlet, I was transfixed
Posted by lon on Mon, 07 Feb 2005 18:08:47 GMT
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Bill, You watched Hamlet instead of I-know-what?! I am surprised andgratified since I don't watch I-know-what either. Interesting that you mention high school and Hamlet. You see,it was a highschool event that introduced me to Shakespeare. At the time a well-known tv personality named Clifton Fadiman made a filmfor teachers on Hamlet. My Hs friend's mother was the teacher who had this show. What it did was have Fadiman take the viewer throughHamlet as a detective story-- something a kid could understand. I pretty much got hooked on it from then on and even pursued theatre studies for a time. I have seen pretty much all the Hamlets. That, as WalterBrennan used to say is, "No brag, just fact." (cf "The Guns ofWill Sonnet"). I'd have to go back to the Lethal Weapon one but I recall thatit was a pretty weak Hamlet compared to the Kenneth Brannaugh one. Perhaps you will see another Hamlet to compare and contrast (?) Right now there is a "Merchant of Venice" in the theatres with one of the Corleone clan playing Shylock. Thankfully, it isn'tJames Caan.

Subject: Re:"One down, two to go, Clifton Fadiman.....
Posted by BillEpstein on Mon, 07 Feb 2005 20:46:51 GMT
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....and Bennet Cerf and Dorothy Kilgallen: 'What's My Line?'. What a great 50's TV show.Your right. I have no basis for comparison. But it wasn't the actors that brought the action to life. It was the action that brought the prose to life. Ian Holm played the same role he did in 'The Fifth Element', Bonham-Carter was, I dunno, just wrong and R&G! Where did they get those two?Glenn Close was GlennClose and the King as well as Laertes I thought were excellent, not just scenery chewers with good diction which a lot of British actors in Hollywood seem to be.And then we come to Mel. Knowing only the words and the plot I thought there were moments when he really captured the essence. Mostly those were dialogue. The scene in the library with Polonius was quite good. The Soliloquies were OK. In the end, I beleive Zeffirelli deserves the credit. This is a well crafted and executed drama.

Subject: Re:"One down, two to go, Clifton Fadiman.....
Posted by lon on Mon, 07 Feb 2005 21:10:15 GMT
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I'm doing this from memory but I think Alan Bates was the Laertes.And yes, I sort of forgot about the John Daly show even though Igrew up with it. For a different take on all this, go see if there's a copyof Tom Stoppard's "Rosencrantz and Gildenstern Are Dead" over yourway. It's a film that's available on vhs etc. Stoppard does hisplay from the POV of R&G. This woulkd put you in mind of theAbsurd. One of the big criticisms of MG and many others in the role isthat Hamlet is a student on vacation from Wittenberg. So theseold farts going "Words words words" is most often a stretch of theimagination. I spoze a really new twist on this would be to have a Holden Caulfield-type Hamlet showing the angst of youth in allthis. I think what holds directors back from casting like this arethe Gertrude scenes. They tried it in this one but it didn't work:
Ethan Hawke Hamlet yuck