ACTORS FROM THE LONDON STAGE

Narrative for AFTLS 2018-19 Tours

HAMLET:
FALL 2018

Regarded as one of Shakespeare's finest works, *Hamlet* continues resonating with modern audiences some 400 years after it was originally produced. Set against a backdrop of murder, scandal, and the supernatural, *Hamlet* contains more than a few of Shakespeare's most famous passages concerning "the slings and arrows of outrageous fortune." The prominent themes of the play focus on the complexity of action vs. inaction, the mystery surrounding death, and the uncertainty inherent in existence itself.

Having recently returned to Denmark for the funeral of his father (and hasty marriage of his mother to his uncle), Hamlet experiences visions from the afterlife that indict his uncle in the murder of his father. Can this ghostly apparition be trusted—or is it really a misleading fiend? Can Hamlet seek revenge for this murder without compromising his own morality? And, conversely, how could he not?

KING LEAR:
SPRING 2019

Confronting the role of the monarch in the balance between authority and chaos, *King Lear* reveals the beauty of selfless love, the heartache of betrayal, and the descent of civilization into brutishness when selfish greed has run amuck.

A long-serving monarch prepares to divide his kingdom between his three daughters with one caveat: each must proclaim her love for him in glowing terms. His plan unravels when his youngest daughter refuses to do so, creating disorder and pitting allies against one another in a civil war that threatens to consume the entire nation. His power now lost, he wanders the land seeking truth amidst the turmoil, his mind crippled with the consequences of his actions and slipping ever further into madness.