



**GLOBE
NEW ZEALAND**

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SGCNZ presents a Public Lecture & Film in association with the Goethe Institut

'HOLDING THE MIRROR UP TO NATURE': GERMAN SHAKESPEARE PRODUCTIONS AS A REFLECTION OF CURRENT EVENTS

by **Bronwyn Tweddle**

Senior Lecturer, VUW School of English Film Theatre and Media Studies

The German theatre has a history of taking an adventurous approach to the classics, and Shakespeare has consistently been used to open up current social concerns. A long line of German directors throughout the twentieth century saw theatre's main purpose as an engagement with the political situation, and producing Shakespeare has often been a means of circumnavigating the theatre censorship of both the Nazi and former East German regimes. This presentation will provide a selective survey of key productions/adaptations of Shakespeare by directors such as Leopold Jessner, Jürgen Fehling, Bertolt Brecht, Peter Zadek and Peter Stein to demonstrate how Shakespeare's plays have reflected German politics back to audiences in confronting, and sometimes even dangerous, ways.

Where: Lecture Room, VUW Theatre Dept, 77 Fairlie Terrace, Kelburn, Wellington

Parking: In Staff Carpark 77 and 75 Fairlie Terrace or by Adam Music Room and walk up stairs and cross over Fairlie Terrace

When: 11.00am – 12.30pm Saturday 15 October 2011

Cost: \$7.50 adults ; \$5 SGCNZ Friends & Students

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**'HAMLET'**

**Directors:** Sven Gade, Heinz Schall, coloured, silent film, 110 min 1920

Asta Nielsen, born in Denmark in 1881, was the first diva of European silent film. As early as 1913, in *Die Filmprimadonna*, Asta Nielsen acted the role of a star fighting for increased influence on the entire production process. To realize her artistic vision she founded her own company, Art-Film, in 1920.

*Hamlet*, produced that same year, survived only in a black and white US export version. In 2005 a coloured vintage print of the lost German original version of 1921 was discovered. The restored film had its premiere at the Berlinale in 2007, with new musical accompaniment composed by Michael Riessler. The 2-disc DVD set also includes documentation of the production history of *Hamlet*, the restoration process and a rare Asta Nielsen movie compilation.

**Where:** Private showing at NZ Film Archive – meet at Taranaki Street entrance Cnr Ghuznee & Taranki Streets

**When:** 2.00pm – 4.15pm Saturday 15 October 2011

**Cost:** Koha (suggested amount \$8)

**RSVP:** SGCNZ

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