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English

Hamlet Essay

In this essay I am comparing the production of the Ethan Hawk version of Hamlet and the Mel Gibson version. This is basically a comparison of the book or the more traditional Mel Gibson version with the non traditional more modern version which was the Ethan Hawk version.

First we will talk about the traditional version of the movie which is basically talking about the book because they are very alike. Here is a brief summary of this version to show u how it is. This version is where it starts with soldiers changing the guard outside of Elsinore Castle in Denmark. The new guards have brought along a man named Horatio because they claim to have seen a ghost. Horatio is doubtful of their story until the ghost actually appears. Then they tell Hamlet about what they have seen. Then King Claudius, who is Hamlet's uncle and who assumed the throne after Hamlet's father died, is in the castle. He has recently married Queen Gertrude, who is Hamlet's mother and the widow to Old Hamlet. Claudius finally turns his attention to Hamlet, who is standing in black robes of mourning for his father. He tells Hamlet that it is unnatural for a man to mourn for such a long period of time. Later, Laertes is finishing his packing and is also giving his sister Ophelia some brotherly advice before he leaves. He warns her to watch out for Hamlet whom he has seen wooing her. Laertes tells Ophelia to ignore Hamlet's

overtures towards her until he is made king, at which point if he still wants to marry her then she should consent. Later when hamlet was waiting for the ghost it appears and stops and turns to Hamlet. He tells Hamlet that he is the ghost of Old Hamlet, who has come to tell his son the truth about how he died. He tells Hamlet that he was sitting in the garden one day, asleep in his chair, when Claudius came up to him and poured poison into his ear. Once Hamlet hears this information the rest of the story he is basically plotting to kill Claudius for what he did.

This summary was the way the book and the traditional movie were portrayed. Personally I like that version much better for a couple reasons. The first reason was that the first ever experience I had with this story was when we read it and I enjoyed it very much. So then when we watched the traditional version it was similar to the book so I really enjoyed it. Then finally when we watched the non traditional version or the more modern one it just seemed so different and I really didn't like it. Just seeing the actors in the old traditional surroundings makes it seem like your reading the book and it's just a whole lot better. Personally I can't stand watching the non traditional version because it is the one that's more modern and it put the characters in today's world and it's just not the same. The thing I hate the most is when your hear them speak like they do and when they are reciting the line and speaking with the accent because it goes well with the original but when they are in the modern version the just all sound horrible and it makes it hard to watch. Another thing that goes with the modern version just seeming out of place

was that even the outfits and costumes of the actors just seemed to go better with the traditional version.

In conclusion after comparing the more traditional/ book version of the story and the non traditional version I believe that the traditional version was so much better. I think that the Mel Gibson version was great and I would recommend it to anyone.