



TORN OUT THEATER'S

HAMLET

August – September 2017
Prospect Park & Central Park
New York City

A nude, all-male *Hamlet*
in the open air.
Presented free of charge.

Walking around naked in public might seem like an insane thing to do, even if you're the Prince of Denmark.

But when your world is run by liars who tell you when to smile and what to wear, maybe "insane" is the only honest thing to be.

After making headlines with last summer's celebration of the nude female form, Torn Out Theater turns its eye to the fraught, complex world of male body image. Our bold new production of *Hamlet* will ask and answer tough questions about how the male body is perceived in America today.

We need your help to
make it happen.

Read on to check out our story, who we are, and how you can help.

THE STORY SO FAR

In the summer of 2016, an all-female cast of performers took to New York City's parks to perform Shakespeare's *The Tempest*. But this production was a little unusual: most of the cast was fully nude.

Torn Out's *Tempest* aimed to challenge audiences to see a naked body as natural, harmless. To our surprise, it did more: it provoked debates about current attitudes toward the female body all over the world. Discussion exploded on news sites and social media.

And there was something else we hadn't expected: people were talking about male bodies, too. Some asked us why only women could be empowered by their bodies. Others thanked us for "sparing" the world the unpleasant sight of male bodies. We even saw repeated claims that an all-male version would have been a sex crime worthy of riots.

In every corner of the world, it seemed, there were men who felt that their bodies were inherently unwanted.

We knew what we had to do.

Hamlet is the story of a man searching for honesty in a deceptive world. He risks everything to reveal the truth about his family, his nation, and himself. The villains of his world call him a lunatic, threaten him with exile and murder, and ultimately rob him of everything he holds dear. We mourn him, but we don't pity him. He wins. He defies society and exposes its hypocrisies. He causes chaos to restore order. He's true to himself above all else.

Torn Out's *Hamlet* re-examines the naked body, this time using an all-male cast, to claw at questions surrounding the tension between men and their bodies. The naked male body can be a symbol of classical beauty or of modern anxiety. Which is true? Which is madness?

This summer, Hamlet will find out.

Promotional photo for *The Tempest*, 2016
Photo by Joanna Jankowska



PRESS

FOR TORN OUT THEATER'S *TEMPEST*



"All of the nudity and unused costumes are startling and striking for only about 10 minutes.

"And then the show does what good theater always does, it makes you forget.

"You won't see this in Des Moines or Cleveland, but this is New York. Some noticed and moved on. Some children saw it and it seemed like the perfect moment for some real communication and that just can't be a bad thing. It's maybe what art is supposed to do. Many there seemed to appreciate that."

THE
HUFFINGTON
POST

"...an artful mix of nudity, nature, freedom and artistic expression..."



"The production is an ideal viewing for students of Shakespeare as well as enthusiasts of heightened text. The company should be lauded for their strong use of language and clarity."



theguardian

DAILY NEWS

For full articles and more press, please visit www.tornouttheater.org/press.

WHY DONATE?

Our work is getting people to talk about body positivity in new and challenging ways.

Your support can help us make a real difference, right here, right now.



We have a rare opportunity that most young theater companies don't: the chance to make a meaningful impact on the way people see the human body, naked or clothed. Torn Out has already started difficult conversations about modern body politics, conversations our culture needs to have. You can help that dialogue continue to grow.

We want to get people talking in new ways about social and religious dress codes, sexual assault, gender legislation, and many more aspects of society. With your support, we can grow and thrive long enough to keep raising our voices and changing minds with our work.

Powerful stories can change the world, and Torn Out Theater wants to tell stories that are captivating, beautiful, and real. To do that, we need the right people and the right resources. Your donation can help us make it all happen.



Hamlet will cost roughly \$15,800.

Here's how your donation can help us bring
this incredible event to life.

Performers:	\$7600
Designers:	\$900
Production staff:	\$1875
Costumes:	\$900
Props:	\$200
Set:	\$200
Audition & rehearsal space:	\$1730
Marketing:	\$310
Program printing:	\$300
Park permits:	\$200
Insurance:	\$210
Other miscellaneous expenses:	\$1375

Torn Out Theater is a 501(c)(3) organization.
Your donation is tax-deductible.

Photo by Prabir Mitra

The background of the entire image shows two figures in a park-like setting. They are wearing elaborate costumes consisting of white masks and bodies painted in vibrant, multi-colored patterns of blue, yellow, red, and green. The figures are positioned on either side of a central black text box. The background is slightly out of focus, showing trees and a path.

HOW TO DONATE

You can easily donate at our website:

www.tornouttheater.org/donate

Or, you can mail a check to:

Torn Out Theater, Inc.
195 15th St. Apt. B2
Brooklyn, NY 11215

As a token of our appreciation, donors giving \$500 or more will receive guaranteed, comfortable seating at our performances, along with a selection of cool drinks — perfect for a summer's day.

Additionally, donors of \$1000 or more will be invited to an exclusive meet-and-greet with the cast and director, a chance to get a behind-the-scenes glimpse at the making of *Hamlet*.

Photo by Prabir Mitra

ABOUT US



Pitr Strait

Co-Founder / Co-Artistic Director

Fast-talking, opinionated theater nerd to the core. MFA in Directing from the New School. Speaks French, has a popular podcast, and can out-argue you while making you love him for it.

www.pitrstrait.com



Alice Mottola

Co-Founder / Co-Artistic Director

Director. Actor. Software engineer. Alice's obsession with detail and taste for the gothic give our shows an otherworldly air. She once wrote and directed an interactive party-play on a boardwalk in NJ.

www.alicemottola.com



Diana Levy

General Manager

Diana is the secret sauce that makes everything happen, that special responsible unicorn every creative group needs to keep the lights on.



Andrew Repasky McElhinney

Producing Artistic Associate

Theater & film director based in Philadelphia. His work is in the permanent collection at MoMA.

ARMcinema25.com



THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT.



For more information, visit tornouttheater.org.

