



Cleaver, Reginald, artist. *Sarah Bernhardt as Hamlet*. [not before 1844]. Folger ART Box C623.5 no.1 (size S)

Sarah Bernhardt (1844-1923) was one of the most famous actresses of the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. She had a long and salacious career in Paris and on tour around the world, performing plays by contemporaries such as Victor Hugo and Alexandre Dumas as well as classical French and English roles. In her 1899 production of *Hamlet, Prince of Denmark*, she played Prince Hamlet. Her stage production was a popular success, touring across Europe and America. It also inspired early film maker Clément Maurice to produce *Le Duel d'Hamlet*. Filmed in 1900, this two minute movie paired Bernhardt's acting with a phonograph recording to capture the sound of the fight from act 5, making this one of the earliest examples of a sound film.

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