

Absolon, John, artist. Mr. Edmund Kean as Hamlet. 1847. Folger ART Box A164 no.1 (size L)

Edmund Kean (1787 - 1833) was a celebrated Shakespearean actor, known for reinventing significant roles at a time when the performance of Shakespeare's plays was dominated by John Philip Kemble. This watercolor by John Absolon captures the moment in Act 3, Scene 2, when Hamlet addresses his father's ghost in his mother's presence (3.2.118-156).

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