

Delilah Bermudez Brataas

The Shadow's Shadow, or Gendered Ambition in Asta Nielsen's 1921 *Hamlet*

*Hamlet: Drama of Vengeance*, Art-Film (Gade, 1921), directed by Svend Gade and Heinz Schall, produced by Asta Nielsen. In 2005, a print of the original German release was restored and colourised and premiered at the 2007 Berlin International Film Festival. I refer to the restored version in this article and include screenshots below.



Figure 1. Hamlet (Asta Nielsen) returning to Denmark from Wittenberg.

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Figure 2. Midwife (unnamed actor, left) and Gertrude (Mathilde Brandt) after Hamlet's birth.



Figure 3. Hamlet (Asta Nielsen, left) at the wedding feast with woman in the background.

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Figures 4 and 5. The wedding feast. Claudius (Eduard von Winterstein, left) and Gertrude (Mathilde Brandt) casting away her mourning veil and confronting Hamlet.



Figure 6. Various screenshots of Gertrude's headwear (Mathilde Brandt).



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Figure 7. Various screenshots of Claudius (Eduard von Winterstein) wearing light-coloured pouches.



Figure 8. Iris shot of Hamlet (Asta Nielsen, left) and Horatio (Heinz Stieda) planning the mousetrap play.

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Figure 9. Hamlet (Asta Nielsen) crawling on the stairs after Claudius departs.



Figure 10. Ophelia (Lilly Jacobsson, left) and Hamlet (Asta Nielsen) meet on the stairs.

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Figure 11. Hamlet (Asta Nielsen) at King Hamlet's tomb.



Figure 12. Hamlet (Asta Nielsen) reading on the stairs.

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Figure 13. Column shot of Hamlet (Asta Nielsen).



Figure 14. Hamlet (Asta Nielsen, right) and Gertrude (Mathilde Brandt) seated on her throne in the second closet scene.





Figure 15. Hamlet (Asta Nielsen, left) and Gertrude (Mathilde Brandt) in the first closet scene. Note the position of Hamlet's hands.



Figure 16. Horatio (Heinz Stieda, left) and Hamlet (Asta Nielsen) in the death scene. Compare the position of Horatio's hands with Hamlet's in Figure 15.

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Figure 17. Various screenshots of *Hamlet* (Asta Nielsen) with winged arm movements and intertitle.