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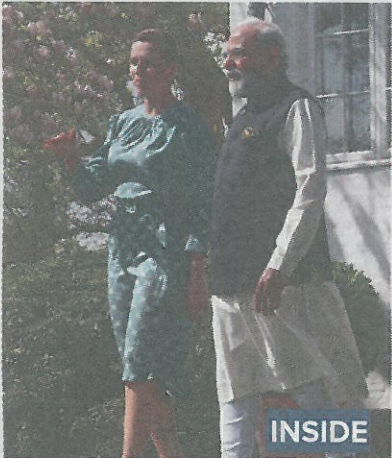
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SPECIAL EDITION



As India turns 75, relations with Denmark have never been closer – so who better to provide the inside scoop than its ambassador, Pooja Kapur

POLITICS



Autumn general election likely with red and blue blocs level-pegging and several parties queuing up to play kingmaker, but who will they support?

OBITUARY



It's with sadness that we confirm that long-time contributor and friend Stephen Gadd, a columnist since 2015, has lost his battle with cancer aged 64

FEATURE



CPH Pride is a much-celebrated beacon of fun, but on the occasion of the first parade since 2019, it's worth asking how inclusive Denmark is of its international LGBTQ+ community



DENMARK'S BUSIEST AMBASSADOR: POOJA KAPUR OF INDIA



Photo: Hasse Ferrol

HAMLET

A GUEST PLAY FROM CAPE TOWN AT KRONBORG'S ANNUAL SHAKESPEARE FESTIVAL

By Githa Schultz

The evening temperature at Kronborg Castle was tropical on 3 August 2022 when the premiere of 'Hamlet, Prince of Denmark' – based on the immortal William Shakespeare play most people know if only for its famous words "To be, and not to be, that is the question" – was performed by Cape Town group Abrahamse & Meyer.

In short, 'Hamlet' is a play about a tormented Prince of Denmark's bid for revenge within the walls of Kronborg Castle. 'Hamlet, Prince of Denmark' was performed in conjunction with this year's Shakespeare Festival, a recurring annual summer event since 2008 featuring various Shakespeare plays, actors and world-class theatre ensembles from both home and abroad.

'Hamlet, Prince of Denmark' is based on the myth that 'Hamlet', according to Captain William Keeling's 1607 log on the ship The Red Dragon, was set aboard a vessel. The stage is accordingly built over the Kronborg moat, giving the performance unique and experimental stagecraft under the open summer sky with the water as a co- and counter-player.

The incidental music/sound creates the image of a wooden ship in the darkness gently rocking on the water, occasionally creaking, and this complements the undercurrent of building drama quite brilliantly and also sounds perfectly suited to 'Hamlet', a play with such a large volume of words that it is in fact Shakespeare's most extensive work. If 'Hamlet' were played in its full length, it would take more than four

hours to perform its 29,551 words. This performance took 2 hours and 40 minutes: still with a word flow of high dimensions.

The Embassy of the Republic of South Africa and Hamletscenen hosted a pre-performance event at the moat where light refreshments were served, along with South African wines and bubbly. Among the speakers were Henriette Kiær, the Mayor of Helsingør, HE FS Mugane, the South African Ambassador, and Lars Romann Engel, Hamletscenen's Theatre Director and Artistic Director.

The lead Marcel Meyer gave a particularly splendid performance as Hamlet and the whole Cape Town cast was generally new and refreshing. It was performed entirely in English with Danish text on two small screens at the stage. Theatre director Lars Romann Engel must be happy after two years of corona closures that Hamletscenen is able to hold the popular Shakespeare Festival again. At least 16 ambassadors to Denmark from all over the world were to be found among the audience.

Everyone enjoyed the performance to the full as the beautiful summer evening slowly descended. It was an exclusive unforgettable experience and the Danish weather gods were gracious, ensuring that everyone present received a unique Shakespeare experience, watching the play first unfold in daylight and then under the night's sky, surrounded by water against the backdrop of Kronborg Castle.



Photo: Githa Schultz



Photo: Hasse Ferrol



Photo: Hasse Ferrol