

# hamlet is dead

a film · theatre · ceremony

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When an actor's botched performance of Hamlet's death scene draws real blood, he must decide whether to keep performing a dead king's story — or finally speak his own, before the world that silenced him finishes the job.

## THE WORLD

Modern-day NYC. A theatre rotting from the inside, a city burning in the streets, a culture so colonized by influencers and celebrity mythology that the stories we used to remember who we are have been sold back to us as content.

Behind it all: a question older than Shakespeare. Who writes the story? Who owns it? What happens to the shaman when the court takes the ritual and builds a wall around it?

## THE STORY

Travis Bickel is playing Hamlet in a dying production. One night his rapier — already broken — draws real blood from his replacement. Everything unravels: his dressing room, his relationship, his mentor, his grip on what is real.

What Travis discovers in the wreckage isn't that his kingdom was stolen. It's that he handed it over. Word by word. Role by role. Someone else's king. To survive he must speak for himself. *Avra kehdabra.*

## CHARACTERS

### TRAVIS BICKEL

A shaman who thinks he's a failed actor. Too old for Hamlet. Too young to quit.

### SAMUEL SHEPETT

The last elder of a dying tradition. Already gone. The ghost who tells him what he needs.

### GRACE DAKINI

A living connection to an unbroken lineage. She is why he stays alive.

### MAYA WASHINGTON

His partner. She carries the usurped kingdom too — she just stopped fighting it.

### MOLLY K

Kali. Ophelia refusing to drown. She leads the revolution without his permission.

### JOHN JOHNSON / HARROLD

The court. The usurper. The old friend compromised. Claudius in the dressing room.

— avra kehdabra · avra kehdabra · avra kehdabra —

## WHY THIS. WHY NOW.

Theatre was never entertainment. It was **shamanic ritual** — the community gathered to remember who they were. Then the court arrived. Gave it a building. Admission prices. A playwright who may not have been who we think. The circle became a transaction. The ritual became a product.

**hamlet is dead** is the ritual Hamlet couldn't complete. A billion-dollar film colonizes forty years of suffering and sells it back as IP. Harry and Meghan sell their exile on Netflix. The court never left — it rebranded. This is the story of the artist who stops auditioning for a kingdom that was never going to crown him. Who speaks the word. And discovers the kingdom was never actually taken.

## THE OPPORTUNITY

Script in development. Looking for collaborators and producers ready to work at the intersection of content and ritual.

*Oshunita* (animated feature, completed) · *Yukon Wylde* · *Playthings* · *Alien Farmers* · *Jer'slum* · *Poseurs* (series)