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**David Tennant Reprises His Role as Hamlet for  
Royal Shakespeare Company Production  
To Air on PBS' *Great Performances***

Shakespeare's immortal "To Be, Or Not To Be" takes on a whole new meaning (and medium) as classical stage and screen actor David Tennant reprises the role of Hamlet for an upcoming television adaptation of the Royal Shakespeare Company's (RSC) 2008 stage production of the classic. The production will be presented on PBS by the *Great Performances* series on a to-be-determined air date later in 2010.

*Great Performances* is a production of THIRTEEN in association with WNET.ORG – one of America's most prolific and respected public media providers.

Best known for his performance in the title role of the popular British TV series *Doctor Who* since 2005, Tennant's many other credits include his recent portrayal of Barty Crouch Junior in the big-screen blockbuster *Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire*. Tennant has also received numerous awards from the theatre

community for his lead roles in several Shakespearean productions and other classic plays.

Acclaimed by *The Guardian* as “the best Hamlet in years,” Tennant’s performance was praised by the UK paper as the work of “a superb actor ... supported by one of the best RSC ensembles in living memory.” Veteran stage and screen actor Patrick Stewart returns to the cast as Claudius in the screen version, which is directed by Gregory Doran, who also returns to reprise his stage direction of the production (in 2001, Doran directed the dynamic television adaptation of the RSC’s *Macbeth*). Co-produced by Illuminations Television and the RSC for the BBC, in association with Thirteen for WNET.ORG and NHK, the adaptation recreates the tone and atmosphere of the stage production in a film-style interpretation shot in HD on location at St. Joseph’s College in Mill Hill, London. The production is produced for television by John Wyver and Sebastian Grant.

***Great Performances*** is funded by the Irene Diamond Fund, the National Endowment for the Arts, Vivian Milstein, the Corporation for Public Broadcasting, public television viewers, and PBS. For ***Great Performances***, Bill O’Donnell is series producer; David Horn is executive producer.

Visit **Great Performances Online** at [www.pbs.org/gperf](http://www.pbs.org/gperf) for additional information about this and other programs.

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