

Beat: Arts

## **BENEDICT CUMBERBATCH IS HAMLET THE ICONE AT BARBICAN THEATER IN LONDON**

“TO BE OR NOT TO BE“<sup>?</sup> AUG. 5 TO OCT.

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**USPA NEWS** - Hamlet is now performing at the Barbican Centre until 31 October 2015. Hamlet starring Benedict Cumberbatch, Ciaran Hinds and Anastasia Hille. Benedict Cumberbatch is taking on the title role in Shakespeare's great tragedy...

Hamlet is now performing at the Barbican Centre until 31 October 2015. Hamlet starring Benedict Cumberbatch, Ciaran Hinds and Anastasia Hille. Benedict Cumberbatch is taking on the title role in Shakespeare's great tragedy. Directed by Lyndsey Turner (Posh, Chimerica) and produced by Sonia Friedman Productions, the Barbican presents an exclusive twelve-week run of this compelling new production in summer 2015.

The synopsis : As a country arms itself for war, a family tears itself apart. Forced to avenge his father's death but paralysed by the task ahead, Hamlet rages against the impossibility of his predicament, threatening both his sanity and the security of the state.

His Sherlock co-star Mark Gatiss described Cumberbatch as "magnificent... "I always knew he had it in him,... We're all very proud and impressed" he told the BBC.

Whatsonstage.com gave four stars, with Michael Coveney saying Cumberbatch delivered the great soliloquies "superbly, urgently, intelligently and full of concentration, right to the top of the Barbican".

The Independent's Paul Taylor called it a "rather mixed affair" in his three-star review. He said it was "stunningly designed by Es Devlin, with a fair bit of text and story-line shifted around by Turner, to sometimes eloquent, sometimes irritating effect".

The Guardian, Michael Billington said: "Cumberbatch, in short, suggests Hamlet's essential decency. But he might have given us infinitely more, if he were not imprisoned by a dismal production that elevates visual effects above narrative coherence and exploration of character".

The Telegraph's Dominic Cavendish said that Cumberbatch's Hamlet justified the hysteria.

Talking about Sherlock Holmes, was announced in July 2015 that their last series was such a success that the production of a new one became elementary. So fans of hit series Sherlock will be delighted to see Benedict Cumberbatch (38-year-old) and Martin Freeman (43-year-old) are back in the crime-fighting partnership for the BBC.

A fourth series comprising of three episodes is expected to follow suit in 2016. The upcoming series of the popular show, which was created by Moffat and Mark Gatiss, is set to be 'the most shocking and surprising series of Sherlock yet' according to the BBC.

### **Article online:**

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