Supervisor's Review
Filip Krtička, "‘within un-, sub, or supernatural forces’: Establishing the World of Tom Stoppard’s Rosencrantz and Guildenstern Are Dead," BA thesis

Choice of Topic:
The proposed topic of this BA thesis is certainly both an ambitious and fruitful one. The thesis works through sets of complex theoretical issues in relation to this topic in an intellectually discerning and contextually sensitive manner, and with a confidence that marks this out as an exceptional piece of work for a BA level student.

Thesis statement / aims and objectives:
The project is constructed around a clearly articulated set of objectives, at the core of which is the goal of analyzing the ways in which Rosencrantz and Guildenstern Are Dead interacts with other texts.

Structure and development:
The first chapter offers a succinct overview of the project’s objectives followed by a lucid and well researched theoretical framework that concerns the nature of dramatic text and hypotext. Chapter two opens with a finely wrought discussion of affinity and possibility. Then the parallels and points of contact between Waiting for Godot and Rosencrantz and Guildenstern are productively unpacked. In particular, Krtička’s points about undecidability and interpretation are both interesting and apposite. Finally, the contrast in forms of absurdity in the two plays is well observed. Chapter three extends the analysis of hypotext through examination of the terms intertextuality and citation. Krtička’s coined term “Menardian text” signals a capacity to not only reiterate theoretical commentary, but to actively engage with and generate terms that might explicate the poetics of Rosencrantz and Guildenstern Are Dead in an original manner. The use of Huizinga in chapter four followed by the assessment of play-within-play structures is perceptive. Noteworthy also is Krtička’s strategic use of Bentley’s comments on Shakespeare and Pirandello.

Research:
Research throughout is deployed with skill and judgement. Krtička’s theoretical reading simultaneously well chosen and imaginatively applied to the texts he discusses.

Use of sources:
There are no major formal or stylistic issues concerning the use of sources. Materials have been carefully cited throughout.

Stylistics and language:
Mr Krtička’s writing style is fluent, consistent and accomplished.

Format:
A great deal of care has been taken with format of the project.

I recommend the thesis for defence and propose to grade the work “excellent” / 1.

Clare Wallace, PhD

1.9.2010

Nám. Jana Palacha 2, 116 38 Praha 1
Czech Republic
Ph./Fax: (+420) 221 619 341
ualk@ff.cuni.cz
http://ualk.ff.cuni.cz
wallace@ff.cuni.cz