

Abstract

The aim of this thesis is to compare various film adaptations of William Shakespeare's *Hamlet* and to comment on the different style of their adaptation of the original play. A brief description of this Shakespeare masterpiece and of related films and their style followed by a depiction of particular characters and how the movies interpret them will lead to the comparison of the movies within individual motifs. Four film adaptations will be compared: the black-and-white version by Laurence Olivier (1948), Franco Zeffirelli's *Hamlet* starring Mel Gibson (1990), the four-hour *Hamlet* directed by Kenneth Branagh (1996) and modern version directed by Michael Almereyda (2000).