

The following was submitted by Joanne Merrian to the SHAKSPER Conference on Saturday, April 30, 1994.

Spinoff: Monsterpiece Theatre

Saw this on Sesame Street a few days ago...

MONSTERPIECE THEATRE: HAMLET

introduced by Alistair Cookie (Cookie Monster)

A.C.: Hello. This is Alistair Cookie and welcome to Monsterpiece Theatre. Today, me incredibly proud to present one of best-loved classics in whole world, a play that explores feelings that bubble deep inside all of us. Yes, me proud to present "Hamlet, Prince of Denmark". It don't get classier than this.

(Scene: Hamlet walks on the cloudy battlements, reading a book.)

Enter Elmo.

Elmo: Forsooth! Elmo spieth Hamlet, Prince of Denmark! Reading a book!

(Hamlet laughs)

A funny book! It maketh him happy. Oh, Hamlet, what doth thou read that maketh thee so happy?

Ham: Words, words, words.

(Hamlet laughs)

Elmo: Elmo knoweth that a book hath words, words, words, but pray tell what words doth the book hath?

(Hamlet sighs, begins to cry)

Oh, now Prince Hamlet seemeth so sad.

(Hamlet elaborately blows his nose)

Oh, Hamlet. Pray tell Elmo what maketh thee so sad?

Ham: (sadly) Words, words, words.

Elmo: Again with the words, words, words! Prince Hamlet doth not give to Elmo a straight answer! Oh-oh! Oh-oh! A dark cloud doth sweep across Hamlet's brow! He seemeth... angry! What doth thou readeth that maketh thee so angry, oh great prince?

Ham: (angrily) Words, words, words.

Elmo: Okay! That does it! Elmo's feddeth up! One last question, Hamlet!

Ham: What?

Elmo: Where can Elmo getteth his own book?

Ham: Get thee to a library, Elmo.

Elmo: Ah.. a library! Of course. Elmo will run to the royal library and borroeth his own book! Yeah, bye!

(Hamlet waves)

Exeunt Elmo.

Ham: At last, now I am alone.

Enter Elmo, carrying a book.

(Elmo sits next to Hamlet, begins to read and starts laughing)

Ham: What doth thou read, Elmo, that maketh thee so happy?

Elmo: Oh, well Elmo can't read yet, Hamlet. Elmo's looking at... pictures! pictures! pictures!

(Hamlet sighs)

A.C.: Oh boy, that great stuff! Very deep, very emotional. But what me like best is that Hamlet is Prince of Denmark, cause that make Hamlet Danish, and me just love danish! Especially prune danish!

(Eats prune danish)

Monsterpiece Theatre theme starts.

(Eats plate)

By the way, Hamlet was played by Mel Gibson.
This episode aired here on April 28.