

# BERNHARDT/HAMLET

## Casting Breakdown

Mark Twain once wrote: “There are five kinds of actresses: bad actresses, fair actresses, good actresses, great actresses – and then there is Sarah Bernhardt.”

Paris, 1899: Infamous stage idol Sarah Bernhardt has grown out of the ingénue roles that made her famous. Now, she’s in the rehearsal for her most controversial role yet – Hamlet.

### **SARAH BERNHARDT.**

**Female, 50s, Lead.**

Renowned French actor of the late 19th and early 20th century. The most accomplished actor of her day. Intelligent, confident, magnetic. Revolting against society’s disdain for aging women. This role requires intimacy and fight choreography.

### **EDMOND ROSTAND.**

**Male, 30s, Lead.**

A French poet and dramatist deeply infatuated with Sarah. Best known for writing *Cyrano de Bergerac*. This role requires intimacy choreography.

### **CONSTANT COQUELIN.**

**Male, 50s-60s, Supporting.**

The leading man in Sarah’s troupe. Sarah’s confidant. A French actor of “unusual range and versatility.” This role requires fight choreography.

### **ALPHONSE MUCHA.**

**Male, 30s-40s, Supporting.**

A Czech painter, illustrator, and graphic artist active during the birth of Art Nouveau. Became famous through his depictions of Sarah.

### **MAURICE BERNHARDT.**

**Male, 30s, Supporting.**

The devoted, dignified illegitimate son of Sarah Bernhardt. Very close to his mother, she’s the only family he’s ever known. This role requires fight choreography.

### **LYSETTE MELLOTT.**

**Female, 20s, Supporting.**

The ingénue of Sarah’s troupe, an actress in awe of Sarah. This role requires intimacy choreography.

### **LOUIS LEMERCIER.**

**Male, 60s, Supporting.**

The leading theatre critic of Paris who loves to be courted by artists.

**ROSAMOND GÉRARD.****Female, 20s-30s, Supporting.**

The neglected wife of Edmond Rostand. A poet and playwright of quiet dignity.

**RAOUL.****Male, 30s-40s, Supporting.**

An actor in Sarah's troupe. Self-involved. Not the brightest, but a real talent.

**FRANCOIS.****Male, 30s-40s, Supporting.**

An actor in Sarah's troupe. A little scattered, but well-trained and serious about his craft. This role requires fight choreography.

**WORKER.****Male, Any Age, Supporting.**

A worker outside Sarah's theater. A role that can be combined with Louis, or made available for an actor interested in a small role.

**ENSEMBLE.****Any Gender, Any Age, Non-Speaking.**

Non-speaking roles portraying theater employees, additional members of Sarah's troupe, fans, bystanders, etc. can be factored into this production. Ensemble members will also act as crew members for the purposes of scene changes if needed and/or possible.