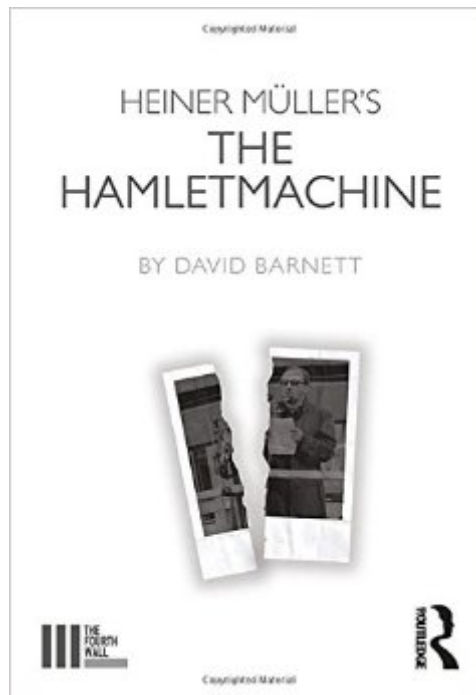


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# Heiner MÃ¼ller's The Hamletmachine (The Fourth Wall)



## Synopsis

"Iâ™m good Hamlet giâ™me a cause for grief" At first glance, readers of *The Hamletmachine* (1979) could be forgiven for wondering whether it is actually a play at all: it opens with a montage of texts that are not ascribed to a character, there is no vestige of a plot, and the whole piece lasts a total of ten pages. Yet, Heiner MÃllerâ™s play regularly features in theatresâ™ repertoires and is frequently staged by university theatre departments. In four short chapters, David Barnett unpicks the complexities of *The Hamletmachine*â™s writing and frames its author as an experimental, politically committed writer who confronts the shortcomings of his age. In considering the problems MÃller poses for the playâ™s performance, he also discusses two exemplary productions in order to show how the work can engage very different audiences. This book examines why such a compact, radically open, and yet seemingly obscure play has proved so popular.

## Book Information

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