

“I Hate Hamlet” Character Descriptions

Taken From “A Study Guide for Paul Rudnick’s ‘I Hate Hamlet.’”

Andrew Rally

Andrew is an actor who studied drama in New York and found stardom in Hollywood playing a young surgeon in the now-canceled tv program, “LA Medical.” Before that he was famous for his role in a commercial for a breakfast cereal, “Trailbuster Nuggets.” When his show is canceled, he reluctantly agrees to play Hamlet in the esteemed “Shakespeare in the Park” series in New York. While he was confident as a television actor, he is uncertain, even terrified, about playing Hamlet. Adding to his frustrations is that his long-time girlfriend refuses to have sex until she knows that Andrew is her one true love.

Felicia Dantine

Felicia is Andrew’s real estate agent described as having a “carnal passion for New York City apartments.” She is also a student of spiritualism and is a talented medium. She has arranged for Andrew to rent the apartment of the late and great John Barrymore. She is convinced that the apartment is perfect given that Andrew will be playing the role that made Barrymore famous. She agrees to hold a séance to summon Barrymore to help Andrew. She thinks she failed to do so but actually, did not.

John Barrymore

John Barrymore was an acclaimed actor in the early-to-mid 20th century. While he had a variety of stage and film credits, he was perhaps best known for the title role in “Hamlet.” He was a heavy drinker and quite the lady’s man. In this play, his ghost appears with the help of Andrew’s real estate agent/quirky medium. Barrymore appears and tells Andrew that he is here to prepare him for the role of Hamlet and cannot leave until Andrew tackles the role.

Dierdre McDavey

She is Andrew’s long-term girlfriend who refuses to sleep with Andrew until she knows he is “the one.” She believes that if Andrew plays Hamlet, he will be one step closer to being her one true love. She is described as being “...irresistibly appealing, a valley girl imagining herself as a Brontee heroine.” She is desperate to play Ophelia but ends up being cast as one of Ophelia’s handmaids.

Lillian Troy

Lillian is Andrew’s talent agent. She is older, wiser and a chronic smoker. When she comes to Andrew’s apartment she claims to have been there in the 1940s when she had an affair with Barrymore. Barrymore is surprised that she can see him. With a bit of prodding, she makes Barrymore remember their affair and as the show ends, they are laughing together and about to rekindle their romance.

Gary Peter Lefkowitz

Gary is the ultimate stereotype of the superficial Hollywood writer/producer/director. For him, it’s all about making big bucks. He is one of the few people who can see Barrymore, which is explained

by the fact that he is so self-centered, like Barrymore. Gary offers Andrew a chance to star in a new television series as an inner-city teacher by day and a super hero by night. Andrew is tempted by the opportunity but also recognizes that Dierdre is infatuated with the idea of him as Hamlet. In the end, Andrew turns the role down and Gary leaves town with Felicia, who shares his love of money.