

loneliness

and

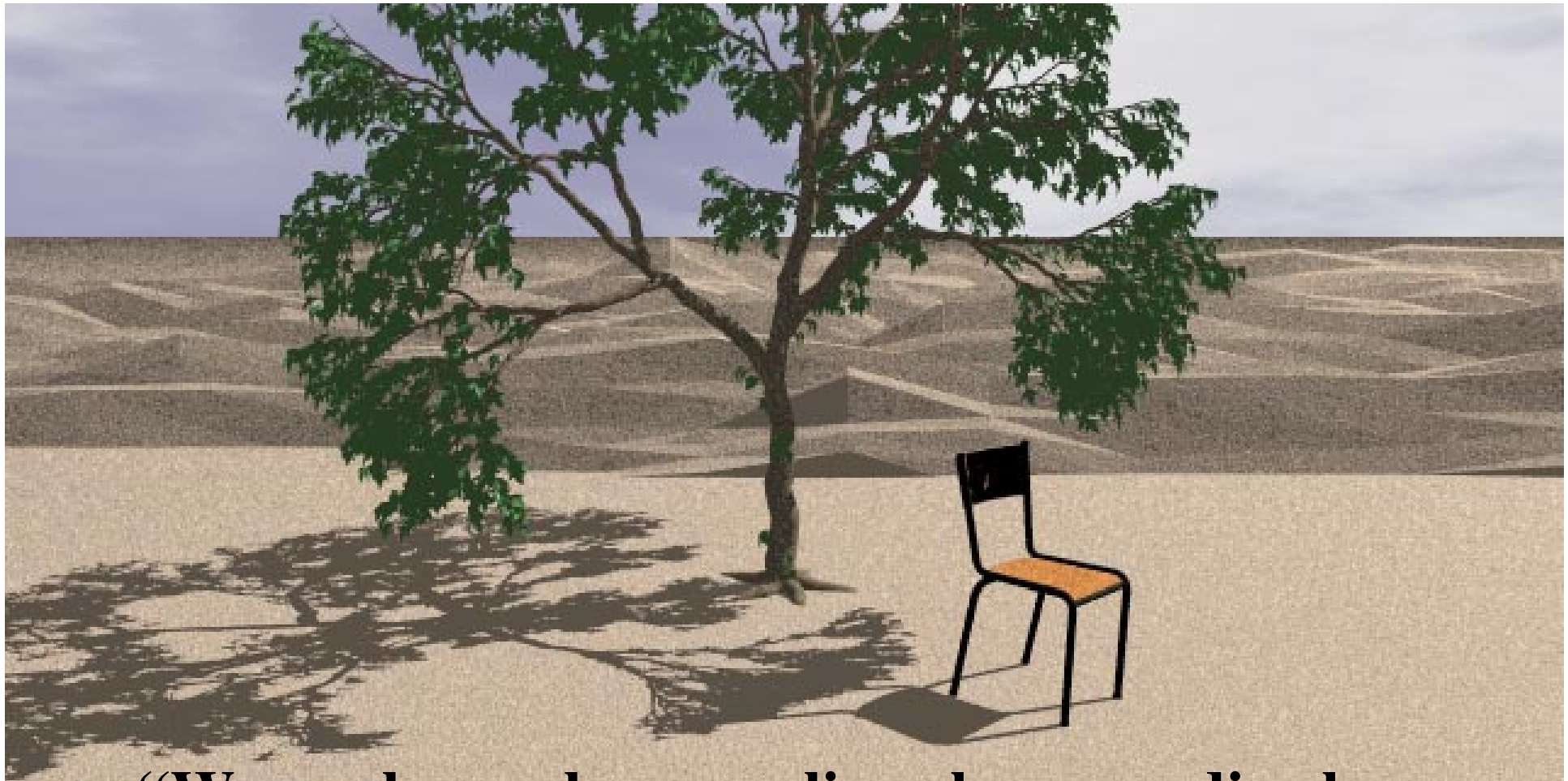
*the tragic hero in
Shakespeare's
works*



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**“We are born alone, we live alone, we die alone;
only through our love and friendship can we
create the illusion for the moment that we are
not alone.”**

Orson Wells

Solitude:

- the profoundest fact of the human condition
- the state of being alone in solitary isolation
- that feeling of sadness that results from being abandoned or forsaken.

**Man is the only being who knows
he is alone**



During the Renaissance

Solitariness

- a statement of individualism, a sense of self-love far greater than the love one might feel for the other
- a proof of the attempt at detaching from the unbecoming crowd and unveiling the feeling of individual superiority

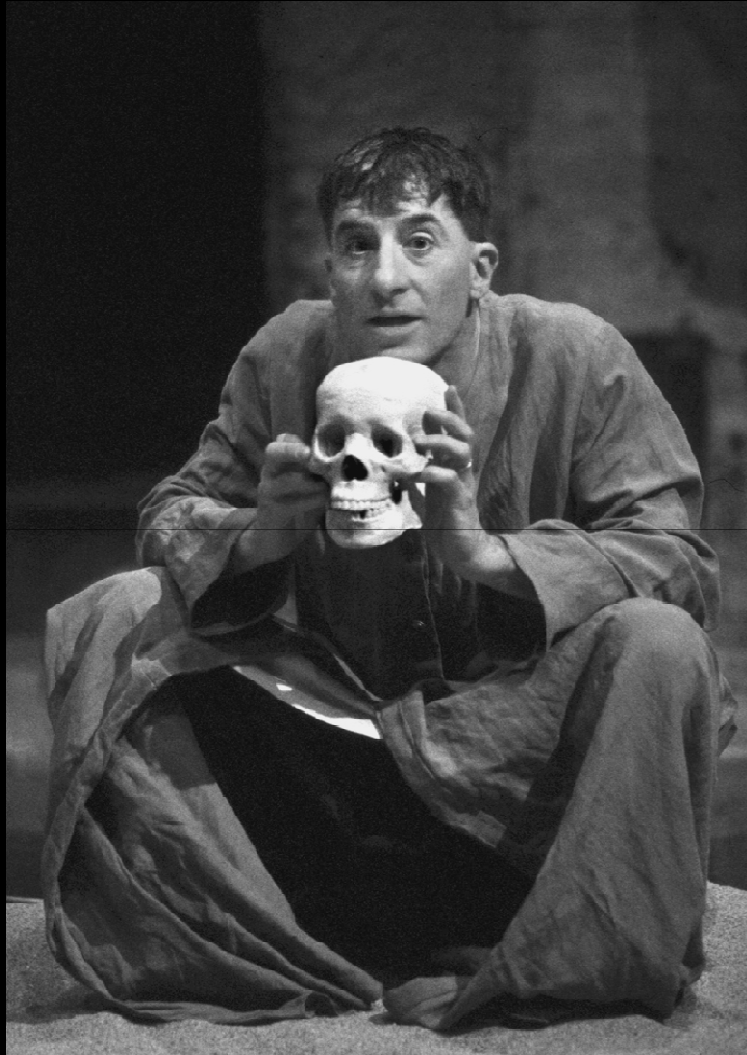
The background of the slide is a collage of several portraits of Richard III. On the left, there is a profile portrait of Richard III wearing a crown. In the center, there is a portrait of a man in a blue and gold robe. On the right, there is a portrait of Richard III wearing a crown and holding a scepter. At the bottom, there are two portraits of Richard III wearing a black cap and a dark robe. The text is overlaid on this collage.

Richard III

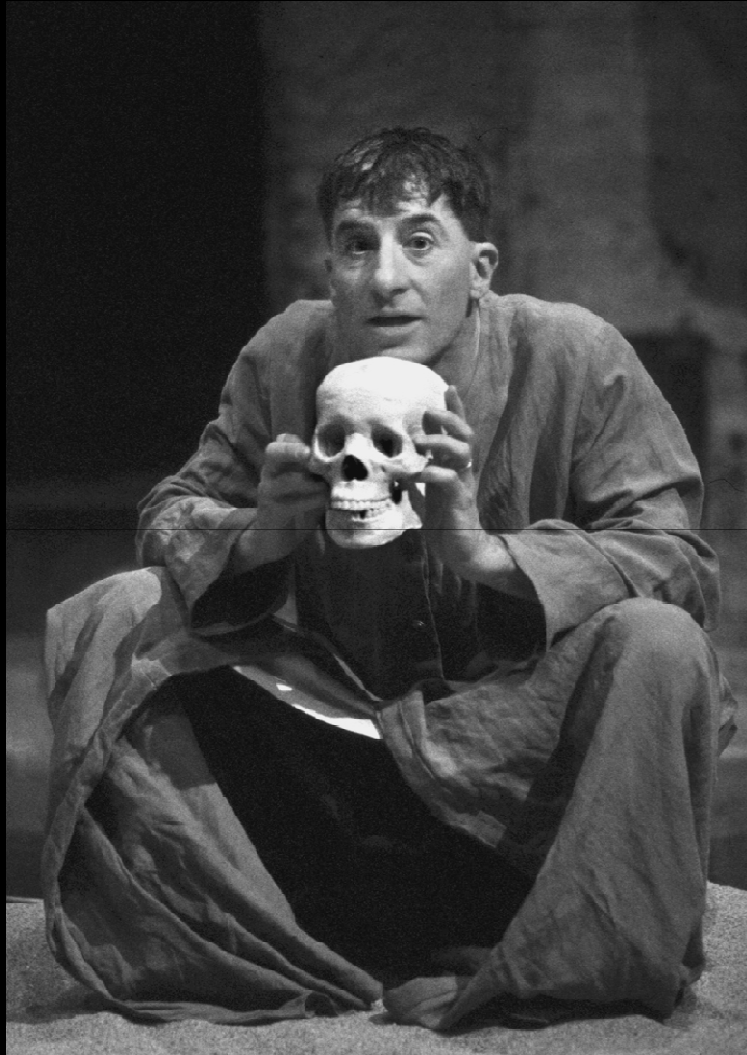
**“What do I fear? Myself? There’s none else by:
Richard loves Richard; that is I am I.
Is there a murderer here? No; – yes, I am:
Then fly. What, from myself? Great reason why:
Lest I revenge. What, myself upon myself?
Alack, I love myself. Wherefore? For any good
That I myself have done unto myself?**

**O, no! alas, I rather hate myself
For hateful deeds committed by myself!
I am a villain: yet I lie, I am not.
Fool, of thyself speak well: – fool, do not flatter.
My conscience hath a thousand tongues,
And every tongue brings in a several tale,
And every tale condemns me for a villain.”**

Hamlet

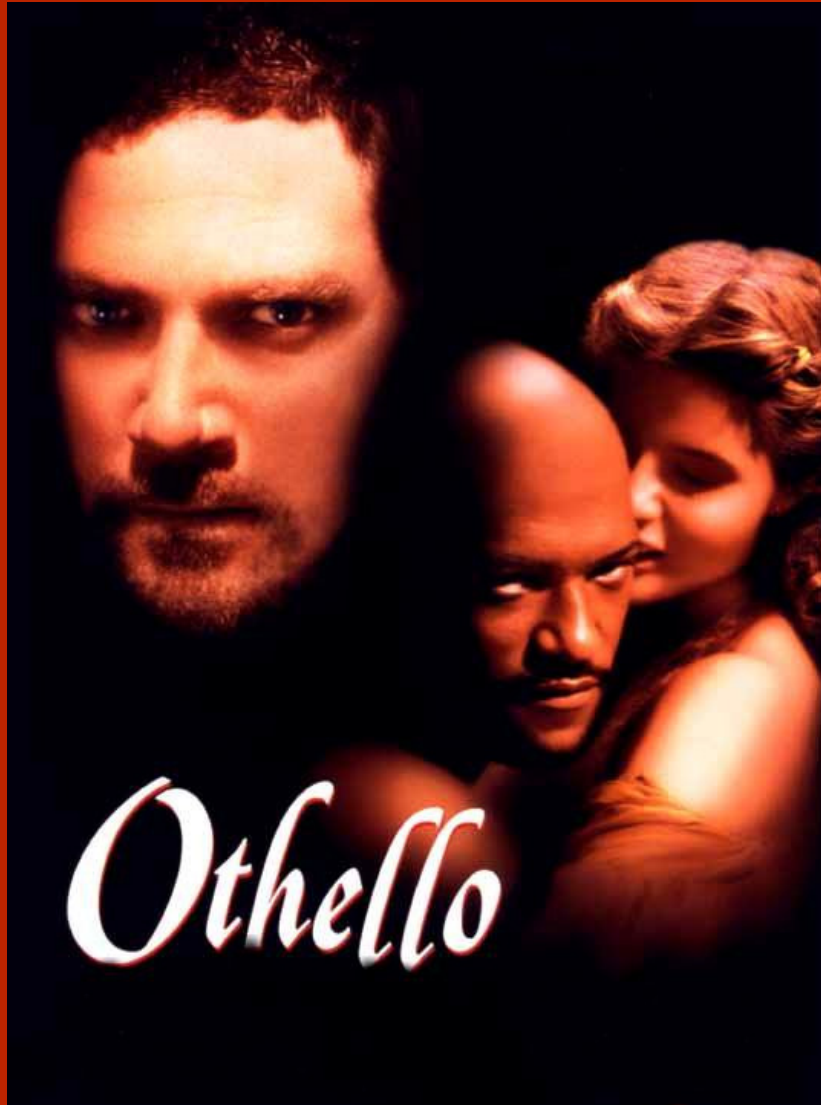


- destroyed because of a major weakness
- his flaw is irresolution – the uncertainty on how to act or proceed
- unable to act and thus tends to generalize over subject such as death, life, love, social status
- he declares “*conscience does make cowards of us all*”



➤ Hamlet sparks an internal philosophical debate on the advantages and disadvantages of existence

➤ He uses the pronouns “*we*” and “*us*”, the indefinite “*who*”, the impersonal infinitive, he speaks explicitly “*of us all*” and of “*what flesh is heir to*”, of what “*we*” suffer at the hands of “*time*” or “*fortune*”



- loneliness – another meaning – imposed through skin colour and jealousy
- Othello is “*the tragedy of a man under an empty heaven*”
- his own tragic flaw – his obsession with Desdemona’s treason
- his physical appearance adds to his estrangement – he is a moor, he is different from the others: “*an extravagant and wheeling stranger/ Of here and everywhere.*” (I, I, 136-7)

➤ another kind of loneliness – caused by murder and the lust for power, which leads to unexpected turns in one's nature

M A C B E T H

➤ in *Macbeth* everyone is steeped in blood

Macbeth



- the process of evidencing loneliness as villainy
- there is a struggle with uneasy sleep
- the world is tight and there seems to be no escape
- nature is impenetrable and close
- this environment forces the individual to self-exile
- the result – madness

Macbeth





The Histories

- the struggle for power – one of man's greatest tragic flaws
- the ruler drags behind him a long chain of crimes
- a violated law – the king is God's sent on earth, but is not God himself
- every step towards power is marked by murder, violence and treachery



Henry VI

*I have no brother, I am like no brother
And this word love`, which greybirds
call divine,
Be resident in men like one another,
And not in me: I am myself alone.*



Ophelia

- loneliness – psychologically approached
- a symbol of the human love to which Hamlet turns for support
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Ophelia

➤ Lacan's theory on loneliness:

“As long as you derive your identity from the world around you, you have to be concerned about losing it. Like a dragon sitting greedily on its hoard of treasure, your entire being will be caught up in defending what you are most afraid to lose”.

➤ loses her identity

*"You cannot be honest with others because
if you speak your mind you
might offend someone, and then he or
she will turn away, taking your
identity in the process,
leaving you empty and 'dead.'
That's what*

loneliness

is:

*it's a fear of psychological
death."*