



# Interview Transcript

## Stuart Bowman

**Rona Kelly:** Thanks so much for chatting to us today.

**Stuart Bowman:** My pleasure.

**RK:** We're here with Stuart who is playing...

**SB:** Lord Capulet.

**RK:** We've got some questions which have been sent in, which we thought we'd put to you. To start off with, the kids in school would like to know what your experience with Shakespeare and maybe Romeo and Juliet in school were?

**SB:** Shakespeare in school was limited, my memories are very limited. I remember reading...I don't even know what play it was, but a Shakespeare play and we took turns around doing a line each. And it was just impenetrable, we were all terrible and had no idea what we were talking about. I do remember enjoying it though, I seem to remember putting a wee bit more into it than everyone else. So I was showing off even then!

Romeo and Juliet, I have never seen, I've seen one of the film versions, the recent Julian Fellowes did the adaptation which I watched with my four year old son who sat through the whole thing. I was thrilled about that, if a four year old can have his attention captured, there's hope for all of us.

**RK:** Brilliant! I can't believe...sorry I'm still reeling from the fact you haven't seen it before onstage. Wow.

**SB:** No, the idea I had...I never had any aspirations to play Romeo. I kind of hadn't really engaged that there were sort of Mercutio's and Tybalt's in there as well, that were more suited for me. I had no sense of it, I just wasn't interested...which is bonkers, because it's fabulous.

**RK:** I suppose it's nice now, because you get to pick up the text kind of anew. And just go into it like that.

**SB:** Afresh, yes. Absolutely. It's exciting, it's really exciting.

**RK:** And is this your first time performing at the Globe?

**SB:** No, I did Macbeth six years ago that Eve Best directed. I played Macduff and it was magical, it was absolutely magical. But the magic, the feeling of excitement and magic that one gets coming back to the space, it feels just as fresh as it was six years ago. It's a stunning space. It's like a time machine; you're being transported back to the time that Shakespeare was writing these plays and to the place that Shakespeare was writing the plays for essentially. As good a facsimile of that space as you will ever get. It's amazing,



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I mean I remember when we were doing Macbeth standing in the wings and just like goosebumps of waiting to go on. And remembering that fact: this is what the people playing Macduff 400 years ago were feeling. Really, really transformational and transportational...that's not a word! It is now.

**RK:** It's a nice word though. You're doing a Shakespeare, you're making up your own.

**SB:** Exactly, you can make up words, whatever you want. We're following in his lead.

**RK:** And this week we've been dedicating to text work and starting to explore character. So can you take us through a little bit about your character and what your initial impressions of Lord Capulet are?

**SB:** Yes. I have a nearly eight year old and nearly five year old, two boys. And we have battles. The feeling, I sort of really felt this empathy with Lord Capulet when he's so just infuriated with his daughter and she won't listen to him and you know that you're right and that the life of your child will be better if they do what you want them to do. But you want them to find their way there themselves. And I could get cross with my son and then leave the room and go, "You handled that so badly, you shouldn't have been as cross as that. That wasn't the time to be cross, that was the time be softer." And I recognise that so much, that feeling of trying to do the right thing, trying to have an effect by the way one treats one's child and often getting that wrong as he does in this play. But there's a lot of information that he doesn't know about, that Juliet hasn't told him what's going on. So it's utterly confusing. But the dynamic between father and child is so cleverly written, and there's lots that I really do recognise in that.

**RK:** Thank you so much for chatting to us today.

**SB:** That's alright, my pleasure.

**RK:** We'll catch up in a few weeks and then we'll hear how all of the costumes which I can see in the corner of the room are starting to develop and how everything else is going.

**SB:** Great.