



**SHAKESPEARE'S
GLOBE**



PRESS RELEASE

Embargo 0001 20th June 2018

International Rescue Committee and Shakespeare's Globe release new short film for World Refugee Day starring Kim Cattrall, Lena Headey and Noma Dumezweni

The International Rescue Committee and Shakespeare's Globe are delighted to release a new short film to mark World Refugee Day. A unique performance of Shakespeare's speech 'The Stranger's Case' from *Sir Thomas More*, the film features refugees from Syria, Sierra Leone and South Sudan alongside renowned actors including Kim Cattrall, Lena Headey, Noma Dumezweni and Jamael Westman in an expression of unity with all those who have fled conflict overseas.

The film can be viewed [here](#)

Filmed in the Globe's iconic outdoor and indoor theatres, Sawsan Abou Zeinedin, Sana Kikhia, Rayan Azhari and Mohand Hasb Alrosol Badr are joined by actors from stage and screen as they stand in solidarity with Shakespeare's rallying cry for humanity, which is as relevant today as it was 400 years ago. The film will launch the Globe's programming for Refugee Week (18th - 24th June) and will be screened across the site throughout the week.

Sir Thomas More was written and edited by a team of playwrights including Anthony Munday, Henry Chettle, Thomas Heywood, Thomas Dekker and William Shakespeare. Depicting More's rise and fall, it includes a dramatization of the May Day riots of 1517, when citizens turned on their immigrant neighbours. Thomas More memorably confronts the rioters, condemning their 'mountainish inhumanity' and urging them to consider the 'the stranger's case': the plight of London's refugees. The play will be performed in its entirety in the Sam Wanamaker Playhouse during Refugee Week.

David Miliband, CEO of the International Rescue Committee, said:

"Shakespeare knew that refugees needed help and so should we. In his time it was the Lombards fleeing their homes and communities. Today people are fleeing their homes and communities in Syria, Yemen and Myanmar. The people are different but the reasons are the same: To protect themselves and their loved ones from war, violence and persecution. And Shakespeare's rallying cry for humanity is as relevant as ever. Now is the time to answer his cry and stand with refugees."

Michelle Terry, Artistic Director at the Globe, said:

"If Shakespeare is our greatest humanist writer, then it is our humanitarian duty to respond to his own clarion call. "The Stranger's Case" is Thomas More's sadly still relevant plea to the rioting masses as they attack and reject the "wretched strangers, Their babies at their backs and their poor luggage, Plodding to the ports and coasts for transportation."

"Where better than the embrace of our wooden O, or the warmth of our Sam Wanamaker Playhouse, in an organisation that was conceived of and created by Sam Wanamaker who himself sought refuge in this country after being blacklisted by his own, to tell these kind of stories. But The Stranger's Case isn't a story; it's a hostility which is real, ongoing, and which must be fought. I'm so pleased we've been able to partner with the IRC to bring to life Shakespeare's appeal to our "mountainish inhumanity", in a rallying cry for compassion and empathy which echoes from his century to ours."

Sana, a refugee from Syria who appears in the film said:

"I am presenting myself as a refugee to help remove the stigma. I want to let the world know that being a refugee is not a burden. Refugees are survivors and have overcome so many difficulties and war. We need to rethink the way we look at refugees. I am happy to be called a refugee and help the case."

Photographs and B-roll footage are available [here](#).

--ends--



**SHAKESPEARE'S
GLOBE**



ABOUT THE IRC

The International Rescue Committee responds to the world's worst humanitarian crises, helping to restore health, safety, education, economic wellbeing, and power to people devastated by conflict and disaster. Founded in 1933 at the call of Albert Einstein, the IRC is at work in over 40 countries and 28 offices across the U.S. helping people to survive, reclaim control of their future, and strengthen their communities. Learn more at rescue-uk.org and follow the IRC on [Twitter](#) & [Facebook](#).

You can find out more about World Refugee Day at rescue-uk.org/WorldRefugeeDay (this page will go live on 20th June).

ABOUT SHAKESPEARE'S GLOBE THEATRE

Following an absence of 400 years, the present Globe Theatre stands a few hundred feet from the original site. The rebuilding of the iconic building was led by the pioneering actor and director Sam Wanamaker who spent 23 years fundraising, advancing research into the appearance of the original Globe and planning the reconstruction with architect Theo Crosby. Sam Wanamaker died in 1993, three and a half years before the theatre was completed. The Globe Theatre is open all year, with tours and educational work throughout the year, and the theatre season running from April to October. It is an important space for research led by in-house scholars, as well as activities for school students of all ages.

For more information or to schedule interviews with actors or spokespeople from the IRC or Globe theatre, please contact:

Nancy Dent: (0)7946 139 182; nancy.dent@rescue-uk.org

Lucy Butterfield: (0)20 7902 1468; lucy.b@shakespearesglobe.com

NOTES TO EDITORS

Full cast:

Mohand Hasb Alrosol Badr: from South Sudan, who is currently part of Borderlines, an acting company made up of refugees who lived in the Calais refugee camp.

Rayan Azhari: from Lattakia Syria, studying for a PhD in energy demand in the built environment

Sana Kikhia: from Homs, Syria, currently completing an MSc in Global Project Management

Sawsan Abou Zeinedin: architect and urban development practitioner from Swaeda, Syria

Kim Cattrall: *Sex and the City*, *Sensitive Skin*

Noma Dumezweni: Tony Award nominee and Olivier Award winner for *Harry Potter and the Cursed Child*

Indira Varma: *Game of Thrones*, *Patrick Melrose*

Alfred Enoch: *Harry Potter* series, *How To Get Away With Murder*

Lena Headey: Cersei in the *Game of Thrones* series

Yasmin Kadi: singer-songwriter who fled Sierra Leone in the 1991 Civil War

Sophie Thompson: *Four Weddings and a Funeral*, *EastEnders*, *Gosford Park*

Jamael Westman: currently playing the titular role in London's Olivier Award-winning production of *Hamilton*

A note on authorship

The Book of Sir Thomas More is the only surviving play manuscript that contains Shakespeare's own handwriting. Several pages of the manuscript, which contain 'The Strangers' Case' speech, are written in what has been identified as Shakespeare's own hand.