



MUCH ADD ABOUT STEWARDING

SHAKESPEARE'S GLOBE VOLUNTEER STEWARD NEWSLETTER



PATRICK SPOTISWOODE: GLOBE EDUCATION

It was so exciting to stand in the Globe the other day along with a hundred colleagues and over 200 Stewards to hear Emma lay out her Wonder-filled plans for her first season. It is on such milestone occasions that I am reminded how far the Globe has come and how much more we will be able to achieve in the years ahead.

There were three paid members of staff when I joined the Globe in 1984 as well as Sam. We depended then, as we do now, on volunteers to stay afloat. The names Olga Hill, Emily Braidwood, Tom Stephens and, of course, Jean Mayer spring to mind as some of the early helpers who painted floors, sold horrible instant coffee or welcomed an audience of anywhere from 3–100 into the little Bear Gardens Theatre, housed in what is now the Sackler Studios. One brilliant show about Shakespeare and Jonson, *Bill and Ben*, did attract three—the only time I have taken an entire audience out for a drink. One of the three was Lyn Williams—now convener of our Globe Council—so the drink was a good investment.

Globe Education was founded back in 1989, 8 years before the Globe opened, with three permanent members of staff. There are now 36 staff in the department and a group of over 100 freelance Globe Education Practitioners, Learning Consultants and Higher Ed Faculty.

Many of you will have supported our public facing events: our annual *Playing Shakespeare with Deutsche Bank* productions—this year it will be *Twelfth Night*—with 135,000 free tickets given to London students; the Southwark school *Our Theatre* performances which now take place in the Playhouse; the *Read Not Dead* performances that happen here, there and everywhere; Southwark

Youth Theatre performances in the Globe and Playhouse; lectures and conferences; the Rutgers University performance in the Globe, the very beautiful Storytelling sessions for children in the Playhouse...I could go on.

But there is a lot of work that you won't see, either because it takes place behind closed doors or off-site. Over 80,000 students from around the world visit us every year for our *Lively Action* workshops. These are led by an incredible team of Globe Education Practitioners, supported by Learning Consultants, who receive the finest reviews from teachers and students alike. Over 1,000 undergraduates and graduates take courses with us. The King's/Globe MA is the most popular Shakespeare MA in the country! Many of our students are often hidden away in our Library and Archive.

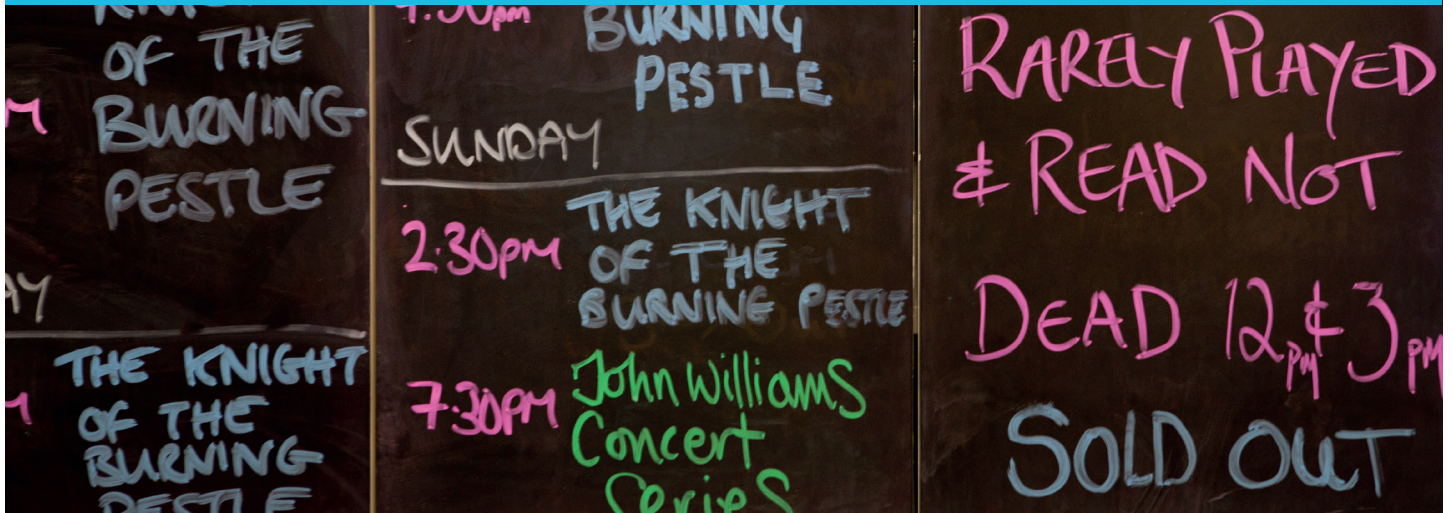
If you are in Botswana, Ukraine, Singapore, or India in the next three months you could see our practitioners at work there...or in Cardiff, Bristol, Liverpool...

And there are a growing number of Study Days and short courses that I hope you might take as a punter rather than steward, not to mention an incredible set of digital resources that are free.

The richness of Globe Ed's work for me lies in its infinite variety and the fact that we work with all ages from 3 to 93+; primary and postgraduates, students from Peckham and from Beijing. No other theatre enjoys such a range. Sam wanted the Globe to be open to all and available to all and I hope he would be pleased.

And thank goodness we have the Swan, with great food and drink on site, and have ditched the instant.

TEAM OF THE MONTH BOX OFFICE



Greetings friends,

A very happy new year to you all!

I'm Justin Giles one of the box office managers at Shakespeare's Globe. I've worked at the Globe since 2003 and I've loved every minute of it.

Here at the box office we are responsible for setting up and selling the theatre performances, education events, touring productions and now the West End transfer of *Nell Gwynn*. The box office is comprised of a fabulous team of 13. We're based in the foyer, at the box office counter and our phone room is just behind the counter. You might see us as you go up the foyer stairs to the Globe—give us a wave.

My day begins by sending out advance sales figures, these include the total sales for each production and presents the movement of how many tickets were sold the previous day. I'll take a look at the show report from the night before to see if there were any problems during the performance that the box office need to address and follow up. My attention will then be on to the day's performances, including contacting any ticket agencies that sell for us, to confirm their sales. The Front of House Duty Managers will come and see us 20 minutes before the steward briefing begins so they know if there are any access patrons, school groups, filming or if there are notes that need to be passed on to you all about that particular show.

I really enjoy looking ahead at future performances to forecast sales and work closely with the Communications department to develop strategies and campaigns to increase and maximise sales to ensure we have a nice full house at every performance.

I've just finished redesigning the ticket layout for the Globe. It's similar in style to the Sam Wanamaker Playhouse ticket so hopefully this will make it easier to see where everyone should be placed.

We have such a wide selection of offerings at the Globe that every day is different at the box office so there's never a dull moment. Some of the highlights of working in the box office include some rather amusing moments with the public. Below is a little taster of some of the questions / comments we field at the box office.

'I'm about to book online for tickets in the Gentlemen's Room. Does that mean that my seats will be in the toilet?'

'Can I just say, the problem I find with this theatre is that there isn't enough ventilation' Talking about the Globe!?!'

'So standing. Does that mean sitting on a cushion?'

On behalf of the box office team I'd like to say a big thank you for all your hard work and helping us look after our patrons so brilliantly. Here's to an exciting 2016!

Justin Giles, *Box Office Manager*

10 QUESTIONS WITH...

- 1 **Name?**
Helen Huson
- 2 **Favourite Stewards room biscuit?**
Toss up between shortbread and a Jammie Dodger
- 3 **Coffee or tea?**
Tea
- 4 **How long have you been volunteering at the Globe?**
Since 2011
- 5 **Favourite Duty?**
Cushion Cart
- 6 **Favourite Production?**
This season—*Richard III* in Mandarin. Previously, *Henry V* with Jamie Parker as Henry
- 7 **If you could be any Shakespeare character who would you be and why?**
Maria from *Twelfth Night*. I have a mischievous streak, and would love to pull off a huge hoax on someone!
- 8 **What's your favourite thing about volunteering at the Globe?**
I love talking to and having a banter with patrons and actors.
- 9 **What drew you into volunteering at the Globe?**
I have been coming to the Globe since 1997 to watch the plays, and decided that I would like to steward once I retired. However, I discovered that I could do the job whilst still working, so applied and was accepted.
- 10 **If you were on a desert Island, what disc, book and food would you take?**
Disc: Any compilation of Motown's Greatest Hits.
Book: *Untold Stories* by Alan Bennett.
Food: Steak and chips.



'Day serves not light more faithful than I'll be.'

Pericles, Act I, Scene 2

TEACHING SHAKESPEARE IN BIHAR



Photo: Rosamond Earp

While the *Hamlet* tour has been taking Shakespeare to out of the way places, I also took him to rural India last year. Over the past six years I have been making annual visits to a remarkable eye hospital in a village in Bihar. The Indian surgeons there perform tens of thousands of cataract operations each year restoring sight to mainly older villagers from all parts of Bihar. The hospital is keen on promoting girls' education (and has started a girls' football academy – but that's another story!) so they have recruited more than 100 village girls (15–24) who live and work at the hospital and are studying for Ophthalmic Technicianship exams. There is an English component to the exams and I have been helping with that.

For the first few years I did language exercises and ophthalmic texts, but last year I decided I would teach English through the medium of *Romeo and Juliet*. I scoured the Globe shop and found the fantastically useful *Graphic Shakespeare* series, which enabled us to get through the story using large chunks of the original text. I also took the Zefirelli film and we used selected extracts from the Baz Luhrmann film as well. I took a look at a recent Hindi film, *Ram Leela*, based on much the same story, but decided it was a bit too steamy. Fortunately Koel Chatterjee put me on to *Qayamat se Qayamat tak* an 80s film with the much more wholesome Aamir Khan. I also took copies of classic Indian Tales such as *Heer Ranjha* and *Laila Majnuo*.

The girls are great fun to teach as they throw themselves into anything. So, we acted out biting our thumbs and fighting duels with lengths of sugar cane, balancing on chairs as wobbly balconies, using a small medicine bottle as a potion. (In a discussion as to whether the potion might in fact be a poison, one paramedic confidently asserted it might be poisonous if it was beyond its use-by date). They drew some of the images and everyone learned a few lines by heart. To promote language skills we did role play, hot-seating and diary writing. Lord Capulet wrote a letter to a problem page about how to deal with his son's inexplicable behaviour and this, together with creating a tunnel of voices to give Juliet advice for and against taking the potion, involved imperatives and modal verbs (should/could etc). A very interesting discussion at the end about who they felt most to blame for the tragedy involved complicated conditionals 'If the Nurse had not.....Juliet would not have...'

One of the most interesting aspects was seeing how the issues such as arranged marriages, crossing boundaries of caste or religion, gang fighting resonated in modern rural India. Most of the girls expect to have arranged marriages, but emphasised that they had 'careful' fathers who would consult them first. When I asked what would be their top priority they said being allowed to continue working and not being kept at home. They mentioned cases in the villages where very young girls had been married off to older men and it was clear that most, although not all, would expect to marry within their own caste/ religion. They were somewhat horrified by the lack of closeness between Juliet and her mother. The terrible consequences of eloping without parental permission were plain from a number of current local newspaper stories.

'The girls are great fun to teach as they throw themselves into anything. So, we acted out biting our thumbs and fighting duels with lengths of sugar cane'

This year I'm going back for a time too short for another play, but we might do a Hardy short story. Meanwhile if you are in rural Bihar and hear the strains of the Globe jig 'Hey! Ho! Nobody at home' or an impassioned 'A rose by any other word...' it might be one of my girls.

Laura Sparkes *6th Year Steward*

Anyone who would like to know more about the project or has ESOL experience and thinks they might be interested in teaching there, contact laura.sparkes@btinternet.com

THY NOTICEBOARD

Doing something exciting you want to tell everybody about?

Taking part in a fundraiser for charity or got tickets to a show you would like to share?

Let us know and we can pin it here onto Thy Noticeboard...

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

This month, as well as all the dates below, the FOH Volunteer team are confirming the **Globe Training** dates with you all, new steward inductions, having a stand at Southwark Volunteer Fayre on the 27 January, and your **Steward Focus Group** will be having their first meeting!

AUDIO DESCRIBED PERFORMANCE OF PERICLES

Sam Wanamaker Playhouse
Saturday 17 January 2.00pm

CAPTIONED PERFORMANCE OF PERICLES

Sam Wanamaker Playhouse
Wednesday 20 January 7.30pm

WINTER SEASON STEWARD DROP-IN

Sackler Studios: Theo's Cafe
Thursday 21 January 5.00pm–6.00pm

WINTER SEASON STEWARD DROP-IN

Sackler Studios: Theo's Cafe
Tuesday 2 February 5.00pm–6.00pm

VOLUNTEERING OPEN EVENING

Sackler Studios
Saturday 6 February 4.30pm–7.30pm

GLOBE 2016 SUMMER SEASON TRAINING

Globe Theatre
Saturday 27 February–8 March 2016

WONDER SEASON ANNOUNCEMENT



Emma Rice telling us all her plans for the Wonder Season!



Lots of support for Emma Rice at her announcement of the Globe 2016 Season by our Stewards!

Book Recommendation

I've been reading a book which might interest other stewards. It is *The House by the Thames* by Gillian Tindall, and is the history of the old house just a few doors along from the Globe Exhibition entrance.

It has an—erroneous—plaque on the wall saying 'Christopher Wren lived there when building St Paul's'. The book is concerned with the whole of the area around Bankside from a time before the house was built to the building of the Globe. The book was published in 2006, so others may already have read it, but for anyone familiar with Bankside today, it is a fascinating history.

Janet Home

Every Monday I get an interesting email letting me know what is going on in SE1—planning applications, accidents, social events, concerts, walks and so on. Fellow stewards might like to subscribe—just google **SE1 Direct 785**

Jane Haysom

VINSPIRED



In December, Lotty and Matt went over to the Vinspired offices to record a Vlog. Vinspired are a charity that help young people ages 18-25 get into Volunteering, and have helped us to record a Video Blog that we can share online to help get the word out about Volunteering at the Globe – stay tuned for its preview soon (Lotty and Matt are very embarrassed by it!)

Not got a 2016 Calendar yet?

Germaine Nyack one of your fellow Stewards is selling Cafe Art calendars on behalf of a Homeless Charity. If you would like one, or want to receive more information please contact Matt and he will put in touch with Germaine.

CONGRATULATIONS to the super smart Rona Cracknell for being the first to work out the message in last month's **Christmas Crossword** created by Graham Jones – this was, 'A Merry Globe Christmas!'

CONTACT US

Email: foh@shakespearesglobe.com

This is the only inbox monitored 7 days a week.

Call: 020 7902 1481

Feel free to leave a voicemail if nobody is able to pick up

Text: 07503 984 933

Use this if you are running late and on the move!

In Person: At our Winter Drop-In sessions over at Theo's Café in the Sackler, the dates are marked above in the Dates for Your Diary section. We are always happy to see you!

Feedback, compliments or concerns:
Please feel free to contact:

Lotty: lotty.e@shakespearesglobe.com or

Matt: matt.h@shakespearesglobe.com

if you have anything to talk to us about specifically that is regarding something more sensitive.

SPECIAL THANKS FOR YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS TO...

Laura Sparkes, Patrick Spotiswoode, Janet Home, Jane Haysom, Germaine Nyack, Rona Cracknell, Helen Huson, Justin Giles, Doug Buist, Charlotte Horobin, Lotty Englishby and Lisa Kosky