



PRESS RELEASE

Shakespeare's Globe announces programme of events for 'Shakespeare and Poland', a new festival for 2019.

Wednesday 5 June 2019

Shakespeare's Globe is delighted to announce the programme for '**Shakespeare and Poland**', a ten-day festival opening on **Wednesday 26 June**. The festival of performances, music and panel discussions celebrates Poland's affinity with Shakespeare and marks the 150th anniversary of the birth of artist, playwright and Shakespeare interpreter, **Stanisław Wyspiański**. Shakespeare's Globe has commissioned the first translation of Wyspiański's seminal works, *Hamlet Study* and *The Death of Ophelia*, especially for the festival and *The Death of Ophelia* will receive its world premiere in English in the Sam Wanamaker Playhouse.

Patrick Spottiswoode, Director, Globe Education and curator of the festival, commented: "From the haunting *Laments*, written by Kochanowski when Shakespeare was a teenager, to the visceral and mesmerising acappella *Songs of Lear*, this new festival seeks to celebrate the richness and rawness of Polish production, poetry and translation. The centrepiece will be the first translation into English of Wyspiański's *Hamlet Study* and *The Death of Ophelia*. Still revered in Poland, he remains virtually unknown in this country as a playwright, painter and designer."

Opening the festival on **Wednesday 26 June** will be **Poland is Hamlet**, a panel discussion exploring the place of Shakespeare, and more specifically *Hamlet*, in the Polish cultural and political imagination. Professor Tony Howard, Jan Klata, Dr Wanda Świątkowska, Professor Małgorzata Grzegorzewska and Jerzy Limon will appear as panelists.

Polonius: The Polish Man is on **Thursday 27 June**. Using the character of Polonius, whose name translates from Latin as 'the Polish Man', as a starting point, a panel of leading scholars and directors, including Dr Jolanta Rzegocka, Professor Jarosław Kilian and Professor Andrew Hadfield, share their perspectives on the relationship between *Hamlet* and Polish political writings of the time.

On **Sunday 30 June**, the first play written in Polish, ***Dismissal of the Grecian Envoys*** by **Jan Kochanowski**, directed by James Wallace, will be performed simultaneously in the Sam Wanamaker Playhouse and close to the site of the original 1579 performance in Warsaw directed by Waldemar Raźniak. Part of the Globe's Read Not Dead series, *Dismissal of the Grecian Envoys* will be followed by a reading of Kochanowski's extraordinarily moving *Laments*, written following the death of his 2 year old daughter, in a translation by Nobel Prize winner **Seamus Heaney** and Stanisław Baranczak. Heaney regarded the *Laments* as Poland's equivalent of Shakespeare's *Sonnets*. The laments will be directed by Jason Morell.

The festival continues on **Thursday 4 July** with **Wyspiański: Hamlet Study and The Death of Ophelia**. In celebration of the 150th anniversary of Polish playwright and artist Wyspiański's birth, Shakespeare's Globe has published the first ever English translation of his seminal work, *Hamlet Study*, translated by Barbara Bogoczek and Professor Tony Howard. Following an introduction to his life and works with extracts from *Hamlet Study* read by Globe actors will be the world premiere in English of Wyspiański's one-act play, *Death of Ophelia*, written in 1905. The play will be directed by Nastazja Somers with music by Nicola Chang.

Barbara Bogoczek and Prof Dariusz Kosiński (Jagiellonian University, Krakow) will join Professor Tony Howard and Patrick Spottiswoode in discussion about Wyspiański's life and work.

Songs of Lear closes the festival on **Saturday 6 July**. The award-winning Song of the Goat Theatre Company will portray the tragic stories from Shakespeare's *King Lear* through music, movement and a cappella song. Based in Wrocław, Song of the Goat Theatre Company was created by Grzegorz Bral. These performances of *Songs of Lear* at Shakespeare's Globe will mark the launch of ROKPA Great Britain.

The festival is presented with the support of the Adam Mickiewicz Institute, the Polish Cultural Institute in London, the Zbigniew Raszewski Theatre Institute, the National Academy of Dramatic Art in Warsaw, the Jagiellonian University in Kraków, the Gdańsk Shakespeare Theatre, the Song of the Goat Theatre, Wrocław, the Polish Book Institute and His Excellency Arkady Rzegocki, the Ambassador of the Republic of Poland, and Mrs Jolanta Rzegocka.



FINIS.

EDITOR'S NOTES

SHAKESPEARE AND POLAND

Poland is Hamlet

Wednesday 26 June, 7.00pm
Nancy Knowles Lecture Theatre

Polonius: The Polish Man?

Thursday 27 June
Nancy Knowles Lecture Theatre

Rarely Played: Dismissal of the Grecian Envoys

Sunday 30 June, 1.00pm
Nancy Knowles Lecture Theatre

Dismissal of the Grecian Envoys

Sunday 30 June, 4.00pm
Sam Wanamaker Playhouse

Wyspiański: Hamlet Study and Death of Ophelia

Thursday 4 July, 7.00pm
Sam Wanamaker Playhouse

Songs of Lear

Saturday 6 July, 1.30pm & 8.00pm
Sam Wanamaker Playhouse

Professor Tony Howard teaches English and Comparative Literary Studies at the University of Warwick and has published extensively on the social and political contexts of Shakespeare in performance as well as East European theatre.

Director and playwright **Jan Klata** has produced over 30 shows in theatres across Poland and was the recipient of the Passport of Polityka and the Konrad Swinarski awards.

Dr Wanda Świątkowska is Assistant Professor in the Faculty of Polish studies at the Jagiellonian University in Krakow and specializes in the study of the performance of Polish.

Professor Malgorzata Grzegorewska is a lecturer at the Institute of English Studies, University of Warsaw, specialising in the literature and culture of the English Renaissance.

Jerzy Limon is President of the Theatrum Gedanense Foundation which founded the Shakespeare Theatre, built on the site of a seventeenth century theatre in Gdańsk, and a founder of the Gdańsk Shakespeare Festival.

Dr Jolanta Rzegocka is an English philologist and theatre historian. An art historian and director, Jarosław Kilian directs English and Polish classics and is a Professor of the Aleksander Zelwerowicz National Academy of Dramatic Art in Warsaw.

Andrew Hadfield is a Professor of English at the University of Sussex and author of several books, including *Lying in Early Modern England* (2017).

Professor Barry Keane is an Associate Professor in Comparative Studies in the Institute of English Studies at the University of Warsaw who has written widely on Polish literature and other subjects. His most recent publications include themed monographs on the Polish Renaissance and the Polish Baroque for Oxford Bibliographies.

Dorota Pietryk-Reeves is a Professor of Political Philosophy at the Jagiellonian University and her book, *Polish Republican Discourse in the Sixteenth Century*, is forthcoming with Cambridge University Press.

Grzegorz Bral is the President of the Board for ROKPA Polska, a branch of international relief organisation ROKPA. ROKPA provides humanitarian aid in regions where it is exceptionally difficult to do, for example Nepal, South Africa and Zimbabwe.

Polish Cultural Institute in London

The Polish Cultural Institute is dedicated to nurturing and promoting cultural ties between the United Kingdom and Poland, both through British exposure to Poland's cultural achievements, and through exposure of Polish artists and scholars to British trends, institutions, and professional counterparts.

The function of the Polish Cultural Institute is to showcase contemporary Polish culture for Britain's multicultural audience, particularly in London as it is truly the leading global cultural capital. Our programme covers the visual arts, film, theatre, music and literature. polishculture.org.uk

Adam Mickiewicz Institute

The Adam Mickiewicz Institute is a national cultural institute, whose mission is to build and communicate the cultural dimension of the Poland brand through active participation in international cultural exchange. The Institute has carried out cultural projects in 70 countries. As of early 2016, the AMI has presented more than 5,500 cultural events, attracting an audience of more than 52 million on five continents. All of the Institute's projects carry our flagship brand, culture.pl.

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MERIAN GLOBAL INVESTORS

Merian Global Investors is a leading, independent, global asset management firm. The company as it is now known was formed in June 2018 when its management team, together with funds operated by the global growth private equity firm, TA Associates, acquired the "single-strategy" investment capabilities of Old Mutual Global Investors.

It is focused on delivering strong investment performance and customer-focused investment solutions that result in positive long-term outcomes. The business has no house view or CIO, allowing its fund managers the freedom to follow their own proven strategies.

SHAKESPEARE'S GLOBE

Our Cause

We celebrate Shakespeare's transformative impact on the world by conducting a radical theatrical experiment. Inspired and informed by the unique historic playing conditions of two beautiful iconic theatres, our diverse programme of work harnesses the power of performance, cultivates intellectual curiosity and excites learning to make Shakespeare accessible for all.

'And let us ...on your imaginary forces work'

Henry V, Prologue

Performance and education take place throughout the year inspired and informed by the Globe Theatre and Sam Wanamaker Playhouse. In addition, there is an exhibition and tour, as well as retail, catering and events spaces. A registered charity (No. 266916), the Shakespeare's Globe Trust does not receive regular public subsidy. Three quarters of income comes from over one million visitors annually who buy tickets to performances, events, exhibition and tours, and educational activities. Revenue is also generated by on-site retail and catering. Vital support comes from the Globe's family of Friends and Patrons. These include a range of Members' schemes at varying levels, corporate supporters, trusts, individual gifts and legacies.

GLOBE THEATRE

Following an absence of 400 years, the present Globe Theatre stands a few hundred metres 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.

Performances, tours, and educational work take place all year with the theatre season running from April to October. The theatre is an important space for research led by in-house scholars, and is central to undergraduate and post graduate programmes, as well as activities for school students of all ages. Each year in early spring, *Playing Shakespeare with Deutsche Bank*, a Shakespeare production created for young people and families, gives 20,000 free tickets to state secondary schools in London and Birmingham.

SAM WANAMAKER PLAYHOUSE

The Sam Wanamaker Playhouse, opened in January 2014. The intimate, 340-seat candle-lit space is a beautiful archetype of the indoor playhouses of Jacobean London. Also open all year, the Playhouse's principal theatre season runs from October to April. In addition, it hosts panel discussions, lectures, and musical events. It is also an essential space for original research, rehearsed readings, family storytelling and workshops for school students and teachers.

BANKSIDE AND BEYOND

Overlooking the river on Bankside, Shakespeare's Globe is proud to be in Southwark and has a range of community projects: Globe Elders Company, Southwark Youth Theatre, *A Concert for Winter*, *Our Theatre* schools performance project and a work experience programme for 14-18 year olds. Shakespeare's Globe has a rich tradition of touring nationally and internationally with award-winning productions transferring to both the West End and Broadway. *Globe on Screen* also takes highlights from the theatre season to cinemas worldwide and *Globe Player* makes Shakespeare's Globe productions available to all.

For more information, images for press, details about what's on and how to book: www.shakespearesglobe.com.