



PRESS RELEASE

Shakespeare's Globe announces full casting for
Christmas at the (Snow) Globe by Sandi Toksvig and Jenifer Toksvig

23 October 2019

The Globe Theatre stands empty, the stage left bare, the Christmas tree undecorated and we need your help. Someone has stolen the Magic of Christmas from Snowdrop, the fairy who stands watch during the winter months, protecting our great wooden 'O'. So gather everyone you know to help comedian Sandi Toksvig and her merry gang find the spirit of Christmas and return it to The Globe.

Shakespeare's Globe is delighted to announce the full company for ***Christmas at the (Snow) Globe***, created and directed by **Sandi Toksvig and Jenifer Toksvig**, and designed by **Charlie Cridlan**.

Opening on **Thursday 19 December**, this brand new production will invite audiences to pack into the open-air theatre wrapped in their warmest Christmas jumpers and let loose their Christmas spirit. To celebrate the spirit of storytelling and the joy of gift-giving, audience members will also be invited to bring a new children's book to put under the 13-foot Christmas tree on the Globe stage. Books will be donated to children's charities across Southwark. The Globe Christmas tree has been kindly donated by the Embassy of Denmark, London.

The production will feature integrated BSL, and in a Globe first, will include a touch and scent tour for visually impaired patrons ahead of the Audio Described performance on Saturday 21 December.

The cast will comprise:

Becky Barry: Becky returns to the Globe stage having previously worked on the Playing Shakespeare with Deutsche Bank productions of *Much Ado about Nothing* and *Romeo and Juliet*. She combines working as an actor-musician and a qualified BSL/English interpreter. Her other recent theatre work includes *The Jungle Book* (Derby Theatre), *Twelfth Night* (Southwark Playhouse) and *The Tempest* (Royal Exchange).

Stella Duffy: Stella is a writer and theatre-maker. As a stage performer, Stella is an associate artist with Improbable, a member of the comedy improvisation company Spontaneous Combustion, and has guested with The Comedy Store Players. She performed her solo show *Breaststrokes* in London, Belfast, Cardiff, Dublin, York, and Amsterdam. Stella has also authored 16 novels and is the co-director of the Fun Palaces campaign for cultural democracy.

Chris Jarman: Chris was part of the original London and Broadway cast of *Harry Potter and the Cursed Child* and the original London cast for critically-acclaimed West End hits *The Book of Mormon* and *The Lion King*. Other theatre work includes *Wicked* (Victoria Apollo), *Huckleberry Finn the Musical* (Lyric Theatre Belfast), *Comedy of Errors* (National Theatre) and *The Merchant of Venice* (RSC).

Tony Jayawardena: Tony returns to the Globe having appeared in Tanika Gupta's *Lions and Tigers* in the Sam Wanamaker Playhouse and Emma Rice's *Twelfth Night* in 2017. Other recent theatre work includes *Hobson's Choice* (Royal Exchange), *White Teeth* (Kiln Theatre) and *Young Marx* (The Bridge). Television includes Channel 4's *Ackley Bridge*.

David Perkins: David is Musical Director, Arranger and Musician for *Christmas at the (Snow) Globe*. As an arranger, David has worked for Faber Music, Oxford University Press, rock band Jethro Tull, and over a hundred musicians, vocalists, orchestras and bands. As a composer, David has written a number of large and small scale choral works and other vocal compositions. Previous theatre credits include *Pandemonium!*, *The Wind in the Willows* (Edinburgh Fringe), *Just So Stories* (Apollo Theatre Company) and *Arabian Nights* (Story Pocket Theatre).

Mary Price O'Connor: Mary is a musician for *Christmas at the (Snow) Globe*. She is an interdisciplinary artist and educator working with sound, music, movement and text. Mary became a silent film accompanist in 2003 and has participated as an improviser, deviser and performer across platforms including *The Chaosbaby Project* with Stella Duffy, *Women in Motion* with Zosia Jo and is currently a part of *Through The Door* with Angela Clerkin and Improbable.

Sandi Toksvig OBE: Sandi is well known to UK audiences as a broadcaster, with television credits including celebrated series *Call My Bluff* (as regular team captain) and *Whose Line Is It Anyway?* She took over from Stephen Fry as host of *QI*, BBC2's fiendishly difficult and hugely popular quiz, and she and Noel Fielding became the new co-hosts of *The Great British Bake Off*. For a decade Sandi was a familiar voice for BBC Radio 4 listeners as the chair of *The News Quiz* which led to her induction into the Radio Hall of Fame. Much of Sandi's time is devoted to writing, with more than 20 fiction and non-fiction books for children and adults to her credit. Her adaptation of *Mamma Mia the Party* opened at London's O2 earlier this year. Sandi is an activist for gender equality, and in 2014 she co-founded the Women's Equality Party.

Jenifer Toksvig: Jenifer is a writer, deviser, director and producer. Theatre work includes spoken word poetry for UNHCR, performed and translated worldwide; immersive, interactive theatre/gaming hybrid shows; a catalogue of musicals for young people to perform (in collaboration with composers David Perkins and Alexander Rudd); stage adaptations of novels by authors including Terry Pratchett, Geraldine McCaughrean and David Almond. Jenifer is an advocate for writers and an active member of the Writers Guild of Great Britain.

Sophie Trott: Sophie is best known for her television work, having appeared in the BBC's *The Pact* and as Charlotte Brönte in *Being the Bröntes*. Previous theatre work includes *The Last Curiosity* (Unseen 199 Festival) and *Hitler's Canary* (Watford Palace Theatre/Frederica Theatre). Films include *Victoria and Abdul* and *Bollywood Queen*.

Louise Voce: Louise is a performer, drummer and ukulele player. Her recent theatre work includes *Walking the Chains* (Passenger Shed, Bristol), *Hitler's Canary* (Watford Palace), *Coco* (Sadler's Wells) and *Save Your Kisses for Me* (Tristan Bates). Recent television work includes *The Interceptor* (BBC) and Danny Boyle's *Babylon* (Channel 4). Film includes *Starter for Ten*.

The cast will also be joined by London's LGBT+ Classical choir, **The Fourth Choir**, who will encourage the audience to sing along with all their favourite classic Christmas songs. The Fourth Choir returns to the Globe following their hit appearance in Tom Stuart's new play *After Edward* in the Sam Wanamaker Playhouse earlier this year. Founded in 2013 to represent the LGBT+ community on London's classical music scene, The Fourth Choir has performed in Hampton Court Palace and the Thames Tunnel, the British Museum and the Royal Vauxhall Tavern, Kings Place and the Camden Jazz Café, Amsterdam's Concertgebouw and the Palazzo Doria Pamphilj in Rome.

FINIS.

Christmas at the (Snow) Globe

Created and directed by Sandi Toksvig and Jenifer Toksvig

Designed by Charlie Cridlan

Music arranged by David Perkins

Thursday 19 – Monday 23 December
Globe Theatre

ASSISTED PERFORMANCES

BSL: throughout the run

Audio Described: 21 December, 2pm

Captioned: 22 December, 2pm and 6pm

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BOOKING

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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 are guided tours, 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.



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