



# PRESS RELEASE

**Following the UK Government's official guidance, Shakespeare's Globe is closed to the public until further notice, ceasing performances, education activities and tours**

**18 March 2020**

**Neil Constable, Chief Executive, said:** *"In this unprecedented time for theatre, as a charity that receives no annual government subsidy, we are in desperate need of donations.*

*"We produce award-winning productions, projects such as Playing Shakespeare with Deutsche Bank ensure 20,000 free tickets go to school children, we have a world-class Higher Education and Research facility keeping us up to date with the latest in Shakespearean studies. In all, we provide activities for young and old, visitors and neighbours, doing our best to bolster the UK's cultural offering via the world's greatest playwright, Shakespeare. We remain one of the most affordable and accessible theatres in the UK, despite a multitude of pressures, managing to retain our £5 Groundling tickets and over 50% of tickets in the Globe Theatre at £25 or less. The Globe is entirely reliant on revenue from ticket sales, and the generosity of supporters, Friends and Patrons.*

*"Like all writers, Shakespeare gave us the gift of stories, and stories have never been more important than now. We ask at this time of huge risk to our beloved theatre that you donate if you can, helping us continue to strive in the future."*

**Michelle Terry, Artistic Director of Shakespeare's Globe, said:** *"As you can imagine, this has been one of the hardest decisions we have ever had to make, but a responsible and necessary one. Crucially, we have made this decision now in order that we can open our doors and our arms as wide as possible when the time is right.*

*"In the meantime, we feel keenly our responsibility to remember why people come to the theatre.*

*"When fear and isolation are spreading as quickly as the virus, we have a duty to provide hope, empathy and community equally as fast.*

*"Whilst our doors are closed, our hearts and mind and imaginations are very much open and needed now more than ever.*

*"One touch of nature makes the world kin" and nature has shown her hand unlike ever before. In facing this unprecedented and global emergency, as we all collectively and individually have to make difficult decisions, as we all navigate the very real concerns about our physical, emotional and financial wellbeing, we also recognise this historic opportunity to reimagine the world and how we can be kin and kind to each other.*

*"Right now, we are speaking with our artists far and wide to create ways to share stories and stay connected with you. And as importantly, ways for you to stay connected with us.*

*"We will be in touch soon with more information but until then, please stay well and safe.*

*"And here's to the future as we all find our way to a very brave new world."*

**Patrick Spottiswoode, Director of Globe Education, said:** *"It was with such sadness that we had to interrupt the run of our Playing Shakespeare with Deutsche Bank production of Macbeth. It was on the eve of our first integrated British Sign Language performance of the play. Over 33,000 students had seen the production but further 15,000 had tickets and will now not be able to see it.*

*"We continue to plan in the hope that we will open our doors again very soon to share the wonder of this place with students, with families and with scholars.*

*"And we look forward to crowds gathering in the Globe and once again enjoying a sense of community: "one touch of Shakespeare makes the whole world kin"*

To donate please click [here](#)

**Globe Player** is the theatre's video-on-demand service, and currently has over 130 filmed productions, including the beloved Mark Rylance and Stephen Fry in *Twelfth Night*, Jonathan Pryce as the Merchant of Venice, and Michelle Terry in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. The site hosts all 37 of the 'Complete Walk' films, celebrating the 400th anniversary of Shakespeare's death, with an all-star cast in 10-minute short films shot on location in the real setting of each plot. Also hosted on the platform is the Globe to Globe festival of 2012. It brought together artists from all over the globe, to enjoy speaking these plays in their own language on the Globe stage.

The **Globe's podcast Such Stuff** continues to broadcast. Host Imogen Greenberg takes a look behind the scenes, into rehearsal rooms and onto the Globe's stages, sharing incredible stories and experiences across the year. The podcast explores the themes behind all of the Globe's work, looking at Shakespeare's transformative impact on the world around us, asking questions about programming, gender, race, social justice and their relationship to Shakespeare.

The Globe's blog is hosted on the website and continues to share fascinating, vital, and personal stories from the organisation. The shop remains open for online orders, with books and gifts for all ages.

Download images of the Globe Theatre [here](#)

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## EDITOR'S NOTES

### FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT:

Claudia Conway  
07966 567701 / [claudia@draperconway.com](mailto:claudia@draperconway.com)

Lucy Butterfield  
020 7902 1468 / [lucy.b@shakespearesglobe.com](mailto:lucy.b@shakespearesglobe.com)

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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 theatre 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.

#### THEATRE TOURS

Theatre tours are normally open all year, 9.00am – 5.00pm departing every 30 minutes.

#### 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: [www.shakespearesglobe.com](http://www.shakespearesglobe.com).**