



# PRESS RELEASE

GLOBE ANNOUNCES NEW DIGITAL CONTENT, FREE FILMS, MARK RYLANCE'S SHAKESPEARE WALKS, AND ONLINE SUPPORT FOR STUDENTS

30 March 2020

- **New digital content: Shakespeare & Love in Isolation** featuring Sandi and Jenifer Toksvig, and Kathryn Hunter.
- **Six free films**, The Complete Walk, and international productions from Globe to Globe Festival hosted free on Globe Player
- **'Shakespeare Walks' with Mark Rylance** to take place on Shakespeare's Birthday
- **1/3 of ticket bookers have donated**; new Gift Voucher introduced to support the future of the Globe
- Higher Education and Research team providing **online content to support students learning at home**
- Podcast 'Such Stuff' to feature **Michelle Terry and Paul Ready's Shakespeare Diaries**

Shakespeare's Globe has been preparing a raft of **new digital content** to continue to engage its audiences with Shakespeare's works. **Shakespeare & Love in Isolation** will see artists, in times of solitude and from their place of sanctuary, sharing some of the greatest words ever written. The series will be released as soon as possible, and artists involved include national treasure and creative team behind *Christmas at the (Snow) Globe* **Sandi Toksvig** and **Jenifer Toksvig**, and award-winning actress and director **Kathryn Hunter**. The video-on-demand platform **Globe Player will host free content** including six filmed productions, 37 short films from 'The Complete Walk', and titles in a multitude of languages from the 2012 Globe to Globe festival. The podcast 'Such Stuff' will broadcast with brand new features, including **Michelle Terry and Paul Ready's Shakespeare Diaries**, in which the two actors discuss some of their favourite plays and why art, theatre and Shakespeare remain important in times of global crisis. Whilst a physical gathering may not be possible, after 27 years of its success, the organisation is still endeavouring to find a way to host the beloved **'Shakespeare Walks' with Mark Rylance** in celebration of Shakespeare's Birthday on 23rd April.

The Globe is a registered charity receiving no public subsidy and has asked ticket bookers of cancelled performances to donate the cost of their ticket to help the theatre survive the most challenging of times. **Over 1/3 of bookers have already chosen to donate**, and the organisation will launch a Gift Voucher this week, allowing people to support the organisation and to give the gift of the Globe valid for future purposes even when the doors are closed. As previously announced, Shakespeare's Globe is closed to the public until further notice, ceasing performances, education activities and tours. The organisation hopes to open again in early July, if it is safe to do so.

**Michelle Terry, Artistic Director, said:**

"One touch of nature makes the whole world kin."

*"Nature has certainly touched all of our lives in recent months. Whilst everything seems so uncertain, one thing we know for sure is that the world will never be the same again. In 1599, when Hamlet stood on a "distracted Globe" and uttered the words: Now I am alone – he would have been surrounded by up to 3,000 people. Now we are alone, but we are also in the company of billions, from all around the globe, finding the most inspiring ways to be alone, together. In these times of isolation, we will continue to reach people on our 'distracted Globe', providing community, joy, and wonder, remaining, albeit digitally for now, a place of connection for us all."*

From Monday 6 April, **six Shakespeare's Globe productions will be available to watch for free** on the theatre's video-on-demand service, Globe Player. The free films will rotate every two weeks, one at a time, including: *Hamlet* (2018), *Romeo & Juliet* (2009), *The Winter's Tale* (2018), *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (2013), *The Two Noble Kinsmen* (2018) and *The Merry Wives of Windsor* (2019). The Globe Player will also host all 37 'Complete Walk' short films for free. These films celebrated 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 for free will be all 34 Globe to Globe titles. These were filmed throughout the Globe to Globe festival of 2012, bringing together artists from all over the world, to enjoy speaking these plays in their own language on the Globe stage. In line with the dedication to Access shown in live performance, **all Globe Player productions are captioned**. The podcast 'Such Stuff' will also be **accessible to visually impaired people, and all episodes are transcribed**.

**Patrick Spottiswoode, Director of Globe Education, said:** *"Since we opened in 1997, we have explored ways of sharing the wonder of the Globe with people who may not be able to visit the theatre for themselves. Our online activities, classes and research materials will help in some way to keep our Globe doors open for all, whether primary children, post-graduates, or pensioners. Our theatre closed during the run of the Playing Shakespeare with Deutsche Bank production Macbeth, with over 33,000 students having watched the production, but sadly a further 15,000 missing out. I am so proud that the educational activities of the Globe can adapt online to keep providing the best access to our excellent provisions until we can open the doors again."*

For students studying Shakespeare at home, the Globe's Learning team has developed a wealth of activities, including '**Teach Shakespeare**', helping to **support parents who are home-schooling**. Other activities online such as 'The Globe Playground' are suitable for younger children, and 'Staging It!' for budding directors, allows users to direct scenes online.

As Universities have taken their teaching online, the **Globe's Higher Education and Research team are creating and providing online content in the form of lectures, workshops and resources to support students learning at home**. The Globe and King's College London's joint MA is newly being taught online, with students being recruited for next academic year. A collaborative doctoral student with King's College will be joining the Globe later this year.

The Globe's podcast 'Such Stuff' will be broadcasting new content from Tuesday 31 March, opening with an episode on the film '10 Things I Hate About You'. Host Imogen Greenberg will continue to bring Shakespeare and the Globe's work to life for listeners with a collection of episodes spanning sonnets from the Love in Isolation project, new writing venture *Metamorphoses*, and Shakespeare-inspired books and films. Brand new features will include **Michelle Terry and Paul Ready's Shakespeare Diaries**, in which the two actors discuss some of their favourite plays and why art, theatre and Shakespeare remain important in times of global crisis, and exclusive interviews with the Globe's Scriptorium writers (Sami Ibrahim, Laura Lomas, and Sabrina Mahfouz) on writing in isolation.

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

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## EDITOR'S NOTES

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#### Website

[shakespearesglobe.com/](http://shakespearesglobe.com/)  
#ThisWoodenO

#### Such Stuff

[shakespearesglobe.com/suchstuffpodcast](http://shakespearesglobe.com/suchstuffpodcast)  
#SuchStuff

#### Shakespeare & Love In Isolation

#LoveInIsolation

#### Globe Player

[globeplayer.tv/](http://globeplayer.tv/)  
#GlobePlayer

#### Teach Shakespeare

[teach.shakespearesglobe.com/](http://teach.shakespearesglobe.com/)  
#TeachShakespeare

#### Virtual Tour

[shakespearesglobe.com/globe360](http://shakespearesglobe.com/globe360)

### 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).**