



PRESS RELEASE

HALLOWEEN DIGITAL FESTIVAL 'SHAKESPEARE AND FEAR' TO INCLUDE STAGED READING OF *MACBETH* FROM 2018 CRITICALLY ACCLAIMED PRODUCTION

TUESDAY 6 OCTOBER 2020

Filmed in the candle-lit Sam Wanamaker Playhouse, '**Shakespeare and Fear**' is the second digital festival streaming **online from 31 October to 9 November**. The festival opens on Halloween with ***Deep Night, Dark Night*** - a film of old, new and true ghost stories, followed by ***Macbeth: A Conjuring***, a staged reading of the Scottish play from the critically acclaimed 2018 ensemble, and ***In Conversation: Fear in our Moment***, a panel discussion on the potent nature of fear and its impact on all our lives. There will also be **spooky 'how-to' workshops** for all the family.

Michelle Terry, Artistic Director, said: *"In 1605 there was a plague. Theatres in London were closed. In 1606 Shakespeare wrote Macbeth. There is not one mention of the plague in Macbeth, but fear is mentioned nearly fifty times. Shakespeare chose not to talk about the virus, but look instead at how dis-ease, doubts, fears and horrible imaginings can infect a mind, a country, a world, and how, out of chaos, instability and disorder, the crisis that emerges becomes an opportunity not only for ruthless ambition and terrorising confusion, but also a catalyst for hope, transformation and positive collective action. With Halloween, Bonfire Night, and the results of an election determining the future of the free world, there feels like no better time to be sharing these stories and having this conversation about the power of insurrection and the potential for resurrection."*

Featuring one of the most famous ghost stories from the past, and chilling tales from the present, this new film, ***Deep Night, Dark Night*** will include a story from Edgar Allan-Poe and brand-new stories from **Sami Ibrahim and Abi Zakarian**. The new works are created specifically for the Sam Wanamaker Playhouse and recorded in the space which has been set-up as a recording studio over this period of closure of the theatre.

The festival will also include ***Macbeth: A Conjuring***, a brand-new, full-length reading of *Macbeth*, from the cast of the 2018 critically acclaimed production **starring Paul Ready and Michelle Terry in the titular roles**. The cast not only reunite for the first time in two years for a socially distanced candle-lit reading, but this is also the first time a Shakespeare play has been spoken in the space since the theatre closed on 13 March. Released on Bonfire Night (5 November) the film will be available for 7 days.

On 8 November, ***In Conversation: Fear in our Moment*** will see some of our leading thinkers, artists and arts leaders including **Professor Bridget Escolme** (Professor of Theatre and Performance, Queen Mary University) and **Stella Kanu** (Executive Director at LIFT) explore questions of fear: fear of the pandemic, fear of the direction of politics, fear of recession, as we all find ways to bear with, and build with, our own political and social dreads.

Secrets of the Stage workshops will run on 31 October at 11am and 3pm. To celebrate Halloween, participants will join the Globe's Head of Props and Head of Wigs & Make-Up for an online interactive workshop, learning about the spooky secrets of the Globe's stages. Learning how to make stage blood, stage make-up, gooey eyeballs and more, participants will be sent a list of 'around the home' materials required in advance.

The festival will draw to a close on 9 November, in the aftermath of the American Presidential election, Professor Farah Karim-Cooper will be in conversation with Professors Ayanna Thompson (ASU) and James Shapiro (Columbia). **Thinking through Crisis: Shakespeare and America** will be examining the dynamic between Shakespeare and social justice, autocracy, race, fear and crisis. During the event, which will be held on Zoom, audience members will be able to send in questions for the panel. The event will also be available to watch later on the Globe's YouTube channel.

Ayanna Thompson is Director of the Arizona Center for Medieval & Renaissance Studies (ACMRS) and Professor of English at Arizona State University. She has written extensively on Shakespeare and race and her forthcoming book, 'Blackface', will be published by Bloomsbury next year. **James Shapiro** is the author of the prize-winning 1599: A Year in the Life of William Shakespeare (2005). His most recent book is 'Shakespeare in a Divided America'. He is Professor of English at Columbia University, a board member of the RSC, and Shakespeare Scholar in Residence at The Public Theater in New York. **Farah Karim-Cooper** is Professor of Shakespeare Studies, King's College London

and Head of Higher Education & Research at Shakespeare's Globe. In 2018, she curated the Globe's first Shakespeare and Race Festival and is creating the UK's first ever Scholars of Colour network. Farah is currently writing a book on Shakespeare and Race.

The Globe's online future has been supported by **WarnerMedia**, ensuring the digital infrastructure is secure throughout this period of closure and for future work to be made available to audiences worldwide. All online events will be available for seven days and available to stream from shakespearesglobe.com.

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EDITOR'S NOTES

FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT:

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#ShakesFear

Our standard ticket price is £15. If you are able to support us further, we ask that you add a donation of £10 or more to your ticket price. As an independent charity, donations mean that we can continue to support our staff and freelancers in creating digital content and sharing Shakespeare's gift of stories during this time.

It's important for us that everyone can access and experience our work regardless of their circumstances. We are therefore also offering a £5 concession ticket for anyone who is not in a position to pay the Standard price.

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

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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

MEMBERSHIP

Anyone who joins the Globe as a Member will receive a 20% discount in the shop as a thank you for their support.

For information on how to become a Member or gift Membership, you can visit our website

<https://www.shakespearesglobe.com/join-and-support/memberships/>
or call on 020 7902 5970

SWAN BAR & RESTAURANT INFORMATION

Bar: Monday – Wednesday, 11.30am – 11.30pm | Thursday, 11.30am – 12.00am | Friday, 11.30am – 12.30am | Saturday, 10.30am – 12.30am | Sunday, 10.30am – 10.30pm.
The bar menu is available from 12.00pm every day. The weekend brunch menu is available Saturday and Sunday 10.30am – 3.00pm.

Restaurant: Tuesday – Saturday, 12.00pm – 9.00pm | Sunday, 12.00pm – 5.00pm.
Tuesday – Saturday, the à la carte menu is available 12.00pm – 3.00pm and 5.30pm – 9.00pm, and the afternoon tea menu is available 12.00pm – 5.00pm.
On Sunday, the Sunday lunch menu and afternoon tea menus are available 12.00pm – 5.00pm.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Shakespeare's Globe strives to make Shakespeare accessible for all. It is a registered charity and has operated independently since opening in 1997. The theatre closed on 18 March 2020 disrupting the end of the winter season run and a production of Macbeth with 20,000 free tickets for school children. Around 3 million people across 137 countries including USA, India, Japan, Italy, Germany, Spain, Turkey, Canada and Australia, have watched our free streamed films on YouTube over lockdown. Over the half term period the Globe will be open for Guided Tours, our new Story Tours and family workshops. Guided Tours telling the history of the Globe from 1599 to the present day are led expert guides and have been designed for social distancing. Book at: <https://www.shakespearesglobe.com/whats-on/globe-theatre-guided-tour/>. Our new Story Tours offer a fantastical tour around the Globe for families. Led by a storyteller each one will take a different Shakespeare play as its inspiration. There will be a Family Workshop exploring the themes and characters for each title too (which can be enjoyed separately or prior to a Story Tour). Workshops will take place on the stage of the Globe itself. See <https://www.shakespearesglobe.com/seasons/telling-tales-2020/#family-workshops-at-the-globe> for more information.

The Shakespeare's Globe site comprises: The Globe Theatre (1997): unique full-scale replica of Shakespeare's original 1599 Elizabethan open-air theatre; Education and Rehearsal Centre (2010); Indoor candle-lit Jacobean Sam Wanamaker Playhouse (2014); Library, archive, lecture theatre and other public spaces. In addition to performances in our London theatres and touring productions nationally and internationally, we also educate through Shakespeare in performance. Working over 139,000 students each year, giving over £2 million in free tickets to schoolchildren, we are the only performing arts organisation in the world with an in-house faculty of academics who lead on original research into Shakespeare in performance and stage global social justice-themed festivals. Talent development is a key objective and since 2015, our new writing commissions have been nominated for ten Olivier Awards.

With thanks to **WarnerMedia** for supporting the Globe's digital future.

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