



## **PRESS RELEASE**

**SHAKESPEARE'S GLOBE IS PREPARING TO RE-OPEN ITS DOORS FOR STEP 2 OF THE GOVERNMENT'S ROADMAP**

**TUESDAY 9 MARCH 2021**

**The Globe is preparing to open again.** Provided the conditions are met for Step 2 of the Government's roadmap for cultural reopening **the Globe's guided tour of the theatre will return from 13 April** and include welcoming schools back onsite with tours and workshops. The open-air theatre is preparing exciting plans for full reopening in preparation for Step 3 of the roadmap, sharing details of a summer season later this month.

Last summer, the site was open to the public for a new guided tour of the theatre, with over 3,600 visitors invited up onto the stage for the very first time. The tours are appropriate for all ages and run in a Covid-secure environment. **Swan at the Globe**, the Globe's on-site bar and restaurant will be open for outdoor dining **from 12 April**. They will be offering mid-morning coffees and snacks, and a new springtime menu, with daily specials and a carefully curated drinks list.

Additionally, the Globe's online offerings continue apace, including entertainment, a higher educational programme and educational and research activities such as: **Shakespeare Boost** - a new series of online workshops for GCSE and A-level students, **Globe 4 Globe'** – an online symposium exploring Shakespeare and the Climate Crisis, **Continued Professional Development** courses for teachers, **Acting Short Courses** for young people, **Telling Tales** workshops and storytellings for families, the return of **Emilia** to your screens and performances from **Juliet Stevenson** and **Nitin Sawhney**.

**Neil Constable, Chief Executive:** *"Closing the Globe last year was a truly awful experience - none of us wanted the pandemic to be a reality, but in the face of public safety we of course did what was needed. Over the past year, we have expanded our digital offering and have loved seeing our work reach international audiences like never before. We have played our part supporting families and students at home with a huge array of events, workshops for all ages and stages. But, more than anything, we are excited to have audiences back in our wooden 'O', and we are well-prepared to safely welcome the public in once again. Our creative freelancers are integral to our reopening and future success, and we are committed to employing them at the earliest opportunity. We are ready to recover, delighted to open those wooden doors into our marvellous outdoor theatre and get back to providing world-class culture to the public."*

Visitors to Guided Tours will discover Shakespeare in the iconic theatre for which he wrote, the history of London and the story of the Globe itself. An **award-winning experience** for the young and the young at heart, the tour normally welcomes over 350,000 visitors a year. **Tours will be running every day during the Easter holiday** (with 7 tours a day), following that at weekends until the theatre is fully reopen for other activities. Tickets must be pre-booked online for timeslots to allow for social distancing. The tours happen outside, and precautions due to Covid-19 include hand-sanitising stations, deep cleaning of toilets, face shields for the Globe Guides, and systems to ensure social distancing. The open-air theatre is following all recommended safety measures amending normal operation of the tours to fit with all Covid-19 restrictions.

Audiences can also engage with the plethora of **online activities** available:

The Globe offered a much needed helping hand to home-schooling parents and teachers throughout lockdown, running over 600 live and interactive, online family events since March last year. Also online are

the ever-popular live **Continuing Professional Development** (CPD) sessions for primary and secondary teachers and **'Teaching Anti-Racist Shakespeare'**.

From Easter, **Online Short Courses for Young Actors and Young Academics** will also begin, with a variety of courses from **6-16 April** aimed at those aged between 8-19 years.

**Telling Tales** for families also continues over Easter with a selection of online storytellings and workshops for children and teenagers connecting from home. Families can also **stream for free** the 2019 production of [Romeo and Juliet](#) via [YouTube](#) until 31 March and our 2020 production of [Macbeth](#) is also available for teachers via the [website](#) until 23 July. Both productions were created especially for young people with 'Playing Shakespeare with Deutsche Bank'.

From the **12-16 April** a series of **'Shakespeare Boost' workshops supporting GCSE and A-level students** charge up their understanding of set texts. These will be released as 'pay what works for you' to ensure the workshops are as accessible as possible. Led by a Globe practitioner, each two-hour session will provide participants with strategies to respond to questions in their final assessments. There will be sessions on *Macbeth* and *Romeo and Juliet* for GCSE, and *Othello* and *Hamlet* for A level.

The higher education and research programme including the successful MA in Shakespeare Studies with King's College London has moved online. On the **23-24 April** an online symposium **'Globe 4 Globe: Shakespeare and Climate'**, will be co-hosted with the **University of California** (Merced). This major two-day event will gather experts, activists and theatre practitioners in a **vital exploration of the relationships between Shakespeare's works and the current climate crisis**. Co-organised by Katie Brokaw, Paul Prescott and the Research Department at Shakespeare's Globe, scholars will explore ecological collapse and renewal in Shakespeare's texts; environmental experts will map out ways in which Shakespearean theatres and festivals can achieve sustainable and ethical futures, and theatre professionals will reflect on the capacity of live theatre to change audience perception and behaviour. The event is free to attend.

Filmed at the candlelit **Sam Wanamaker Playhouse**, Olivier award-winning **Juliet Stevenson** brings British poet Stevie Smith to life in a new film that draws on her letters and prose and includes Smith's own illustrations. Released to mark the **50th anniversary of Stevie Smith's death**, the film created by Dead Poets Live in association with the Globe and is available on demand until 5 April.

Filmed recently in the Sam Wanamaker Playhouse, multi-award-winning musician, composer, songwriter and cultural pioneer **Nitin Sawhney** will perform a **one-off live streamed event** on **27 March at 6pm**, celebrating the release of his brand-new album 'Immigrants'.

**ENDS**

**EDITOR'S NOTES**

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For further information on our COVID-19 procedures please visit:  
<https://www.shakespearesglobe.com/visit/coronavirus-covid-19-safety-measures/>

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**

### DONATE

With so many of our activities still on hold, we need you more than ever to help secure our future. [Please donate](#) any amount, small or large. We now have a text to donate service:

To donate £20 text GLOBE20 to 70460

To donate £10 text GLOBE10 to 70460

To donate £5 text GLOBE5 to 70460

### SHOP

Our online shop is back - browse clothing, bags, gifts, stationary, posters, books, DVDs, homeware and more. Get

10% off your first online order – just use code SMILE10 at the checkout.

## 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 AND RESTAURANT INFORMATION

**Swan at the Globe**, the Globe's on-site bar and restaurant will be open for outdoor dining **from 12 April**. They will be offering mid-morning coffees and snacks, and a new springtime menu, with daily specials and a carefully curated drinks list. New opening times and new menus can be viewed here:

<https://www.shakespearesglobe.com/visit/swan-bar-and-restaurant/>

## BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Shakespeare's Globe strives to make Shakespeare accessible for all. The Globe normally welcomes over a million visitors a year and, with an annual income of around £25 million, has operated until now without any regular public or Arts Council England subsidy. Of course, the events of 2020 have taken a heavy toll on the Globe, and we now look to recovering and rebuilding. Since closing our doors to the public in March 2020, the Globe has been reaching audiences internationally. Filmed productions released over YouTube received over 3 million views across 137 countries. Recognising the needs of these times, the Globe's education department moved online helping to support families, teachers, and students of all ages across the world. Our education work has been deeply responsive to this time, moving online to reach 6 different continents, supporting students, parents, and teachers engaging with live and interactive events, whilst also growing our Higher Education offering.

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. Talent development is a key objective and since 2015, our new writing commissions have been nominated for ten Olivier Awards.

