



PRESS RELEASE

GLOBE RE-IMAGINES HANS CHRISTIAN ANDERSEN'S THE FIR TREE IN OPEN-AIR FESTIVE SHOW FOR ALL THE FAMILY

November 2021

Shakespeare's Globe is delighted to announce this year's **Christmas production, a festive re-imagining of Hans Christian Andersen's *The Fir Tree***. *The Fir Tree* promises to be a magical family festive production of storytelling, puppetry, song and hope. Audiences are invited to take part in carol-singing and tree-decorating while enjoying a hot chocolate or mulled wine under the wintry star-lit sky of the Globe Theatre.

In a beautiful wood stands a little Fir Tree. Surrounded by neighbouring oaks and cedars, and kept company by friendly woodland creatures, it enjoys a peaceful life. But the Fir Tree is curious. It dreams of a world outside the forest, yearning for adventure. What will happen when it grows up? Where will it go? And will it be everything the Fir Tree wished for?

This new re-telling of a classic fairy tale is written by acclaimed writer Hannah Khalil, directed by Michelle Terry, designed by Sam Wilde, with music by James Maloney. It celebrates the natural world and shines a light on the importance of taking care of our planet. *The Fir Tree* will use Sam's signature use of cardboard to bring the forest to life. Puppets, costumes, and set have been created from waste cardboard and an accompanying how-to video will encourage the audience to reuse their own boxes to make their own puppets or to decorate the Fir Tree Forest with recycled Christmas Decorations.

Sam Wilde, Designer, says: "The Fir Tree teaches us the importance of sustainability, of the role of stories, imagination and of the wonder and lives of trees. Most of the elements of the production come, in one way or another, from the forest. The Fir Tree design is an exciting venture into sustainability within theatre and will repurpose and reuse set, props, and costume elements from previous Globe productions whenever possible. Puppets, costumes, and set have been created from waste cardboard, and as the 'Card-bard' I am encouraging audiences to reuse their own boxes and fill our forest with recycled Christmas decorations. When an alternative has been needed, they have been created from sustainable, recycled, or recyclable materials. This method of designing is not a compromise, but a new way of working for the future."

The ensemble comprises:

Anna Crichlow. Previous theatre credits include: *As You Like It, The Tempest* and *A Midsummer Night's Dream* as part of the 2021 Globe on Tour ensemble. *The Last Noël* (Attic Theatre Company/Arts at the Old Fire Station); *The Worst Witch* (Royal & Derngate); *Confidence* (Southwark Playhouse); *Common* (National Theatre) and *Pride & Prejudice* (Regent's Park Open Air Theatre).

Betrys Jones. Previous theatre credits include: *Hamlet, As You Like It* and *The Little Match Girl* (Shakespeare's Globe); *Wise Children, Bagdad Cafe* (Wise Children); *The Tin Drum* (Kneehigh); *Life of Galileo* (Young Vic); *We Want You to Watch, Edward II* and *War Horse* (National Theatre); *The Mouse And His Child, A Midsummer Night's Dream, Comedy Of*



Errors (RSC); *The Snow Queen*; (The Rose Theatre, Kingston). Film and TV includes: *Midsomer Murders* (ITV); *Doctors* (BBC) and *Skins* (Company Pictures)

Tom Stuart. Previous theatre credits include: *After Edward*, *Edward II*, *The Broken Heart*, *The Changeling* and *Sir Gawain and the Green Knight* (Shakespeare's Globe); *I am not myself these days* (Liverpool Everyman/ Fuel); *The Last Days of Troy* (Royal Exchange) and *Theatre Uncut* (Young Vic). Film and TV credits include: *Tinker, Tailor, Soldier Spy*, *Atonement* (Working Title); *Out of her Mind* (BBC), *People Just Do Nothing* (Roughcut TV), *Law & Order: UK* (ITV).

Richard Katz. Previous theatre credits include: *Bartholomew Fair*, *The Merry Wives of Windsor*, *As You Like It*, *Hamlet*, *Nell Gwynn*, *Richard II*, *A Midsummer's Night's Dream* and *The Golden Ass* (Shakespeare's Globe). *Love and Other Acts of Violence* (Donmar Warehouse); *The Divide*, *The Lorax* (Old Vic); *Peer Gynt*, *Romeo and Juliet*, *The Morte D'Arthur* (RSC); *The Encounter*, *The Master and Margarita* (Complicité); *1984* (Headlong/Sonia Friedman); *War Horse*, *Measure for Measure* (National Theatre). Film and TV includes: *Guardians of the Galaxy* (Marvel); *Enigma* (Buena Vista International); *Motherfatherson*, *Taboo*, (BBC); *A Discovery of Witches* (Sky); *Crossing Lines*, *Poirot* (ITV).

ENDS

EDITORS NOTES

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Download images of the Season Artwork and
Sam Wanamaker Playhouse [here](#)

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For further information on our COVID-19
procedures please
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Since opening in 1997, the Globe has been
committed to bringing Shakespeare to all, by
providing over 600 standing or 'Groundling'
tickets for just £5 per each performance in The

Globe Theatre. This season, for the first time,
£5 standing tickets will also be available for
main show performances in the Sam
Wanamaker Playhouse. There will be 48
tickets available per show at £5, and they will
be located in the upper gallery standing room
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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*

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SWAN BAR AND RESTAURANT INFORMATION

Swan Bar is now open is open 7 days a week. From craft beers, local artisan gins and creative cocktails to classic dishes, summery salads and delightful puddings. There are new opening times and new menus, which 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. It is a registered charity and has operated independently since opening in 1997. The theatre closed on 18 March 2020, reopening 19 May 2021.

Continued restrictions and the delay of not being able to open at the beginning of the year has created a deficit of £3.5m for the current financial year. Alongside the support from the Cultural Recovery Fund and furloughing staff, the Globe still lost just under £4m last year. The Globe plans to recoup costs from next year. The vital Cultural Recovery Fund, incredible generosity of sponsors, donors, and the public has allowed the Globe to reopen and start to recoup the devastating impact of the pandemic.

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 inhouse 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.