



The Fir Tree Visual Story

To support your visit to Shakespeare's Globe.





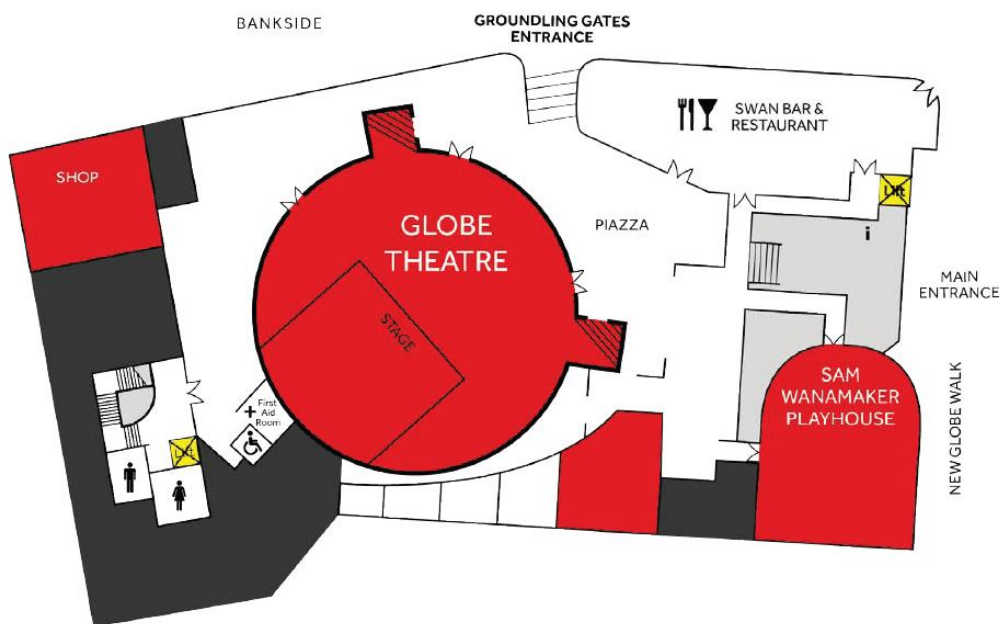
Getting to the Theatre



Due to the pandemic, we are now using two different entrances.

The entrance you will be using is marked on your ticket.

You will use either the Main Entrance to Shakespeare's Globe or the Groundling Gates.



Here is a map to show you where both entrances are.



You will need your e-ticket ready to be scanned.

The ticket has a QR code. This is an example of a QR code.



Food and drink can be bought at the Tap Houses.

Please maintain social distancing while queueing.



Your ticket will tell you which gallery, bay and row you are in. Once you have found your row you will need to find the part of the bench reserved for you which will match the number on your ticket.

If you're in the Yard, you can stand anywhere you like.



This is the stage. For different plays, designers add pieces of set to make it look different. This is where the actors will be performing.



These are stewards. You can recognise the stewards by their aprons or high-vis jackets.

They will also be wearing a face covering or visor.

The stewards are there to help you. If you feel tired, or need to exit please ask a steward. They can also show you where the toilets are.

Stewards are good people to go to if you feel worried about anything.



The Cast

In **The Fir Tree**, the actors play multiple characters.

Anna Crichlow



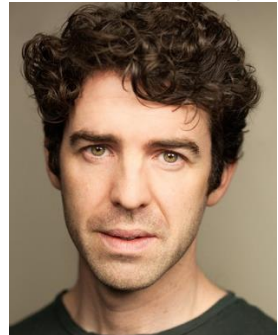
Bettrys Jones



Richard Katz



Paul Ready



**Jacoba
Williams**



Tom Stuart





Show Notes:

Useful notes about this performance of **The Fir Tree** at The Globe.

Time

- The play is roughly 1 hour 10 minutes.
- There isn't an interval, but you can leave and return to the theatre at any time.
- A bell will ring in the foyer and on the piazza five minutes before the play starts. A second bell will ring two minutes before the play starts to let you know it is time to take your place in the theatre. The person ringing the bell moves around the piazza, starting at the glass doors by the gift shop.

Space

- The actors move around the theatre. They sometimes speak, sing or shout from different places. They sometimes deliver their lines from behind the audience.
- Shakespeare's Globe is an open-air theatre, so check the weather report to choose your clothes.
- You are welcome to come and go from the auditorium as you please.
- If you need quiet, you may relax in the piazza or in the foyer.
- Pigeons may enter the theatre.

Music and Sound

- Because it is an open-air theatre sometimes (but not always) you will be able to hear things from the outside (which may be cars, helicopters, or aeroplanes, or maybe nothing at all).



- There is music throughout the performance, none of which is amplified.
- Ear defenders are available from the Box Office in the main foyer and from the pod at the start of the queue for Bankside Gates.
- The big bell at the top of the theatre rings 3 times when the show starts.
- After the song 'O Christmas Tree' there is loud knocking on a door.
- There are moments when the actors encourage the audience to sing or speak.

Performance

- There are puppets used in the show. These are all made of cardboard.
- One of the puppets is big and dark. It represents 'Death'.
- There are some moments where you may feel sad, such as when the tree is cut down.
- A beautiful stork puppet flies over the audience. It may be close to you.
- If you are sitting in the Yard, you will be invited to decorate a tree.
- An axe is used.



Synopsis



The play begins with four actors entering the theatre. In the middle of the stage there is a small fir tree. One actor wants to tell the story of the fir tree. He casts a spell so that everyone enters their imagination.

We are in a magical, beautiful forest. It is Spring. The fir tree is little and doesn't like being little. A hare jumps over the fir tree making the tree feel even littler. Then a child comes and sits next to the fir tree and tells the inquisitive fir tree all about a book they are reading about an Emperor in China.



The fir tree is determined to grow bigger so it can leave the forest. A stork appears in the forest and the little fir tree asks the stork where all the other trees go. The seasons change and the little fir tree grows, then winter comes, and the tree grows more. Finally the hare isn't able to jump over the fir tree anymore - the fir tree is delighted!





The lumberjacks arrive and while the sparrows dream of Christmas the fir tree gets cut down and taken away to a Tree Sale. A little girl chooses the fir tree and it is taken to the girl's home.

The fir tree is put in the girl's living room and meets the girl's cat, Ophelia. The fir tree is decorated and becomes a beautiful Christmas tree.

A stranger arrives at the door on Christmas day, uninvited. The stranger is a Storyteller and he tells everyone a story called The Emperor and the Nightingale.



The story begins in an Emperor's great palace in China with beautiful grounds and a great forest, where a nightingale lives. The emperor learns about the nightingale and its beautiful songs. He wants the nightingale to be brought to him. The nightingale is found with the help of a kitchen maid and when the Emperor hears the nightingale sing, he is amazed by it and has a golden cage made for the nightingale to live in so the Emperor can keep it and always hear its song.

One day the Emperor receives a mechanical nightingale that sings whenever the Emperor turns its key. The Emperor plays its song over and over again and the real nightingale escapes the palace in relief. But then the mechanical nightingale breaks and can only be played once a year, leaving the palace feeling silent and empty.



The Emperor becomes sick, and Death comes to visit. The real nightingale appears and saves the Emperor from Death. But the nightingale explains that the song it sings is not for the Emperor, it's a song intended to find a mate. But because the Emperor turned all the wild, natural land into manicured gardens there is no nature, and no other nightingales, so the nightingale has never found a mate. The Emperor, in gratitude for the bird's song, promises that he will return all his gardens to nature. The nightingale disappears and the Emperor spends the rest of his days enjoying and appreciating the wild gardens and wondering whether the nightingale will find its partner.



The fir tree listens to the story and is happy. Then suddenly the fir tree is taken down and put in the attic, all alone. The fir tree meets two mice and a rat and the fir tree tells them all about its home in the woods that it misses greatly, and tells them the story of the nightingale.

The fir tree is taken from the attic and the girl is worried because the humans want to cut it up and turn it into firewood.



The girl stops the adults from cutting the tree into firewood and reminds us that we have the power to change the story. The story rewinds and the girl and the fir tree are back in the woods. This time, instead of the tree being cut down, it is dug up with spades so that it keeps all its roots and can keep living and growing, and the fir tree is happy because it knows that it can spend Christmases inside and then be planted outside all year round to enjoy nature and the passing seasons.

The tree delights in the fact that once it dies it will become a book and can live forever in the form of a story. There is a final blessing.

