



## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **SHAKESPEARE'S GLOBE ANNOUNCES FULL CAST OF HAMLET IN THE SAM WANAMAKER PLAYHOUSE**

Shakespeare's Globe is delighted to announce the full cast of *Hamlet* which will be performed for the very first time in the candlelit Sam Wanamaker Playhouse by the Globe Ensemble, directed by Associate Artistic Director **Sean Holmes**.

*In a world of surveillance and counter-surveillance, Hamlet is horrified by the role he seems required to play as madness threatens to rip apart the lies around him and expose the truth beneath. Sean Holmes' production explores Shakespeare's iconic tale of manipulation, disruption and coercion for the first time in the intimate Sam Wanamaker Playhouse.*

**Sean Holmes** returns to the Playhouse after directing the ensemble productions of *Henry VI* and *Richard III* in the 2019 Winter Season. The role of Hamlet will be played by **George Fouracres**, who delighted audiences with his "deliriously funny" ([Evening Standard](#)) performances in the 2021 Summer Season productions as Flute in *A Midsummer Night's Dream* and Aguecheek in *Twelfth Night*, also directed by Sean. George, an actor and comedian, is a member of the critically acclaimed sketch trio Daphne alongside Jason Forbes and Phil Wang.

The ensemble:

**Peter Bourke will play Horatio.** Peter recently performed in the Globe's 2021 Summer Season productions of *Twelfth Night* and *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, a role he reprised from 2019. Other theatre credits include: *The Sea* (Chichester); *The English Game* (Headlong); *Henry IV Parts I and II*, *Henry V*, *Perkin Warbeck* (RSC) and *The Browning Version & Harlequinade*, *The Elephant Man*, *The Provoked Wife*, *On the Razzle* (National Theatre)

**Rachel Hannah Clarke will play Ophelia.** Rachel Hannah recently performed in the Globe's 2021 Summer Season productions of *Twelfth Night* and *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, a role she reprised from 2019. Other credits include: *You Remember?* (Royal Court); *Queens of Sheba* – Winner of The Stage Award (Vaults Festival / New Diorama Theatre / Underbelly / Camden People's Theatre); *Hatch* (Talawa Theatre Company) and *Best Friends* (Ovalhouse).

**George Fouracres will play Hamlet.** George recently performed in the Globe's 2021 Summer Season productions of *A Midsummer Night's Dream* and *Twelfth Night* and is a member of critically acclaimed sketch trio Daphne. Other credits include *Gentleman* (Fight in the Dog); *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (Filter Theatre/Lyric Hammersmith); *Doctor Faustus* (Dot by Dot Theatre); *Daphne's Second Show* and *Daphne Do Edinburgh* (Edinburgh Festival).

**Polly Frame will play Gertrude.** Polly previously performed at the Globe in *After Edward & Edward II* in 2019. Other theatre credits include: *I Think We Are Alone Now* and *Sometimes Thinking* (Frantic Assembly); *Solaris* (Edinburgh Lyceum/ Lyric Hammersmith); *Thick as Thieves* (Clean Break Theatre); *On The Exhale* - Fringe First Winner (Traverse Theatre);



*Jekyll & Hyde* (English Touring Consortium). TV includes: *Meet the Magoons* (Channel 4); *Macbeth* (BBC) and *Half Light* (Half-Light Productions).

**Francesca Henry will play Rosencrantz.** Francesca's previous theatre credits include: *Our Town* (Regent's Park Theatre); *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf* (Tobacco Factory Theatres and Wiltshire Creatives); *Germ Free Adolescent* (The Bunker Theatre); *Dear Elizabeth* (Gate Theatre) and *The Wolves* (Theatre Royal Stratford). TV and Film credits include: *Silent Witness*, *Doctors* (BBC) and *A Discovery Of Witches 3* (Bad Wolf for Sky1)

**Nadi Kemp-Sayfi will play Laertes.** Nadi recently performed in the Globe's 2021 Summer Season productions of *A Midsummer Night's Dream* and *Twelfth Night*. Other credits include *The Whip*, *A Museum in Baghdad*, *King John* (RSC); *War with the Newts* (Knaïve Theatre); *Wake*, *Mittwoch Aus Licht*, *Life is a Dream* (Birmingham Opera Company); *101 Dalmatians*, *Between The Two*, *Three Wheels on the Wagon*, *The Witches' Promise*, *Under The Stars* (Birmingham Rep) and *Hijabi Monologues* (The Bush Theatre);

**John Lightbody will play Polonius.** John appeared in the Globe's 2019 Winter Season productions of *Richard III & Henry VI*. Other credits include: *The Lost Disc* and *Microcosm* (Soho Theatre); *Terror*, *Three Sisters* and *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (Lyric Hammersmith); *Each His Own Wilderness* (Orange Tree Theatre); *66 Books* and *The Strange Wife* (The Bush); *Ghost Stories* (Duke of York's Theatre, West End).

**Ciarán O'Brien will play Guildenstern / Ghost.** Ciarán recently performed in the Globe's 2021 Summer Season productions of *A Midsummer Night's Dream* and *Twelfth Night*. Other credits include: *Maz and Bricks* – Best Actor at New York Origin Theatre Awards (Fishamble/59E59 Theatre and Edinburgh Fringe); *The Plough and the Stars* (Lyric Hammersmith/ Abbey Theatre); *The Playboy of the Western World*, *Orson's Shadow* (Southwark Playhouse); *Of Mice and Men* (Birmingham Rep); *Translations* (The Rose Theatre/Sheffield Crucible/ETT)

**Irfan Shamji will play Claudius.** Irfan returns to the Playhouse after recently performing in the 2021 production of *Metamorphoses*. Other credits include: *The Living Newspaper* (Royal Court); *The Arrival* (Bush Theatre); *Hedda Tesman* (Chichester Festival Theatre); *Mayfly* (The Orange Tree Theatre); *One For Sorrow* (Royal Court); *Dance Nation* (Almeida); and *Hamlet* (Jerwood Vanbrugh Theatre).

**ENDS**



## EDITORS NOTES

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

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For further information on our COVID-19  
procedures please  
visit: [www.shakespearesglobe.com/visit/coronavirus-covid-19-safety-measures](http://www.shakespearesglobe.com/visit/coronavirus-covid-19-safety-measures)

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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### Website

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

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Anyone who joins the Globe as a Member will  
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5970

### 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.



**SHAKESPEARE'S  
GLOBE**