



PRESS RELEASE

SHAKESPEARE'S GLOBE ANNOUNCE CAST OF SUMMER 2022 SEASON OPENING PRODUCTION: *MUCH ADO ABOUT NOTHING*

Shakespeare's Globe is delighted to announce the cast and company for *Much Ado About Nothing*, directed by Lucy Bailey. This will be performed by the Globe Ensemble who will be returning for *The Tempest* on 22 July.

In the aftermath of a fierce conflict, soldier Claudio finds himself on the frontline of a different fight: for the love of Hero. His friend Benedick, on the other hand, is willing to do everything he can to evade affection and meets his match in Beatrice.

Shakespeare's battle of the sexes is reignited this Summer with a riotous new production of *Much Ado About Nothing* in the Globe Theatre running **22 April - 23 October**.

Lucy Bailey returns to the Globe after directing the seminal production of *Titus Andronicus* (2014) as well as *Macbeth* (2010), *Timon of Athens* (2008), *As You Like It* (1998), *The Maid's Tragedy* (1997), and *Comus* for the Sam Wanamaker Playhouse (2016). Lucy co-founded and was the Co-Artistic Director of The Print Room. She recently directed *Oleanna* (Bath Ustinov/West End), *Gas Light* (UK Tour), *Ghosts* (Royal & Derngate Northampton); and *Witness for the Prosecution* (currently running at London County Hall). *Much Ado About Nothing* is designed by **Joanna Parker** and the Assistant Director / Dramaturg is **Clemmie Reynolds**.

The Globe Ensemble:

Peter Bourke will play Conrade and Friar. Peter recently performed in the Winter Season production of *Hamlet* and the 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* and *On the Razzle* (National Theatre).

Rachel Hannah Clarke will play Margaret and Watchman. Rachel Hannah recently performed in the Winter Season production of *Hamlet* and the 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).

Ralph Davis will play Benedick. Ralph has previously performed at Shakespeare's Globe in *King Lear*, 2017. Other theatre credits include: *Blue / Orange* (Theatre Royal Bath), *Valued Friends* (Rose Theatre), *The Deep Blue Sea* (Chichester Festival Theatre), *Tamburlaine / Timon of Athens*, *King John and Richard III* (RSC), *The Open House* (Ustinov Theatre, Bath / The Print Room). TV and Radio credits include: *SAS: Rogue Heroes* (BBC), *Father Brown*, *Life After Life*, *Small Axe*, *Lethal White* (BBC), *Anatomy of a Scandal* (Netflix) and *For The Temple* (Heirloom Audio USA), *The Good Terrorist* and *Ambridge EXTRA* (BBC Radio 4).

George Fouracres will play Dogberry. George recently performed in the Winter Season production of *Hamlet* and the 2021 Summer Season productions of *Twelfth Night* and *A Midsummer Night's Dream* 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).

Joanne Howarth will play Antonia and Verges. Joanne has previously performed at Shakespeare's Globe in *Nell Gwynn* in 2017 and *Much Ado About Nothing* in 2014. Other theatre credits include: *Our Lady of Blundellsands* (Liverpool Everyman), *Witness for the Prosecution* (West End), *Parliament Square*, *You Can't Take It With You* (Manchester Royal Exchange / Bush), *King Lear* (Old Vic), *Goodnight Mr Tom* (West End/Tour), *Bingo* (Chichester / Young Vic), *The Comedy of Errors*, *Twelfth Night*, *Faust*, *The Alchemist*, *The Virtuoso*, *'Tis Pity She's a Whore* and *Julius Caesar* (RSC). TV credits include: *It's a Sin* (Channel 4), *Wallander* (Left Bank Pictures / Yellow Bird Films), *EastEnders*, *Doctors*, *Grange Hill* (BBC), and *The Bill* (Talkback Thames).

Olivier Huband will play Don John. Olivier most recently performed opposite Kit Harington in *Henry V* at the Donmar Warehouse. Other theatre credits include: *Barefoot in the Park* (Pitlochry Festival Theatre), *Such Filthy F*cks* (Pleasance) and *An Enemy of the People* (Playground). TV and Film credits include: *This Sceptred Isle* (Revolution Films), *Becoming Elizabeth* (Revolution Films), *A Discovery of Witches* and *I Hate Suzie* (Bad Wolf), and *Mission Impossible: Fallout* (Bad Robot).

Nadi Kemp-Sayfi will play Hero. Nadi recently performed in the Winter Season production of *Hamlet* and the 2021 Summer Season productions of *Twelfth Night* and *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. Other credits include *The Whip*, *A Museum in Baghdad*, *King John* (RSC); *War with the Newts* (Knaive 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).

Ciarán O'Brien will play Boracio and Messenger. Ciarán recently performed in the Winter Season production of *Hamlet* and the 2021 Summer Season productions of *Twelfth Night* and *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. 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). TV and Film credits include: *Misfits* (Clerkenwell Films/ Channel 4), *Ripper Street* (BBC), *The Tudors* (USA Showtime), *Hunted* (Savage Productions), and *Bloom* (Odyssey Pictures).

Patrick Osborne will play Claudio. Patrick's previous theatre creds include *The Comedy of Errors* (RSC / Barbican), *Shakespeare In Love* (Noel Coward Theatre), *Peter Pan* (Regents Park Theatre), *Noises Off* (Nottingham Playhouse and Tour), *The Cardinal* (Southwark Playhouse), *Accolade and After October* (Finborough Theatre). Film and TV credits include: *Good Times Rolled Out* (quarantine), *Turner* (BBC), *The Borgias* (Showtime) and *My Parents are Aliens* (ITV), *Lady of Heaven* (Enlightened Kingdom), and *Their Finest* (Number 9 Films / Wildgaze Films).

Lucy Phelps will play Beatrice. Lucy's previous theatre credits include: *Measure for Measure*, *As You Like It*, *Dido Queen of Carthage*, *Julius Caesar*, *Antony and Cleopatra* (RSC), *Witness for the Prosecution* (Eleanor Lloyd Productions), *King Charles III* (Almeida - UK And Australia Tour), *Sex and the Three-Day Week* (Liverpool Everyman & Playhouse Theatres); *Viva Forever!* (West End / Judy Craymer Productions), *Earthquakes in London* (Headlong / The National Theatre). TV and Film credits include: *Di Ray* and *Grace*

(ITV), *The Chelsea Detective* (Expectation), *Silent Witness*, *Call the Midwife*, *Holby City* (BBC), and *Skins* (Company Pictures / E4).

Ferdy Roberts will play Don Pedro. Ferdy's previous theatre credits include: *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *Filter's 12th Night*, *Macbeth*, *Water*, *Silence*, *The Caucasian Chalk Circle*, *Faster* (Filter Theatre), *Girl From The North Country* (Old Vic/Runaway Productions), *Fatherland* (Frantic Assembly), *Plaques & Tangles*, *If You Don't Let Us Dream*, *We Won't Let You Sleep*, *Playing The victim* (Royal Court), *Lampedusa* (Soho Theatre), *Shakespeare in Love* (Noel Coward Theatre), *Three Kingdoms Three Sisters* (Lyric Hammersmith). TV and Film credits include: *Dark Angel* (World Productions), *Foyles War*, *Mr High* (ITV), *What You Will* (Fluidity Film/Filter), *Mr Nice* (Hindsight Media), *Sex and Drugs and Rock and Roll* (Aegis Film), & *Honest* (Honest Productions).

Katy Stephens will play Leonata. Katy has previously performed at Shakespeare's Globe in *The Oresteia* in 2015, *Thomas Tallis* in 2014, *Julius Caesar* in 2014, *Dr. Scroggy's War* in 2014 and *The Complete Walk*. Other theatre credits include: *Coriolanus* (Sheffield Crucible), *Antony and Cleopatra* (National Theatre), *The Histories Cycle*, *As You Like It*, *Antony and Cleopatra*, *King Lear*, *Titus Andronicus*, *Candide*, *The Grain Store*, *Taming of the Shrew* (Royal Shakespeare Company – Katie won the What's on Stage Award for Best Actress in 2009 in *The Histories Cycle*, the production also won the Olivier Award for Best Ensemble Performance), *The Memory of Water* (Nottingham Playhouse), *Othello* (English Touring Theatre), and *Intelligent Homosexual's Guide* (Hampstead). Katy also runs Bold As Bard with Ego Performance Company in Coventry, a Shakespeare theatre company for adults with learning disabilities.

The company:

Lucy Bailey - Director
Joanna Parker - Designer
Orlando Gough - Composer
Clemmie Reynolds - Assistant Director and Dramaturg
Georgina Lamb - Choreographer
Caroline Hughes - Costume Supervisor
Renny Krupinski - Fight Director
Tess Dignan – Head of Voice
Christine Schmidle - Text Associate

EDITORS NOTES

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IMAGES:

Much Ado About Nothing image: <https://we.tl/t-b1cCcysFm4>
Globe Theatre: <https://we.tl/t-FqElmLW4OI>

MUCH ADO ABOUT NOTHING by William Shakespeare

22 April - 23 October

Press Night: Friday 29 April, 7:30pm

Midnight Matinee: Friday 19 August

#MuchAdoAboutNothing

Globe Theatre

ASSISTED PERFORMANCES

Patrons who are members of the [free access scheme](#) are eligible for adjusted ticket prices.

Captioned: 18 August, 7:30pm

Relaxed: 2 July, 2pm

Audio Described: 17 September, 2pm

BSL: 28 May, 2pm

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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 space.

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