



**SHAKESPEARE'S
GLOBE**

TAMASHA

PRESS RELEASE

SHAKESPEARE'S GLOBE AND TAMASHA ANNOUNCE CASTING FOR HAKAWATIS: WOMEN OF THE ARABIAN NIGHTS

Shakespeare's Globe and Tamasha are delighted to announce the cast and company for the premiere of their co-production ***Hakawatis: Women of the Arabian Nights*** by Globe writer-in-residence **Hannah Khalil** (*The Fir Tree*, *Henry VIII*, Globe). Tamasha Artistic Director **Pooja Ghai** returns to the Sam Wanamaker Playhouse to direct *Hakawatis* following her acclaimed production of *Lions and Tigers* in 2017. *Hakawatis* opens on 1 December and runs until 14 January.

Hakawati /həkə'wɑ:ti/. Noun: Storyteller. From the Arabic terms hekaye meaning story and haki meaning to talk. A tyrant revenges his wife's infidelity by wedding, bedding, and beheading a new bride every day. Years later, only five brides-in-waiting remain. Hannah Khalil's re-telling of this classic story includes writing contributions from Hanan al-Shaykh, Suhayla El-Bushra and Sara Shaarawi, and translations by Hassan Abdulrazzak.

Writer Hannah Khalil says: *"It has always baffled me that the 1001 nights story cycle has been presented as a work for children in the West, when the original tales and framing device are so dark and sexual and full of moral ambiguity. So to have the opportunity to reclaim them and reimagine them afresh, working with writing heroines of mine is a great privilege. And to get to do it at the Sam Wanamaker Playhouse - one of the most beautiful theatres in the world under the direction of Pooja Ghai - well it's the stuff of playwrighting dreams!"*

Director Pooja Ghai says: *"I am thrilled to be returning to the Sam Wanamaker Playhouse to direct Hannah Khalil's *Hakawatis* – a bold and passionate new play that celebrates the power of storytelling by reclaiming the original tales of 1001 nights. Since the dawn of history stories have created empathy, understanding and community. Here they become the weapon against a King who seeks vengeance, they become tools to subvert the establishment and the patriarchy, they are the rallying cry for united action amongst the women who remain in captivity. They release the hope, nourishment, vulnerability, strength, love and conviction that these women have to change themselves and the world around them through the power of their collective imagination."*

The cast of *Hakawatis: Women of the Arabian Nights* comprises **Houda Echouafni** as Wadiha the Dancer, **Alaa Habib** as Fatah the Young, **Laura Hanna** as Zuya the Warrior, **Nadi Kemp-Sayfi** as Akila the Writer, and **Roann McCloskey** as Naha the Wise. Full cast biographies are as follows:

Houda Echouafni will play Wadiha the Dancer. Houda trained with Margie Haber in Los Angeles, The London Centre of Theatre Studies with David Harris and at Method Acting Studio under Sam Runbellow. Theatre credits include: *A Museum in Baghdad*, *King John* (Royal Shakespeare Company), *One Thousand and One Nights* (The Royal Lyceum Theatre), *Dialogues from Babel* (The Traverse), *Blackout* (SUMMERHALL), *The Things I Would Tell You* (The Traverse), *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *The Duchess of Malfi*, *Three Sister's* (The Actor's Company), *Habitby Driver* (The Octagon), *The Boy with Two Hearts* (National Theatre). Television credits include: *Jesus: His Life* (History Channel), *Doctors* (BBC), *Green Wing* (Channel 4), *Hotel Babylon* (ITV), *Sea of Souls* (BBC), *The Grid* (Fox Network), *Waking the Dead* (BBC). Film credits include: *I Saved My Bellydancer*, *Dirty War*, *Piercing Brightness*, *Leviathan*.

Alaa Habib will play Fatah the Young. Theatre credits include: *Frozen*, *The Theban Trilogy*, *The Provoked Wife*, *Cymbeline*, *Kefiyeh*, *Made in China*, *Close Quarters*, *King Lear* (RADA), *Veils* (Theatre 40), *Veils* (Road Theatre). Film credits include: *Argyle* (David Reid, Adam Bohling), *American Nightmares* (Patriot Pictures). Television credits include: *High-End Homeless* (non-TX Pilot) (Channel 4), *The Power* (Sister Pictures/Amazon), *The Last Ship* (Warner Brothers), *NCIS: Los Angeles* (CBS).

Laura Hanna will play Zuya the Warrior. Laura trained at LAMDA and has recently performed in *Once Upon A Time In Nazi Occupied Tunisia* at the Almeida. Other theatre credits include *Living Newspaper Edition 5* (Royal Court Theatre), *Signal Fires* (Fuel Theatre), *Leave A Message – Isolated But Open Monologues Online* (Papatango), *Karaoke* (Bunker Theatre), *A History Of Water In The Middle East* (Royal Court Theatre), *Give A Man A Bible* (Pint Sized/The Bunker Theatre), *Rest Upon The Wind* (Matar Ventures), *The Sweethearts* (The Finborough)

Theatre/Raising Dark), *Palindrome* (Miniaturists), *A Bright Room Called Day* (Southwark Playhouse), *Foreplay* (King's Head Theatre), *Red Peppers/Still Life* (Folie a deux/Old Red Lion), *Lean* (Strip Theatre/Tristan Bates Theatre), *The Warden* (Traffic of the Stage), *Much Ado About Nothing* (Serendipity Productions), *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (ASC Random/The Chelsea Theatre), *Beasts And Beauties* (The Hampstead Theatre). Television credits include *Heartstopper S2* (Netflix). Radio credits include *The Old Man In The Moon* (Holy Mountain/BBC Radio 4), *The Arabian Nights* (Holy Mountain/BBC Radio 4), *The Eustace Diamonds* (Goldhawk Essential/BBC Radio 4).

Nadi Kemp-Sayfi will play Akila the Writer. Previous work for Shakespeare's Globe includes *The Tempest*, *Much Ado About Nothing*, *Hamlet* (2022), *Twelfth Night*, and *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (2021). Theatre 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), *Hijabi Monologues* (The Bush Theatre), *Phone Home* (Upstart Theatre & Creative Europe), *Save our School Dinners... Jamie!* (Belgrade Theatre Coventry & Old Rep), *Burning Books*, *She* (Arena Theatre). Radio credits include *The Archers* (BBC) and *Words and Music* (BBC).

Roann McCloskey will play Naha the Wise. Roann studied at The University of Kent & Sorbonne Nouvelle. This is her first time working with Shakespeare's Globe. Theatre credits include: *NewsRevue* (Canal Cafe Theatre), *Bayside the Musical* (The Other Palace), *My Father The Tantric Masseur* (Soho Theatre/Edinburgh Fringe '19/CCA Glasgow/Lawrence Batley Theatre), *Who Murdered My Cat?* (Arcola Theatre/Edinburgh Fringe '22). Immersive and site-specific work with Dank Parish and Specificq.

Hakawatis: Women of the Arabian Nights was cast by Becky Paris, Head of Casting at Shakespeare's Globe.

Creative Team:

Maariyah Sharjil – Assistant Designer
Layla Madanat – Assistant Director
Matt Haskins – Candle Consultant
Kareem Samara – Composer
Sabia Smith – Costume Supervisor
Rosa Maggiora – Designer
Pooja Ghai – Director
Glynn MacDonald – Globe Associate, Movement
Tess Dignan – Head of Voice
Jess Tucker Boyd – Movement Director & Intimacy Director
Katherine Heath – Seasonal Voice Coach
Hannah Khalil – Writer

ENDS

EDITOR'S NOTES

FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT:

Claudia Conway – 07966 567701 / claudia.c@shakespearesglobe.com
Alice Rickett – alice.r@shakespearesglobe.com

IMAGES:

Hakawatis Artwork: <https://we.tl/t-OmvAmYUp10>
Sam Wanamaker Playhouse: <https://we.tl/t-xydJ6npneH>

"London's best-value theatre ticket" – Time Out
Best Theatre in London: Time Out Best of The City Awards 2021 Winner

Hakawatis: Women of the Arabian Nights by Hannah Khalil with Hanan al-Shaykh, Suhayla El-Bushra and Sara Shaarawi
1 December – 14 January
Press Night: 8 December, 7:30pm
Sam Wanamaker Playhouse

Join the conversation #Hakawatis

Tickets:

£62 - £25
Standing £5

Henry V
10 November – 4 February
Press Night: 24 November
#HenryV
Sam Wanamaker Playhouse

The Fir Tree by Hannah Khalil
15 – 31 December
#TheFirTree
Globe Theatre

Titus Andronicus by William Shakespeare
19 January - 15 April
Press Night: 1 February, 7:30pm
#TitusAndronicus
Sam Wanamaker Playhouse

The Winter's Tale by William Shakespeare
9 February - 16 April
Press Night: 22 February, 7:30pm
#TheWintersTale
Sam Wanamaker Playhouse

ASSISTED PERFORMANCES

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

Henry V by William Shakespeare

Audio Described: Saturday 10 December (2pm),
Thursday 2 February (7:30pm)
BSL / Captioned: Friday 27 January (7:30pm)
Captioned: Friday 9 December (2pm)
Relaxed: Wednesday 14 December (2pm), Saturday
28 January (2pm)

Hakawatis: Women of the Arabian Nights by Hannah Khalil with Hanan al-Shaykh, Suhayla El- Bushra and Sara Shaarawi

Audio Described: Saturday 17 December (2pm),
Friday 13 January (7:30pm)
Captioned: Monday 9 January (7:30pm), Wednesday
11 January (7:30pm)
Captioned / Relaxed: Saturday 7 January (2pm)
Relaxed: Wednesday 21 December (7:30pm)

The Fir Tree by Hannah Khalil

Audio Described: Friday 23 December (3pm)
BSL / Captioned: Tuesday 27 December (7pm)
Relaxed: Friday 30 December (3pm)

Titus Andronicus by William Shakespeare

Audio Described: Saturday 4 March (2pm), Friday 14
April (2pm)
Captioned: Friday 17 February (7:30pm), Saturday 1
April (2pm)
Relaxed: Tuesday 28 February (7:30pm), Saturday 8
April (2pm)

The Winter's Tale by William Shakespeare

Audio Described: Sunday 19 March (1pm),
Wednesday 12 April (2pm)
BSL / Captioned: Friday 14 April (7:30pm)
Captioned: Sunday 5 March (1pm)
Relaxed: Sunday 19 March (6:30pm), Wednesday 5
April (2pm)

SHAKESPEARE'S GLOBE

Website | Shakespearesglobe.com
#ThisWoodenO

Globe Player | Player.shakespearesglobe.com
#GlobePlayer

Teach Shakespeare | Teach.shakespearesglobe.com
#TeachShakespeare

Virtual Tour | shakespearesglobe.com/globe360

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

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 bursting with 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 a Membership, you can visit our website <https://www.shakespearesglobe.com/join-and-support/memberships> or call on 020 7902 5970

Swan Bar & Restaurant

Swan Bar is open 7 days a week. Situated at the theatre on London's bustling Bankside, we serve morning coffees to evening cocktails and everything in between, including breakfast and brunch, lunch, afternoon tea, pre-theatre and a la carte dining. From craft beers, local artisan gins and creative cocktails to classic dishes, summery salads, and delightful puddings. Opening times and menus can be viewed here: swanlondon.co.uk

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.

Shakespeare's Globe is a world-renowned theatre, education centre, and cultural landmark on the bank of the River Thames in London, UK. Founded by the pioneering American actor and director Sam Wanamaker, our site is home to two venues – the iconic open-air Globe Theatre (1997) and the candlelit indoor Sam Wanamaker Playhouse (2014).

Many of our productions also enjoy an extended life online through our video-on-demand service [Globe Player](#), in cinemas across the UK, and on television. We are also a major venue for concerts and special events, and have produced many world premieres of new plays, several of which have gone on to enjoy success in the West End, on Broadway and beyond.

Our education department has long been one of the most active in the UK. We offer a hugely diverse programme of workshops, public events, university courses, and community projects. Our Guided Tour is award-winning, and our visitors also enjoy our on-site and online shop.

The Globe Theatre (1997) is a unique full-scale replica of Shakespeare's original 1599 Elizabethan open-air

theatre. Our indoor candle-lit Sam Wanamaker Playhouse (2014) is an archetype of an indoor Jacobean theatre.

TAMASHA

Tamasha is a dedicated home for both emerging and established Global Majority artists. A powerhouse of new writing, talent development and digital innovation, we platform and invest in stories that celebrate our rich shared histories and cultures. Proudly both artist and audience driven, we're disrupting, dismantling, and inspiring through bold and imaginative storytelling, providing a place to explore our lived experiences and unique perspectives.

We support theatre makers in gaining the skills, knowledge and creative community to create innovative, new work. Our Developing Artists Programme includes masterclasses, showcases, training programmes and networking opportunities, informed by and responsive to the evolving demands of the creative industries.

We collaborate with partners to commission and produce an artistic programme interweaving live and digital productions, such as audio dramas, walking adventures, magazine-style podcasts and annual touring productions. All staged within and beyond traditional spaces.

Productions over the company's history have included *East is East* by Ayub Khan Din, *Blood* by Emteaz Hussain, *Approaching Empty* by Ishy Din, *Does My Bomb Look Big In This?* by Nyla Levy, *I Wanna Be Yours* by Zia Ahmed, *10 Nights* by Shahid Iqbal Khan, and *Made In India* and *Lotus Beauty* by Satinder Chohan.

www.tamasha.org.uk / @tamashatheatre