



**SHAKESPEARE'S
GLOBE**

PRESS RELEASE

10 JANUARY 2023

NEIL CONSTABLE TO STEP DOWN AS CEO OF SHAKESPEARE'S GLOBE

Following almost **14 years leading Shakespeare's Globe, Chief Executive and Trustee Neil Constable has advised the Board that he will be stepping down from the role by the end of 2023.** Over the 14 years of Neil's leadership, he has headed the team that transformed the Globe into the world-class destination it is today. The competitive recruitment process is now open for applicants, and is led by Green Park, enabling a smooth leadership transition. Alongside Artistic Director Michelle Terry, Neil will continue to take responsibility for the 2023 summer season, to be announced later this month. Shakespeare's Globe is an independent charity, operating without any regular subsidy or Arts Council England funding. Neil's planned departure takes place as audiences are returning to the theatre and London, following successive lockdowns and closure, and 3 years of Covid disruption during which the Globe has survived by virtue of necessary depletion of its reserves. The Globe is comprised of two theatres (open-air Globe Theatre and candlelit Sam Wanamaker Playhouse), a significant education department including in-house academics, and a year-round cultural tourism offer.

Over Neil's tenure he has worked dynamically with 4 Chairs of the Board, over 40 trustees, and artistic directors Dominic Dromgoole, Emma Rice, and Michelle Terry, spanning across half of the Globe's 25 years since its opening in 1997. Over those years, the financial income of the organisation doubled, and it has had an impact across the world with several international tours, including the Globe to Globe tour of 197 countries with *Hamlet*; the 2012 Cultural Olympiad was celebrated with the World Shakespeare Festival of 37 Shakespeare plays performed in 37 languages; a number of celebrated West End and Broadway transfers; and the development of significant education programmes in China. The theatre has been the venue for a wide range of important events, including an official visit from President Barack Obama, the signing in of the London Mayor, and the launch of the Government's Cultural Recovery Fund in the midst of 2020. Neil joined the Globe in 2010, completing the building of the Education and Rehearsal Centre, becoming Project Champion for the development and fundraising for the candlelit Sam Wanamaker Playhouse (opened in 2014), and has set in place the long-term plans for the completion of the Bankside site as imagined by Sam Wanamaker 40 years ago.

Neil Constable, Chief Executive, said: *It has been the greatest honour to serve the Globe for half its lifespan. This organisation is a truly unique place – beloved internationally, creatively ambitious, dynamic and a worthy custodian of Shakespeare for future generations to come. It is now the right moment for me to give the next generation of cultural leaders the opportunity of enjoying the adventure of this remarkable institution.*

I have absolute confidence that I leave this extraordinary organisation on firmer financial ground, despite years of Covid disruption and near long-term closure. Now, 40 years since my first professional role in stage-management, I will enjoy this year steering the good ship Globe, alongside my inspiring colleagues, from our excellent leadership team to wonderful volunteers. Our brilliant Board of Trustees have backed a dynamic and responsive 3-year rebuilding strategy to help forge the way forward for my successor. I know the Globe will be attracting the very best to take the reins.

The Globe is particularly special, unique in its cultural and educational offer, and iconic on the London landscape. In 2022, we celebrated our quarter century anniversary, and I will be thrilled to continue celebrating the Globe as it confidently goes from strength to strength for the next 25 years to come. Shakespeare has loomed large in my life, with 16 years at the RSC, and nearly 14 at the Globe, I have been shaped by his fantastic works, celebrated this year in the 400th anniversary of the First Folio - one of the great wonders of the literary world. Shakespeare's ongoing importance and relevance is clear – his works offer endless opportunities for discovery and exploration. I will continue to enjoy how the Globe celebrates the power of storytelling year by year, as the hundreds of thousands of visitors coming through our door connect across the centuries as Shakespeare "holds a mirror up to nature" for inspiration and joy.

Margaret Casely-Hayford CBE, Chair of Shakespeare's Globe, said: *Neil's contribution to the Globe has been immense over the past 14 years, and on behalf of all of us, I would like to thank him for his years of dedicated leadership and vision. London's creative economy is returning, and the Globe is ready for the challenge of adapting to the new landscape ahead of us. I have very much enjoyed working closely with Neil, ensuring our beloved wooden 'O' remains a triumph to celebrate for years to come. The Globe is one of the UK's most successful independent cultural organisations, with two iconic theatres, and that is a wonderful testament to Neil's work in driving forward its incredible ambitions over the years. I am particularly grateful to him for holding the wheel during the historic pandemic disruption.*

For all of us in leadership positions at that time, there was no rule book and no clear route to survival, yet with a steady hand Neil ensured the Globe re-emerged with great success. The next 25 years of the Globe's life have undoubtedly been built upon firm foundations.

Michelle Terry, Artistic Director, said: *"Neil has been a passionate and dedicated CEO and has led the Globe through the toughest and most extraordinary of times. With any creative organisation, there are risks everywhere, but the seemingly endless twists and turns of successive lockdowns and near-closure presented some of our greatest challenges yet. Neil proudly and resolutely continued to support our biggest and most outlandish creative ambitions, offered experience, trust and understanding when things did not always go to plan, and loudly celebrated our successes. The creativity of a CEO is not often celebrated, or recognised, but I am delighted to celebrate and recognise Neil as loudly as he has always celebrated and recognised the life and times of the Globe throughout his vital and transformative tenure."*

Zoë Wanamaker CBE, Honorary President of the Board of Trustees, said: *"When my father Sam Wanamaker imagined Shakespeare's Globe, he dreamed of a place where people can engage with Shakespeare across the world. Neil has brilliantly led the organisation for over a decade, pushing this dream further into reality. A champion for the Globe in so many ways, I am so thankful to him for his tenacity and dedication, most particularly in bringing to life a new and beloved candlelit theatre in the beating heart of London."*

Neil Mendoza CBE, Government Commissioner for Cultural Recovery and Renewal, said: *"The Globe, since its rebirth, has become one of the leading theatres in the world. This is down to its artistic leadership but also due to the skill of its management. Neil Constable is a major player in the theatre sector and his inspirational leadership of the Globe since 2010 has been essential to enable its ambitious expansion across two stages, the digital sphere, in touring and in education. The Globe is an exemplary cultural institution, operating without public subsidy. Thank you, Neil Constable."*

ENDS

About the Globe Today

Shakespeare's Globe continues to create work that makes Shakespeare accessible to all with over 500 public performances to date in 2022. From October 2021 to October 2022, we welcomed over 550,000 visitors in total, with 310,000 theatregoers into our two theatres, and 56,800 new bookers to the Globe. International visitors comprise 30% of our Summer Season audience, and we remain a top visitor destination, with our Guided Tours delivering on 320 days across the year. In 2022, we were for a time the only performing arts organisation with two theatres open and running several productions in repertoire. For this scale of activities, we were recognised as "London Theatre of the Year" by Time Out in their "Best of the City" Awards 2021.

Over 2022, we opened 12 new productions, both of works by Shakespeare and new-writing (many of which enjoyed critical acclaim with several national critics giving 5*), including *Hamlet*, *The Merchant of Venice*, *Much Ado About Nothing*, *The Fir Tree*, *Macbeth* (the 16th year of Playing Shakespeare with Deutsche Bank), *Henry VIII*, *Julius Caesar*, *King Lear*, *The Tempest*, *Midsummer Mechanicals*, *I, Joan*, *Henry V* (Headlong co-production, with Leeds Playhouse and Royal & Derngate, Northampton) and new play *Hakawatis* (Tamasha co-production).

Last year marked the 25th Anniversary of the Royal opening of the Globe Theatre, and our £5 ticket, described by an audience member as *"a brilliant commitment to making the best cultural experiences available to everyone, more important than ever"*. For those unable to visit Bankside, we re-launched Globe Player (our video-on-demand service), and our annual Playing Shakespeare with Deutsche Bank production was streamed by 634 schools for free. James Corden even transformed five ex-England players into actors on the Globe stage in a 'Late, Late Show' comedy sketch.

We welcomed 23,000 school children to *Macbeth* free of charge, and 23,529 people watched our Anti-Racist Shakespeare webinars. We launched the Shakespeare Centre London in partnership with King's College, London and co-curated a packed-out Shakespeare and Race Festival. Our incredible Education department ran 1,300 workshops for students.

Many fantastic projects found a home at the Globe including a live performance and recording of CBeebies' version of Shakespeare's *As You Like It*, the 50th anniversary of Alternative Miss World, a *Julius Caesar* project supporting those in the prison system, and work with Compass Collective on a 6-month programme with young refugees. We opened our doors 24 hours a day to those on their pilgrimage to pay respects to Her late Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, with over 30,000 people using our facilities. At the start of the year, we welcomed in 2022 with the nation as part of BBC One's New Year's Eve official countdown.

We remain an independent charity, with a significantly smaller workforce than pre-pandemic, committed to our industry by hiring nearly 400 freelancers in 2022. As with the rest of the performing arts sector, we face ongoing financial challenges, yet continue to deliver creatively for our diverse audiences, and with major impact for our communities.

EDITOR'S NOTES

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON HOW TO APPLY, PLEASE [CLICK HERE](#)

Neil Constable Biography

Neil trained in Stage Management & Technical Theatre at Guildhall School of Music & Drama, going on to work extensively in the theatre and arts industry for 40-years, latterly running cultural organisations. He worked for the Royal Shakespeare Company for 16 years, holding senior management positions of London Manager at the Barbican Centre and RSC General Administrator. Prior to the Globe he was Executive Director and joint Chief Executive of the Almeida Theatre (2003 to 2010) working with Michael Attenborough. He is a Governor, Trustee or Member of several other organisations, including the Chartered Management Institute, Guildhall School of Music & Drama, Society of London Theatre, the Shakespeare Birthplace Trust, Clifton College, and the Royal Theatrical Support Trust.

Neil Constable was appointed Chief Executive of Shakespeare's Globe in June 2010. In 2017, Neil was named alongside Emma Rice, as the joint 10th most influential people working in theatre and joint 11th with Dominic Dromgoole in 2016 in The Stage's Top 100. He was made a Fellow of the Guildhall School of Music and Drama in 2012.

FOR THE PRESS OFFICE, PLEASE CONTACT:

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

IMAGES:

The Globe Theatre: <https://we.tl/t-T9vyiojRi>

"London's best-value theatre ticket" – Time Out
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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

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:

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Anyone who joins the Globe as a Member will receive a 10% 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 is a unique full-scale replica of Shakespeare's original 1599 Elizabethan open-air theatre. Our indoor candle-lit Sam Wanamaker Playhouse is an archetype of an indoor Jacobean theatre.