



**SHAKESPEARE'S  
GLOBE**

# **PRESS RELEASE**

**TUESDAY 25 APRIL 2023**

## **STELLA KANU APPOINTED CHIEF EXECUTIVE OF SHAKESPEARE'S GLOBE**

**Shakespeare's Globe is delighted to announce the appointment of Stella Kanu as Chief Executive.** Stella brings over 30 years of experience working in the theatre, festival, and cultural sectors, and is currently Executive Director at LIFT (London International Festival of Theatre), leading the strategic strands of the business and executive producing of the biennial-festival. During her tenure, Stella led the organisation through a challenging pandemic, despite this she has since built a healthy surplus for the first time in 10 years; secured international research partnerships focused on Climate Change and has overseen the creation of 'LIFT the City' – a new innovative partnership with City of London Corporation to reshape the square mile through Culture by 2025. She executive produced the UK premiere of the Lithuanian Venice Biennial Golden Lion winner *Sun and Sea*, bringing it to London for the first time in 2022. She leaves LIFT in a stronger financial position, with renewed operational strength, exciting partnerships, and a dynamic team.

Earlier this year, the Globe announced that current Chief Executive, Neil Constable, would step down from the role after almost 14 years leading the team which transformed the Globe into the world-class destination it is today. The competitive and thorough recruitment was led by the Globe's Board. The nominations committee were supported by Executive Recruitment consultancy Green Park. Stella will join the Globe in Autumn 2023, allowing for a smooth leadership transition. Artistic Director Michelle Terry will be appearing as Puck in *A Midsummer Night's Dream* for the opening of the Globe's summer season on 27 April.

Shakespeare's Globe is a world-renowned theatre, education centre, and cultural landmark on the south bank of Thames in London, and an independent charity, operating without any regular subsidy or Arts Council England funding. This change of leadership 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.

**Incoming Chief Executive Stella Kanu said:** *"Shakespeare's Globe is more than a theatre or Shakespeare's workplace. It is an extraordinary meeting place of the past and the future held together with storytelling that questions what it means to be human – flaws, triumphs, ambitions, and epic fails. It has proved it can hold the past while being responsive to the demands of now – inclusive, audience-engaging productions, great links in the community and across education, a great leadership team leading with heart and exceptional skills, supported by superb governance. I am thrilled to be building on the extraordinary foundation Neil has put in place in the pursuit of access for all. I remain humbled and ready to lead us into a future where access, equity and inclusion mean we can open our doors to everyone we can, where those who work with us are inspired to do their best work and those who support us see our true and lasting value. It's an exciting time and I can't wait to get started!"*

**Margaret Casely-Hayford CBE, Chair of Shakespeare's Globe, said:** *"Neil Constable's contribution to the Globe following 14 years of dedicated leadership has been immense. He has left big shoes to fill, working tirelessly with the Globe Board and the wider leadership team to ensure our beloved wooden 'O' remains a triumph to celebrate for years to come. Our wonderful incoming CEO Stella Kanu combines an impressive mix of commercial skill and experience with vision, she has a passion and great knowledge of theatre, a love of Shakespeare and new thinking. I greatly look forward to working with her as the Globe takes its next strategic leaps forward into a future of growth and continued success."*

**Neil Constable, Chief Executive, said:** *"I am delighted both on behalf of the Globe and personally that Stella will be taking over as Chief Executive. I have absolute confidence that I will be leaving it in good hands and look forward to celebrating her achievements as she takes on leadership of our unique and talented people. It has been the greatest privilege to serve the Globe for half its lifespan. I feel honoured to have guided it through the most extraordinary of tough times. Whilst we are on firmer financial footing, there is a long journey ahead, and I know she will have the full support of our brilliant Board of Trustees in forging the way forward. Shakespeare's ongoing importance and relevance is clear*

*- his works offer endless opportunities for discovery and exploration. I am certain that Stella is the natural champion the Globe needs – as the house playwright put it Good luck go with thee!"*

**Michelle Terry, Artistic Director, on behalf of the Directorate team, said:** *"We could not be more proud or more excited about Stella Kanu joining us as CEO at the Globe. We owe a debt of gratitude to Neil Constable - what's past is always prologue and we wouldn't be here without standing on the shoulders of the giants who came before us. Stella joins an incredible, predominantly female leadership team, who are all so delighted with not only the great experience Stella brings, but also her heart, soul, values, strength and commitment to the profound impact that art, education, and culture can have. Stella is the embodiment of all the Globe stands for and we cannot wait for her to lead us into the next chapter of the Globe's history, as we continue to put Shakespeare to work for all."*

**Nell Leyshon, Chair of the Nominations Committee, said:** *"We had expected this to be a competitive recruitment drive, but were thrilled to find quite so many brilliant and talented leaders applying to become the new Chief Executive of the Globe. Out of all of them, Stella stood out with her vision and passion, which we all found contagious. I look forward to seeing the Globe continue to go from strength to strength under her leadership."*

**Bernard Donoghue, Chief Executive, Association of Leading Visitor Attractions (ALVA), said:** *"I am delighted to see Stella join the Globe. Having worked with her as former Chair of LIFT, I can attest without hesitation to her true skill and inspiring charisma. A responsible leader, with proven management skills, and a huge breadth of experience, Stella is brimming with vision and passion – I look forward to seeing her put her talents to work at Shakespeare's Globe."*

**ENDS**

## **ABOUT STELLA KANU**



As Executive Director at LIFT Stella has led the strategic strands of the business as well as executive producing the biennial festival. Negotiating global and UK partnerships in the subsidised and commercial sector including Young Vic, Barbican, Serpentine Gallery, Royal Docks, City of London Corporation, British Council, the NEST Collective (Kenya), ICA (South Africa), Tandem (Australia), and other international partnerships across Europe and festivals across the Global South. She has worked in the theatre, festival, and cultural sector for over 30 years. She founded The Pivotal Place, a coaching practice for creative leaders, in 2005.

Stella was previously Executive Producer at Ovalhouse (now Brixton House), Soundwave Cumbria where she was CEO, and held various senior and executive roles at well-loved organisations such as Theatre Royal Margate, Harlem Stage (NYC), Cardboard Citizens, as well as roles at Africa Centre, Bernie Grant Arts Centre, Clean Break Theatre. She also held interim roles at arts, culture, and community organisations in civic directorates across London and the Southeast. Over the past 6 years, she has sat on several strategic and governing bodies including All-Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) for Theatre, and in 2020 was a London Mayoral appointee to Arts Council London Area. She has been on the Advisory Board at Rose Bruford College, has been Trustee at New Writing South, member/Interim Chair at Creative Margate Taskforce, Co-Chair of Arts Council England's Race Advisory Group (RAG) and Chair at Eclipse Theatre (Leeds).

An alumna of University of Wales, Aberystwyth; Middlesex University Writing Centre and Oxford Brookes University. She is a sought-after panellist, speaker, and writer, having contributed to TV, radio, national publications, podcasts and online exploring topics such as inspirational leadership, diversity and inclusion, women and power, and the future of theatre.

At the Globe, Stella has spoken at the Women and Power: Women and Leadership Symposium (2019) and led the iconic photoshoot in 2019 for 'Black Women in Theatre' gathering more than 250 black women and non-binary people working in theatre together on the Globe stage to celebrate their contribution to the industry. Stella spearheaded the #AllofUs Redundancy Care Campaign - an immediate response to support Black, Asian, ethnically diverse, and migrant arts workers facing redundancy. Stella is a Cultural Leadership International Powerbrokers Fellow (2008), an Honorary Fellow at Rose Bruford College (2021) and was named one of the Alfred Fagon Award 25 Black Theatre Champions (2022).

## EDITOR'S NOTES

### FOR THE PRESS OFFICE, PLEASE CONTACT:

Claudia Conway – 07966 567701 /  
[claudia.c@shakespearesglobe.com](mailto:claudia.c@shakespearesglobe.com)  
Alice Rickett – [alice.r@shakespearesglobe.com](mailto:alice.r@shakespearesglobe.com)

### IMAGES:

**Stella Kanu at the Globe (please credit Sarah Lee):**  
<https://we.tl/t-uZeGHbCkhn>

The Globe Theatre: <https://we.tl/t-T9vyiojkRi>

**For the press release detailing Neil Constable's announcement of departure and biography please click [here](#).**

### ABOUT SHAKESPEARE'S GLOBE

Shakespeare's Globe is an independent charity, a world-renowned theatre, education centre, and cultural landmark on the bank of the River Thames in London.

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). We produce new productions (Shakespeare's and new writing included) year-round across both venues. 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. Shakespeare's Globe is an independent charity, and any financial surplus generated by our activities is invested in the ongoing educational and artistic work of the Shakespeare Globe Trust.

Many of our productions enjoy an extended life online through our streaming 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 diverse programme of workshops, public events, university courses, and community projects. Our Guided Tour is award-winning, and our visitors also enjoy our award-winning on-site and online shop. The Swan Bar & Restaurant overlooks St Paul's Cathedral and the River Thames, open 7 days a week, also catering for large events in our UnderGlobe events space.

The Globe is a unique organisation. Its wooden 'O' so meticulously and beautifully designed, transports us and connects us to 400-years of treasured history – providing illumination and inspiration for what the next centuries can hold. We create world-class theatre productions, supporting and nurturing the talent and craft of our remarkable cultural industry. All our work is inspired and informed by the unique historic playing conditions of our iconic theatres, our diverse programme of work harnesses the power of performance, cultivating intellectual curiosity and enlivening learning to make Shakespeare accessible for all.

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

Join the conversation on social media @The\_Globe  
#ThisWoodenO  
Instagram: [@the\\_globe](https://www.instagram.com/the_globe/) / Twitter: [@The\\_Globe](https://twitter.com/The_Globe) / YouTube:  
[/ShakespearesGlobe](https://www.youtube.com/ShakespearesGlobe) / Facebook: [/ShakespearesGlobe](https://www.facebook.com/ShakespearesGlobe)

Website | [Shakespearesglobe.com](https://www.shakespearesglobe.com)  
Globe Player | [Player.shakespearesglobe.com](https://www.globeplayer.com)

### 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 BARD10 at the checkout.

### Membership

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](https://www.swanlondon.co.uk)