



**SHAKESPEARE'S  
GLOBE**

## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **SHAKESPEARE'S GLOBE ANNOUNCES WINNER OF THE 2023 SAM WANAMAKER AWARD**



*Photograph of Joseph Marcell in Coriolanus  
by John Haynes*

Shakespeare's Globe is delighted to announce **Joseph Marcell** as the recipient of the **2023 Sam Wanamaker Award**. Joseph receives this award in recognition of his vast talents as a Shakespearean actor, and for his tireless support of the Globe for the past 38 years.

**Joseph Marcell comments:** *"I have always admired and respected the work of Shakespeare's Globe. Possibly the most innovative classical theatre company in Britain. In 1984, I played Othello in Michael Boyd's production at The Lyric Theatre Hammersmith. A non-white actor playing a leading Shakespearean role, at that time, was unusual. Preceded only by Ira Aldridge and Paul Robeson in a London theatre. Following that production, I played Brutus in Julius Caesar for John Dexter. After a performance Nick Kent introduced me to Sam Wanamaker, who was fulsome in his praise for my performance in the production as well as my Othello. Meeting him was the starting point for my relationship with the Globe. He asked me if I would like to join the artistic directorate of Shakespeare's Globe, later renamed Shakespeare's Globe Council. I was not sure. 'Why me?' I had never really considered myself a commentator or influencer of the classical theatre. He*

*was adamant that I could make a contribution. I embraced the offer, and it transformed my perspectives as an actor and audience member. My association with the company has been both rewarding and uplifting. This award has left me at a loss for words. Thank you, thank you."*

**Neil Constable, Chief Executive comments:** *"Joseph's outstanding contribution and dedicated career to the support of the world's understanding of Shakespeare and his contemporaries is a shining example of the Globe's Cause to 'celebrate Shakespeare's transformative impact on the world'. His long-standing relationship with the Globe and Shakespeare plays, in a career that has spanned many roles and productions here, on tour and with other theatre companies, has inspired not only us but the next generation of Shakespearean actors. Joseph has been a true friend of the Globe from the days he first met Sam Wanamaker in 1984 – with a gleam in his eye to build a reconstructed Globe Theatre – and joined his Artistic Directorship group of early Globe pioneers. All this, alongside his support to the Shakespeare Globe Centre USA Board and Globe Council, has left us with enduring gratitude."*

Renowned classical actor, and well-known for his role as Geoffrey in NBC's *The Fresh Prince of Bel-Air*, Joseph was first introduced to Sam Wanamaker in 1984 when he was asked to join the Artistic Directorship of Shakespeare's Globe. As a Globe Council Member, Joseph has provided invaluable guidance for Globe policies for over two decades, is a member of the Shakespeare Globe Centre USA Board, has spoken for the Globe's Anti-Racist Shakespeare webinar series, and participated in *Wander* - a film series for the Mental Health Foundation. Joseph has performed in several productions at Shakespeare's Globe: *Macbeth* (2018), *The Tempest* (2016), *Cymbeline* (2015), *Omeros* (2015), *King John* (2015), *King Lear* (2013) - Helen Hayes Award nomination for Best Actor, *Much Ado About Nothing* (2011), *Coriolanus* (2006), and *Under the Black Flag* (2006). Other theatre credits include *Lady Windermere's Fan* (West End), *Othello* (Lyric Hammersmith), and *Peer Gynt* (National Theatre). Joseph is also a member of the Royal Shakespeare Company and has a long association at London's Tricycle Theatre.

The Sam Wanamaker Award was established by Shakespeare's Globe in 1994 to celebrate work which has increased the understanding and enjoyment of Shakespeare, and which has a similar quality to the pioneering mission of the Globe's founder Sam Wanamaker. Previous recipients of the Sam Wanamaker Award include Diane Devlin (2019), Gregory Doran (2012), Professor Stanley Wells (2010) and Mark Rylance (2007).

The presentation ceremony was held after the matinee performance on 17 June and was followed by the annual Globe Remembers event when a number of individuals who made much valued contributions to the work of the Globe and who died this year were remembered, including actors Marcello Magni and Jeremy Child and academics Professor John Barroll, Professor Katherine Duncan-Jones and Jeremy Lemmon.

# ENDS

## EDITOR'S NOTES

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### IMAGES

The Globe Theatre: <https://we.tl/t-QEISDeG4yU>

"London's best-value theatre ticket" – Time Out London's  
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### PREVIOUS SAM WANAMAKER AWARD WINNERS:

2019 Diane Devlin  
2018 Thelma Holt CBE  
2017 25 long-serving Volunteer Stewards of Shakespeare's  
Globe  
2016 Prof Gordon McMullan  
2015 Christopher Plummer CC  
2014 Prof Ralph Alan Cohen  
2013 Sir Michael Perry GBE FRSA  
2012 Gregory Doran  
2011 Giles Block, Glynn MacDonald  
2010 Prof Sir Stanley Wells CBE FRSL  
2008 Prof Andrew Gurr  
2007 Sir Mark Rylance, Claire van Kampen, Jenny Tiramani  
2006 Dawn Sanders ONZM QSM  
2004 Prof John Orrell  
2003 Barrie Rutter OBE, Stephen Unwin  
2002 Paul Scofield CH CBE  
2001 John Barton CBE  
2000 Cicely Berry CBE  
1999 Prof Glynne Wickham 1998 Janet Arnold FSA  
1996 William Hutt CC OOnt MM  
1995 Leon Garfield  
1994 Dr. Rex Gibson

### SHAKESPEARE'S GLOBE

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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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Our shop is bursting with clothing, bags, gifts, stationary, posters, books, DVDs, homeware and more. Get 10% off your first online order: use code BARD10 at 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, visit our [website](#) or call 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, 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. Visit [swanlondon.co.uk](http://swanlondon.co.uk) for opening times and menus.

### 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 a major venue for visiting artists, comedy, concerts and special events, and over our twenty-five-year history have produced over 43 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.