



**SHAKESPEARE'S  
GLOBE**

# **PRESS RELEASE**

**TUESDAY 7 NOVEMBER**

## **SHAKESPEARE'S GLOBE ANNOUNCES CAST OF *HANSEL AND GRETEL***



Shakespeare's Globe is delighted to announce the cast of ***Hansel and Gretel***, the Globe's upcoming festive show. Adapted for the stage by **Poet Laureate Simon Armitage**, *Hansel and Gretel* will be directed by **Nick Bagnall** (*Love's Labour's Lost*; *Two Gentlemen of Verona*, Globe). The cast of *Hansel and Gretel* comprises **Annette Badland, Ned Costello, Ayesha Dharker, Kate Donnachie, Chaya Gupta, Rachel-Leah Hosker, Beruce Khan, and Lejaun Sheppard**.

**Director Nick Bagnall** says: "I am delighted to be reunited and to collaborate with Simon Armitage on his incredibly playful version of *Hansel and Gretel*. It is an enormous privilege to be telling this story in these turbulent times in that space – a tale that places the family and hope at the heart of it. A wonderful bunch of actors, a delicious text and a creative team forever pushing boundaries of mischief and joy- what better way to spend Christmas."

Cast biographies are as follows:

**Annette Badland will play Narrator.** Previous theatre credits include: *The Play What I Wrote* (Theatre Royal Bath), *Our Lady of Blundellsands* (Liverpool Everyman), *Burnt at the Stake*, *After Edward*, *Edward II*, *Eyam*, *The Winter's Tale* (Shakespeare's Globe), *Far Away* (Bristol Old Vic), *Kin* (Royal Court), *As You Like It*, *Romeo & Juliet*, *Taming of the Shrew*, *Summerfolk*, *The Marrying of Ann Leete*, *Love's Labour's Lost* (RSC), *Alphabetical Order*, *Slavs* (Hampstead), *Blithe Spirit* (Royal Exchange), *The Golden Hour* (Almeida), *The Vortex* (Bill Kenwright, West End), *Habeas Corpus*, *Measure for Measure* (Peter Hall Company/RSC), *Dr Faustus*, *'Tis Pity She's a Whore* (Young Vic), *The Prime of Miss Jean Brodie*, *The Rise and Fall of Little Voice* (National Theatre), *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (Haymarket). TV includes: *Midsomer Murders*, *Inside No 9*, *Ted Lasso*, *Big Boys*, *Brassic*, *Beyond Paradise*, *Whitstable Pearl*, *Silent Witness*, *The Crown*, *Criminal*, *Strike: Lethal White*, *Doctors*, *Shakespeare and Hathaway*, *Hold the Sunset*, *The Dumping Ground*, *Agatha Raisin*, *Plebs*, *Not Going Out*, *EastEnders*, *Outlander*, *The Sparticle Mystery*, *Wizards vs. Aliens*, *Aunties*, *Father Brown*, *Cutting It*, *Man Down*, *Snodgrass*, *Bad Girls*, *Land Girls*, *Little Crackers*, *Skins*, *Casanova*, *Doctor Who*, *Poirot*, *Last Days of Summer*, *The Naked Civil Servant*. Film includes: *The Toxic Avenger*, *Portraits of Dangerous Women*, *Sisi and I*, *Operation Napoleon*, *The Act*, *The Man Who Invented Christmas*, *A Quiet Passion*, *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*, *Little Voice*, *Twenty Four Seven*, *Jabberwocky*.

**Ned Costello will play Hansel.** Ned graduated from LAMDA in 2021. Previous theatre credits include *The Clothes They Stood Up In* (Nottingham Playhouse) and *Leaves of Glass* (Park Theatre), for which he was Offie-nominated. Screen credits include *Wreck* (BBC3).

**Ayesha Dharker will play Mum / Witch.** Previous theatre credits include *The Book of Dust - La Belle Sauvage* (Bridge Theatre); *Chasing Hares* (Young Vic); *The Father and the Assassin*, *Pericles*, *The Ramayana* (National Theatre); *Disconnect*, *The Djinn of Eidgah*, *Maryland* (Royal Court); *White Teeth*, *When the Crows Visit* (Kiln); *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *Othello*, *Arabian Nights* (Royal Shakespeare Company); *Richard II* (Shakespeare's Globe); *Dr Faustus* (Bristol Old Vic); *Bombay Dreams* (West End and Broadway). Screen credits include *Finding Alice* (Bright Pictures); *Doctor Who* (BBC); *Indian Summers* (C4); *Critical* (Hat Trick); *The Indian Doctor* (Avatar); *The Commander: The Fraudster* (La Plante); *Bodies* (Hat Trick); *Waking the Dead* (BBC); *Life Isn't All Ha Ha Hee Hee* (Hat Trick); *Cutting It* (BBC); *The Father*; *Star Wars: Attack of the Clones*; *The Terrorist*; *Outsourced*; *Anita and Me*; *City of Joy*; *Mad, Sad and Bad*; *Loins of Punjab Presents*; *The Mistress of Spices*; *Colour Me Kubrick: A True...ish story*; *The Mystic Masseur*; *Arabian Nights*; *Split Wide Open*; *Manika, une yie plus tard*.

**Kate Donnachie will play Ensemble.** Kate trained at Italia Conti. Previous theatre credits include *Pied Piper: A Hip Hop Family Musical* (Battersea Arts Centre / Beatbox Academy / rODIUM); *Unexpected Twist* (Royal & Derngate Northampton); *Frankenstein: How To Make A Monster* (Battersea Arts Centre); *Crongton Knights* (Pilot Theatre) and *Aladdin* (Lyric Hammersmith).

**Chaya Gupta will play Gretel.** Chaya trained at LAMDA. Previous theatre credits include, *We'll Have Nun of It* (Sister Sister Productions), *Light Falls* (LAMDA), *Images of an Unknown Woman* (LAMDA), *London* (LAMDA) and *Act of Repair* (Scottish Youth Theatre).

**Rachel-Leah Hosker will play Ensemble.** Rachel-Leah trained at the Royal Central School of Speech and Drama and co-runs award-winning theatre company The PappyShow. Previous theatre credits include *Othello* (Riverside Studios), *Shut Up, I'm Dreaming* (National Theatre), *Jews. In Their Own Words.* (Royal Court Theatre), *The Winston Machine* (New Diorama Theatre & North Wall), *Skin Hunger* (Dante or Die), *Antigone* (New Diorama Theatre), *The Butterfly Lion* (Chichester Festival Theatre), *Philip Pullman's Grimm Tales* (Unicorn Theatre), *Left My Desk* (HOME), *Loaded* (Birmingham Old Rep) and *Skate Hard, Turn Left* (Battersea Arts Centre). Previous screen credits include *Protection* (ITV), *Holby City* (BBC), *Doctors* (BBC). Credits as movement director include *Camp Seigfried* (Old Vic), *Macbeth* (Shakespeare's Globe) and Assistant Movement Director on *Ocean At The End Of The Lane* (National Theatre / Duke of York's Theatre).

**Beruce Khan will play Dad / Swanny.** Beruce trained at RADA. Previous work for Shakespeare's Globe includes *Henry V*, *Romeo and Juliet*, and the Globe to Globe *Hamlet*. Other theatre credits include *A Christmas Carol*, *Twelfth Night* (RSC); *Henry V, As You Like It* (Regent's Park Open Air Theatre); *Shadowlands* (Chichester); *Yellowfin* (Southwark Playhouse); *Neville's Island* (Queen's Theatre); *Ravens* (Hampstead); *We Are The Best* (Live Theatre). Screen credits include *Vera*; *War Of The Worlds* (Canal +); *Canoe* (ITV); *Britannia*.

**Lejaun Sheppard will play Ensemble.** Lejaun trained at the Guildford School of Acting. Previous theatre credits include *Once On This Island* (Regents Park Open Air Theatre); *Come From Away* (Phoenix Theatre), *Little Women* (Park Theatre), *Tina The Musical* (Aldwych Theatre) and *Godiva Rocks* (Coventry Belgrade). Screen credits include *Desperate Measures* (Channel 5).

*Hansel and Gretel* was cast by Becky Paris, Head of Casting at Shakespeare's Globe.

#### **Creative team:**

Cory Hippolyte – Assistant Director  
Gary Yershon – Composer  
Rae Smith – Costume & Set Designer  
Ilona Karas – Costume Supervisor  
Nick Bagnall – Director  
Glynn MacDonald – Globe Associate – Movement  
Tess Dignan – Head of Voice  
Sarita Piotrowski – Movement Director  
Mark Bousie – Rehearsal Musical Director  
Simon Armitage – Writer

#### **Musicians:**

Ian Watson – Accordion  
Paul Johnson – Duduk  
Magnus Mehta – Musical Director & Percussion  
Lizzie Gutteridge – Violin

**ENDS**

**EDITOR'S NOTES**

## FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT

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## IMAGES

*Hansel and Gretel*: <https://we.tl/t-b1GDjcecne>  
Globe Theatre: <https://we.tl/t-dk2rMHnYOL>

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

### **Ghosts**

10 November – 28 January  
**Press Night: Wednesday 22 November**  
#GhostsGlobe  
Sam Wanamaker Playhouse

### **Ghost Stories by Candlelight**

23 – 25 November  
#GhostStoriesGlobe  
Sam Wanamaker Playhouse

### **I, Malvolio**

30 November – 9 December  
#IMalvolio  
Sam Wanamaker Playhouse

### **Hansel and Gretel**

8 December – 7 January  
**Press Night: Thursday 14 December**  
#HanselAndGretelGlobe  
Globe Theatre

### **Othello**

19 January – 13 April  
**Press Night: Tuesday 30 January**  
#OthelloGlobe  
Sam Wanamaker Playhouse

### **The Duchess of Malfi**

17 February – 14 April  
**Press Night: Thursday 29 February**  
#DuchessOfMalfiGlobe  
Sam Wanamaker Playhouse

## ASSISTED PERFORMANCES

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

### **Ghosts**

Captioned: 6 December, evening and 6 January matinee  
Audio Described: 16 December, matinee  
Relaxed: 20 December evening and 4 January, evening

### **Hansel and Gretel**

Captioned: 22 December, morning and 6 January, morning  
BSL: 22 December, matinee and 3 January, matinee  
Audio Described: 2 January, matinee  
Relaxed: 4 January, matinee and 6 January, matinee

### **Othello**

Captioned: 8 February, matinee and 9 March, evening  
Relaxed: 22 February, evening and 3 April, matinee  
Audio Described: 24 February, matinee and 16 March, matinee

### **The Duchess of Malfi**

Captioned: 9 March, matinee and 5 April, evening  
BSL: 14 March, evening and 24 March, matinee  
Audio Described: 23 March, matinee and 6 April, matinee  
Relaxed: 3 April, evening and 7 April, matinee

## 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**

### **Donate**

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### **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.