



**SHAKESPEARE'S  
GLOBE**

# **PRESS RELEASE**

**FRIDAY 2 FEBRUARY**

## **SHAKESPEARE'S GLOBE ANNOUNCES CAST OF *PLAYING SHAKESPEARE WITH DEUTSCHE BANK: ROMEO AND JULIET***



Shakespeare's Globe is delighted to announce the cast of this year's *Playing Shakespeare with Deutsche Bank* production, *Romeo and Juliet*. This gripping 90-minute production set in the present day is created especially for young people and designed to support the curriculum. The production will be directed by Director of Education, **Lucy Cuthbertson**, Director of Olivier award-nominated *Midsummer Mechanicals* (Sam Wanamaker Playhouse, 2022).

The cast includes **Gethin Alderman, Sharon Ballard, Ashley Byam, Simeon Desvignes, Marième Diouf, Miriam Grace Edwards, Felixe Forde, Owen Gawthorpe, Liam King, Hayden Mampasi** and **Saroja-Lily Ratnavel**. Biographies are listed below.

Public performances from 19 March until 13 April run alongside the previously announced schools' project, supported by Deutsche Bank, as part of their global youth engagement programme 'Born to Be'. There are over 26,000 free tickets for pupils aged 11-16 at London and Birmingham state schools, with subsidised tickets for schools nationwide and a range of accessible performances including Integrated BSL.

Alongside the production, workshops on *Romeo and Juliet* will run throughout the Easter Holidays, including practical drama activities and games for young people to attend alone or with their families.

**Director Lucy Cuthbertson says:** "It's a privilege to be directing this production of *Romeo and Juliet* at Shakespeare's Globe. For 18 years, our flagship education project has been enabling hundreds of thousands of students to experience theatre for free, made possible by the support from Deutsche Bank's Born to Be programme. There is no place like the Globe to see Shakespeare. We hope this contemporary vision for one of the world's most famous stories will resonate with our young audiences and indeed anyone coming to Shakespeare for the first time."

**Gethin Alderman will play Capulet.** Gethin is an actor, clown and creature performer/movement specialist. Theatre credits include *Starcrossed* (Wilton's Music Hall), *Henry V* (Donmar Warehouse), *Mold Riots* (Theatr Clwyd), *Incident at Vichy*, *Geography of Fire* (both Finborough Theatre), *Seagulls* (Volcano Theatre), *Finding Home* (Mercury Theatre Wales), *Nineveh* (Riverside Studios), *The Princess and The Pea/Y Dywysoges a'r Bysen Fechan Fach* (Sherman Theatre), *Hamlet* (Secret Theatre London) and *The Last March* (Tinder Theatre). TV credits include *The Great* (Hulu/Channel 4), *Somewhere Boy* (Channel 4), *Wolf*, *Casualty*, *Doctors*, *I Am Einstein*, *The Outlaws* (all BBC), *The Winter King* (ITV) and *Star Wars: Andor* (Disney+). Film credits include *The Boys in the Boat* (MGM), *The 355* (Universal Pictures) and *Ammonite* (BBC Film/BFI).

**Sharon Ballard will play Lady Capulet.** Sharon began her professional career as a child actor in the Seychelles whilst training at the National Conservatoire for Performing Arts, and continued her training at The BRIT School For Performing Arts. Theatre credits include *Superyou* (Lyric Theatre), *Mother Goose* (West End/UK Tour), *Jungle Rumble* (Fortune Theatre), *One Night Of Tina* (European Tour), *Quiz* (Noel Coward Theatre), *David Gest's – Time Of My Life* (Arena Tour), *Sleeping Beauty* (Hackney Empire), *A&E* (Lost Theatre), *A Hard Working Bus* (RADA Studios), *Peter Pan* (Wimbledon Theatre), *Dick Whittington* (Wycombe Swan), *Blues Brothers* (UK and European tour), *Buddy Holly* (Arena Tour), *Cinderella* (New Theatre, Cardiff), *In Bed* (Questors Theatre), *All Bobs Women* (Arts Theatre), *Godspell* (UK No 1 Tour), *Discotivity* (Gilded Balloon, Edinburgh Festival) and *Solid Gold Soul* (European Tour). TV credits include *Pennyworth* (Expix/HBO Max), *The Feed* (Virgin Media/Amazon Prime), *Delicious* (Sky 1), *Good Omens* (Amazon Prime/BBC Two), *Trauma* (ITV), *The Royals (E!)*, *Sherlock*, *Eastenders* (BBC One). Film credits include *Watch What I Do* (Fully Focused Productions), *Me Before You* (Warner Brothers) and *Delicious* (Delicious the Film). Sharon has also worked extensively as a voice/recording artist.

**Ashley Byam will play Mercutio.** Ashley graduated from Oxford School of Drama. Theatre credits include *Fourplay* (Above The Stage Theatre). TV credits include *Eastenders*, *Death in Paradise* (BBC), *Giri/Haji* (Netflix), *The Legend of Tarzan* (Warner Brothers), and *Legend* (Studio Canal). Film credits include the award winning German short film *Different Bayern*. He played the lead role (for which he won Best Actor at the Hidden Film Festival) in the award-winning short film *Lessons* directed by Sam Seccombe.

**Simeon Desvignes will play Paris.** Simeon trained at Arts Ed and The BRIT School. Theatre credits include *The Wolf, The Duck and The Mouse* (Unicorn Theatre; *The Poel Workshop* (National Theatre), *Hamlet Primary* (National Theatre). Credits whilst in training: *Divine*; *Chaos*; *RED*; *Hamlet*; *In The Red and Brown Water*; *Blank*; *They'll Love You* (Short Film).

**Marième Diouf will play Friar.** Theatre credits include *Get Dressed* (Unicorn Theatre), *Nothing in a Butterfly* (Omnibus Theatre), *The Hoes* (Hampstead Theatre), *Offside* (Futures Theatre), *A Tale of Two Cities* (Regent's Open Air Theatre), *King Lear* (RSC), *Hamlet* (RSC), *Cymbeline* (RSC), *Liberian girl* (Royal Court). Film credits include *Tarzan* (Warner Brothers). TV credits include *Outlander* (Starz).

**Miriam Grace Edwards will play Nurse.** Theatre credits include *The Empress* (Royal Shakespeare Company and Lyric Hammersmith), *Mlle F* (Belgrade Theatre), *The Gunpowder Plot* (Layered Reality), *Brassed Off* (National Tour), *Help Me, Cried The Sea* (Talking Birds), *Twelfth Night* (Globe Theatre, Neuss & International Shakespeare Festival, Serbia), *The Hundred Years War* (National tour), *Powder, People and Breathe* (Theatre Absolute) *The Sisterhood, The Good, The Bad and The Ugly Sisters, Over The Top* and numerous Christmas seasons (Belgrade Theatre), *A Christmas Carol* (Core Theatre), *Luminous, Disorder* (Birmingham Rep), *Go Down Swinging*, (Standing 8/Royal & Derngate), *First Do No Harm* (National Tour)

**Felix Forde will play Juliet.** Theatre credits include *Henry VI: Rebellion & Henry VI: Wars of the Roses* (RSC), *Pride and Prejudice\** (\*Sort of) (Bristol Old Vic & UK Tour), *The Afflicted* (Edinburgh Fringe Festival), *Petroleuse* (Lyric Hammersmith/Evolution Festival). TV credits include *The Chelsea Detective* (Acorn TV), *Midsomer Murders* (ITV), *Death in Paradise, Doctors* (BBC).

**Owen Gawthorpe is The Cyclist.** Owen Gawthorpe is a professional trials cyclist athlete and performer. He has competed for GB cycling for 10 years all over the globe, most recently last summer at the Glasgow UCI World Championships. He has also been a professional trials stunt performer for the past 10 years, performing hundreds of shows to audiences all over the UK and Europe. Performance credits include *Elektron*, an large scale arena show in Studio City, Macau and the Justice in Motion 2023 tour of CODE, a hard-hitting outdoor theatre show about the impacts of gang life and knife crime which merged his cycling and performance skills with parkour.

**Liam King will play Tybalt.** Liam graduated from LAMDA in 2019. Theatre credits include *Macbeth* (RSC); *An Edinburgh Christmas Carol* (Royal Lyceum Theatre); *A Christmas Carol* (Pulp Rocket Theatre); *Mrs Puntilla and her Man Matti* (Royal Lyceum Theatre); *Caligula, Tender Napalm, Pinocchio, The Duchess of Malfi* (Citizens Theatre).

**Hayden Mampasi will play Romeo.** Hayden Mampasi trained at the Drama Studio London, graduating in 2021. Theatre credits include *Passion Fruit* (New Diorama); *Ben Butler* (English Theatre Of Hamburg); *Unlocking Cannons House* (Attic Theatre Company); *The Story Of Yara* (Greenwich Theatre); *Romeo and Juliet* (Guildford Shakespeare company); *Macbeth* (Guildford Shakespeare Company) *Cuffed* (Alinement Productions) and *The Tempest* (Guildford Shakespeare Company). Hayden won the 2022 Black British Theatre award for Best Supporting Male in a play for *Passion Fruit*, which was his theatre debut.

**Saroja-Lily Ratnavel will play Benvolio.** Saroja-Lily trained at LAMDA and Durham University. Theatre credits include *The Hypochondriac* (Sheffield Crucible), *The Swell* (Orange Tree Theatre), *Chasing Hares* (Young Vic), *Electric Rosary* (Royal Exchange Theatre), *The Key Workers Cycle: The Social Care Workers Play and Name, Place, Animal, Thing* (Almeida Theatre). TV credits include *Doctors* (BBC) and *Bravo Two Charlies* (BBC Wales). Film credits include *We Live*

*in Time* (StudioCanal). Radio credits include *My Type on Paper*, *Wood Wide Web*, *Dr Dr* (Seagull Productions) and *D for Dexter* (BBC Radio 4).

## ENDS

### EDITOR'S NOTES

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#### IMAGES:

Globe Theatre: <https://we.tl/t-5caMHab4rl>  
Headshots and artwork:

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

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#### **Playing Shakespeare with Deutsche Bank: *Romeo and Juliet***

19 March – 13 April  
Press night: Thursday 7 March  
Globe Theatre

#### ***Much Ado About Nothing***

25 April – 24 August  
Press night: Friday 3 May  
[#MuchAdoAboutNothingGlobe](https://twitter.com/MuchAdoAboutNothingGlobe)  
Globe Theatre

#### ***Richard III***

9 May – 3 August  
Press night: Thursday 21 May  
[#RichardIIIGlobe](https://twitter.com/RichardIIIGlobe)  
Globe Theatre

#### ***The Taming of the Shrew***

6 June – 26 October  
Press night: Tuesday 18 June  
[#TheTamingoftheShrewGlobe](https://twitter.com/TheTamingoftheShrewGlobe)  
Globe Theatre

#### ***Antony and Cleopatra***

4 August – 15 September  
Press night: Wednesday 14 August  
[#AntonyandCleopatraGlobe](https://twitter.com/AntonyandCleopatraGlobe)  
Globe Theatre

#### ***The Comedy of Error***

21 August – 27 October  
Press night: Thursday 29 August  
[#TheComedyOfErrorsGlobe](https://twitter.com/TheComedyOfErrorsGlobe)  
Globe Theatre

#### ***Princess Essex***

13 September – 26 October

Press night: Thursday 19 September  
[#PrincessEssexGlobe](https://twitter.com/PrincessEssexGlobe)  
Globe Theatre

#### ***Rough Magic***

20 July – 24 August  
[#RoughMagicGlobe](https://twitter.com/RoughMagicGlobe)  
Sam Wanamaker Playhouse

#### **MIDNIGHT MATINEES**

*The Taming of the Shrew*: Friday 28 June  
*Much Ado About Nothing*: Saturday 17 August  
*The Comedy of Errors*: Friday 6 September

#### **ASSISTED PERFORMANCES**

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

#### ***Playing Shakespeare with Deutsche Bank: *Romeo and Juliet****

Captioned: Tuesday 19 March, 7pm  
BSL: Tuesday 19 March, 7pm  
Audio Described: Wednesday 3 April, 2pm  
Relaxed: Friday 5 April, 2pm; Saturday 6 April, 2pm & 7pm

#### ***Much Ado About Nothing***

Captioned: Saturday 25 May, 2pm; Wednesday 12 June, 7.30pm  
BSL: Friday 14 June, 7.30pm; Sunday 14 July, 1pm  
Relaxed: Sunday 21 July, 1pm; Thursday 15 August, 7.30pm  
Audio Described: Thursday 23 May, 2pm; Saturday 10 August, 2pm

#### ***Richard III***

Captioned: Monday 27 May, 7.30pm; Monday 15 July, 7.30pm  
Audio Described: Thursday 20 June, 2pm; Monday 22 July, 7.30pm  
BSL: Saturday 22 June, 2pm; Friday 19 July, 7.30pm  
Relaxed: Saturday 1 June, 2pm; Wednesday 10 July, 7.30pm

#### ***The Taming of the Shrew***

Captioned: Wednesday 26 June, 7.30pm; Saturday 26 October, 2pm  
Audio Described: Monday 8 July, 7.30pm; Tuesday 24 September, 2pm  
BSL: Monday 14 October, 7.30pm; Friday 18 October, 2pm  
Relaxed: Thursday 11 July, 7.30pm; Thursday 26 September, 2pm

#### ***Rough Magic***

Captioned: Saturday 10 August, 3pm  
BSL: Thursday 15 August, 1.30pm  
Relaxed: Friday 9 August, 3pm; Wednesday 21 August, 1.30pm  
Audio Described: Wednesday 7 August, 1.30pm

### **Antony and Cleopatra**

Antony & Cleopatra will be a bilingual production using both British Sign Language and Spoken English to explore communication, language, communities, division, and connection. All performances will be captioned.

Cleopatra, Queen of the Egyptians, will use British Sign Language throughout the production. Cleopatra will be played by Nadia Nadarajah who has previously performed at the Globe in *As You Like It* and *Hamlet (2018)*, and with Deafinitely Theatre at the Globe in *A Midsummer Night's Dream (2014)* and *Love's Labour's Lost (2012)*.

Our creative team of Deaf and hearing artists and consultants will begin the creation process for the production in the spring. We will therefore be able to provide further information on the creative integration of both BSL and Spoken English in due course.

Captioned: all performances will be captioned  
Relaxed: Sunday 1 September, 1pm; Thursday 5 September, 7.30pm  
Audio Described: Wednesday 4 September, 2pm; Sunday 15 September, 1pm

### **The Comedy of Errors**

Captioned: Wednesday 4 September, 7.30pm; Wednesday 16 October, 7.30pm  
BSL: Sunday 13 October, 1pm; Saturday 19 October, 2pm  
Relaxed: Tuesday 3 September, 2pm; Wednesday 18 September, 7.30pm  
Audio Described: Saturday 21 September, 2pm; Friday 27 September, 2pm

### **Princess Essex**

Captioned: Thursday 3 October, 7.30pm; Saturday 19 October, 7.30pm  
BSL: Friday 4 October, 7.30pm; Friday 11 October, 7.30pm  
Audio Described: Saturday 28 September, 2pm  
Relaxed: Saturday 5 October, 2pm; Thursday 17 October, 7.30pm

## **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**

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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Member-exclusive 20% discount when booking three or more productions during priority booking only\*

\*Limited availability. This offer applies to £75, £69 and £62 purchased for *Much Ado About Nothing*, *Richard III*, *Antony & Cleopatra*, *The Taming of the Shrew*, *The Comedy of Errors* and *Princess Essex* before Thursday 8 February 2024. Discount will be applied automatically once you have logged into your membership account and eligible tickets have been added to your basket. Tickets must be purchased in the same transaction and the discount cannot be applied retrospectively. We reserve the right to end this offer at any time.

### **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)

### **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 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.

### **Deutsche Bank**

*Playing Shakespeare with Deutsche Bank* is an award-winning programme with Globe Education, linked to the national curriculum. It helps young people get to grips with Shakespeare through free tickets to performances at Shakespeare's Globe, in-school workshops, teacher training and online learning resources.

Around the world, Deutsche Bank applies its global corporate social responsibility strategy to the most relevant local concerns. In the UK, the Bank's *Born to Be* programme reaches over 105,000 11 – 18 year olds in state secondary education. The programme aims to build skills for 21st century employment and improve social mobility.