

A Visual Story  
To support your visit to Shakespeare's Globe.

# THREE SISTERS

SHAKESPEARE'S  
GLOBE

# Contents



## **Visual Story**

This document will give you a detailed description of what to expect from Three Sisters in the Sam Wanamaker Playhouse at Shakespeare's Globe.

### **Included:**

- Pictures of the cast in and out of costume
- Show notes and helpful information
- Synopsis
- Sonic story
- Contact details

Many thanks to TourettesHero who wrote the sonic story provided on pages 16 - 18.

# The Cast

This shows the cast in and out of costume. Some of the characters appear in multiple costumes throughout.



Michael Abubakar



Tuzenbach



Kelvin Ade



Fedotik / Cover



Rachel Barnwell

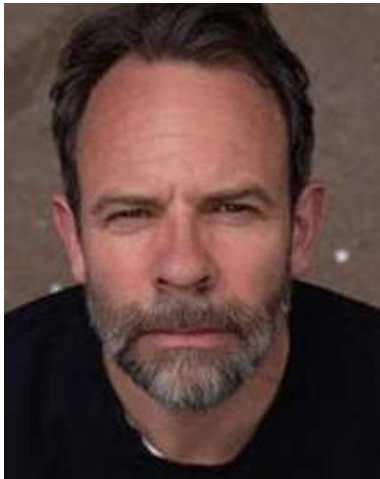
Ensemble / Cover



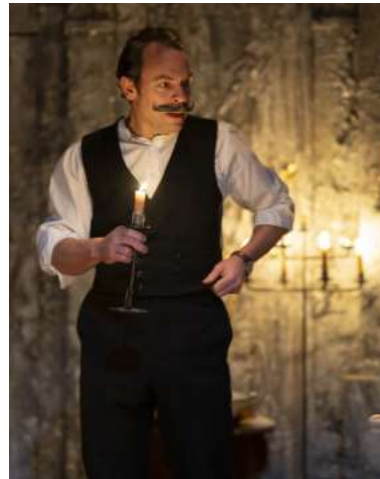
Ishia Bennison



Anfisa



Keir Charles



Fyodor Kulygin



Natalie Klamar



Natalya Ivanovna



Richard Pyros



Vassily Solyony



Paul Ready



Aleksandr Vershinin



Shannon Tarbet



Masha



Michelle Terry



Olga



Ruby Thompson



Irina



Stuart Thompson



Andrei



Peter Wight



Ivan Chebutykin

# Show Notes

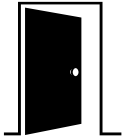


## Relaxed Performance

A relaxed performance will take place on:

Friday 7 March 2025 at 7.30 pm

Saturday 15 March 2025 at 2.00 pm



## This will mean:



- An open-door policy: you can come and go as much as you want or need to.
- A Quiet Space - ask the stewards for directions.
- A culture of acceptance and respect for however you want to experience the show.
- Movement and noise are welcome should you need or want to.
- Pre-show information packs are available online and at the welcome desk.

The content of the show is exactly the same.



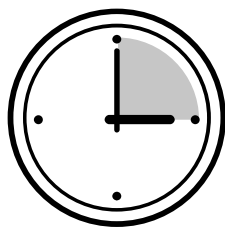
## Content and Trigger Warnings

The production includes:

- References to suicide and war
- Strong language
- A prop gun (fired off-stage)
- Masks
- Flashing lights
- Loud noises
- Depictions of non-consensual touching



# Show Notes



## Times

The show is roughly 2 hours 40 minutes long.

This is including a 20 minute interval.



## Music and Sound

Check out our sonic story for full information.

You can also wear audio mufflers or borrow some from the Welcome Desk.

## Lighting

The Sam Wanamaker Playhouse is lit through candlelight as well as bright lighting shone from outside the auditorium.

The candles are lit and extinguished throughout the performance so some moments are lighter or darker than others.

# Set

You can see many of the costumes used throughout the performance in the pictures throughout the synopsis.

The set looks like this:



If you don't want to know the plot of the show, you can skip to page 16.

## FIRST HALF

The play starts in the drawing room of the Prozorov family with the three sisters on stage. It is the youngest sister Irina's name-day. They moved here from Moscow eleven years ago. Their father died exactly one year ago today. Three soldiers from the nearby artillery post join the sisters for Irina's party. Attending the party are Baron Tuzenbach, Captain Solyony, and Ivan Chebutykin, the army doctor. The three men discuss their new commander, Vershinin, who has recently been transferred from Moscow. Irina discusses how useless she feels as a young woman.

Anfisa, the family's very elderly nurse, arrives bringing a cake from Protopopov, the head of the district council. Then Vershinin arrives. Vershinin remembers the sisters from when they were children in Moscow and they reminisce about their old city. Solyony likes to irritate the guests and doesn't know how to communicate with them, even pretending to shoot a gun (but it doesn't make any noise).



## Three Sisters - Synopsis

Their brother Andrei joins the party. Andrei has fallen in love with a local girl, Natalya, whom the sisters feel is too common for him. Andrei doesn't have patience for being teased because he's exhausted from a long day of studying. Masha and Vershinin chat and bond.

Kulygin, Masha's wife, returns home from work bearing a gift for Irina. Most of the guests retire to the dining room, leaving Irina alone with Tuzenbach. It becomes clear Tuzenbach has fallen in love with Irina and would like to marry her, but Irina isn't interested.



Andrei's girlfriend, Natalya, arrives for the party. Olga immediately mocks Natalya's garish dress. The group teases Andrei and Natalya, which upsets Natalya and she runs away. Andrei comforts her, telling her he loves her, and asking her to marry him.

We then skip forward in time as many candles are extinguished. Nearly two years later Andrei and Natalya are married with a baby named Bobik. Natalya suggests that Irina and Olga should move into the tiny upstairs room together because they're never home anyway, so that Bobik is in a less damp room. Andrei is non-committal to Natalya's suggestion.

## Three Sisters - Synopsis



Masha and Vershinin enter the room discussing the unhappiness of their marriages. Through their conversation, it becomes clear Masha and Vershinin are having an affair and are in love with each other, although their responsibilities prevent them from leaving their spouses.

Irina comes home and the sisters complain about how much money Andrei has lost gambling. Everyone is waiting for the Mummies and for a party, but Natalya has cancelled it as Bobik is unwell. They discuss life in the future. Vershinin has to leave when he learns his wife has tried to commit suicide. His sudden departure puts Masha in a terrible mood. They sit and talk until Natalya asks everyone to leave.

## SECOND HALF

Nearly a year later, some changes have taken place. It's 2 a.m. when the scene opens, and Olga, Masha, and Anfisa crowd together in the tiny upstairs bedroom. A fire has broken out locally, and people rush through the house gathering supplies for those in need. Natalya enters and immediately berates Anfisa for sitting down. She and Olga get into an argument about Anfisa. Chebutykin enters the scene, completely drunk, and tells everyone that Natalya is having an affair.

Kulygin enters and Masha complains that Andrei has remortgaged the house. When he leaves, Masha admits her affair with Vershinin. Andrei enters and confronts the sisters about their disrespectful treatment of Natalya. He admits to having a gambling problem, for which he is deeply ashamed. Rumors fly that the army is moving the nearby battery. Later, Irina decides to accept Tuzenbach's marriage proposal even though she doesn't love him.



## Three Sisters - Synopsis

In the final scene, the room fills with light from outside the auditorium. It is a year later, and the soldiers arrive at the Prozorov house to say goodbye to the family. Natalya has had another baby, but the rumour is that Andrei is not the father. As they say goodbye, everyone, the family and the soldiers, feels emotional. Chebutkyin reveals that Solyony has challenged Tuzenbach to a duel.

Tuzenbach says goodbye to Irina, they're getting married soon, then will move away and work. She speaks kindly but admits she will never love him.



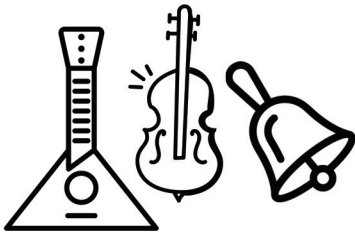
Andrei tries to be hopeful about the future, despite the fact that he has mortgaged the family home to pay his gambling debts, and Natalya has managed to gain control of the money he borrowed. Vershinin, Olga, and Anfisa arrive. Vershinin distractedly looks around the garden for Masha before it is time to leave. When Masha arrives, their goodbye is heartbreaking. Kulygin defends her when Olga tries to calm her down; although he knew about the affair, he is happy to have his wife back. Chebutykin arrives and announces that Tuzenbach has been killed in the duel – we hear a gunshot from outside the auditorium before this, so we knew that someone must have been shot already. Saddened, Irina vows to dedicate herself to her work. The play ends with Olga's emotional words.

# THREE SISTERS

Here is some information about the **music** and **sounds** in Three Sisters.



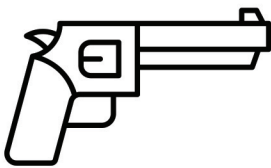
There is **live music** throughout the performance. This is played in the **musicians gallery**, on the **stage** and from the **audience**.



The musicians regularly use string instruments, including **violins**, **cellos** and **balalaikas**. There are also frequent **bells** and **low groaning sounds**.



During the interval, a bell rings to tell you to return to your seat. **This interval bell merges with the bells at the beginning of Act 2.** Act 2 has many **very loud bells**, played all around the theatre.



There is a **single gunshot sound** in Act 2.

Separately to this, a gun appears on stage **once in act 1 (26 minutes)** and **once in act 2 (46 minutes)** but at these times makes no sound.



The next two pages show the '**Sonic Story**' of Three Sisters. This highlights **loud and quiet moments** from the performance, and moments where the **sound changes suddenly**.



# THREE SISTERS

## Sonic Story - ACT 1

Play begins with low, ominous groaning, then repeated metallic chiming.

Distant voices, loud angry shouting.

Distant knocking.

Vassily shrieks, then gentle strings.

Olga shouts, gentle strings, Vassily shrieks.

Quiet ringing of spinning top, later joined by percussive tones.

Low ominous groaning, distant thudding.

Tuzenbach stamps loudly.

Low groaning.

Loud arguing, drunken singing, stomping, upbeat piano - stops abruptly, then singing continues distantly.

Distant bell.

Container slams shut.



Mins 5 10 15 20 25 30 35 40 45 50 55 60 65 70 75

Tuzenbach gently plays the balalaika.

Vassily shrieks loudly.

Irina shouts.

Loud playful shouting and running around.

A pretend gun is pointed at Tuzenbach's head it clicks but does not fire.

Lively celebration - singing, stomping, dancing and music - then thoughtful tune.

Brief quiet on stage, then bell rings and person sings.

Gentle balalaika.

Brief quiet on stage, then Masha shouts angrily.

Low groaning.

Repeated bell, low groan.

Eerie singing and tune, audience applause as Act 1 ends.

# THREE SISTERS

## Sonic Story - ACT 2



Act 2 starts with 2 minutes of **very loud bells** from around the audience, **people on stage shout.**



**Very loud bells** resume briefly.

Bells ring, **knocking**, distant speech, then **sad slow song** begins.

Gentle **piano.**

Loud **shouting.**



One **loud gunshot** from off stage.



**Very loud bells** resume briefly, loud **shriek.**

Irina **shouts** and **cries** loudly.

**Dramatic fanfare** with drums, then **shouting** and **laughing.**

**Vassily** loudly **bangs his hands** on the stage.

Bursts of **fanfares.**

Natasha **screams.**



Mins 5 10 15 20 25 30 35 40 45 50 55 60 65 70

Masha **stomps** loudly.

Quiet singing, then **panting**, **shouting** and **laughing.**

**Brief quiet** on stage.

A gun is held on stage but **does not fire** then there is **shouting** and **running** through the theatre.

Masha **screams** and **cries.**

Clock **falls** loudly, shouting.

**Brief quiet** on stage, later **Masha screams.**

**Shouting** from the balcony, then **fanfare.**

Fast string rendition of **Korobeiniki.**

**Distant fanfare**, xylophone and drums, **audience applause** as play finishes.

# Further information



## Contact Details

Should you require more information or wish to discuss your access requirements please contact the Access team on [accessteam@shakeapearesglobe.com](mailto:accessteam@shakeapearesglobe.com) or 020 7401 9919.



We welcome feedback about your Relaxed Performance experience at Shakespeare's Globe. Please contact us on the above details.