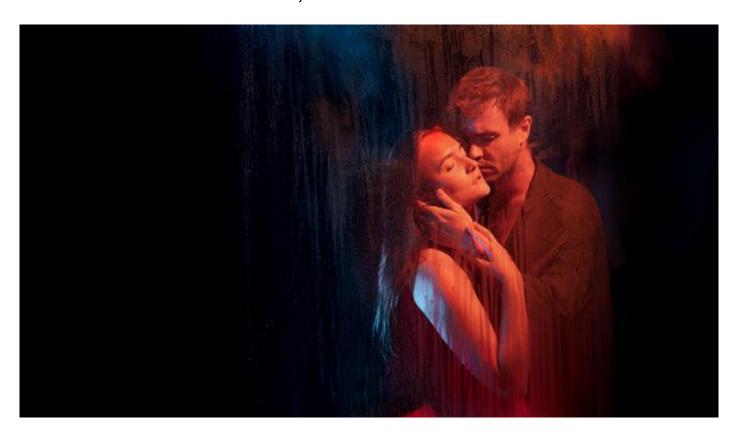


PRESS RELEASE

THURSDAY 11 SEPTEMBER

CAST ANNOUNCED FOR ROMEO A JULIET AT SHAKESPEARE'S GLOBE A THEATR CYMRU PRODUCTION, IN ASSOCIATION WITH SHAKESPEARE'S GLOBE



Theatr Cymru's production of *Romeo a Juliet*, in association with Shakespeare's Globe, opens on 5 November, marking the first Welsh-language performances in the Sam Wanamaker Playhouse. Directed by **Theatr Cymru Artistic Director Steffan Donnelly**, the cast comprises: **Steffan Cennydd** as Romeo, **Isabella Colby Browne** as Juliet, **Siôn Eifion** as Benvolio, **Owain Gwynn** as Mercutio, **Scott Gutteridge** as Tybalt, **Llinor ap Gwynedd** as Juliet's Nurse, **Eiry Thomas** as Friar Lawrence, **Imad Eldeen** as Paris, **Gabin Kongolo** as the Prince, and **Jonathan Nefydd** and **Michelle McTernan** as Lord and Lady Capulet.

This ground-breaking bilingual production combines Welsh and English, weaving the original Shakespearean English with J.T. Jones's acclaimed Welsh translation to reflect the divided words of the Montagues and Capulets. Additionally, a language access app, Sibrwd, will be available to audiences to guide them through the play line by line, for a live translation of Shakespeare's words in Welsh.

Director Steffan Donnelly says: "I couldn't be happier with the astonishingly talented cast we've put together for Romeo a Juliet. This is a fantastic opportunity to showcase some of the best Welsh performers we have right now, from all across the country. Steffan and Isabella are brilliant together, bringing warmth and candour to the star-crossed lovers. I'm looking forward to getting into the rehearsal room with the passion, experience and skill this exceptional ensemble will bring to our bilingual take on Romeo a Juliet."

Romeo a Juliet is designed by Elin Steele, with Rhian Blythe as Associate Director, Dyfan Jones as Composer, Music Director and Sound Designer, Ceri James as Lighting Designer, Fight and Intimacy Direction from Ruth Cooper-Brown, Catherine Alexander as Movement Director, and Nia Lynn as Voice Director.

Steffan Cennydd will play Romeo. Steffan received his degree from Guildhall School of Music & Drama, winning the Gold Medal for Acting. Television credits include *Tree on a Hill* (BBC Wales); *Criminal Record* (Apple TV); *Enid a Lucy* (S4C) nominated for the Breakthrough Award at the 2019 British Academy Cymru Awards; *Hidden* (BBC), and *The Pembrokeshire Murders* (ITV). Recently, he starred in the BFI feature *Sweetheart* directed by Marley Morrison. His theatre credits include *Hir* at the Park Theatre directed by Steven Kunis, and a role in Stella Feehily's play *The Lightest Element* at the Hampstead Theatre directed by Alice Hamilton.

Isabella Colby Browne is Juliet. Isabella trained at Rose Bruford College before moving to Cardiff and learning Welsh, winning the Medal Bobi Jones as Welsh Learner of the Year for 2024. Theatre credits include *Cymrix* (Arad Goch); *Gwlad! Gwlad!* (Awen Cultural Trust); *Julius Caesar* (National Tour); *Where the Leaves Blow/Ble Mae'r Dail yn Hedfan* (Arad Goch); *Under Milk Wood* (Sherman Theatre); *The First Three Drops* (Taking Flight Theatre Company). Film credits include *A Chat About Ducks* (Unit 148 Films); *Elysian Fields*, nominated Best Actress (FinalFrameFilms), and *Can The Moon Walk Me Home* (Royal Academy of Dramatic Arts).

Siôn Eifion will play Benvolio. Siôn graduated from LAMDA in 2016 and has since built a diverse career across theatre, television, film, and radio. His stage credits include *Macbeth* and *The Caucasian Chalk Circle* (Theatr Genedlaethol Cymru), and *The Macbeths* at The Pleasance Theatre, London. On screen, he has appeared in acclaimed dramas including *Hidden, Stad, 35 Awr*, and the BAFTA Cymru-winning feature Y *Sŵn*. He recently appeared in *The Bolt* on BBC Radio 4 and in the ITV series *Emmerdale*.

Owain Gwynn will play Mercutio. Owain trained at RADA and obtained the specialist Acting and Stage Combat degree at East 15. Theatre credits include Yr Hogyn Pren, Macbeth, Deffro'r Gwanwyn (Theatr Cymru); Ocean at the End of the Lane, War Horse, The Light Princess (National Theatre); Olion (Frân Wen); Life of Pi (Sheffield Crucible); The Lorax (The Old Vic); Peter Pan, Porgy & Bess (Regent's Park Open Air Theatre); Hamlet, Not About Heroes, Ghosts, Portrait of the Artist (Theatr Clwyd). Television and film credits include Bregus (Fiction Factory); Yr Amgueddfa, 35 Diwrnod, Morfydd (Boom Cymru); Craith / Hidden (Severn Screen); Bang (Joio); Apostle (Netflix); Gangs of London, Britannia (Sky), and The Bastard Executioner (Fox).

Scott Gutteridge will play Tybalt. Scott trained at RADA and has worked across theatre, film and TV. Theatre credits include *Cymbeline* (RSC), *Sleeping Beauty* directed by Ameera Conrad, *Curtain Up* (Theatr Clwyd); *Homer's Iliad* (National Theatre Wales); *A Clockwork Orange* (LYT); *The Crucible* (LYT) and *The Edelweiss Pirates* by Ayub Khan Din (National Theatre Connections). His film and television credits include the role of Fancy Clanton in Kenneth Branagh's award-winning feature *Belfast*, *Doctors* (BBC), Samantha O'Rourke's BFI short *The Girl with the Haunted Vagina*, and John Parr's BAFTA qualifying short *A Pack of Five*.

Llinor ap Gwynedd will play Juliet's Nurse. Llinor's recent credits include *Itopia* (S4C), *Mudtown/Ar Y Ffin* (S4C), *Creisis* (S4C), *Y Golau / The Light In The Hall* (Channel 4/S4C), *The Pembrokeshire Murders* (ITV) and *Fflam* (S4C). During these productions she was in the Welsh soap *Pobol Y Cwm* for 19 years. Other productions include *Y Palmant Aur, Llafur Cariad, Rownd a Rownd, Lolipop* and *ClecX* (S4C). She has recorded dramas for BBC Radio Cymru, as well as numerous voice-overs for S4C, BBC Radio Cymru and BBC Radio Wales. Llinor has been a backing vocalist for Delwyn Sion and The Amendments, and sang Alto for Cardiff based choir Côrdydd.

Eiry Thomas will play Friar Lawrence. Theatre credits include Byd Dan Eira (Theatr Bara Caws), Woman of Flowers (Theatr Pena), P.A.R.A.D.E. (National Dance Company Wales), The Glass Menagerie, The Royal Bed, Trojan Women and House of Bernarda Albe (Theatr Pena), Mother Courage and her Children (National Theatre Wales), Garw (Theatr Bara Caws), Windsongs of the Blessed Day (Theatr Cadair), Clytemnestra and Measure for Measure MEASURE (Sherman Theatre). Television credits include Out There (ITV), The One That Got Away, The Pact, The Accident, Hinterland, Rillington Place, Sherlock, The Green Hollow, Casualty, Doctors, The Indian Doctor, Ordinary Lies and 3 Series of Belonging (BBC), Y Swn, Bex, Anfamol, 2 Series of Enid a Lucy, Byw Celwydd, Lan a Lawr, Teulu and Beca (S4C), Keeping Faith/Un Bore Mercher (BBC/S4C), Stella (Sky) and Britannia 2 (Sky Atlantic) Her radio credits include Strings, Losing Paradise, Another Place, Ten Days That Shook The World, My Mother Taught Me How To Sing, Pepys: After The Fire, A Speck of Dust, Blue Glory, A View from the Windows, Falling Faces, My Life with Flu, Wish You Were Here, Nine Lives and Dark Minds (BBC Radio 4) Rhywun Fel Fi, Llaneski, Trafferth Mewn Tafarn, Drama Senghenyedd, Un Nos, Hoshiko, Aiden Melberg and Tridiau yn Chwefror (BBC Radio Cymru). Eiry won Best Actress at the BAFTA Cymru awards for Cwcw in 2009 and The Bench in 2003, and was nominated in 2023 for her performance in Y Swn, 2019 for her performance in Enid a Lucy, in 2017 for her performance in Green Hollow, and in 2004 for her performance in Triongl.

Imad Eldeen will play Paris. Imad graduated from Leeds Conservatoire in 2024 with a BA in Acting. His recent theatre and film credits include Mother Goose (Theatr Clwyd); Scandaltown (Leeds City Varietes); As You Like It (Leeds

Playhouse); *Intermission* (Riptide Theatre), and *The Robbery* (dir. Molly Kay Cowell). Imad was nominated for the 'Best Newcomer to Industry' award at the Pantomime Awards 2025.

Gabin Kongolo will play the Prince. Gabin studied at the Royal Welsh College of Music & Drama. His theatre credits include: *Antony & Cleopatra* (Shakespeare's Globe); *Henry V* (Donmar Warehouse); *Truth or Dare* (Theatr Clwyd); *Freedom* (March on Selma); *Days of Significance* (Richard Burton Theatre Company); *Children of Glyndwr* (English Touring Theatre); *Feral Monsters* (National Theatre Wales); *Eight/Gates* (Sherman Theatre); *The Merchant of Venice; Three Sisters; The Night of the Iguana* and *The Flick* (Farnham Maltings). Television and radio credits include *Bariau* Series 1 & 2 (BBC); *Mr Loverman* (BBC); *The Suspect* (ITV); *Galwad* (Sky); *Bulletproof 2* (Sky / The CW) and *Doctors* (BBC) *Life and Time* Series 2 (BBC), and *The Making of a Monster* and *Heart & Soul* (BBC).

Jonathan Nefydd will play Lord Capulet. Since graduating from the Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama, Jonathan has worked extensively across theatre, film and television. His theatre credits include *Under Milk Wood* (Volcano Theatre); Y Fenyw Mewn Du (Theatr na nÓg). A Toy Epic (Theatr Clwyd), Sundance, Actus Reus (Theatr Bara Caws), Love in Plastic, Blue Heron in the Womb (Tron Theatre, Glasgow,), Tŷ ar y Tywod, Cariad Mr Bustl, Y Pair (Theatr Genedlaethol Cymru.) Yr Aduniad, William Jones (Cwmni Theatr Gwynedd), Merry Wives of Windsor, The Merchant of Venice, A Winter's Tale (Ludlow Festival Theatre), The Language of Heaven (Dalier Sylw), The Triumph of Love (Actors Touring Company), Under Milk Wood (Wales Theatre Company), Serch yw'r Teyrn, Hud ar Ddyfed (Hwyl a Flag), Dosbarth (Sgript Cymru). His television and film credits include The Way, Grav, Pobol y Cwm, Teulu, Tair Chwaer, Tipyn o Stad, Sion a Sian, Y Palmant Aur, Asembli, Y Mynydd Grug, Glan Hafren, Yr Aduniad, Y Tylluan Wen and Slac yn Dynn.

Michelle McTernan will play Lady Capulet. Michelle's theatre work includes Es & Flo (Kiln Theatre/Wales Millenium Centre), Metamorphosis (Hijinx Theatre Company), The Revlon Girl (Edinburgh Festival/Welsh Tour/Park Theatre, London), Mission Control (Hijinx Theatre/National Theatre Wales), The Three Night Blitz, (Joio Productions/Swansea Grand Theatre), Titania, A Midsummer Nights Dream (Pontardawe Arts Centre), The Revlon Girl, Barren (October Sixty Six Productions), Bara Bread (Theatr Gwalia), Macbeth, Merchant Of Venice, Buoy, Fall Out 84 (Pontardawe Arts Centre), Granny Annie, Trivial Pursuits, Erogenous Zones, Roots And Wings, Family Planning, Kiss On The Bottom (Grassroots Productions), Flesh And Blood (Sherman Theatre/Hampstead Theatre), The Oystercatchers (Swansea Grand/Sherman Theatre), Blue Remembered Hills (Torch Theatre), Under Milk Wood, Rosencrantz And Guildenstern Are Dead (Theatr Clwyd/Tour), Twelfth Night, Cymbeline, The Merchant Of Venice (Ludlow Festival), And (Wales Theatre Company/Tour). She has starred in numerous film and television productions, including *The Crown* (Netflix) Out There (BBC), Casualty (BBC Wales), The Lost Viking (Tornado Productions), Sisters (Tornado Productions), Aetheled, Tree Bastards (Tornado Films/Nowhere Fast Productions), The Healers (Pooka Films), Stella Productions (Sky1 HD) Rain (Tornado Films), Caerdydd (S4C), Midnight (Nowhere Fast Productions), Dr Terrible's House Of Horrible (BBC), Tales From Pleasure Beach (BBC), Light In The City (BBC Wales) and The Feature Film, Very Annie Mary (Dragon Pictures), Bobinogs (Cbeebies/BBC Wales/Worldwide). Radio includes Goat St Runners, Return Journey (Lighthouse Theatre Co), and Cottage Industry (BBC Radio Wales).

Creative team:

Rhian Blythe – Associate Director
Dyfan Jones – Composer, Music Director and Sound Designer
Ruth Cooper-Brown – Fight and Intimacy Director
Ceri James – Lighting Designer
Catherine Alexander – Movement Director
Elin Steele – Set and Costume Designer
Nia Lynn – Voice Director

ENDS

EDITOR'S NOTES

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Headshots: https://we.tl/t-iUxXIVuk9k

Sam Wanamaker Playhouse: https://we.tl/t-JyTewzFjGO

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

SHAKESPEARE'S GLOBE SOCIALS

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SUMMER SEASON

25 April – 26 October 2025 £5 – £80

The Merry Wives of Windsor

Written by William Shakespeare Until 20 September Globe Theatre

Twelfth Night, or What You Will

Written by William Shakespeare Until 25 October Globe Theatre

Troilus and Cressida

Written by William Shakespeare 26 September – 26 October Press night: Friday 3 October Globe Theatre

Midsummer Night's Dream: For One Night Only

Sunday 14 September Globe Theatre

ASSISTED PERFORMANCES

Patrons who are members of the <u>free access scheme</u> are eligible for adjusted ticket prices.

Twelfth Night or What You Will

Captioned: Wednesday 3 September 7.30pm Thursday 16 October 2pm

BSL: Thursday 18 September 2pm, Saturday 11 October 7.30pm

Relaxed: Sunday 7 September 1pm, Tuesday 14 October

Audio Described: Friday 19 September 2pm, Saturday 4 October 2pm

The Merry Wives of Windsor

Captioned: Monday 11 August 7.30pm, Wednesday 3 September 2pm

BSL: Monday 1 September 7.30pm, Saturday 6 September 2pm

Troilus and Cressida

Captioned: Sunday 12 October 1pm, Thursday 16 October 7.30pm

BSL: Wednesday 15 October 7.30pm, Sunday 19 October 1pm

Relaxed: Sunday 19 October 6.30pm, Wednesday 22

October 2pm

Audio Described: Friday 17 October 2pm

SHAKESPEARE'S GLOBE

Website | Shakespearesglobe.com #ThisWoodenO

Globe Player | <u>Player.shakespearesglobe.com</u> #GlobePlayer

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

Shop

Our award-winning shop at Shakespeare's Globe features an enticing selection of hand-picked gifts, stationery, posters, books, and more. Both our in-house and online shop are full of Shakespeare and theatre gifts you can't get anywhere else. Over 80% of our clothing, bags, and homeware are exclusive to us! There's also 10% off your first online order when you sign up to the shop newsletter.

Supporting Shakespeare's Globe

Be part of something inspiring with Membership and support our productions, education work and community outreach from £5 a month. Members also enjoy backstage exclusive content, special events and discounts throughout the year as a thank you for their support.

For more information on how to become a Member, or gift a Membership, you can visit our website

https://www.shakespearesglobe.com/join-andsupport/membership or call on 020 7902 5970

We are seeking support from individuals to join the Supporters' Circle for *Cue Script: A Midsummer Night's Dream – For One Night Only* with donations from £1,000. By joining the Supporters' Circle, you will be offering crucial support and will enjoy the special experience of bringing the production to life from page to stage. You will receive a VIP ticket to the show including the post-show party and will be invited to unique activities with leading Globe creatives and academics, centred around this landmark production. Donations can be made as a one-off gift or in instalments. For further information please contact Jessica Lowery, Head of Individual Giving on

Jessica.Lo@shakespearesglobe.com

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

Cue Scripts

In Shakespeare's times, often actors had no access to the whole play script. Instead, they were given their lines on a scroll or a roll of paper (their role!), with a few words that would be their cue: hence cue-script.

Background Information: Shakespeare's Globe

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).

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.

Many of our productions also enjoy an extended life online through our video-on-demand service <u>Globe Player</u>, 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-eight-year history have produced over 45 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.

THEATR CYMRU

Theatr Cymru (previously Theatr Genedlaethol Cymru) is the Welsh-language national theatre of Wales, creating bold theatre experiences to entertain and inspire the people of Wales and beyond.

We create a place of connection for the well-known and the unexpected, for Welshness and the world, for the big conversations and the joyful moments. We also facilitate opportunities that are a means of nurturing and inspiring the next generation of Welsh theatre artists, together with opportunities for people in all parts of Wales to experience the transformative effect of creativity in their lives.

The company was founded in March 2003, with a grant from the Arts Council of Wales. From the very beginning, one thing was clear – that it would be a touring company, taking Welsh-language theatre into the heart of communities up and down the country. The company would celebrate our identities and our language in all its diversity.

Over the last two decades, Theatr Cymru has embraced the classics of Welsh-language theatre as well as new and experimental work, performing in traditional theatres and in unexpected locations. The company also facilitates creative, wellbeing and participatory projects across the country. Theatr Cymru is now an acclaimed touring theatre, placing Wales and its people on the map, and welcoming to all. With Steffan Donnelly taking the reins as Artistic Director in 2022, alongside Joint Chief Executive Angharad Jones Leefe, and a new name for the company, a new era is dawning.

The company won the 2024 UK Theatre Award for Excellence in Touring and was also nominated as Producer of Year at The Stage Awards 2024.

Theatr Cymru's main office is in Canolfan S4C Yr Egin, Carmarthen. The company is a registered charity, charity number 1106032 / Registered company: 04784488

www.theatr.cymru