

PRESS RELEASE

WEDNESDAY 4 FEBRUARY

CAST ANNOUNCED FOR PLAYING SHAKESPEARE WITH DEUTSCHE BANK: *ROMEO & JULIET*



Shakespeare's Globe is delighted to announce the full cast and creative team of the critically acclaimed *Playing Shakespeare with Deutsche Bank: Romeo and Juliet*, directed by Globe Director of Education **Lucy Cuthbertson**, returning to the Globe Theatre from 5 March – 12 April 2026.

Returning to the Globe stage after the 2024 production will be **Sharon Ballard** as Lady Capulet, **Simeon Desvignes** as Paris, **Marième Diouf** as Friar, **Miriam Grace Edwards** as Nurse, **Felixe Forde** as Juliet, **Owen Gawthorpe** as Cyclist, **Liam King** as Tybalt, and **Hayden Mampasi** as Romeo. Joining the cast this year will be **Mason Clarke-Whale** as Ensemble, **Chaya Gupta** as Benvolio, **Keanu Adolphus Johnson** as Mercutio, **Patrick Osborne** as Capulet and **Inez Solomon-Gardner** as Ensemble.

Playing Shakespeare with Deutsche Bank: Romeo & Juliet's Assistant Director is Jessica Warbeck, the Composers are Ben Hales and David Price, with Kate Hemstock as Costume Supervisor, Owen Gawthorpe as Cycle Consultant, Natalie Pryce as Designer, Kevin McCurdy as Fight Director, Claire Llewellyn as Intimacy Director, Katie Webster as Movement Director, voice by Ellen Hartley, and Adam Bamborough as the Wellbeing Lead.

Playing Shakespeare with Deutsche Bank: Romeo & Juliet was cast by Becky Paris CDG, Head of Casting at Shakespeare's Globe, and Alice Walters, Casting Associate at Shakespeare's Globe.

Celebrating the 20th year of the Globe's flagship education programme, the critically acclaimed 2024 production of *Romeo and Juliet* returns to the Globe, delving into the impact broken society has on young people's lives. Every year *Playing Shakespeare with Deutsche Bank* offers **over 26,000 free-to-access tickets for pupils aged 11–16 at non-selective state secondary schools in London and Birmingham every year** to watch a dynamic 90-minute Shakespeare production in the iconic Globe Theatre. The production is created especially for young people and is designed to help students from KS3 upwards as they build towards their GCSEs. The project also offers thousands of subsidised tickets for all other schools nationwide, plus CPD sessions, student workshops and free learning resources to help teachers and students get the most out of their visit to Shakespeare's Globe. Dedicated schools' performances will take place from Thursday 26 February – Wednesday 25 March.

Over 20 years of the project, the Globe has staged **289 performances**, reaching **333,648 children** with **free tickets** from London and Birmingham state secondary schools. A further **65,000 students** have attended a *Playing Shakespeare with Deutsche Bank* performance with **subsidised tickets**. The project has also delivered over **2,200 free workshops** for over **55,000 students** and over **100 CPDs** for over **2,500 teachers**.

Director of Education, and Director of *Playing Shakespeare with Deutsche Bank: Romeo and Juliet*, Lucy Cuthbertson, said: “I am delighted to welcome back our 2024 production of *Romeo and Juliet* and to have so many of the brilliant, original cast and creative team returning with it. We are incredibly proud of this project and the huge impact it has had on hundreds of thousands of students over 20 years. Gratitude and thanks to Deutsche Bank Corporate Social Responsibility team who have supported a revival of this particular show so that we can continue and extend the work around reducing violence, in collaboration with the Mayor of London's Violence Reduction Unit.”

Shakespeare's Globe also offers a full programme of **family workshops** for children and their grown-ups. *Romeo and Juliet: Family Workshop* will run for children aged 9-11 and 12-14, using interactive games and activities to explore the play's language, characters, and themes. Led by experienced Globe practitioners including actors, teachers and directors, these workshops encourage families to participate together and can be extended with a visit to see *Playing Shakespeare with Deutsche Bank: Romeo and Juliet*, or a guided tour of the Globe Theatre. These family events run throughout the Easter Half Term.

Cast biographies are as follows:

Sharon Ballard will play Lady Capulet. Sharon began her professional career as a child actor in the Seychelles, training at the National Conservatoire for Performing Arts, before continuing her studies at The BRIT School for Performing Arts upon arriving in London. Her television and film credits include *Pennyworth* (S2); *The Feed, Delicious* (S3); *Good Omens* (S1); *Trauma*; *The Royals*; *Sherlock*; *EastEnders*; *Watch What I Do* and *Me Before You*. Theatre credits include *Superyou* (Lyric Theatre); *Mother Goose* (West End/UK Tour); *One Night of Tina* (European Tour); *Quiz* (Noël Coward Theatre); *Sleeping Beauty* (Hackney Empire); *The Blues Brothers* (UK and European Tour), and numerous productions across the UK and Europe. Sharon has also worked extensively as a voice and recording artist. Alongside her performance career, Sharon has spent the last two decades writing and working with emerging performers. In recent years, her work has included the development of creative tools designed to help young people build confidence and find their creative voice.

Mason Clarke-Whale is Ensemble. Mason trained at the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland. Previous work at Shakespeare's Globe includes *Hansel and Gretel*. Stage credits include *Lief* (Broadway Theatre), *Hear Me Now* (Burnt Orange Theatre); *Gloria, Thebans, Much Ado About Nothing, Death of a Salesman* (all for Royal Conservatoire of Scotland); *What Was Left* (Southwark Playhouse). Workshops and readings credits include *Quicksand* (Criterion Theatre); *Bad Stuff* (Stockroom); *Kaleidoscope* (National Theatre); *Brassic FM* (National Theatre). Radio credits include *When the Sun Hits The Sky* (Traverse Theatre).

Simeon Desvignes will play Paris. Simeon trained at Arts Ed and The BRIT School. Previous work at Shakespeare's Globe includes *Romeo and Juliet* and *Macbeth*. Other theatre credits include: *The Fight* (Theatre Theatr na nÓg); *The Wolf, The Duck and The Mouse* (Unicorn Theatre); *The Poel Workshop, Hamlet Primary* (National Theatre). Credits whilst in training include *Divine; Chaos; RED; Hamlet; In the Red and Brown Water; Blank* and the short film *They'll Love You*.

Marième Diouf will play Friar. Marième's previous work at Shakespeare's Globe includes *Playing Shakespeare: Romeo and Juliet*. Other stage credits include *Elektra* (Empire Street Productions); *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, Hamlet, Cymbeline* (RSC); *Liberian girl* (Royal Court). Her screen credits include *Tarzan* (Warner Brothers) and *Outlander* (Starz).

Miriam Grace Edwards will play Nurse. Previous work at Shakespeare's Globe includes *Romeo & Juliet* and *Twelfth Night* (Neuss & International Shakespeare Festival, Serbia). Other theatre credits include *Mrs President* (Charing Cross Theatre); *One Of The Boys* (The Playground Theatre); *The Empress* (Royal Shakespeare Company and Lyric Hammersmith); *Mlle F* (Belgrade Theatre); *Brassed Off* (National Tour) *Help Me, Cried The Sea* (Talking Birds); *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).

Felixe Forde will play Juliet. Previous work at Shakespeare's Globe includes *Playing Shakespeare with Deutsche Bank: Romeo and Juliet*. Other theatre credits include *Dear England* (National Theatre + UK Tour); *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). Television credits include *The Chelsea Detective* (Acorn TV); *Midsomer Murders* (ITV); *Death in Paradise, Doctors* (BBC).

Owen Gawthorpe is the Cyclist. Owen is a rider, commentator and motorcycle show rider, who started as an actor and performer in theatre and circus. He is a former Pro GB Athlete and a 4x British champion, along with a British Top 10 motorcycle trials rider. Previous work at Shakespeare's Globe includes *Playing Shakespeare with Deutsche Bank: Romeo and Juliet*. Experiences and credits include *CODE, Louder than Words* (Justice in Motion); *Elekron - Studio City Macau* (Melco); *Champions Hippodrome Circus*; *EMS Butlins studio 36*; ADDER ERROR clothing campaign; *Twickenham Big Game 9*; Cyclist/ Motorcyclist/ Commentator (AB Events, EMS, ExtremeBikeBattle, SavageSkills, RPM).

Chaya Gupta will play Benvolio. Chaya trained at LAMDA. Previous work at Shakespeare's Globe includes *Hansel and Gretel*. Theatre credits include *Abigail's Party* (English Touring Theatre, Rose Theatre Kingston, Mercury Theatre Colchester, Northern Stage); *The Government Inspector* (Wild Yak); *We'll Have Nun of it* (Sister Sister Productions); *Light Falls, Images of an Unknown Woman, London* (LAMDA); *Act of Repair* (Scottish Youth Theatre). TV credits include *Eastenders* (BBC).

Keanu Adolphus Johnson will play Mercutio. Keanu trained at Italia Conti. Theatre credits include *Beauty and the Beast* (Charing Cross Theatre), *TINA – The Tina Turner Musical* (Aldwych Theatre, West End), *Backstairs Billy* (Duke of York's Theatre), *Kinky Boots* (Queens Theatre Hornchurch & New Wolsey Ipswich), *Foam* (Finborough Theatre), *Never Lost at Home* (New Wolsey Ipswich), *Dick Whittington – A New Dick in Town* (Above the Stag Theatre); *Jack and the Beanstalk* (Charing Cross Theatre) and *Aladdin* (Kenneth More Theatre). He has workshopped the new plays *Toxic – Much Ado About Hamlet the Shrew* and *Ziga Zig Ah*.

Liam King will play Tybalt. Liam trained at LAMDA. Theatre credits include: *Of Mice and Men* (Derby Theatre / UK tour); *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). TV credits include: *The Dark* (ITV).

Hayden Mampasi will play Romeo. Hayden Mampasi trained at the Drama Studio London. Previous work at Shakespeare's Globe includes *Playing Shakespeare with Deutsche Bank: Romeo and Juliet*. Other theatre credits include *Macbeth* and *Romeo & Juliet* (Orange Tree Theatre); *Passion Fruit* (New Diorama); *Ben Butler* (English Theatre of Hamburg); *Unlocking Cannons House* (Attic Theatre Company); *The Story Of Yara* (Greenwich Theatre); *Cuffed* (Alineiment Productions); *Romeo and Juliet, Macbeth, The Tempest, A Midsummer Night's Dream* (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.

Patrick Osborne will play Capulet. Patrick trained at the Guildhall School of Music and Drama. Patrick's previous work for Shakespeare's Globe includes *Macbeth, Much Ado About Nothing* and *The Tempest*. Other theatre credits include *The Secret Garden, Peter Pan* (Regents Park Theatre); *Arabian Nights* (Bristol Old Vic); *Comedy of Errors* (RSC / Barbican); *Shakespeare In Love* (Noel Coward Theatre, West End); *Noises Off, Kindertransport, The Cherry Orchard and All My Sons* (Nottingham Playhouse); *The Cardinal* (Southwark Playhouse); and *Accolade, After October* (Finborough Theatre). Screen credits include *Blade Runner 2099, The Family Plan 2, My Parents are Aliens, The Borgias, Turner, and Their Finest Hour*.

Inez Solomon-Gardner is Ensemble. Inez is a recent graduate of the Royal Central School of Speech and Drama and trained with Shakespeare's Globe Young Company, where she performed the role of Posthumus in *Cymbeline*. Theatre credits include *In an Endless Garden* (Black Dog Productions) and *Roundabout* (Knotted Theatre). While training, roles included the titular role in *Hamlet* (TRBTS); Banquo in *Macbeth* (RCSSD) and Grace in *Katzenmusik* (RCSSD). Television credits include *The Outlaws* (BBC/Amazon Studios) and *Doctor Who* (BBC).

ENDS

EDITOR'S NOTE

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IMAGES

[Playing Shakespeare with Deutsche Bank: Romeo and Juliet artwork](#)
[Headshots](#)
[Globe Theatre](#)

“London’s best-value theatre ticket” – Time Out

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The Tempest

17 January 2026 – 12 April 2026
Press Night: Thursday 29 January
Sam Wanamaker Playhouse

Deep Azure

7 February 2026 – 11 April 2026
Press Night: Tuesday 17 February
Sam Wanamaker Playhouse

Playing Shakespeare with Deutsche Bank: Romeo & Juliet

5 March – 12 April 2026
Press Night: 5 March 2026
Globe Theatre

ASSISTED PERFORMANCES

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

The Tempest

Captioned: 15 February 6.30pm & 18 March 2pm
BSL: 3 March 7.30pm & 15 March 6.30pm
Audio Described: 13 February 2pm, 1 March 6.30pm
Relaxed: 18 February 7.30pm & 8 March 1pm

Deep Azure

Captioned: 9 March 7.30pm, 17 March 7.30pm, 21 March 7.30pm & 4 April 2pm
Audio Described: 14 March 2pm & 31 March 7.30pm
BSL

Relaxed: 4 March 7.30pm & 21 March 2pm

Playing Shakespeare with Deutsche Bank: Romeo & Juliet

Captioned: 21 March 2pm & 28 March 2pm
BSL: 28 March 2pm & 15 March 6.30pm
Audio Described: 2 April 2pm
Relaxed: 4 April 2pm & 7pm, 8 April 2pm

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*

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-and-support/membership> or call on 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 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

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 [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-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.