



**SHAKESPEARE'S
GLOBE**

PRESS RELEASE

TUESDAY 23 JUNE

SHAKESPEARE'S GLOBE ANNOUNCES JUDGES FOR THE INAUGURAL CLIMATE PLAYWRITING PRIZE AND NEW TIMBERLAKE WERTENBAKER PLAY

Shakespeare's Globe is delighted to announce the premiere of **Timberlake Wertenbaker's** (*Our Country's Good*) new play ***The Animals Come to the Table*** as part of the 2026-27 Winter Season for the Sam Wanamaker Playhouse. The full 2026-27 Winter Season will be announced soon. Submissions are also now open for the 2026 Climate Playwriting Prize in partnership with Climate Spring and Fern Culture, with the judges announced today. A new co-production with **Cardboard Adventures** will also bring their ***MakeBeth*** tour to the Globe as part of their UK tour.

- ***The Animals Come to the Table*** by **Timberlake Wertenbaker** will play in the Sam Wanamaker Playhouse from 11 December 2026 – 24 January 2027.
- Shakespeare's Globe, Climate Spring, and Fern Culture announce judges for 2026 Climate Playwriting Prize, as submissions open on Tuesday 23 June. The judges include **Sir Lenny Henry, Lucy Kirkwood, Nancy Medina, Professor Pablo Mukherjee, Amir Nizar Zuabi, Lucy Stone, and Michelle Terry.**
- Globe Associate Artist **Hannah Khalil** will bring **Cardboard Adventures' *MakeBeth*** tour to the Globe as part of its UK Tour for young people and families, running from 24 October – 1 November.

Shakespeare's Globe Artistic Director Michelle Terry says: *"Timberlake Wertenbaker is one of our greatest living playwrights. When she writes a new play, you take notice and we must certainly take notice of this one, and the questions it raises about nature, human nature, and our shared future. We are so proud to premiere this vital play by this most extraordinary of playwrights in one of the greatest playhouses in the world. And we are equally proud to be hosting the incredible *MakeBeth* in an adaptation by Globe Associate Artist and another of our sublime playwrights Hannah Khalil co-conceived by her, the inimitable designer Sam Wilde and director Ian Nicholson. This interactive craft-along retelling for families has been years in the making, and we are thrilled that it is finally here! And we are so excited to share the most incredible line of judges for our inaugural Climate Playwriting Prize. Theatre is fundamentally a human endeavour; an act of collaboration, and congregation, a moment in time in which strangers from all walks of life gather together around a story. We are so proud of this catalogue of climate story telling and story tellers who continue to collectively deploy one of our most powerful agents for change: our imagination."*

The Animals Come to the Table runs from 1 December 2026 – 24 January 2027 in the Sam Wanamaker Playhouse. Originally conceived as part of *Burnt at the Stake, or the Whole of the Truth* (2023) where playwrights were invited to share new work anonymously, *The Animals Come to the Table* marks the latest in a new writing lineage at the Shakespeare's Globe, following on from *Hakawatis: Women of the Arabian Nights* (2022), *Princess Essex* (2024), *Pinocchio* (2025), and *Deep Azure* (2026). By the candlelight of the Playhouse, animals summon humanity to the negotiating table. Waiting for them are an army of voices from the natural world demanding an end to exploitation and ecological destruction. Timberlake Wertenbaker is one of the UK's leading playwrights whose work is studied and performed worldwide. Her previous work includes *Our Country's Good*, *Jefferson's Garden*, *The Love of the Nightingale* and *Little Brother*. Bringing together politics, wit, philosophy and mischief, this new work is an audacious experiment of stepping into someone else's shoes.

Playwright Timberlake Wertenbaker says: *"I believe theatre is the perfect place to explore complex subjects where the answers aren't easy and we can see different points of view. The more I learned about animal communication the*

more fascinated I was by what the animals might have to say to us and the Playhouse is such a mysterious and magical space, I felt anything could happen there.”

Submissions are also now open for the 2026 Climate Playwriting Prize in partnership with Climate Spring and Fern Culture, and today the judges are announced as **Sir Lenny Henry, Lucy Kirkwood, Nancy Medina, Professor Pablo Mukherjee, Amir Nizar Zuabi, Lucy Stone, and Michelle Terry.**

The Climate Playwriting Prize aims to **empower the theatre industry into new climate conversations**, drawing on the skills of storytellers and artists to inspire societal shifts towards a restorative relationship with nature. The **winning playwright will receive £15,000** and dramaturgical support to develop the play. Submissions close on 1 September 2026, with winners announced in Autumn 2026.

Sir Lenny Henry says: *“I’m a firm believer that stories can help us make sense of the times we’re living through. Climate change can sometimes feel overwhelming, but playwrights have a gift for finding the human stories inside the biggest issues. That’s what excites me about this prize. I can’t wait to discover writers who can make us laugh, think, feel and perhaps even imagine a different future.”*

Lucy Kirkwood says: *“I am honoured to be asked to be one of the judges on the Climate Playwriting Prize. I hope the prize will deepen and galvanize our conversation about how we can keep the planet we live on habitable for human beings. Theatre is a vital space through which we can explore and illuminate the powerful forces that get in our way when we try to look climate change in the face, whether those forces are inside us, or in the corporate realm. I hope to see plays that are bold, electrifying, that throw down a gauntlet and dare us to take it up.”*

The Climate Playwriting Prize is being delivered in association with partner organisations **Chichester Festival Theatre, Exeter Northcott Theatre, Leeds Playhouse, Lyric Theatre Belfast, Mercury Theatre Colchester, New Earth Theatre, Pentabus Theatre, and tiata fahodzi.** Climate storytelling workshops delivered by the Globe, Fern Culture, and freelance playwrights which will feed into the award’s reading and judging process have begun to be hosted since the announcement of the inaugural prize earlier this year.

MakeBeth will run at the Globe from 24 October – 1 November as part of the UK Tour, transforming Shakespeare’s darkest tragedy into a joyful, laugh-out-loud cardboard adventure. *MakeBeth* is created in partnership with Globe Associate Artist and writer **Hannah Khalil** (*The Fir Tree, Hakawatis*), designer **Sam Wilde** (*The Fir Tree* and founder of *Cardboard Adventures*), and director **Ian Nicholson** (*Othello, Unicorn Theatre*). Only using cardboard recycled from each theatre venue, a set will be built and taken apart during the show; audiences will be invited to make props needed along the way through the twists and turns of the Scottish play in an exciting, sustainable hour of storytelling for all ages. *MakeBeth* is created by Cardboard Adventures and Shakespeare’s Globe, in partnership with Chichester Festival Theatre and Leeds Playhouse, continuing a shared commitment to making classic stories accessible, imaginative and fun for new generations.

Hannah Khalil says: *“I am absolutely thrilled that Makebeth is coming to Shakespeare’s Globe. Designer, and brains behind Cardboard Adventures, Sam Wilde and I worked together on The Fir Tree at the Globe a few years ago and it’s a joy to be collaborating with him again on another sustainable family show. Director Ian Nicholson and the talented cast have made something magical. Audiences in schools and theatres across the country have already been getting crafty for this joyous piece, now it’s the Globe audience’s turn and they are in for a treat!”*

CLIMATE PLAYWRITING PRIZE JUDGES’ BIOGRAPHIES

Sir Lenny Henry has risen from being a cult star on children’s television to becoming one of Britain’s best known television performers, as well as a writer, philanthropist, and award-winning stage actor. Lenny’s recent acting screen credits include *The Witcher: Blood Origin*, *Rings of Power*, *Broadchurch*, *The Syndicate* and the biographic film *Danny and The Human Zoo*. In theatre, Lenny has starred in *The Comedy of Errors* at The National, *Fences* at the Duchess Theatre and *The Resistible Rise of Arturo Ui* at the Donmar Warehouse. As one of the co-founders and public face of Comic Relief he has played a central role in the charity raising over £1 billion since 1985. Lenny is a leading advocate for diversity in the arts and has established a centre for Media Diversity at Birmingham City University, written two books on the topic and co-hosted the podcast *Black British Lives Matter*. He was awarded a Knighthood in 2015 for services to drama and charity and was a Trustee of the National Theatre from 2016 to 2023. Lenny has written two memoirs with Faber alongside a series of children’s books published through Pan Macmillan. In 2023, his “innovative” ITV1 drama series *Three Little Birds* received critical acclaim as did his five-star, one man play *August in England* which Lenny wrote and performed in at The Bush Theatre.

Lucy Kirkwood is a British playwright and screenwriter whose work spans theatre and television. She is a Fellow of the Royal Society of Literature and has won numerous awards, including the Olivier Award for Best New Play in 2014

for *Chimerica*. Theatre includes: *The Human Body* (Donmar Warehouse), *Rapture* (Royal Court Theatre), *The Witches*, *The Welkin*, and *Mosquitoes* (National Theatre), *The Children* (Royal Court), and *Chimerica* (Almeida Theatre / Harold Pinter Theatre) – which won the Olivier Award for Best New Play, the Evening Standard Best Play Award, the Critics' Circle Best New Play Award, and the Susan Smith Blackburn Award. Other works include *NSFW* (Royal Court), *small hours* (Hampstead Theatre), *Beauty and the Beast* (National Theatre), *Bloody Wimmin* (Tricycle Theatre), *it felt empty when the heart went at first but it is alright now* (Clean Break & Arcola Theatre, winner of the John Whiting Award), *Hedda* (Gate Theatre), and *Tinderbox* (Bush Theatre). Screen includes: *Adult Material* (Channel 4), which was nominated for multiple BAFTA awards, *Maryland* (BBC), and the television adaptation of *Chimerica* (Channel 4), which won the BAFTA for Best Drama.

Nancy Medina is Artistic Director of Bristol Old Vic, taking the role in 2023. In Oct 2023 she directed her first production for the theatre, a revival of Tarell Alvin McCraney's *Choir Boy* which received both Best Play and Best Director Awards at the British Black Theatre Awards in 2024. Her most recent productions for Bristol Old Vic's 2025 season included new plays *A Good House*, in co-production with the Royal Court Theatre and Market Theatre (South Africa), and *The Beautiful Future is Coming*. As a director, her credits also include productions with Kiln Theatre, National Theatre and the Young Vic as well as work throughout the UK. She is a recipient of 2024 Genesis Foundation Prize, 2020/2021 Peter Hall Bursary (National Theatre), 2018 RTST Sir Peter Hall Director Award (Royal & Derngate/English Touring Theatre), 2017 Genesis Future Director Award (Young Vic) and 2014 Emerging Director's Prize (Tobacco Factory Theatres). She was a visiting director at the Bristol Old Vic Theatre School and was joint Artistic Director and founder of the Bristol School of Acting.

Pablo Mukherjee is Professor of Anglophone World-Literature. Pablo research involves four inter-related fields - colonial & postcolonial literatures, environmental humanities, world-literary studies, and Victorian studies. He is the author of five monographs - *Crime Fiction and Empire* (2003), *Postcolonial Environments: Nature, Culture and Contemporary Indian Novel in English* (2010), *Natural Disasters and Victorian Imperial Culture* (2013), (with WReC) *Combined and Uneven Development: Towards a New Theory of World-Literature* (2015) and *Final Frontiers: Science Fiction and Techno-Science in Non-Aligned India* (2020: Winner of Science Fiction Research Association's Book Award 2021). He has also edited three collections of essays and anthologies, and written a wide range of articles in leading academic journals. He co-edits Palgrave Macmillan's book series *New Comparisons in World Literature*. He is currently developing a project on anti-colonial world literatures, and working with colleagues at the New School of the Anthropocene (NSOTA, London) to develop the role of arts & humanities in popular understanding of climate change. He was elected Fellow of British Academy in 2022.

Amir Nizar Zuabi is an award-winning playwright and director. He was the founding Artistic Director of ShiberHur Theater Company in Palestine, an Associate Director of the Young Vic Theatre, a member of the United Theaters Europe for artistic achievement, and an alumni of The Sundance Institute Theatre Program. He is the recipient of the ISPA Distinguished Artist Award 2026. As Artistic Director of The Walk Productions, he leads *The Herds* - the journey of life-sized animal puppets on a 20,000km migration across continents and *Little Amal* - the journeys of the 3.5 meter puppet of a 10-year old refugee girl. Collectively these projects have reached 2 million people in 26 countries across five continents. In 2025 he directed *Together for Palestine* at Wembley OVO Arena, raising £1.5 million for Gaza. His next work is *And still no mercy* - a contemporary dance-theatre piece born out grief, vulnerability and mercy in times of global upheaval, with original composition by Brian Eno and choreography by Gregory Maqoma. His writing and directing credits include *I am Yusuf and This is my Brother*, *In the Penal Colony*, *Oh My Sweet Land The Beloved* (ShiberHur/Young Vic); *Three Days of Grief*, *West of Us The Sea*, *Mid Spring Musical*, *Dry Mud*, *Against A Hard Surface* (ShiberHur); *Last Ward*, *Who Killed You Asmahan*, *The Huta* (The Palestinian National Theatre) and *Grey Rock* (Remote Theater Project, La Mama NYC). His directing credits include: *Samson and Delilah* (Flanders Opera, Antwerp); *Jidariya* by Mahmoud Darwish (Edinburgh International Festival, Bouffes du Nord and world tour); *Forget Herostratus*, *Le Mallade Imaginer*, *War or More*, *Sneeze*, *Deep Sorrow*, *Fall Tale*, *When The World Was Green*, *Lanterns Of The King Of Galilee*, *Taha* and *The Comedy of Errors* (Royal Shakespeare Company).

Lucy Stone is the founder and Executive Director of Climate Spring, a global organisation transforming how the climate crisis is represented in film, television, and popular culture. Climate Spring works with all stakeholders in the industry as a funder, advisor, convenor and facilitator. Lucy is a leading narrative change expert and climate innovator having set up many successful organisations and initiatives. Lucy has been a leader in philanthropy, in social enterprise, advising UN organisations and governments.

Michelle Terry is Artistic Director of Shakespeare's Globe. She trained at RADA and is an Olivier Award-winning actress who works extensively in theatre, TV and radio, and also writes for stage and screen. Work on stage for Shakespeare's Globe: *Three Sisters*, *Richard III* (2024), *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (2023), *King Lear* (2022), *Twelfth Night* (2021), *The Taming of the Shrew* (2020), *Henry IV Part 1* (2019), *Macbeth*, *Hamlet* and *As You Like It* (2018), *As You Like It* (2015), *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (2013), and *Love's Labour's Lost* (2007). As director: *The Fir Tree* in 2021 and *The Complete Walks* in 2016. Other work in theatre includes: *An Oak Tree* at The Young Vic, *Love's Labour's Lost*, *Much Ado About Nothing*, *The Winter's Tale*, *Pericles* and *The Crucible* for the RSC; *Henry V* at

Regent's Park Open Air Theatre; *Privacy* and *The Man Who Had All the Luck* at the Donmar; *Cleansed*, *50 Years of the National Theatre*, *The Comedy of Errors*, *London Assurance*, *All's Well That Ends Well*, and *England People Very Nice* at the National Theatre; *Before the Party* at the Almeida; *In the Republic of Happiness* and *Tribes* at the Royal Court; *Light Shining in Buckinghamshire* at the Arcola; *War on Terror*, *Two Cigarettes* and *50 Ways to Leave Your Lover* at the Bush; *The Promise* at the New Wimbledon Theatre; *Beautiful Thing* at the Sound Theatre; *Burial at Thebes* at Nottingham Playhouse; *As You Like It* at the New Vic, Newcastle-Under Lyme; and *Blithe Spirit* for The Peter Hall Company on UK tour and in the West End. TV includes: *Marcella*, *The Café* and *Extras*. Film includes: *Five Truths* for the V&A and National Theatre. Writing includes: *My Mark* and *Becoming* (writer and performer) for the Donmar; *Sudden Loss of Dignity* for the Bush and *The Café Series 1&2* for Sky One. Michelle Terry is an Honorary Fellow of Cardiff University, Trustee of Pentabus Theatre Company and Patron of Front Room Theatre and The Blakehay Theatre in Weston-Super-Mare.

ENDS

EDITOR'S NOTES

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IMAGES

[The Animals Come to the Table artwork:](#)

[MakeBeth images](#)

[Climate Playwriting Prize artwork and judges](#)

[Globe Theatre](#)

[Sam Wanamaker Playhouse](#)

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

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ON SALE DATES

Patron: 10am, 30 June 2026

Friends: 10am, 8 July 2026

Public Booking: 10am, 14 July 2026

All the Animals Come to the Table

Press Night: 17 December

Sam Wanamaker Playhouse

ASSISTED PERFORMANCES

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

All the Animals Come to the Table

Captioned: Monday 4 January 7:30pm, Saturday 23 January 7:30pm

Audio Described: Sunday 17 January 6:30pm,

BSL: Friday 22 January 2pm, Saturday 23 January 7:30pm

Relaxed: Friday 8 January 7:30pm, Sunday 17 January 1pm

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.

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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.