



Press Release – 6 February 2008

Shakespeare's Globe 2008 Theatre Season ***Totus Mundus Agit Histrionem***

Shakespeare's Globe's announces further details of its 2008 theatre season, which will be launched on Shakespeare's birthday, Wednesday 23 April, with Artistic Director Dominic Dromgoole's production of *King Lear*. Public booking for the season opens on Monday 11 February 2008.

Under the banner *Totus Mundus Agit Histrionem* – 'the whole world is a playhouse', the words traditionally said to have been the motto of the original Globe – the 2008 theatre season celebrates the glorious unruly diversity of Shakespeare's work. The Globe presents his most searching tragedy, *King Lear*; his most wild and inventive comedy, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*; his most thrilling and savage satire, *Timon of Athens*, and with *The Merry Wives of Windsor*, the comedy that laid the foundations for the TV sit-com.

Dominic Dromgoole continues his commitment to new writing with a new commission from award-winning writer Ché Walker, *The Frontline*. Set on a Saturday night outside Camden tube *The Frontline* presents a modern, vigorous tale of London life on the edge. This play contains bad language and strong content.

The second new play of the season is *Liberty* by poet and playwright Glyn Maxwell, which is a thrilling adaptation of Anatole France's 1912 novel *Les Dieux ont Soif*. *Liberty* is a co-production with Lifeblood Theatre Company and after it premières at Shakespeare's Globe, will be the first main stage production to embark from the Globe on a national tour visiting Oxford, Chichester, Salford and Guildford.

Early casting includes David Calder in the title role of *King Lear* (*Rock 'n' Roll*, West End and Dr Robert Bramwell in the TV series *Bramwell*); For *The Merry Wives of Windsor*: Christopher Benjamin as Falstaff, Serena Evans as Mistress Page (Sergeant Dawkins in TV's *The Thin Blue Line*), Sarah Woodward as Mistress Ford and Sue Wallace as Mistress Quickly.

Following the resounding success of its first ever open-air tour in 2007, Shakespeare's Globe will take to the road again with tours of *The Winter's Tale* across the UK, and *Romeo and Juliet* in the UK and Europe.

The Globe is pleased to welcome Footsbarn Theatre who presents *A Shakespeare Party*. The company has travelled the world for 35 years and in 2008 they return to London after a 15 year absence with a production specially conceived for the unique space of Shakespeare's Globe.

Shakespeare's Globe 2008 Theatre Diary

23 April – 17 August

King Lear by William Shakespeare

Director: Dominic Dromgoole; Designer: Jonathan Fensom; Composer: Claire van Kampen

10 May – 4 October

A Midsummer Night's Dream by William Shakespeare

Director: Jonathan Munby; Designer: Mike Britton; Composer: Olly Fox

On tour May – August

Romeo and Juliet by William Shakespeare

Director: Elizabeth Freestone; Designer: Anthony Lamble

Tour dates and venues to be announced

23 – 25 May

A Shakespeare Party by Footsbarn Theatre

WORLD PREMIERE

8 June – 5 October

The Merry Wives of Windsor by William Shakespeare

Director: Christopher Luscombe; Designer: Janet Bird; Composer: Nigel Hess

On tour June – September

The Winter's Tale by William Shakespeare

Director: John Dove

Tour dates and venues to be announced

6 July – 17 August

The Frontline by Ché Walker

Director: Matthew Dunster; Designer: Paul Wills; Composer: Olly Fox

WORLD PREMIERE

26 July – 3 October

Timon of Athens by William Shakespeare

Director: Lucy Bailey; Designer: William Dudley; Composer: Django Bates

31 August – 4 October

Liberty by Glyn Maxwell

Director: Guy Retallack; Designer: Ti Green; Composer: William Lyons

WORLD PREMIERE

ENDS

Listings Information

Box Office

Public booking opens on Monday 11 February at 10am.

Phone	020 7401 9919 or 020 7087 7398
In person	Mon-Fri 10am-6pm (8pm on performance days) Saturdays from 16 February – As above Sundays from 27 April 10am-5pm (7pm on performances days)
On-line Tickets	www.shakespeares-globe.org £5.00 - £33.00

Website

Please go to the Press Room at www.shakespeares-globe.org for recent press releases.

Press Night Dates

All performances at 7.30pm. Drinks are served from 6.30pm on press nights only.

<i>King Lear</i>	Friday 2 May (PLEASE NOTE REVISED DATE)
<i>A Midsummer Night's Dream</i>	Wednesday 21 May
<i>The Merry Wives of Windsor</i>	Wednesday 18 June
<i>The Frontline</i>	Wednesday 9 July
<i>Timon of Athens</i>	Wednesday 6 August
<i>Liberty</i>	Wednesday 3 September

Midnight Matinees

A Midsummer Night's Dream – Saturday 21 June
The Merry Wives of Windsor – Friday 4 July
King Lear – Friday 1 August

For further details please contact:

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Notes to Editors:

- Globe Education will continue their exploration of The Young & Shakespeare this spring with an ambitious programme of performance, staged readings and half term events, as a way to introduce young people to Shakespeare. From January to April over 40,000 young people will visit the Globe before the 2008 theatre season begins.
- Shakespeare's Globe Exhibition is open daily – May to Sept 9am to 5pm. Oct to April from 10am to 5pm. Admission includes a guided tour of the Theatre. For further information, telephone 020 7902 1500.
- Shakespeare's Globe Shop stocks a variety of products, including season specific merchandise. Shakespeare's Globe is a registered charity and all profits from sales go towards supporting our educational mission. Items can be bought at the onsite shop or online at www.globe-shop.com
- Shakespeare's Globe Bar and Brasserie are open all year round. For reservations please call 020 7928 9444.
- Shakespeare's Globe Trust is a registered charity No.266916.