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**PRESS RELEASE**

# Shakespeare's Globe

## A Theatrical Experiment

*None of us seriously believed that it might attract big crowds. The most clear-sighted objective any of us had was to get the replica of Shakespeare's Globe as right as we could, so that we could then see what might be done with it.*

- Andrew Gurr, Professor Emeritus at the University of Reading

Over 400 years after it was closed down, Shakespeare's Globe re-opened in its original setting of London's Bankside. The initial vision to reconstruct the Globe has encountered its fair share of setbacks, controversy and scepticism, but ten years on, the Globe is a major London landmark drawing over 750,000 visitors every year.

In this new book from Cambridge University Press, actors, educationalists, designers and scholars look back on the project, giving readers a 360 degree view of this unique theatrical experiment. As the first-ever study of the role of Globe Education the book also shows that Shakespeare's Globe is not only of interest to theatre-lovers, but has become an invaluable resource for teachers bringing Renaissance drama to a contemporary audience.

As well as an interview with Mark Rylance, the first Artistic Director of the Globe, and chapters from members of his artistic team, *Shakespeare's Globe* includes a contribution from Patrick Spottiswoode, Founder and Director of Globe Education. This broad perspective is the backdrop for a lively debate and offers a rare insight into the forces of theatre, culture and education that have shaped the Globe today and will shape it into the future.

*It has always appeared to me as the most experimental theatre space in England*

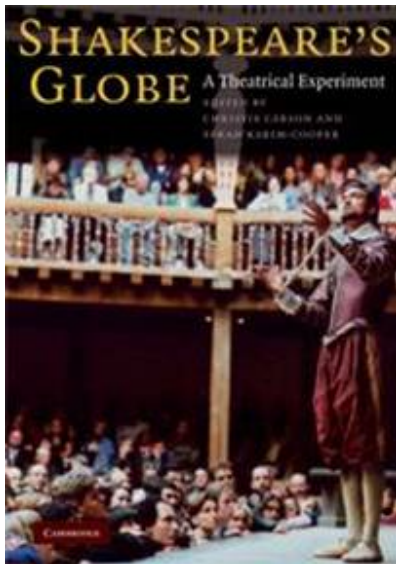
- Mark Rylance, Artistic Director of Shakespeare's Globe 1995-2005

## ENDS

For further information, to see a review copy or to speak to the editors please contact Laura Bell at Cambridge University Press on [lbell@cambridge.org](mailto:lbell@cambridge.org) or 01223 326274.

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Christie Carson and  
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### **Shakespeare's Globe:**

A Theatrical Experiment

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## Notes to Editors:

**Christie Carson** is Senior Lecturer in the Department of English at Royal Holloway University of London. Before moving into the English Department, she worked as an Institutional Research Fellow in the Department of Drama and Theatre at Royal Holloway from 1996-2003. She is the co-editor of *The Cambridge King Lear CD-ROM: Text and Performance Archive* (Cambridge, 2006) and the Principle Investigator of the AHRB-funded research project *Designing Shakespeare: An Audio-Visual Archive, 1960-2000*, which documents the performance history of Shakespeare in Stratford and London. She has published widely on the subject of contemporary performance and the influence of digital technology on audience interaction and research practices, including articles for *Shakespeare Survey* and *Performance Research*.

**Farah Karim-Cooper**, as Head of Courses and Research in Globe Education, oversees all research activities at Shakespeare's Globe and chairs the Globe Architecture Research Group. She is also a Visiting Fellow of King's College London and co-convenes the Globe/King's MA in Shakespearean Studies: text and Playhouse. In addition to publishing articles in essays and books, her first monograph *Cosmetics in Shakespeare and Renaissance Drama* was published in 2006.

### **About Cambridge University Press**

Cambridge University Press was founded by a royal charter granted to the University of Cambridge by King Henry VIII in 1534. It is the oldest printer and publisher in the world, having been operating continuously since 1584, and is one of the largest academic publishers globally. Its purpose is to further the University's objective of advancing learning, knowledge and research. Throughout its history, the Press has maintained a reputation for innovation and enterprise, through its use of printing technologies, through publishing the latest research, and through supporting the latest methodologies for teaching and learning.

<http://www.cambridge.org>

### **About Shakespeare's Globe**

From modest beginnings, some twenty five years ago, Shakespeare's Globe has become one of the most popular visitor destinations in the UK, at the heart of the regeneration of London's Bankside. Shakespeare's Globe was established as an educational charity and receives no annual government funding.

Under the leadership of Artistic Director Dominic Dromgoole, the theatre season plays in repertory from April to October annually, and has gained an international reputation for performance excellence. Globe Education, directed by Patrick Spottiswoode, is one of the largest arts education departments in the country, and shares its approaches to the teaching of Shakespeare with over 100,000 students a year. Shakespeare's Globe Tour and Exhibition is open all year round and is the world's only permanent exhibition dedicated to Shakespeare's theatrical career.

Other on-site facilities include the Swan Bar and Brasserie and private entertaining rooms, with stunning views over the River Thames. The Globe Shop sells a wide range of gifts and books, aimed to increase the enjoyment and understanding of Shakespeare.

[www.shakespeares-globe.org](http://www.shakespeares-globe.org)