



Press Release: 7 June 2010

**World premiere of Howard Brenton's *Anne Boleyn* at Shakespeare's Globe  
with Miranda Raison in the title role  
24 July – 21 August 2010**

Award-winning playwright **Howard Brenton** returns to Shakespeare's Globe with *Anne Boleyn* – his new play about Henry VIII's notorious second wife. **Miranda Raison**, best known for her role as Jo Portman in the BBC's hit drama *Spooks* and as Abbey in ITV's *Married Single Other*, is to play the title role, with **Anthony Howell** as the legendary Tudor King Henry VIII, and **James Garnon** as King James I. *Anne Boleyn* re-unites Brenton with director **John Dove**, following their successful partnership on *In Extremis* at the Globe in 2006 and 2007, and runs between 24 July and 21 August 2010.

Howard Brenton is the first contemporary playwright to revisit the Globe's unique auditorium. In this project he sets out to challenge the traditional assumptions of Anne Boleyn as a pawn manipulated by an ambitious father or as a sexually licentious predator, even a witch. Here, Brenton puts a very different Anne on the Globe stage – a witty and confident woman with controversial religious ideals, taking on the vicious world of Tudor politics.

Brenton is a prolific and often controversial writer. His many plays include *Never So Good*, *Paul*, *Roman's in Britain*, *Pravda* (with David Hare) and *The Churchill Play*. In July this year, Brenton also presents two stage adaptations – *Danton's Death* at the National Theatre and *The Ragged Trousered Philanthropist* at Chichester Festival Theatre. Brenton's writing for television includes 13 episodes for the BAFTA award winning drama series *Spooks*, and he has also written essays, poetry and a novel.

Miranda Raison is currently appearing on the Globe stage as Shakespeare's characterisation of Anne Boleyn in *Henry VIII*. Her other stage credits include *The Rivals* at Salisbury Playhouse and *The Man Who Came to Dinner* at the Chichester Festival Theatre. Her television credits include *Holby City*, *Doctor Who*, *Heartbeat* and *Perfect Strangers* by Stephen Poliakoff. Anthony Howell, well-known as Detective Milner in ITV's *Foyle's War*, will play King Henry VIII with James Garnon as King James I. James appeared at the Globe in 2009 as the charismatic French revolutionary Danton, in Trevor Griffith's play *A New World*.

John Dove has directed *The Winter's Tale*, *Measure for Measure* and Brenton's *In Extremis* for Shakespeare's Globe. His other work includes *Clean House* (Northampton & Tour), *Darwin in Malibu* (Birmingham Rep), *Rafts and Dreams* (Royal Court) and *Death of a Salesman* (Royal Lyceum Edinburgh). Dove was also an Associate Director at Hampstead Theatre.

New writing remains at the core of Dominic Dromgoole's vision for Shakespeare's Globe and this is the first of two new plays this summer. The second new play of the season will be *Bedlam* by Nell Leyshon. Shakespeare's Globe's Kings and Rogues theatre season is completed by Shakespeare's *Macbeth*, *Henry VIII*, *Henry IV Parts 1 and 2* and *The Merry Wives of Windsor*. In addition to its main stage programme, the Globe's two regional small-scale tours from 2009 return to exchange venue circuits – *The Comedy of Errors* and *A Midsummer Night's Dream*.

## ENDS

### Listings information

#### **WORLD PREMIERE**

#### ***Anne Boleyn* by Howard Brenton at Shakespeare's Globe**

24 July – 21 August

Press night – Wednesday 28 July

Director	John Dove
Designer	Michael Taylor
Composer	William Lyons

#### **Cast and creative team:**

The full cast is – Michael Bertenshaw, Sam Cox, John Cummins, Naomi Cranston, Ben Deery, Mary Doherty, John Dougall, Will Featherstone, James Garnon, Peter Hamilton Dyer, Anthony Howell, Colin Hurley, Amanda Lawrence, Dickon Tyrrell, Miranda Raison

#### **Booking:**

Phone	020 7401 9919 or 020 7087 7398
In person	Mon-Sat 10am-6pm (8pm on performance days) Sundays 10am-5pm (7pm on performances days)
On-line	<a href="http://www.shakespeares-globe.org">www.shakespeares-globe.org</a>
Tickets	£5.00 - £35.00

#### **Education Events:**

Perspective – 6pm, Thursday 12 August

Talking Theatre (post matinee) – Saturday 7 and 21 August

#### **Access Performances:**

Sign Language-interpreted performance – Friday 20 August at 7.30pm

Audio Described performance – Saturday 7 August at 2pm

Shakespeare's Globe Access Line 020 7902 1409 or email [access@shakespearesglobe.com](mailto:access@shakespearesglobe.com)

#### **Website:**

Please go to the Press Room at [www.shakespeares-globe.org](http://www.shakespeares-globe.org) for recent press releases.

Images are available via the online image library [www.globe-images.org/](http://www.globe-images.org/)

#### **For further details please contact:**

Francesca Maguire, Press and PR Manager, 020 7902 1491, [francesca.m@shakespearesglobe.com](mailto:francesca.m@shakespearesglobe.com)

James Lever, Press and PR Officer, 020 7902 1492, [james.l@shakespearesglobe.com](mailto:james.l@shakespearesglobe.com)