



Press Release: 16 July 2008

Shakespeare's Globe presents the world première of *Liberty* by acclaimed writer Glyn Maxwell

Sunday 31 August – Saturday 4 October 2008

Shakespeare's Globe presents the second new play of its 2008 theatre season, *Liberty* by poet and playwright **Glyn Maxwell**, between 31 August and 4 October 2008. Directed by **Guy Retallack** and co-produced with Lifeblood Theatre Company, *Liberty* will be the Globe's first main stage production to embark on a national tour of the UK, which will visit York, Exeter, Guildford, Oxford, Warwick and Chichester during the autumn. Casting for this production includes **Belinda Lang** as Louise.

Liberty, written in a contemporary verse form, is an adaptation of Anatole France's 1912 novel *Les Dieux ont Soif*. Set at the height of the 'Reign of Terror', it tells the story of Gamelin, a revolutionary young artist, who is appointed magistrate for the ruling forces. With wit and humanity, the play tells the story of how a group of friends are sundered by the force of history and mass hysteria; and how Gamelin's idealism turns into support for state violence.

Glyn Maxwell is a celebrated poet, novelist and playwright. His play *Lifeblood* was voted best play by the British Theatre Guide in 2004, and *The Only Girl in the World* was recently produced at the Arcola. His novel *The Girl Who Was Going to Die* was published in March this year, and Glyn's new book of poetry, *Hide Now*, will be available this autumn.

Guy Retallack's recent work includes *Future Me* (Theatre503), *The Lifeblood* (Edinburgh and Riverside) and *Faster* (Lyric Hammersmith, BAC and International Tour). Guy is also Director of Lifeblood Theatre Company, which was established to develop and produce innovative text-based theatre.

Belinda Lang will be best known for her television role as Bill in the BBC series *2 Point 4 Children*. Her numerous stage credits include *Ring Around the Moon* (Playhouse Theatre), *Hay Fever* (Haymarket Theatre), *Forgotten Voices* (Riverside Theatre and Assembly Rooms Edinburgh) and is currently appearing as Judith Bliss in *Hay Fever* (Manchester Royal Exchange).

Liberty will be designed by **Ti Green**, who recently designed *The Revenger's Tragedy* (Olivier, National Theatre), *The Five Wives of Maurice Pinder* (Cottesloe, National Theatre), *The Hound of the Baskervilles* (West Yorkshire Playhouse, Watford Palace Theatre, Duchess Theatre London) and *Coram Boy* (Olivier, National Theatre).

Composer **William Lyons** is one of the UK's leading early music specialists and a founder member of the acclaimed early music ensemble The Dufay Collective. He recently worked as conductor for the *Pride and Prejudice* film; as music arranger on *Elizabeth: The Golden Age*; and composer for *In Extremis* (Shakespeare's Globe).

ENDS

Listings

***Liberty* by Glyn Maxwell**

Director	Guy Retallack
Designer	Ti Green
Composer	William Lyons
Choreographer	Paul Harris

Cast includes – Kirsty Besterman, John Bett, Gregory Gudgeon, Belinda Lang, Edward Macliam, Ellie Piercy, Jonty Stephens, David Sturzaker

Shakespeare's Globe – WORLD PREMIERE

31 August – 4 October

Press night – Wednesday 3 September 2008

Booking for Shakespeare's Globe:

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

Education Events:

Talking Theatre (post matinee): Wednesday 1 & Saturday 4 October. Chaired Q&A with members of the company

Perspective: Thursday 11 September 6-7pm. Platform discussion with Glyn Maxwell (writer) and Guy Retallack (director).

Access:

Sign Language-interpreted performance – Sunday 7 September 6.30pm
Shakespeare's Globe Access Line 020 7902 1409 or email tamar.l@shakespearesglobe.com

Website:

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

Production partners:

In association with



Media Partner



LIBERTY ON TOUR

Theatre Royal, York

9 – 11 October

Box office: 01904 623568 or online www.yorktheatroyal.co.uk

Northcott Theatre, Exeter

14 – 18 October

Box office: 01392 493493 or online www.exeternorthcott.co.uk

Yvonne Arnaud Theatre, Guildford

21 – 25 October

Box office: 01483 440000 or online www.yvonne-arnaud.co.uk

Oxford Playhouse

28 October – 1 November

Box office: 01865 305305 or online www.oxfordplayhouse.com

Warwick Arts Centre

4 – 7 November

Box office: 024 7652 4524 or online www.warwickartscentre.co.uk

Minerva Theatre, Chichester

11 – 15 November

Box office: 01243 781312 or online www.cft.org.uk

Press more information please contact:

National Press – Francesca Eyles, Press and PR Manager, 020 7902 1491,
fran.e@shakespearesglobe.com

Local Press – James Lever, Press and PR Officer, 020 7902 1492,
james.l@shakespearesglobe.com

Tour press – Kate Gambrell on 07919 037022 or k.e.gambrell@googlemail.com