

Press Release: 2 March, 2009



SOCIAL NETWORKING FOR SHAKESPEARE'S CHARACTERS

'Playing Shakespeare with Deutsche Bank' offers an innovative website for the learning and teaching of 'Romeo and Juliet.'

Key Stage 3 students can explore a social network using key characters from *Romeo and Juliet* in order to bring an online dimension to their study of the play. Globe Education at Shakespeare's Globe has developed the pioneering website, www.playingshakespeare.org which launches today, to accompany the specially created production of Shakespeare's play for its 'Playing Shakespeare with Deutsche Bank' schools' project.

The site has sections on language, character and motivation, themes and issues and text in performance. The character and motivation section is designed to look like social networking site aiming to demonstrate the relationship between characters with all the text on each character's page coming directly from the play. These pages also feature interviews with the actors as they develop their characters in rehearsal, a photo gallery documenting their progress and the facility to send a message to an actor.

The language section has unique 'interactive text' versions of four key scenes supported by a glossary, a key to important literary terms, sound files of actors performing sections of the scene and discussing it with the director, Bill Buckhurst.

The area exploring the themes and issues of the play contains a discussion board where students can express their thoughts about the play.

The text in performance area stresses that Shakespeare wrote his plays to be performed, seen and heard. Photographs and interviews with key members of the creative team introduce students to the people and process of putting a play together at the Globe, from the first auditions through the production meetings to the week of performances.

The site aims to be a useful resource for students of all ages. It contains supplementary material for teachers and parents who may want to use the site and guide a student to a deeper understanding of the play.

'Playing Shakespeare with Deutsche Bank' features a professional, full-scale production of 'Romeo and Juliet' on the Globe Stage from 9-13 March. 10,000 free tickets have been given to London students who

are studying the play. 2,000 students will participate in workshops offering creative approaches to exploring the play in the classroom.

Director of Globe Education, Patrick Spottiswoode, said: "Shakespeare would have relished the web as an accessible forum for discussion and play. www.playingshakespeare.org will offer insights into the process of creating a character and a production and will promote discussion about issues that the play explores. The site will be an invaluable resource for teachers and students but will crucially, I hope, enrich their experience as playgoers."

ENDS

Further information from Katharine Grice at Shakespeare's Globe on 020 7902 1468 or email Katharine.g@shakespearesglobe.com.

Notes to Editors:

Globe Education was founded in 1989 and is now the country's largest theatre education department offering workshops, lectures and courses to the general public and over 100,000 students of all ages. Whether working with pre-school children or post-graduates, Globe Education promotes practical, theatre-centred approaches to the plays inspired by the Globe's stage and actor-audience relationship.

Shakespeare's Globe 2009 Theatre Season entitled *Young Hearts* is launched on 23 April with Dominic Dromgoole's production of Shakespeare's *Romeo and Juliet*. The season also includes *As You Like It*, *Troilus and Cressida* and *Love's Labour's Lost* as well as three new plays *The Frontline*, *Helen* and *A New World*. 700 tickets are available at £5 for every performance. Shakespeare's Globe Theatre is also presenting UK tours of *The Comedy of Errors* and *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. Tickets are available now from 020 7401 9919 / 020 7087 7398 or via www.shakespeares-globe.org and range from £5 to £33.

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.

Swan at the Globe's Bar and Brasserie are open all year round. For reservations please call 020 7928 9444.

Shakespeare's Globe Shop stocks a variety of products, including season specific merchandise. Items can be bought at the onsite shop or online at www.globe-shop.com

Shakespeare's Globe Trust is a registered charity No.266916.

Deutsche Bank

Deutsche Bank is a leading global investment bank with a strong and profitable private clients franchise. A leader in Germany and Europe, the bank is continuously growing in North America, Asia and key emerging markets. With 80,456 employees in 72 countries, Deutsche Bank offers unparalleled financial services throughout the world. The bank competes to be the leading global provider of financial solutions for demanding clients creating exceptional value for its shareholders and people.

www.db.com

The Financial Times – media partner

The Financial Times, one of the world's leading business news organisations, is recognised internationally for its authority, integrity and accuracy. Providing extensive news, comment and analysis, the newspaper is printed at 24 print sites across the globe, has a daily circulation of 432,944 (ABC figures January 2009) and a readership of 1.3 million people worldwide. FT.com is the definitive home for business intelligence on the web, providing an essential source of news, comment, data and analysis for the global business community. FT.com attracts 7.1 million unique users, generating 72 million page views (ABCe figures, March 2008) and now has over one million registered users.