



Press Release: June 2008

Sam Wanamaker Award 2008 given to leading theatre historian

Shakespeare's Globe has awarded the 2008 Sam Wanamaker Award to Andrew Gurr, Professor Emeritus at the University of Reading, and until recently Director of Globe Research at Shakespeare's Globe, London.

Professor Gurr is a leading theatre historian of the Shakespeare period; at the Globe he spent twenty years chairing the committee that determined the Globe's dimensions and shape.

The Sam Wanamaker Award was instituted by the Globe in 1994 to celebrate work which has increased the understanding and enjoyment of Shakespeare, and which has a similar pioneering quality to Sam Wanamaker's work. Previous winners in the field of scholarship include Glynne Wickham and John Orrell, in the field of theatre include Paul Scofield, Barrie Rutter, Stephen Unwin and Cicely Berry. Last year the award was given jointly to Mark Rylance, Claire van Kampen and Jenny Tiramani.

Patrick Spottiswoode, Director of Globe Education, Shakespeare's Globe, said: "Any one who visits the Globe is meeting Andrew Gurr's scholarship in lath and plaster. The Globe is perhaps his most popular publication to date, a best-seller considering nearly 8 million people have seen it since it opened in 1997. He ensured that academic rigour and integrity underpinned the Globe reconstruction, and the value of his contribution cannot be overestimated."

Professor Gurr's academic books include 'The Shakespearean Stage 1574-1642', now about to go into its fourth edition, 'Playgoing in Shakespeare's London', now in its third, 'The Shakespearean Playing Companies', a history of 'The Shakespeare Company 1594-1642', and soon a history of 'Shakespeare's Opposites: The Admiral's Men 1594-1625', the company that performed at the Rose and the Fortune. He has edited several plays including Shakespeare's *Richard II* and *Henry V*.

ENDS

Further information from Katharine Grice on 020 7902 1468 or email katharine.g@shakespearesglobe.com