



Press Release – 30 November 2009

Shakespeare's Globe announces 2010 theatre season 23 April – 3 October 2010

Building on the success of its 2009 theatre season, which saw record attendance despite the economic downturn, Shakespeare's Globe announces plans for its 2010 theatre season, entitled '**Kings and Rogues**'. The season will open on Shakespeare's birthday – 23 April – and embrace some of the playwright's most regal rogues and some of his most roguish kings.

Making their premiere at the new Globe will be William Shakespeare's *Henry VIII* and *Henry IV parts 1 and 2*. The season launches with *Macbeth*, and includes a revival of the Globe's acclaimed 2008 production of *The Merry Wives of Windsor*. Completing the 2010 programme is *Anne Boleyn* by Howard Brenton; *Bedlam* by Nell Leyshon; and two regional tours – a revival of the 2009 productions *The Comedy of Errors* and *A Midsummer Night's Dream*.

During the five and a half month theatre season in 2009, over 345,000 theatre-goers experienced a play at the Globe, averaging over 87% of full capacity attendance across the entire season. Over 40% took advantage of the £5 'groundling' tickets – a significant achievement for a company that still operates without public subsidy. The success of the 2009 *Young Hearts* season at Shakespeare's Globe affirms the trend for London theatres' recession-defying numbers.

Shakespeare's Globe is passionate in its pursuit and support of new writing, and 2010 continues to mix Shakespeare and contemporary playwrights, celebrating the possibilities of this unique auditorium. Award-winning playwright **Howard Brenton** makes a welcome return to the Globe with his new play *Anne Boleyn*, following his celebrated *In Extremis* here in 2006 and 2007. *Anne Boleyn* dramatises the life and legacy of Henry VIII's notorious second wife – exploring both her passion for the King and her love of the most dangerous ideas of her day. John Dove

returns to the Globe to direct this production, following his 2005 main-stage production of *The Winter's Tale* and his touring version of the same play in 2008.

Bedlam by **Nell Leyshon** marks the Globe's – both past and new incarnations – first ever staging of a known female playwright. Her new play is a fictional portrayal of a London hospital for the insane, based on direct research from Bethlem Royal Hospital. Nell Leyshon won the Evening Standard Most Promising Playwright Award for her play *Comfort Me With Apples*.

In 2009, both of the newly written plays – *Helen* by Euripides in a new version by Frank McGuinness and *A New World* by Trevor Griffiths – exceeded target, playing to a combined average of 70% of full capacity and indicating a growing audience for new writing at Shakespeare's Globe. Dominic Dromgoole was this year honoured for his encouragement of new writing at the Theatre Committee of the Writers' Guild of Great Britain.

In addition to its main-stage programme, Shakespeare's Globe will revive its 2009 touring productions of ***A Midsummer Night's Dream*** directed by Raz Shaw and ***The Comedy of Errors*** directed by Rebecca Gatward. Approximately 35,000 people, at over 30 beautiful venues across the UK and Europe attended a performance of the 2009 tour. In 2010, the tours will exchange venue circuits to reach new audiences and both will play two separate weeks at Shakespeare's Globe.

Dominic Dromgoole, Artistic Director of Shakespeare's Globe commented:

"Our building continues to embrace the most democratic audience in the world – all of us a rogue and a king in our own way – much like William Shakespeare. The 2010 theatre season offers a flavour of some of his wild, warm, violent and virtuous kings and rogues – plus new creations from two of our most rousing, contemporary playwrights. We are proud to continue our national and international touring, reaching out to new audiences for the Globe."

Public booking for the theatre season opens on 15 February 2010, when tickets will be available through the box office: 020 7901 9919 / 020 7087 7398 or online: www.shakespeares-globe.org. Priority booking for the Friends of Shakespeare's Globe opens in January 2010.

Shakespeare's Globe 2010 Theatre Diary

23 April – 27 June

Macbeth by William Shakespeare

Press night: Thursday 29 April

15 May – 21 August 010

Henry VIII by William Shakespeare

Press night: Monday 24 May

6 June – 2 October

Henry IV Part 1 by William Shakespeare

Directed by Dominic Dromgoole

Press night: 2pm on Wednesday 14 July

3 July – 3 October

Henry IV Part 2 by William Shakespeare

Directed by Dominic Dromgoole

Press night: 7.30pm on Wednesday 14 July

24 July – 21 August

Anne Boleyn by Howard Brenton

Directed by John Dove

Press night: Wednesday 28 July

14 August – 2 October

The Merry Wives of Windsor by William Shakespeare

Directed by Christopher Luscombe

Press night: Thursday 19 August

5 September – 1 October

Bedlam by Nell Leyshon

Press night: Thursday 9 September

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Notes to Editors:

- **Globe Education** presents a programme of workshops, lectures, events and staged readings all year round. For general enquires about Globe Education please call 020 7902 1430 or visit www.globe-education.org
- **Shakespeare's Globe Exhibition** is open daily – Oct to Apr from 10am to 5pm. May to Sep 9am – 5pm. Admission includes a guided tour of the Theatre. For further information, telephone 020 7902 1500.
- **Shakespeare's Globe Shop** stocks a variety of products, including season specific merchandise. Items can be bought at the on-site shop or on-line at www.globe-shop.com.
- **Capital Campaign** – Shakespeare's Globe is currently fundraising for a major development project. The first part of the campaign – to develop a Globe Education and Rehearsal Centre – is underway. To find out more visit www.shakespeares-globe.org/thesecondstage
- **The Shakespeare Globe Trust** is a registered charity No.266916. **The Globe receives no public subsidy.**