



Press Release – January 2009

Shakespeare's Globe Celebrates Shakespeare's Birthday

The Globe celebrates Shakespeare's birthday with a host of weekend events marking the 400th anniversary of the publication of Shakespeare's Sonnets on Saturday 18 and Sunday 19 April. The 2009 Theatre Season entitled **Young Hearts** will open on Thursday 23 April, the day of Shakespeare's Birthday.

On Saturday 18 April, Shakespeare's Globe, in partnership with Phoebus Cart, continues the tradition of Mark Rylance's **Sonnet Walks**. Walkers can buy a ticket for two tours of Tudor London: one starting in Westminster Abbey, or one from the site of Shakespeare's theatre in Shoreditch. Twelve sonneteers will entertain walkers at various locations across London as they stroll to Shakespeare's Globe.

On Sunday 19 April, Shakespeare's Globe will be holding **Sonnet Sunday**, as a part of the annual **Birthday Open Day**. The event is free to all and sees Shakespeare's Globe Exhibition and Theatre throw open its doors between 12noon and 4pm with events and activities across the site.

In addition to the free open day activities, Shakespeare's Globe will host a number of events by International PEN for their festival of world literature, **Free The Word! 2009**. Events take place between Thursday 16 and Sunday 19 April.

Amid these celebrations Shakespeare's Globe will also launch the 2009 Theatre Season, **Young Hearts**, with artistic director Dominic Dromgoole's production of *Romeo and Juliet*, one of Shakespeare's most lyrical and poetic plays. Tickets can be purchased from the box office.

Listings Information

Saturday 18 April

Sonnet Walks

Venue: Shoreditch / Westminster Abbey

Tickets: £16 / £13 concs / £10 FoSG

Time: 10.00am – 12.45pm

(All tickets must be booked in advance through the box office, walks leave every 15 minutes from 10am until 12.45pm)

Sunday 19 April

Birthday Open Day – Sonnet Sunday

Venue: Shakespeare's Globe SE1

Time: 12noon – 4pm

Tickets: FREE EVENT

Thursday 16 – Sunday 19 April

Free the Word! 2009

Venue: Shakespeare's Globe SE1 and other venues around London's South Bank

For more information please visit www.shakespeares-globe.org/freetheword

Thursday 23 April

2009 Theatre Season: Young Hearts Launch

***Romeo and Juliet* directed by Dominic Dromgoole**

Venue: Shakespeare's Globe SE1

Time: 7.30pm

Tickets: 700 x £5 tickets (Standing)

£15 - £33 (Seated)

To book call the box office on 020 7401 9919. Workshops and activities for the Birthday Open Day are on a rolling basis. Sign up for individual sessions upon entry. First come, first served.

ENDS

For further details please contact:

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Notes to Editors

- **Shakespeare's Globe Shop** stocks a variety of products, including season specific merchandise. Shakespeare's Globe is a registered charity and all profits from sales go towards supporting our educational mission. Items can be bought at the onsite shop or online at www.globe-shop.com
- **Globe Education** offers a year-round programme of workshops, lectures and evening courses to students of all ages. For further information, telephone 020 7902 1433.
- **Shakespeare's Globe Exhibition** is open daily – May to September from 9am to 5pm and October to April from 10am to 5pm. Admission includes a guided tour of the Theatre. For further information, telephone 020 7902 1500.
- **The Shakespeare Globe Trust** is a registered charity No.266916. **The Globe receives no public subsidy.**

Shakespeare's Globe 2009 Theatre Diary

23 April – 23 August

Romeo and Juliet by William Shakespeare

Director: Dominic Dromgoole

5 – 23 May

The Frontline by Ché Walker

Director: Matthew Dunster

30 May – 10 October

As You Like It by William Shakespeare

12 July – 20 September

Troilus and Cressida by William Shakespeare

2-23 August

Helen by Euripides in a new version by Frank McGuinness

WORLD PREMIERE

29 August – 9 October

A New World by Trevor Griffiths

WORLD PREMIERE

25 September – 10 October

Love's Labour's Lost by William Shakespeare

Director: Dominic Dromgoole

SHAKESPEARE'S GLOBE ON TOUR

May – August (dates and venues to be announced)

The Comedy of Errors by William Shakespeare

June – September (dates and venues to be announced)

A Midsummer Night's Dream by William Shakespeare