



For release: 31 July 2007

World Première of Eric Schlosser's *We The People*

Under Dominic Dromgoole's Artistic Directorship, the Globe's commitment to new writing continues with the second of this season's new works – *We The People* by **Eric Schlosser**. Following his 2003 play, *Americans*, Schlosser's *We The People* recreates an extraordinary moment in American history, the Philadelphia Convention of 1787.

It is 1787 and the frail government of the recently independent United States of America, menaced by the powers of old Europe and reeling from internal rebellion, is suffering a crisis of identity. What sort of country should America be? Who should govern it? Who belongs in it? Throughout a long, humid, Philadelphia summer, a group of able and passionate men force themselves into one room to argue out the guiding principles of the new nation. What they came up with proves to be one of the most important – and radical – democratic experiments of the last 250 years.

We The People forges a vivid drama out of the surviving speeches, letters and official documents from that historic moment. Benjamin Franklin, James Madison, George Washington and many of the other founding fathers, came together at a moment of crisis and created the constitution which the United States still lives within today. *We The People* is a recreation of what they did.

Eric Schlosser is a renowned contemporary historian whose books have been international bestsellers – they include *Reefer Madness* and *Fast Food Nation*, which has recently been directed for film by Richard Linklater. *Fast Food Nation* will be released on DVD on 27 August, 2007

Robert Bowman joins the company playing Madison. Bowman's recent theatre credits include the title role in *Cyrano de Bergerac* (Bristol Old Vic), *The Crucible* (RSC and West End), *Ivanov* (National Theatre) and *The Prisoner's Dilemma* and *Love in the Woods* (RSC). His television work includes *Kingdom*, *The Trial of Tony Blair*, *Charles II*, *The Whistle Blower* and *The Falklands Play*.

We The People is directed by **Charlotte Westenra**, with designs by **Paul Wills** and music by **Adrian Lee**.

Making her Globe debut as Director is **Charlotte Westenra**. Westenra's directing credits include *Kiss of the Spider Woman* (Donmar and national tour), *Darfur – How Long is Never?* (co-director, Tricycle Theatre), *When Five Years Pass* (Arcola), *Gladiator Games* (Sheffield Theatres and Theatre Royal Stratford East), *Bloody Sunday – Scenes from the Saville Inquiry* (co-director, Millennium Theatre, Derry; Opera House, Belfast; Tricycle Theatre – Olivier Award for Outstanding Achievement in an Affiliate Theatre) and *Justifying War* (co-director, Tricycle Theatre). Westenra was Resident Assistant Director at the Donmar Warehouse.

Paul Wills continues his collaboration with director Charlotte Westenra. They have previously worked together on *Gladiator Games* (Sheffield Theatres and Theatre Royal Stratford East). Wills other work includes *The Cut* (Donmar Warehouse) and *A Kind of Alaska/A Slight Ache/Precisely* (The Gate). The music is composed by **Adrian Lee**, who also composed the music for this season's *The Merchant of Venice*. Lee has also worked extensively with the RSC, including for *The Canterbury Tales* and *Antony and Cleopatra*.

We The People is part of the **Renaissance + Revolution** theatre season this year at Shakespeare's Globe which includes Shakespeare's *Othello*, *The Merchant of Venice* and *Love's Labour's Lost*, the

return of last year's smash hit, *In Extremis*, and the world première of *Holding Fire!* (by Jack Shepherd).

The production which opens on 6 September, with previews from 2 September, and runs until 6 October plays for 14 performances only.

We The People cast and creative team

The full cast is **Benjamin Askew, John Bett, Robert Bowman, Joe Caffrey, Juldeh Camara, Ramon Camin, Seroca Davis, Chris Godwin, Trystan Gravelle, Kobna Holdbrook-Smith, Cush Jumbo, Will Mannering, David Oakes, Rhiannon Oliver, Paul Rider, John Stahl, Michelle Terry, Andrew Vincent, Thomas Wheatley**

Director	Charlotte Westenra
Designer	Paul Wills
Music	Adrian Lee

LISTINGS INFORMATION

Box Office

Phone	020 7401 9919 or 020 7087 7398
In person	Mon-Sat 10am-6pm (8pm on performance days); Sundays 10am-5pm (7pm on performances days)
On-line	www.shakespeares-globe.org
Tickets	£5.00 - £32.00

Performances

***We The People* – 14 performances only: 28 July–5 October 2007**

2 Sept (6.30pm), 4 Sept (7.30pm), 5 Sept (2pm), 6 Sept (7.30pm), 7 Sept (2pm), 9 Sept (6.30pm), 13 Sept (2pm), 22 Sept (7.30pm), 23 Sept (1.00pm), 29 Sept (7.30pm), 30 Sept (1pm), 2 Oct (7.30pm), 3 Oct (2pm), 6 Oct (2pm)

Access Performances

BSL interpreted performance: 23 September
Shakespeare's Globe Access Line 020 7902 1409 or email sally@shakespearesglobe.com

Website

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

Press Night Dates

All performances at 7.30pm. Drinks are served from 6.30pm on press nights only.

- ***Holding Fire!*** - Friday 3 August
- ***We The People*** – Thursday 6 September

For further information, please contact:

Kate Morley at Blueprint PR 07970 465 648 / kate@blueprintpr.co.uk

Notes to Editors

- **Shakespeare's Globe theatre season**, *Renaissance + Revolution*, runs from 4 May – 7 October 2007.
- **Globe Education** offers 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.**