



## Shakespeare's Globe and GERMANY

Shakespeare's Globe is one of the most popular visitor destinations in the UK, at the heart of the regeneration of London's Bankside. Together the Globe Theatre, Globe Education, Globe Exhibition and Tour offer a unique setting to explore Shakespeare in performance. The Globe has always been an international story, the vision of an American, and welcoming international audiences into its oak embrace throughout its life. It has also sought to take the Globe's work back out into the world through international touring and education programmes. The following points detail the Globe's close relationship with Germany and the relevant opportunities for media features. To discuss further, please contact Louise Gilbert, Press & PR Officer 2012, [Louise.g@shakespearesglobe.com](mailto:Louise.g@shakespearesglobe.com), +44 (0)207 902 1476.

In 1987, before the Globe opened, His Royal Highness Prince Philip drove in the first oak foundation post from Windsor Great Park, which were followed by posts donated by 25 international countries, including one from Germany.

The very first full-length production at the Globe was performed by a German production company - The Bremer Shakespeare Company. They performed *The Merry Wives of Windsor* in 1993, when the theatre was just a shell, and still under construction. The company's co-founder Norman Kentrup – also an actor and director - returned to the Globe a year after it opened in 1998 to fulfil Sam Wanamaker's wish by playing Shylock in the Globe Theatre Company's production of *The Merchant of Venice*. Norbert founded the International Shakespeare Globe Centre in Neuss, Germany and has worked there in conjunction with Globe Education since 1992.

In 2011 Globe Education welcomed over 23,500 German students to the Globe. Patrick Spottiswoode, Director of Globe Education explained, "*We get more students at the Globe from Germany than any other country apart from our own. Shakespeare is on the German curriculum, I suppose, because there has been a strong love of Shakespeare in Germany amongst actors, scholars and writers since the late 18<sup>th</sup> Century. German publishers such as Cornelsen also help to promote and support the teaching and learning of Shakespeare in Germany.*"

Shakespeare remains the most played author on the German stage where more Shakespeare plays are performed than in England. His work has been translated and admired through the centuries by German greats, Christoph Martin Wieland, Herder, Goethe, Hegel, Heine and Nietzsche. In 2010, Globe Education produced the *Shakespeare is German* season which celebrated Germany's special affinity with Shakespeare, hosting readings and presentations involving actor Sebastian Koch and leading German Shakespeare scholars.

Sponsored by Deutsche Bank, *Playing Shakespeare* is Globe Education's flagship project for London schools. Now in its sixth year, the project provides 14,000 free tickets to see a Shakespeare production created especially for young people. Workshops and web resources introduce performance into the classroom and offer thousands of students the opportunity to enjoy free, live Shakespeare. From 27 February to 8 March 2012 *Playing Shakespeare with Deutsche Bank* will present *A Midsummer Night's Dream* to 15,000 students. Alongside the performances, Globe Education Practitioners will deliver in-school workshops for over 1,000 students, providing them with a practical exploration of the play ahead of their visit to the theatre. Teachers from more than 100 of the participating schools

will also attend CPD sessions at the Globe to receive training in active approaches to teaching Shakespeare. For more information contact Shakespeare's Globe press office or visit <http://www.playingshakespeare.org/>

On 31<sup>st</sup> May and 1 June 2012 the Bremer Shakespeare Company will return to Shakespeare's Globe with a bold, wild and bouncy production of *Timon of Athens*. The production will feature in the Globe to Globe Festival which will see all of Shakespeare's 37 plays performed in 37 languages in just 6 weeks. This will mark the return of the Bremer Shakespeare Company to the Globe in 1993 they performed *The Merry Wives of Windsor* in the building site of the Globe Theatre. They have staged over 40 Shakespeare productions in their home on the western bank of the Weser in Bremen, and have toured throughout Europe and Asia. The BSC has received several distinguished awards, among them one for developing the performing arts (Förderpreis Darstellende Kunst) from the Academy of Arts in Berlin.

### Feature and interview ideas

A wide range of resources are available for each of the following feature ideas, including images, design visuals, a tour of the site, workshop footage, HD B-roll footage of the Globe, photographs of staff and more. Please contact Louise Gilbert for more information.

#### **1. Interview Eva Koch-Schulte, Associate Producer in the Theatre department.**

Eva was born and raised in Bad Driburg, Germany. Her first role at the Globe was as an Education Intern in 1998. After studying her Masters at Erlangen-Nuremberg, Germany, she returned to the Globe as a Theatre and Music Assistant, then Music Producer. Eva is now Associate Producer for the Theatre department.

### Q&A with Eva Koch-Schulte

Tell us about your role in the Theatre department at Shakespeare's Globe.

*As Associate Producer I am involved in planning and setting up our theatre shows, tours and special events. I spend much time with paperwork like contracts, schedules, budgets and invoices. I also sort out day to day logistics around the shows, particularly for our touring companies. My favourite part of the job is welcoming and hosting the artists and looking after our performers during the season.*

What do you enjoy about working at the Globe?

*We are a very small, ambitious team and we like to get our hands dirty! The theatre is only one part of the Globe, and it might look like a large institution from the outside, but from the inside it feels like a small, crazy, independent theatre company. All in our management team come from theatre-making backgrounds, so we love to jump in and help our performers and creative artists in practical ways. It makes the work varied and adventurous. We'll do what it takes – from drafting contracts and solving strategic issues to brewing a vital cup of tea for an exhausted artist, driving replacement props to a touring venue or showing incoming audiences the way to alternative toilets while the main ones are broken (this only happened once!)*

Tell us something we don't know about the Globe.

*As a German, I am still flabbergasted by the fact that this busy, inventive theatre runs without government subsidy. It finances itself mostly through the money brought in by its enthusiastic audiences – and bear in mind that many of them only pay £5 per show! We have nothing like this in Germany. Over the years I have noticed that the more famous this*

*theatre becomes, the less people seem to realize or indeed believe that we are surviving without tax money.*

## **2. Speak to Patrick Spottiswoode, Director, Globe Education. Patrick has recently spent three months in Berlin and has extensive knowledge of the Globe and Shakespeare's relationship with Germany.**

Patrick Spottiswoode joined Shakespeare's Globe in 1984 and became founding Director, Globe Education in 1989. He has initiated exciting and innovative programmes, including in 2010 a special season, *Shakespeare is German*, which saw the launch of a book of translations, *Goethe on Shakespeare*, which Patrick commissioned.

Other initiatives include a 30 year project to stage readings and record all surviving plays by Shakespeare's contemporaries; establishing the Globe's first MA in Shakespeare Studies jointly with King's College London; and a two year programme of events celebrating Shakespeare and Islam.

Last year, Patrick received an Honorary PhD from Warwick University and an Honorary Fellowship from King's College London. He is currently the President of the Shakespeare Theatre Association.

## **3. Shakespeare is German?**

With Shakespeare arguably more popular in Germany than in England, Shakespeare's London home and one of London's most iconic landmarks - Shakespeare's Globe offers the perfect setting for a feature on Shakespeare's relationship with Germany. Over the years the Globe has welcomed top German theatre companies and actors, such as Norbert Kentrup, Sebastian Koch and the Bremer Shakespeare Company. More Shakespeare plays are performed each year in Germany than here in England and the Germans have long had a love affair with him. His work has been translated and admired through the centuries by German greats including Christoph Martin Wieland, Herder, Goethe, Hegel, Heine and Nietzsche.

## **4. Globe Education – a world-class learning resource for students from around the world.**

Each year more than 100,000 people of all ages and nationalities participate in Globe Education's programme of events, workshops and courses lead by top theatre practitioners and Shakespeare scholars. Globe Education welcomed around 23,500 German students in 2011. Globe Education believes that the best way to learn about the works of Shakespeare is by enjoying them, and have created playful and play-filled ways to experience Shakespeare in action.

Interviews with Patrick Spottiswoode (Director, Education), Jamie Arden (Head of Operations & Events), Dr Farah Karim-Cooper (Head of Courses & Research) and Fiona Banks (Head of Learning) are available upon request.

## **5. Shakespeare's Globe – its influence on theatre practice and the unique audience experience it offers**

What was it like to experience London theatre in the 1600s? How does the open air and shared light affect actors performances and the audience's experiences today? How does the space challenge a modern day director? What is it like to stand in the yard to watch a performance? How does it feel for audiences to interact with the actors?

The Globe offers something completely unique for directors, actors and audiences alike. Not only is it an inspiring and distinctive theatrical space, but also a top London tourist attraction,

welcoming hundreds of thousands of international visitors a year. What makes the Globe so distinct and successful? Interviews with theatre practitioners, including renowned director and Artistic Director of the Globe, Dominic Dromgoole, are available upon request.

## **6. London and Shakespeare's Globe – the perfect learning holiday destination.**

As learning holidays become more popular than ever, London and Shakespeare's Globe offers the ideal combination of enjoyment and education. For those interested in history, literature, performance, architecture, costume or Shakespeare himself, the Globe is an inspiring environment to explore and learn during a visit to London. The Globe's expert tour guides provide a fascinating tour of the iconic theatre and auditorium and bring to life colourful stories of the 1599 Globe while the exhibition presents live demonstrations of sword-fighting, costume dressings and printing on 17<sup>th</sup> Century press. The audio guide enhances the visitor experience – with five languages available. Situated on Bankside along the River Thames with beautiful views looking towards St Paul's Cathedral, the Globe also has a reputation for being one of the most romantic places to visit in London.

## **7. Shakespeare's Globe and Royalty in 2012.**

The eyes of the world are on London throughout 2012 - the year Her Majesty the Queen celebrates her Diamond Jubilee and the city plays host to the Olympic and Paralympic Games. On 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2012 Shakespeare's Globe will have a front row seat when Her Majesty the Queen's celebratory river pageant sails up the River Thames. The historical event will take place on the same day the Globe will celebrate the end of its international Globe to Globe Festival, with a Lithuanian production of *Hamlet*.

Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II and His Royal Highness Prince Philip attended the Royal gala opening of the Globe on 12<sup>th</sup> June 1997. Prince Philip opened the Sackler Studios – Globe Education's Education and Resource centre in November 2010 and recently attended an event at Buckingham Palace held to raise funds for the development of the Indoor Jacobean Theatre.

His Royal Highness Prince Philip The Duke of Edinburgh is Patron of Shakespeare's Globe.

## **8. Interview a Globe actor about their pre-show rituals and find out how they physically and psychologically prepare to step into character.**

As the Olympic and Paralympic Games move ever closer, athletes will have their pre-competition rituals to help take their game to the next level. This summer, while athletes are warming up for one of the most important performances of their career, actors across London will be doing precisely the same in the world of theatre. It's often surprising how actors chose to warm up before taking to the stage to ensure give the audience a compelling and memorable performance. If you would like to talk to a Globe actor about their rituals and psychological preparations and how they compare it to that of an athlete, please contact the press office.

## **9. Speak to Peter McCurdy, Master Craftsman of Shakespeare's Globe – a unique architectural experiment and an iconic London landmark.**

McCurdy & Co. were closely involved in the authentic reconstruction of Shakespeare's original 'wooden O', carrying out much of the early research and analysis together with the detailed design and fabrication of the entire oak frame. As there were no building records in existence the Globe team had to rely on historic reference material, Peter McCurdy's own knowledge of carpentry methodology of the period and analysis of the relevant contemporary buildings to help determine the overall design.

Peter is currently working with the Architecture Research Group on the development of the Indoor Jacobean Theatre, which is set to open on site in 2013. Peter will advise on reconstruction issues and how they relate to achieving a faithful Jacobean interior, and to ensure that a successful fusion of modern codes and licensing requirements with historical accuracy can be achieved.

Since opening in 1997, Shakespeare's Globe has become an iconic landmark of international recognition and its distinctive performance space offers audiences and actors an experience like no other. If you would like to speak to Peter McCurdy about the part he played in bringing the building to fruition and his work on the Indoor Jacobean Theatre, please contact the press office.

## 10. The Indoor Jacobean Theatre.

The Globe's plans to introduce an Indoor Jacobean Theatre to its already world-famous theatre site on London's Bankside will be the most complete recreation of an English renaissance indoor theatre yet attempted. It will seat 320 people with two tiers of galleried seating and an historical pit seating area, which will provide a uniquely intimate and intense theatre experience. The theatre will allow productions to play throughout the winter, widening the Globe's repertoire and further completing the understanding of the nature of Jacobean theatre.

The Globe intends to open the theatre with its first, programmed winter season in November 2013 and will be an exciting addition to London Theatre. Some of Shakespeare's greatest plays – *The Tempest*, *Cymbeline* and *The Winter's Tale* – were written for an entirely different space to the outdoor Elizabethan playhouses like the Globe Theatre. By restoring the Indoor Jacobean Theatre to its intended purpose, the Globe will be able to further its understanding of theatre practices at that time and explore the unique relationship between actor and audience in England's earliest indoor theatres.

Globe Education has an excellent in-house academic department which leads the research for the theatre. The findings and advice from the in-house team, led by Dr Farah Karim-Cooper, Head of Research & Courses, is critical to the project.

**Further information** on feature and interview ideas and extensive background information on Shakespeare's Globe can be found at <http://www.shakespearesglobe.com/about-us/press/releases>

**Photographs and HD footage** of the Globe and performances are available free of charge for editorial use at <http://press.shakespearesglobe.com/>

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