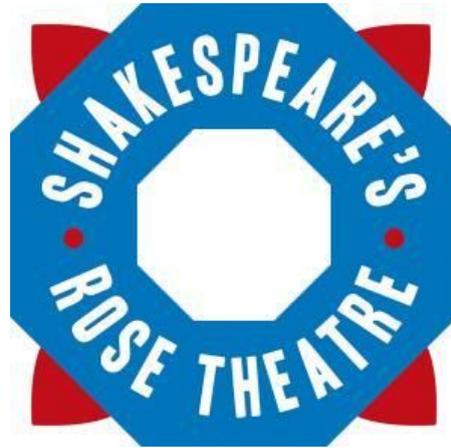


SHAKESPEARE'S ROSE THEATRE OFFICIALLY LAUNCHED IN YORK



Tickets now on sale for 2018 Summer of Shakespeare

Europe's first ever pop-up Shakespearean Theatre – **SHAKESPEARE'S ROSE THEATRE** - which was given its final official green light by the City of York Council's planning department last week, was officially launched in York today, promising a unique summer of Shakespeare for the historic city next year. Tickets for the inaugural season of four of Shakespeare's greatest works go on sale today through Ticketmaster and York Theatre Royal.

Inspired by the famous London Rose Playhouse built in 1587, 12 years prior to The Globe, **SHAKESPEARE'S ROSE THEATRE** will combine state-of-the-art scaffolding technology, corrugated iron and timber with the historic 13-sided design of a 16th century Shakespearean theatre. It will house an audience of 950, with 600 seated on three tiered balconies around an open-roofed courtyard, and standing room for 350 'groundlings'.

Four of William Shakespeare's most popular plays, across the genres, will be performed in repertory by two companies of actors during the 10-week season in Summer 2018:

- A tragedy – ***Macbeth***
- A comedy – ***A Midsummer Night's Dream***
- A tragic love story – ***Romeo and Juliet***
- A history – ***Richard III***

The season will begin on Monday 25 June and run through until Sunday 2 September 2018.

Traditional in conception, yet fresh and fun in delivery, these enduring favourites will be directed by two of the UK's leading theatre directors.

Lindsay Posner, who has worked extensively in the West End including the Royal Court Theatre and The Old Vic, as well as with the RSC, will direct *Romeo and Juliet* and *Richard III*. His production of *Death and the Maiden*, as Associate Director at the Royal Court Theatre, won two Olivier Awards and his production of *A View from the Bridge* at the Duke of York's Theatre was nominated for four Oliviers, including Best Director.

Damien Cruden, who has been Artistic Director of York Theatre Royal for the past two decades, will direct *A Midsummer Night's Dream* and *Macbeth*. He won an Olivier Award for his acclaimed production of *The Railway Children*, which incorporated a real steam engine into the imaginative staging at the National Railway Museum in York.

Originator of the project and CEO of international theatre company, Lunchbox Theatrical Productions, James Cundall said "More than 400 years ago, the first audiences for Shakespeare's plays enjoyed an experience that was as intimate as it was exciting, crowded in close to the actors and the action, in a small theatre in the bustling city of London. In **SHAKESPEARE'S ROSE THEATRE** an experience every bit as exciting, intimate and immersive will be offered to today's audiences in a dramatic playhouse setting beside the iconic 13th century Clifford's Tower in the heart of the historic city of York.

"The unique environment of **SHAKESPEARE'S ROSE THEATRE** connects actors and audience together in ways many people will never have experienced before. While an interactive experience awaits those closest to the stage in the courtyard, no seat in the theatre will be more than 15m from the action, providing plenty of breath-taking, spine-tingling, heart-stopping moments!" added Mr Cundall.

Outside **SHAKESPEARE'S ROSE THEATRE** will be 'Shakespeare's Village', allowing everybody free access to a unique theatrical experience:

- free 'wagon' performances and other forms of Elizabethan entertainment, including musicians and juggling jesters
- the best Yorkshire food and drinks, curated by Yorkshire-born Brian Turner, housed in oak-framed and reed-thatched buildings
- and an Elizabethan garden, created by a leading Yorkshire garden designer, with ornate box-edged beds of vegetables, cottage flowers and herbs.

Councillor David Carr, leader of City of York Council, said: "It is a major coup to attract such a quality cultural attraction to York. The presence of **SHAKESPEARE'S ROSE THEATRE** here will build on, and enhance, the city's reputation as a centre for culture.

"This is a great example of how we can think differently and take opportunities to use our city's space differently. We've negotiated a fantastic package for York, including quality culture at an affordable price, a massive boost in footfall for our city-centre retailers, and unique opportunities for our schools."

Steve Brown, Managing Director of Make It York said "York already has a brilliant programme of events and festivals lined up for 2018 and this adds another world class dimension. It will appeal to both residents and visitors from all over the world and it's a massive coup for the city that this fabulous opportunity has been landed. Lunchbox Theatrical Productions have been single-minded and determined to bring **SHAKESPEARE'S ROSE THEATRE** to York and I'm sure everyone will support it to the hilt."

Sir Gary Verity, Chief Executive of Welcome to Yorkshire said: "I am absolutely thrilled that Shakespeare will be coming to Yorkshire next year with this exciting theatre project. It couldn't be better placed than in our wonderful historic city of York.

"I'm sure it will open Shakespeare up to a whole new audience of young and old alike and will draw in many more visitors to enjoy everything the city and its surrounds have to offer, as well as prove a huge boost to the local economy. We can't wait to experience it!"

The original Rose Theatre was built in 1587 on the south bank of the River Thames in London. It was a slightly irregular 14-sided structure made of timber, with plaster exterior and a thatched roof, open in the centre to the elements. The success of The Rose Theatre paved the way for other theatres to be built in the area, including The Swan in 1595, The Globe Theatre in 1599 and The Fortune in 1600.

SHAKESPEARE'S ROSE THEATRE and Shakespeare's Village will be created and managed by Yorkshire-based Lunchbox Theatrical Productions.

www.shakespearesrosetheatre.com

Twitter: @ShakespearesRT

Listing Information

Shakespeare's Rose Theatre

Tower Street, York, YO1 9SA

Monday 25 June - Sunday 2 September 2018.

Romeo & Juliet, Richard III, A Midsummer Night's Dream and Macbeth

For full performance schedule please visit www.shakespearesrosetheatre.com

Booking Information

Book online www.ticketmaster.co.uk

By phone 0844 844 0444

Calls cost up to 7p per minute plus your phone company's access charge.

Ticketing/Booking Fees apply

In Person Shakespeare's Rose Theatre, Tower St, York, YO1 9SA from 10am, Mon 4 June 2018

Tickets also available from

York Theatre Royal

Book online www.yorktheatreroyal.co.uk

By phone 01904 623 568

In person St Leonard's Place, York YO1 7HD

Ticketing/Booking Fees apply

Tickets

All seats in Shakespeare's Rose Theatre are the same – comfortably cushioned and backed, with plenty of leg room. Groundling tickets in the courtyard are open to the elements, all other seats are under cover. Visit www.shakespearesrosetheatre.com for seating plan and further details.

The York Experience £90.00*

Premium £59.95

A Reserve £49.95

B Reserve £39.95

C Reserve £29.95

Groundlings £12.50

Wheelchairs - Courtyard £12.50, Premium £59.95. Each wheelchair space includes carer seat free of charge.

Children (17 and under) £3 off all seats, £2 off Groundlings.

Groups of 10+ receive 10% off and groups of 20+ receive 20% off Premium, A and B Reserve tickets, with a further 5% off if booked and paid for by 28 February 2018.

Schools – Nine morning performances have been set aside for schools during July, available by booking direct through Lunchbox Theatrical Productions on 01653 619650. School tickets can be purchased for all other performances at the discounted price of £10.50 for Groundlings or £20 for best available B and C Reserve (limited to 50 tickets per performance). Teacher goes free with every 10 children.

Multi-Show Discounts: Buy tickets for 2 shows and enjoy 5% discount, 3 shows - 10% discount and all 4 shows - 15% discount.

* **The York Experience** - two boxes of 16 seats (or four of 8 seats) right beside the stage are available for corporate entertainment or private parties, with an exclusive backstage experience and hospitality. Please contact Lunchbox Theatrical Productions on 01653 619650 for full details and to book tickets.

NOTES TO EDITORS

Lunchbox Theatrical Productions, founded in 1992 by James Cundall, has established an unrivalled reputation for producing top quality international entertainment in the United Kingdom, Australia, New Zealand, Hong Kong, Singapore, The Philippines, Europe and South Africa.

Producing West End and Broadway musicals, plays, boutique shows, spectaculars, concerts, children's shows, ice shows and events across five continents, Lunchbox Theatrical Productions sells over one million visitor experiences per year.

In addition, from the company's UK headquarters, Lunchbox Theatrical Productions has been delivering events in the York region for over 13 years. This includes the award-winning *Yorkshire's Winter Wonderland* incorporating *The Ice Factor*; The Imperial Ice Stars' *Sleeping Beauty on Ice* at Castle Howard; *THOR'S tipi bar* in York, Leeds and Sheffield, and this year new *THOR's* in Lincoln, Hull, Milton Keynes, London's Regent's Place and Hyde Park Winter Wonderland; the *Vintage Fun Fair* in York City Centre; and new for 2017 - *Christmas at York Museum Gardens*.

For further information and interviews please contact David Bloom @ Target Live
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