



PRESS RELEASE
25 June 2018



SHAKESPEARE'S ROSE THEATRE, EUROPE'S FIRST POP-UP ELIZABETHAN THEATRE OPENS IN YORK

MONDAY 25 JUNE – SUNDAY 2 SEPTEMBER

James Cundall – Chief Executive of Lunchbox Theatrical Productions, organisers of Shakespeare's Rose Theatre – cut the ribbon at 11am today to officially open Europe's first pop-up Elizabethan Theatre, ahead of the first performance – *Macbeth* at 2.30pm.

As part of the opening ceremony **The Archbishop of York, Dr John Sentamu**, watched part of the final rehearsals before blessing the theatre and actors, including Yorkshire's Richard Standing and Leandra Ashton – who play Macbeth and Lady Macbeth – on the stage of the theatre. Impressively Dr John Sentamu recited two Shakespearian speeches from memory to the delight of the Company before touring the site.

Yorkshire celebrity chef Brian Turner was on hand to serve the first gourmet Yorkshire street food from the Elizabethan themed cabins to an expectant crowd whilst **award-winning garden designer Sally Tierney** unveiled the Elizabethan 'Romeo & Juliet' garden in today's glorious sunshine.

Situated beside the iconic York landmark of Clifford's Tower, Shakespeare's Rose Theatre combines state-of-the-art scaffolding technology, corrugated iron and timber with the historic 13-sided design of an Elizabethan theatre. It houses an audience of 950, with 600 seated on three tiered balconies around an open-roofed courtyard and standing room for 350 'groundlings'.

A Town Crier was also on hand to declare the theatre open, and local band York Waits performed 16th Century-inspired music – the first of regular free 'wagon performances' in the free-to-enter Shakespeare's Village in which the theatre is housed.

James Cundall said: "It is utterly joyful that the artist's impression we created a year ago actually is now reality.

"We have created in a car park in York a true Elizabethan theatre and village that will hopefully surprise and entertain many thousands of people.

"As a producer I take the privilege and responsibility of creating an international project in my home city very seriously and look forward to welcoming people to four wonderful shows in this unique venue."

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, from **Monday 25 June until Sunday 2 September 2018**:

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

The traditional setting will host entertaining and challenging interpretations of these famous works. *Romeo and Juliet* and *Richard III* will be directed by the award-winning Lindsay Posner, while York Theatre Royal's Olivier Award-winning Artistic Director Damian Cruden will direct *Macbeth*, and Associate Director Juliet Forster will be putting her stamp on *A Midsummer Night's Dream*.

Over 3,000 schoolchildren will watch a production at the theatre for free at a series of special schools' performances, courtesy of the Rose Bursary Scheme.

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.

The title sponsor of Shakespeare's Rose Theatre is Grand Central Rail, an established train operator on the East Coast line linking York to London. Other sponsors are Fenwick luxury department store; the Grand Hotel and Spa, York's only five star hotel; the Helmsley Group, a York-based investment

company in commercial and residential property; the York Business Improvement District (BID), a business-led partnership that invests in improvements and enhancements to the centre of York and its businesses; Welcome to Yorkshire, the official tourism agency for the county of Yorkshire; and Yorkshire's daily national newspaper, the Yorkshire Post.

Supporters of Shakespeare's Rose Theatre include City of York Council, Cross Country Trains, English Heritage, First Group, Historic England, Make it York, University of York, York International Shakespeare Festival and York Museums Trust.

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

<http://www.shakespearesrosetheatre.com/>

Ends.

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

Tickets from £12.50 (excluding booking/delivery fees)

For full performance schedule and ticket prices please visit www.shakespearesrosetheatre.com

Booking Information

Ticketmaster

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.

Booking/delivery fees apply

Tickets also available from

York Theatre Royal

Book online www.yorktheatroyal.co.uk

By phone 01904 623 568

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

Booking/delivery fees apply

Tickets can also be purchased at Shakespeare's Rose Theatre box office situated within Shakespeare's Village, from 11am until 8pm daily. Booking and delivery fees do not apply to these ticket prices.

For further information and interviews please contact Kate Goerner @Target Live 0161 259 0662
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NOTES TO EDITORS

PHOTO CAPTION (from left): Cast members Maria Gray, Leandra Ashton, Archbishop of York Dr John Sentamu, producer James Cundall and cast member Richard Standing, at the opening of Shakespeare's Rose Theatre in York.

About Lunchbox Theatrical Productions:

Founded in Hong Kong in 1992 by James Cundall, Lunchbox Theatrical Productions has established an unrivalled reputation for producing top quality international entertainment across five continents, and is now headquartered in the United Kingdom with companies in Australia, New Zealand, Hong Kong, Singapore and The Philippines.

Productions include musicals such as *Cats*, *The Phantom of the Opera*, *Les Miserables*, *Wicked*, *Mamma Mia*, *The Sound of Music*, *West Side Story* and *Chicago*; spectacles such as *Riverdance* and *Cirque du Soleil's Alegria*; boutique shows such as *Stomp*, *Tap Dogs*, *Slava's Snowshow*, *Potted Potter*, *Circus Oz* and Barry Humphries' Farewell Tour 'Eat, Pray, Laugh!'; musical concerts including *Thriller Live*, *The Music of Andrew Lloyd Webber* and *Abba Mania*; international artists Jamie Oliver, Rick Stein and Elaine Paige; plays such as *The Woman in Black*, *The Mousetrap* and *The 39 Steps*; children's shows *Thomas the Tank Engine* and *Barney's Space Adventures*; events such as Yorkshire's *Winter Wonderland* (an outdoor Christmas ice rink and funfair in York, UK) and *The Last Night of the Proms* for the Hong Kong Handover; and The Imperial Ice Stars' productions of *The Sleeping Beauty on Ice*, *Swan Lake on Ice*, *Cinderella on Ice* and *The Nutcracker on Ice*.

As well as producing this portfolio of shows, James Cundall spent the first five months of 2010 based in Shanghai, as Producer of the Outdoor Opening Ceremony of Expo 2010 Shanghai China, on behalf of David Atkins Enterprises.

Productions for 2018 include: *Evita* in Hong Kong; *Irish Celtic* in Hong Kong, New Zealand and Australia; *Louis Pearl*, *The Amazing Bubble Man* in Hong Kong; *Potted Potter* in Hong Kong; *Swan Lake on Ice* in Australia; *Mamma Mia* in Singapore and Manila; *Stomp* in Australia and New Zealand; *Chicago* in New Zealand; *Beyond the Barricade* in New Zealand, Australia and Hong Kong; *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-time* in Australia; and *Shakespeare's Rose Theatre* in York, UK.

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, Sheffield, Lincoln, Hull, Milton Keynes, as well as London's Regent's Place and Hyde Park Winter Wonderland; the *Vintage Fun Fair* in York City Centre; and new in 2017 - *Christmas at York Museum Gardens*.