



NEWS RELEASE
FINAL



REHEARSAL IMAGES RELEASED FOR SHAKESPEARE'S ROSE THEATRE IN YORK

MONDAY JUNE 25 – SUNDAY 2 SEPTEMBER 2018

**Directors Lindsay Posner, Damian Cruden & Juliet Forster to
lead two companies of actors performing Shakespeare's
*Macbeth, Romeo and Juliet, A Midsummer Night's Dream and
Richard III.***

'First look' photos from rehearsals for Europe's first pop-up Elizabethan theatre – Shakespeare's Rose Theatre – have been released today, ahead of its opening later this month in York.

Two companies of 17 actors have been rehearsing since April – the cast of *Macbeth* under the direction of York Theatre Royal’s Olivier Award-winning Artistic Director Damian Cruden and the cast of *A Midsummer Night’s Dream* under the direction of Juliet Forster, Associate Director at York Theatre Royal in their rehearsal rooms in York city centre; and the cast of both *Richard III* and *Romeo and Juliet* under the direction of the award-winning Lindsay Posner at the Menier Chocolate Factory in London.

Rehearsal images by Anthony Robling can be downloaded here: <https://wettransfer.com/downloads/692f8a74e2f5be80056fb448cfb80a0120180606133431/ff97aacbec5bc45717fcf2ab9830609420180606133431/a4dc12>

The four popular plays will be performed in repertory during the 10-week season, from **Monday 25 June until Sunday 2 September 2018**:

Situated beside the iconic York landmark of Clifford’s Tower, **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’.

Making up the York company are Gareth Aled (*Lennox/Starveling*), Leandra Ashton (*Lady Macbeth/Peaseblossom*), Antony Bunsee (*Siward/Theseus & Titania*), Clare Corbett (*Witch 3/Puck*), Fine Time Fontayne (*Duncan/Egeus*), Maria Gray (*Donalbain/Cobweb*), Paul Hawkyard (*Macduff/Bottom*), Mark Holgate (*Banquo/Demetrius*), Emilio Iannucci (*Malcolm/Flute*), Amy Lennox (*Mentith/Hermia*), Rina Mahoney (*Lady Macduff/Quince*), Olivia Onyehara (*Angus/Helena*), Jordan Peters (*Ross/Lysander*), Amanda Ryan (*Hecate/Hippolyta & Oberon*), Robin Simpson (*Witch 1/Snout*) and Richard Standing (*Macbeth/Snug*).

In addition to the directors, the York company creative team comprises designer Sara Perks, choreographer Philippa Vafadari, composer Chris Madin, fight director Jonathan Holby, and voice coach Yvonne Morley.

Making up the London company are Emma Darlow (*Dorset/Balthazar*), Alexandra Dowling (*Lady Anne/Juliet*), Dyfan Dwyfor (*Richard III/Apothecary*), Gabriel Fleary (*Brackenbury/Escalus*), David Fleeshman (*Stanley/Friar Laurence*), Charlyne Francis (*Second Murderer/Gregory*), Robert Gwilym (*Hastings/Capulet*), Julie Legrand (*Queen Margaret/Nurse*), Tom Lorcan (*Rivers/Benvolio*), Joey Phillips (*Lovel/Abram*), Shanaya Rafaat (*Buckingham/Mercutio*), Dale Rapley (*King Edward IV/Lord Montague*), Emily Raymond (*Queen Elizabeth/Lady Capulet*), Edward Sayer (*Richmond/Tybal*), Julia Swift (*Duchess of York/Lady Montague*), Richard Teverson (*Clarence/Paris*) and Alexander Vlahos (*Catesby/Romeo*).

In addition to the director, the London company creative team comprises associate director Martha Geelan, with choreographer Mike Ashcroft, designer Lee Newby, costume designer Sue Willmington, composer Olly Fox, fight director Kate Waters and voice coach Yvonne Morley.

Casting for **SHAKESPEARE’S ROSE THEATRE** is by Ginny Schiller, lighting design by Paul Pyant and sound design by Harry Johnson.

Outside **SHAKESPEARE’S ROSE THEATRE** will be ‘Shakespeare’s Village’, and exciting plans for this free-to-enter attraction have been revealed. Yorkshire-born celebrity chef and food ambassador for the Village, Brian Turner (*Ready Steady Cook, Saturday Kitchen, A Taste of Britain*), is curating an

array of the county's finest food and drink with leading Yorkshire street food vendors, and Yorkshire garden designer Sally Tierney, winner of a silver-gilt medal at Chelsea Flower Show, has been engaged to design and create an Elizabethan garden.

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

www.shakespearesrosetheatre.com

@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

Tickets from £12.50 (excluding booking/delivery fees)

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

Press Performances:

Wednesday 4 July. 7.30pm. Macbeth (d. Damian Cruden)

Thursday 5 July. 2.30pm. A Midsummer Night's Dream (d. Juliet Forster)

Thursday 5 July. 7.30pm. Romeo & Juliet (d. Lindsay Posner)

Monday 9 July. 7.30pm. Richard III (d. Lindsay Posner)

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

NOTES TO EDITORS

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*; spectaculars 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, and Hyde Park Winter Wonderland; the *Vintage Fun Fair* in York City Centre; and new in 2017 - *Christmas at York Museum Gardens*.

For further information, interviews and press night ticket requests please contact Kate Goerner or David Bloom at Target Live

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www.target-live.co.uk