

CREATIVE TEAMS ANNOUNCED FOR 2019 SUMMER OF SHAKESPEARE



TICKETS NOW ON SALE

York: 25 June – 1 September

Blenheim Palace: 8 July – 7 September

[25 February] The creative teams have been announced for **SHAKESPEARE'S ROSE THEATRE** Europe's first ever pop-up Shakespearean Theatre, both for the return to its original site in York and at the new site at Blenheim Palace in Oxfordshire.

Both theatres will run simultaneously this summer, performing a total of eight Shakespeare plays. The plays have been selected from across the genres, offering something for everyone, and will be performed in repertory by two companies of actors based at each location, with casting to be announced.

In York, the new repertoire of plays for 2019 will be *Hamlet*, *Henry V*, *The Tempest* and *Twelfth Night*.

Damian Cruden returns to **SHAKESPEARE'S ROSE THEATRE**, having directed *Macbeth* last year in York. This year he will direct *Hamlet* and will serve as overall artistic director for both companies. **Joyce Branagh** will join the company to direct *Twelfth Night*, **Philip Franks** will direct *The Tempest*, and **Gemma Fairlie** will direct *Henry V*. **Sara Perks** will be overall season designer and will act as set and costume designer for *Hamlet* and costume designer for *Twelfth Night*. **Adrian Linford** will be set and costume designer for *The Tempest* and costume designer for *Henry V*. **Max Dorey** will be scenic designer for *Twelfth Night* and *Henry V*.

The Blenheim Palace companies will be reviving the productions of *A Midsummer Night's Dream* and *Macbeth* as experienced in York last year as well as creating exciting new productions of *Romeo & Juliet* and *Richard III*.

Tom Wright will be Associate Director for *Macbeth* and *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, and **Juliet Forster**, who was the original director of *A Midsummer Night's Dream* last year, will turn her skills to directing *Romeo & Juliet* this year. **Amy Yardley** will be associate scenic designer for both *Macbeth* and *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, and scenic designer for *Romeo & Juliet*. **Sarah Mercade** will be associate costume designer for *Macbeth*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream* and *Romeo & Juliet*. **Lucy Pitman-Wallace** will direct *Richard III*, which will have scenic and costume design by **Adam Nee**.

Originator of the project and CEO of international theatre company, **Lunchbox Theatrical Productions, James Cundall MBE**, said *"We are thrilled that Damian Cruden is once again joining us at **SHAKESPEARE'S ROSE THEATRE**, this time as overall artistic director. With him we are delighted to have found a first-class team of directors and designers for our eight productions. We are looking forward to seeing their interpretations of these great plays."*

SHAKESPEARE'S ROSE THEATRE - a 13-sided Elizabethan-style playhouse, complete with an Elizabethan village - will be constructed over a three week period in the glorious grounds of 'Britain's Greatest Palace' where it will run from 8 July until 7 September, whilst in York the theatre will return to the foot of 13th century Clifford's Tower, where it will open on 25 June and run until 1 September.

At both the York and Blenheim Palace sites, the Shakespearean theatres will be constructed using state-of-the-art scaffolding technology, corrugated iron and timber. Inspired by the famous London Rose Playhouse built in 1587, 12 years prior to The Globe, **SHAKESPEARE'S ROSE THEATRE** will house an audience of 900, with 560 seated on three tiered balconies around an open-roofed courtyard with standing room for 340 'groundlings'.

Both theatres will be located within a Shakespearean village, bringing an authentic Elizabethan ambience and theatricality to the event, and will feature:

- 'wagon' performances of Elizabethan-style entertainment, including comic mini-plays, speeches and medieval musicians
- the best Yorkshire and Oxfordshire food and drinks, housed in the oak-framed and reed-thatched Bear Arms pub
- in York, an Elizabethan garden created by Yorkshire garden designer Sally Tierney, with ornate box-edged beds of roses, cottage flowers, herbs and vegetables. Mrs Tierney is the winner of a Silver-Gilt medal at the Royal Horticultural Society's renowned Chelsea Flower Show, and created the Elizabethan garden for **SHAKESPEARE'S ROSE THEATRE** in York last year to great acclaim.
- in Blenheim, a village pond, farm wagons and carts, and an array of vintage farming implements, evoking a rustic rural scene
- tables and benches around the village, enabling visitors to enjoy the medieval atmosphere.

Dominic Hare, Chief Executive of Blenheim Palace, said *"When I visited **SHAKESPEARE'S ROSE THEATRE** in York last summer I was absolutely blown away, not only by the quality of the whole event, even down to the vintage carts and wagons, but by the extraordinary experience of seeing Shakespeare performed in such an intimate setting. It created the most astonishing connection between audience and actors, and produced some truly spine-tingling moments.*

*"I immediately thought it would be the ideal summer event for Blenheim Palace and am immensely excited at the prospect of bringing these outstanding Shakespeare productions, as well as the Elizabethan experience, to such a stunning setting. We believe that **SHAKESPEARE'S ROSE THEATRE** will bring many more visitors to the area for everyone's benefit as well as being a marvellous cultural experience for local people."*

The Blenheim Palace season will be co-presented by Raymond Gubbay Ltd, who have a wealth of experience promoting events and concerts worldwide, including the popular 'Christmas at Blenheim Palace' illuminated trail and Cinderella experience.

Anthony Findlay, Chief Executive of Raymond Gubbay Ltd, said *"We have had the pleasure of working closely with Blenheim Palace for the past three years and have also enjoyed successful partnerships with Lunchbox Theatrical Productions on their touring shows. It's hugely exciting that all three companies have now joined forces to bring this fabulous Shakespearean experience to the beautiful grounds of Blenheim Palace and the audiences of Oxfordshire and beyond."*

SHAKESPEARE'S ROSE THEATRE and Shakespeare's Village are produced by Yorkshire-based Lunchbox Theatrical Productions. The Blenheim Palace season is presented in association with Raymond Gubbay Ltd and Blenheim Palace.

@ShakespearesRT

For more information on **SHAKESPEARE'S ROSE THEATRE** or to book tickets at York please visit:

www.shakespearesrosetheatre.com

To book tickets at Blenheim Palace please visit : www.blenheimpalace.com/shakespearesRT

York Listing Information

SHAKESPEARE'S ROSE THEATRE – YORK

Clifford's Tower, Tower St, York, YO1 9WD

Tuesday 25 June – Sunday 1 September 2019.

Hamlet, Henry V, The Tempest and Twelfth Night

For full performance schedule please visit www.shakespearesrosetheatre.com/performance-schedule

York Booking Information

Book online www.ticketmaster.co.uk

By phone 0844 847 2483

For Groups 0844 844 2121 or email groups@ticketmaster.co.uk

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

In Person SHAKESPEARE'S ROSE THEATRE, Tower St, York, YO1 9WD from 11am, Tues 25 June 2019

Tickets also available from

York Theatre Royal

Book online www.yorktheatreroyal.co.uk

By phone 01904 623 568

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

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-air, all other seats are under cover. Visit www.shakespearesrosetheatre.com for seating plan and further details.

The York Experience £90.00*

Premium £65.95

A Reserve £54.95

B Reserve £43.95

C Reserve £32.95

D Reserve £27.45 (restricted view)

Groundlings £13.75

Wheelchairs - Courtyard £13.75, Premium £65.95. 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 the end 28 February 2019.

Schools – Ten morning performances have been set aside for schools during July (see schedule), at £10 per ticket anywhere in the theatre, 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 £11.50 for Groundlings or £22 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. Only available through York Theatre Royal in Premium, A and B Reserve.

* **The York Experience** - 16 VIP seats 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.

Prices inclusive of booking fee. All transactions are subject to a single delivery charge, which varies by ticketing agent.

Blenheim Listing Information

SHAKESPEARE'S ROSE THEATRE – BLENHEIM PALACE

Blenheim Palace, Woodstock, Oxfordshire, OX20 1UL

Monday 8 July – Saturday 7 September 2019.

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

For full performance schedule please visit www.blenheimpalace.com/shakespearesRT

Blenheim Palace Booking Information

Book online www.blenheimpalace.com/shakespearesRT

By phone 0115 9129107

Calls cost up to 13p per minute plus your phone company's access charge.

In Person SHAKESPEARE'S ROSE THEATRE, Blenheim Palace, Woodstock, Oxfordshire, OX20 1UL from 10am, Mon 8th July 2019

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-air, all other seats are under cover. Visit blenheimpalace.com/shakespearesRT for seating plan and further details.

Premium £70.00

A Reserve £55.00

B Reserve £45.00

C Reserve £35.00

D Reserve £25.00 (restricted view)

Groundlings £15.00

Wheelchairs - Courtyard £15.00, Premium £70.00. Each wheelchair space includes carer seat free of charge.

Children (16 and under) £3 off all seats, £2 off Groundlings.

Groups of 16+ receive 10% off all ticket types (excluding groundlings). Contact SEE groups on 0844 412 4650 or by emailing groups@seetickets.com

Schools – Eight morning performances have been set aside exclusively for schools at £10 per ticket in the theatre. 1 teacher goes free with every 10 children. Tickets available through SEE Tickets on 0800 852 7244 or by emailing education@seetickets.com.

There is up to 15% off when purchasing 'combined tickets'.

Prices inclusive of booking fee. All transactions are subject to a single charge of £2 for print at home tickets and collections or £2.50 for postal orders.

NOTES TO EDITORS

About Lunchbox Theatrical Productions

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; productions by The Imperial Ice Stars' at Castle Howard, Royal Albert Hall, Chatsworth House and Hyde Park Winter Wonderland; *THOR'S tipi bars* in York, Leeds, Sheffield, Lincoln, London's Hyde Park Winter Wonderland and Brighton; the *Vintage Fun Fair* in York City Centre; and *Christmas at York Museum Gardens*. In 2018, the company created SHAKESPEARE'S ROSE THEATRE in York, which this year returns to York and makes its debut at Blenheim Palace.

About Blenheim Palace

A visit to Blenheim Palace offers an unforgettable experience. It's a chance to share the splendours of Baroque architecture, to wonder at the collections of art, tapestry and antiques, and to explore the Park and Gardens and discover landscapes crafted by Lancelot 'Capability' Brown.

Whether enjoying a day visit to this magnificent home to the Dukes of Marlborough and birthplace of Sir Winston Churchill, or as a regular visitor able to appreciate the changing seasons and an annual programme of historical and cultural events, you will be sure to feel enriched by the Blenheim Palace experience.

Blenheim Palace - Britain's Greatest Palace.

About Raymond Gubbay Ltd

Founded in 1966, Raymond Gubbay Ltd is recognised as being at the forefront for promoting and producing popular classical music, opera, ballet and major events worldwide. In partnership with world class venues, including Blenheim Palace, Forestry Commission England, National Trust, Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh and Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, RGL Ltd regularly produce Christmas light trails around the UK and Europe. Additionally, the company annually presents over 500 concerts. raymondgubbay.co.uk

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