



Press Release: 15 February 2010

450 Southwark students make the stage their own at Shakespeare's Globe

Over 450 students, aged from 5 to 18, will perform an ensemble production of Shakespeare's *A Midsummer Night's Dream* at Shakespeare's Globe on Thursday 18th March at 1pm. The performance is part of the annual *Our Theatre* project, supported by PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP, which provides the opportunity for 16 Southwark schools to make the famous Globe stage their own. The schools and their teachers from primary, secondary and special education needs schools across the Borough work with Globe Education Practitioners to prepare their own scenes before coming together to present the full story to a packed audience of family, friends and the general public at the Globe.

Patrick Spottiswoode, Director of Globe Education, commented on the project and its achievements: "*Our Theatre gives students an active and lively introduction to a Shakespeare play and at the same time develops their confidence, speaking and listening skills. They put these skills into practice by experiencing first-hand the excitement of what it feels like to perform on the world famous Globe stage to a packed house.*"

"Our Theatre has been generously supported by PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP every year since Shakespeare's Globe opened in 1997. Its success is also confirmed by the fact that the Our Theatre approach has been adopted by theatres as far apart as Manchester and Missouri."

"Shakespeare's Globe has been a part of Southwark since Sam Wanamaker's vision forty years ago. We are proud of Southwark and this is a celebration of Southwark schools and the imagination and talent of Southwark students. It is a highlight of the Globe calendar and I hope it will be an experience the students will remember for the rest of their lives".

David Adair, Head of Community Affairs, PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP, said: "*This is the fourteenth year of our support for the Shakespeare's Globe Our Theatre project, enabling Globe practitioners to work closely with teachers and students in a number of Southwark schools, culminating in the children's performance on the Globe Theatre stage, this unique programme supports PwC's long term community strategy to help raise educational achievement and employability skills in the Borough. Creative arts are an excellent tool to engage, enable and inspire young people, as Our Theatre proves".*"

The Southwark schools taking part are: Brunswick Park Primary School, Cherry Garden School, English Martyrs RC Primary School, Globe Academy, Harris Girls' Academy East Dulwich, Haymerle School, John Ruskin Primary School, Snowfields Primary School, St John's RC Primary School, St John's Walworth CE Primary School, St Joseph's RC Junior School, St Peter's CE Primary School, St Saviour's and St Olave's School, The Cathedral School of St Saviour and St Mary Overie and Tuke School. They are joined by the Shakespeare's Globe Gifted & Talented Youth Theatre Company.

ENDS

Listings information

Our Theatre: *A Midsummer Night's Dream* – performed by schools from the Southwark Community

Venue: Shakespeare's Globe

Date: Thursday 18 March, 2010 **Time:** 1pm

Box Office: community@shakespearesglobe.com

Further information from Chris Adams at Shakespeare's Globe Press Office on +44 (0)20 7902 1468, chris.a@shakespearesglobe.com

Images of Shakespeare's Globe and last year's *Our Theatre* production, as well as other media resources, are available online at www.shakespeares-globe.org/press or from Chris Adams (above).

Notes to Editors:

- **Globe Education** presents a programme of workshops, lectures, events and staged readings all year round. For more information about Globe Education's work, visit www.globe-education.org
- **Tickets** for the performance are free but must be booked in advance, and are available by emailing community@shakespearesglobe.com
- **Shakespeare's Globe Theatre** The 2010 Theatre Season is entitled 'Kings and Rogues', and includes *Macbeth*, *Henry VIII*, *Henry IV Part 1*, *Henry IV Part 2*, *The Merry Wives of Windsor*, *Anne Boleyn* by Howard Brenton and *Bedlam* by Nell Leyshon. Public booking is now open. Box office: 020 7401 9919 or online at www.shakespeares-globe.org
- **Shakespeare's Globe Exhibition** is open all year round. May to September from 9am to 5pm and October to April from 10am to 5pm. Admission includes a guided tour of the Theatre. For further information, telephone 020 7902 1500.
- **Shakespeare's Globe Shop** stocks a variety of products, including season specific merchandise. Items can be bought at the on-site shop or on-line at www.globe-shop.com.
- **Capital Campaign** – Shakespeare's Globe is currently fundraising for a major development project. The first part of the campaign – to develop a Globe Education and Rehearsal Centre – is underway. To find out more visit www.shakespeares-globe.org/thesecondstage
- **The Shakespeare Globe Trust** is a registered charity No.266916. **The Globe receives no public subsidy.**
- **PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP** provides industry-focused assurance, tax and advisory services to build public trust and enhance value for our clients and their stakeholders. More than 163,000 people in 151 countries across our network share their thinking, experience and solutions to develop fresh perspectives and practical advice