



## **CASTING ANNOUNCED FOR BLENHEIM PALACE SUMMER OF SHAKESPEARE**

- **Dave Fishley** (recently seen in the West End as 'William III' in *Queen Anne* at the Theatre Royal Haymarket) to play '**Richard**' in **Richard III**
- **Alex Avery** (series regular in many long running TV shows including *Doctors*, *The Bill* and *EastEnders*) as 'Macbeth'
- **Emilio Iannucci and Ella Dunlop** to play the star-crossed lovers in **Romeo & Juliet**
- And returning from last year's SHAKESPEARE'S ROSE THEATRE is **Paul Hawkyard** as 'Bottom' in **A Midsummer Night's Dream**

[21 May, OXFORDSHIRE] SHAKESPEARE'S ROSE THEATRE, the award-winning pop-up Shakespearean Theatre, today announces full casting and creative team for its **Blenheim Palace** nine-week season, following a hugely successful inaugural run at its original site in York in 2018.

The 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, in its Oxfordshire home, it will run from **8 July** until **7 September**, performing four of Shakespeare's greatest plays.

The Blenheim Palace company 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*.

The plays have been selected from across the genres, offering something for everyone, and will be performed in repertory by two companies of actors.

Making up the 19-strong *Macbeth/A Midsummer Night's Dream* company at Blenheim Palace are **Nana Amoo-Gottfried** (*Ross & Lysander*), **Alex Avery** (*Macbeth & Snug*), **Ellie Burrow** (*Lady Macduff/Young Siward & Fairy Queen/Peaseblossom*), **Charlie Cameron** (*Witch 3/Murderer 2/Scottish Doctor & Puck*), **Christopher Chilton** (*Witch 1/Murderer 1/Messenger & Snout/Fairy*), **Suzy Cooper** (*Lady Macbeth & Peter Quince*), **Claire Cordier** (*Hecate/Gentlewoman/Messenger/Seyton & Hippolyta/Oberon*), **Maria Gray** (*Donalbain/Witch 2/Murderer 3 & First Fairy/Cobweb*), **Paul Hawkyard** (*Macduff & Bottom*), **Adam Kane** (*Malcolm & Fairy*), **Tom Kanji** (*Old Man/Siward/Apparition 3 & Theseus/Titania*), **Mark Peachey** (*Banquo & Demetrius*), **Shane Quigley Murphy** (*Lennox & Starveling/Fairy/Moth*), **Adam Slynn** (*Captain/Apparition 2/Servant & Philostrate/Mustardseed/Fairy King*), **Paul Stonehouse** (*Duncan/Porter/English Doctor & Egeus/Fairy*), **Toby Vaughan** (*Swing/Cover & Flute/Fairy*), **Exeli Walker**

(Angus/Lord/Messenger & Helena), **Jenny Wall** (Apparition 3 & Fairy), and **Francesca Zoutwelle** (Apparition 1/Menteith & Hermia).

Making up the 19-strong *Romeo & Juliet/Richard III* company at Blenheim Palace are **Bonnie Baddoo** (Prologue/Balthasar & Lady Anne/Messenger 2/Soldier/Oxford), **James Bradwell** (Friar Laurence & Archbishop of York/Bishop of Ely/Priest/Oxford), **Matthew Brown** (Peter/Page & Soldier/Sheriff/Blunt), **Daniel Burke** (Paris/Officer & Brackenbury/Ratcliffe), **Jonathan Christie** (Mercutio/Officer & Dorset/Soldier), **Grace Cookey-Gam** (Princess Escalus & Duchess of York/Herbert/Soldier), **James Coutsvalis** (Swing), **Ella Dunlop** (Juliet & Rivers/Messenger 3/Page/Surrey/Soldier), **Dave Fishley** (Sampson & Richard III), **Mathilda Holland** (Swing), **Emilio Iannucci** (Romeo & Grey/Messenger 4/Brandon/Soldier/Citizen 3), **John Macaulay** (Capulet & Clarence/Lovel), **William Mannering** (Abraham/Friar John/Constable & Buckingham), **Doireann May White** (Benvolia & Hastings/Alderman/Messenger/Soldier), **Anna Northam** (Lady Montague/Apothecary & Catesby/Soldier), **Amanda Ryan** (Lady Capulet & Queen Elizabeth), **Jay Saighal** (Tybalt/Officer & Richmond/Tyrell/Murderer 2/Corpse), **Nicola Sanderson** (Nurse & Derby/Gaol Keeper/Soldier/Citizen 1), and **Simon Startin** (Montague & Edward IV/Lord Mayor).

**Damian Cruden** returns to **SHAKESPEARE'S ROSE THEATRE**, having directed *Macbeth* last year in York. This year he will serve as overall artistic director for both companies. **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 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 "I am absolutely delighted that once again the creative team has found a cast of such stunningly high calibre for our Shakespeare plays and I'm sure that the audiences in Oxfordshire will really enjoy and appreciate their talents."

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.

The Shakespearean theatre 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 in three covered tiers around an open-roofed courtyard with standing room for 340 'groundlings'. The theatre will be located within a Shakespearean village, a rustic rural scene complete with village pond, farm wagons and carts, bringing an authentic Elizabethan ambience and theatricality to the event.

**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

To **book tickets** at Blenheim Palace please visit : [www.blenheimpalace.com/shakespearesRT](http://www.blenheimpalace.com/shakespearesRT)

### **Blenheim Palace 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](http://www.blenheimpalace.com/shakespearesRT)

### **Blenheim Palace Booking Information**

**Book online** [www.blenheimpalace.com/shakespearesRT](http://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 8<sup>th</sup> 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](http://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](mailto:groups@seetickets.com)

**Schools** – Eight morning performances have been set aside exclusively for schools at £10 per ticket anywhere 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](mailto: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.*

For more information on **SHAKESPEARE'S ROSE THEATRE** please visit: [www.shakespearesrosetheatre.com](http://www.shakespearesrosetheatre.com)

### **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

Home of the 12th Duke and Duchess of Marlborough and the birthplace of Sir Winston Churchill, Blenheim Palace is a World Heritage Site that boasts over 300 years of history, more than 2000 acres of landscaped Parkland and Formal Gardens, and a wealth of events, tours and exhibitions throughout the year.

### 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](http://raymondgubbay.co.uk)

For further information and interviews please contact:

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