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AS IT MAKES A TRIUMPHANT RETURN TO YORK
SHAKESPEARE'S ROSE THEATRE WINS THREE PRESTIGIOUS
VISIT YORK TOURISM AWARDS

[24 June 2019, York] As it makes a triumphant return to York at the foot of historic Clifford's Tower, **SHAKESPEARE'S ROSE THEATRE** – the award-winning pop-up Shakespearean theatre – was last week honoured with three awards at the prestigious Visit York Tourism Awards 2019, with producer and CEO of Lunchbox Theatrical Productions and founder of Shakespeare's Rose Theatre, James Cundall MBE receiving the distinguished **Tourism Champion** award, and the theatre winning in the categories **Innovation in Tourism**, and **Newcomer of the Year**.

The York season of **SHAKESPEARE'S ROSE THEATRE** will run from Tuesday 25 June – Sunday 1 September 2019, with four new productions: *Hamlet*, *Henry V*, *The Tempest* and *Twelfth Night*. Shakespeare's Rose Theatre is also expanding this year to a second site in the UK, in the grounds of Blenheim Palace in Oxfordshire, with a nine week season from 8 July – 7 September, where two companies will be performing the repertoire of plays from the first season in York: *Romeo & Juliet*, *Richard III*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream* and *Macbeth*

SHAKESPEARE'S ROSE THEATRE will be officially opened tomorrow at 11am by the York Town Crier and the High Sheriff of North Yorkshire, along with James Cundall and the cast of *Hamlet*, who will be performing in the first show of the season that evening. Also joining the ribbon cutting will be Damian Cruden, Artistic Director of Shakespeare's Rose Theatre and Brian Turner, the Yorkshire-born celebrity chef and Sally Tierney, the award-winning Yorkshire Garden Designer.

James Cundall MBE, said *"I am personally overwhelmed to be acknowledged for my company's contribution to the tourism industry in York and to receive two further awards, including innovation, is superb. We have strived hard to bring new ideas to this glorious city for nearly 15 years now, and we are thrilled that so many people enjoyed the theatre last year. We hope to welcome everyone back and encourage those who haven't yet experienced the event to see a show in this historic setting or just enjoy a drink and some food in our free to enter village."*

The pop-up Shakespearean theatre is constructed using state-of-the-art scaffolding technology, corrugated iron and timber. Inspired by the Rose Theatre of 1587 in London's Bankside, which was built from timber, with a lath

and plaster exterior and thatch roof, **SHAKESPEARE'S ROSE THEATRE** houses an audience of 900, with 560 seated in three covered tiers around an open-roofed courtyard with standing room for 340 'groundlings'.

As before, the theatre is located within a Shakespearean village, bringing an authentic Elizabethan ambience and theatricality to the event, and features:

- 'wagon' performances of Elizabethan-style entertainment, including comic mini-plays and speeches
- the best Yorkshire food and drinks, housed in the oak-framed and reed-thatched Bear Arms pub
- an Elizabethan garden created by Yorkshire garden designer Sally Tierney, with ornate box-edged beds of roses, cottage flowers and herbs as well as a water fountain. 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.
- tables and benches around the village, enabling visitors to enjoy the historic atmosphere.

Grand Central Rail, an established train operator on the East Coast line linking York to London, returns in 2019 as title sponsor of **SHAKESPEARE'S ROSE THEATRE** in York. Other returning sponsors are **Fenwick** luxury department store; the **Grand Hotel and Spa**, York's only five star hotel; and Yorkshire's daily national newspaper, **The Yorkshire Post**, back on board as official media partner.

McArthurGlen Designer Outlet, who join as a sponsor for 2019 and who hosted the rehearsal village for the full company over seven weeks, are also hosting an exhibition of costumes and props from **SHAKESPEARE'S ROSE THEATRE**. The items from the 2018 plays of *Richard III* and *Romeo and Juliet* can be viewed all summer in Unit -29 at the South Atrium.

The previously announced cast for York includes **Maggie Bain** (Netflix's *Black Mirror*, *The End of the F***ing World*, film *Dark Sense* and *A Midsummer Night's Dream* at Shakespeare's Globe) as '**Henry V**'; ITV's *Victoria* star **David Oakes** as '**Hamlet**'; **Sam Callis** (*Game of Thrones*, *The Bill*) as '**Prospero**' in **The Tempest**; and returning from last year's **SHAKESPEARE'S ROSE THEATRE**, **Olivia Onyehara** as '**Viola**', **Mark Holgate** as '**Orsino**', and **Leandra Ashton** as '**Olivia**' in **Twelfth Night**.

FULL CASTING, CREATIVE CREDITS AND PRESS NIGHTS IN NOTES TO EDITORS BELOW.

SHAKESPEARE'S ROSE THEATRE and Shakespeare's Village are produced by Yorkshire-based Lunchbox Theatrical Productions.

@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 PRESS NIGHTS

Wednesday 3 July 2019 – Hamlet @ 2pm / The Tempest @ 7.30pm

Thursday 4 July 2019 – Henry V @ 2pm / Twelfth Night @ 7.30pm

NB these are matinee and evening shows, so reviewers can do both in one day.

NOTES TO EDITORS – CAST AND CREW CREDITS

Making up the 18-strong *Hamlet/Twelfth Night* company in York are **Leandra Ashton** (*Courtier/Soldier/Sailor & Olivia*), **Antony Bunsee** (*Player King/Courtier/Soldier & Priest*), **Clare Corbett** (*Horatio & Feste/Sailor*), **Marcello Cruz** (*Laertes/Soldier & Sebastian*), **Fine Time Fontayne** (*Ghost 1/Player 1/Digger 1/Lord & Sir Toby Belch/Sailor/Musician*), **Hannah Francis-Barker** (swing), **Mark Holgate** (*Marcellus/Fortinbras/Player 3 & Orsino*), **Gordon Kane**

(Polonius/English Ambassador & Captain), **Rina Mahoney** (Gertrude & Maria/Sailor), **Serena Manteghi** (Ophelia & 1st Officer), **David Oakes** (Hamlet & 2nd Officer/Sailor), **Olivia Onyehara** (Osric/Courtier/Soldier & Viola), **Alex Phelps** (Courtier/Reynaldo/Priest/Soldier & Sir Andrew Aguecheek/Sailor/Musician), **Richard Standing** (Claudius & Curio/Musician), **Claire Storey** (Ghost 2/Player 2/Digger 2 & Malvolio/Sailor/Musician), **Cassie Vallance** (Guildenstern/Bernardo & Fabien/Sailor) **Wreh-asha Walton** (Rosencrantz/Francisco & Valentine) and **Declan Wilson** (Voltimand/Captain & Antonio/Sailor).

Making up the 19-strong *Tempest/Henry V* company in York are **Ali Azhar** (Male Spirit & Dauphin/French Soldier), **Maggie Bain** (Antonia & Henry V), **Raphael Bushay** (Caliban & Montjoy/Chorus), **Sam Callis** (Prospero & King of France/Erpingham), **Niall Costigan** (Alonso & York/Governor/Bourbon), **Richie Daysh**, (Boatswain & Pistol), **Leander Deeny** (Ariel & Constable/Grey), **Jessica Dennis** (Female Spirit/Ceres & Chorus/Williams/Nym), **Charlyne Francis** (Iris & Katherine/Boy), **Alexandra Guelff** (Miranda & Alice/Scrope/Court/Chorus), **Scott Hoatson** (Francisco & Westmoreland/Chorus), **Alexander Knox** (Ferdinand & Bates/Gloucester), **Christopher Logan** (Trinculo & Orleans/MacMorris/Cambridge), **Amy Loughton** (Adrian & Fluellen/Chorus), **Peter Moreton** (Stephano & Canterbury/Bardolf/Burgundy), **Johanne Murdock** (Juno & Duke of Exeter), **Marilyn Nnadebe** (Female Spirit & Duke of Berri/Soldier), **Paul Sockett** (Sebastian & Gower/Chorus) and **Flo Wilson** (Gonzala & Ely/Hostess/Isabel).

Damian Cruden, artistic director at York Theatre Royal for 22 years, 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 the Company. Award-winning writer **Joyce Branagh**, who has directed *Measure for Measure* at Lancaster Castle as well as *Much Ado About Nothing* at Vienna's English Theatre, and is the sister of acclaimed Shakespearean actor and director Kenneth Branagh, will join the company to direct *Twelfth Night*; **Philip Franks**, best known for playing the role of Charley opposite Catherine Zeta Jones in *The Darling Buds of May*, and more recently Associate Director at Chichester Festival Theatre, will direct *The Tempest*; and **Gemma Fairlie**, recently Associate Director at Pitlochry Festival Theatre and award-winning director of outdoor physical theatre company Light the Fuse, will direct *Henry V*. **Sara Perks** also returns to **SHAKESPEARE'S ROSE THEATRE**, this year as overall season designer as well as scenic and costume designer for *Hamlet* and costume designer for *Twelfth Night*. **Adrian Linford** will be scenic and costume designer for *The Tempest* and costume designer for *Henry V*. **Max Dorey** will be scenic designer for *Twelfth Night* and *Henry V*.

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.

For further information and interviews please contact:

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