

2022 OPEN-AIR SEASON FEATURES 50th SHOW

16 JUNE – 30 JULY

Guildford Shakespeare Company announce a magical open-air double-bill this summer in two stunning outdoor venues in the heart of historic Guildford.

First up is the enduring summer favourite **A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM** at the enchanting Racks Close. This former chalk quarry is now a wooded oasis, a stone's throw from the High Street, and the town's best kept secret.

Shakespeare's raucous comedy of young lovers and mischievous fairies is directed by the award-winning **ABIGAIL ANDERSON** (Park Theatre London, Theatre Royal Bury St Edmunds), who last worked with GSC on their 2014 hit, *The Canterbury Tales*. The production promises to combine her distinctive, high-energy playfulness with GSC's innovative use of found spaces:

"I have loved A Midsummer Night's Dream ever since I was a child. It is a near perfect play: like a laughter factory moving between banter, farce and slapstick, constantly raising the stakes and moving at a whipcrack pace. There's something to appeal to everyone and I can't wait to bring the magical forest to life in the beautiful surroundings of Rack's Close."

In July the company will move to Guildford's largest and most popular award-winning green space, Stoke Park, for an Edwardian-set promenade production of Shakespeare's final solo play, **THE TEMPEST**.

On a remote island a mother and daughter watch as a ship is wrecked on the shore; but this is no accident, and this is no ordinary island. As the survivors come to discover, magic does exist and those we think are lost forever are really just waiting to be found.

"Having Stoke Park as our world to play and promenade through is such a gift", explains director **CAROLINE DEVLIN**, who created last year's "joyous gem" of *As You Like It* and the award-winning online *Henry V*. *"Using the boating lake island, stone circle and rose garden, as well as GSC's new HQ, makes for a striking island experience; the park IS the island. Prospero brings with her, her own brand of magic, which is alien to this world. A magic of circus, mysticism and illusion."*

The company's headquarters in the park- the Astolat Pavilion - will be the focus for much of the action, with the office building itself being transformed into the shipwrecked remains of Prospero's original boat. *The Tempest* will be GSC's 50th production since their inception in 2006, and the 6th since restrictions were lifted last summer following the pandemic:

"The 50th show is an exciting milestone for us", **MATT PINCHES (GSC Co-Founder)**, *"even more so when you consider what we have all lived through the past two years. For GSC to still be making theatre for and in our local community, ensuring our outreach and education work continues to engage and inspire is something we are very proud of. We hope this summer season will be the perfect way to thank our loyal audiences for making us what we are."*

Full casting and creative team details to be announced shortly.





**GUILDFORD
SHAKESPEARE
COMPANY**

Press Release

Date: **12 APRIL 2021** Use: **embargoed until 29 April**
GSC Honorary Patron **Brian Blessed OBE**

TICKETS

Full £27.50

Concessions £24.50 (over 65, students, Equity, Jobseekers, Reg Disabled)

Children £16.50 (under 16)

Family tickets £80 (2 children, 2 full)

Schools £15 pupils (1 teacher free for every 10)

Previews 16 June & 15 July £18.50 (£16.50 children)

10 @ £10 tickets: 10 reduced price tickets are available Mondays & Tuesdays for 16-25 yr olds/Universal Credit.
Available via Box Office phone number only.

DATES

A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM

16 June – 02 July

Racks Close, Quarry Street, Guildford, GU1 3XZ

Evenings 7.30pm

Saturday matinee 18 June 2.30pm

PRESS NIGHT MONDAY 20 JUNE 7.30pm

Details of Accessible performances to follow on website

THE TEMPEST

15 – 30 July

Astolat Pavilion, Lido Road, Stoke Park, GU1 1FH

Evenings 7.30pm

Saturday matinees (16, 23, 30 July) 2.30pm

PRESS NIGHT MONDAY 18 JULY 7.30pm

Details of Accessible performances to follow on website

BOOKING & FURTHER DETAILS

www.guildford-shakespeare-company.co.uk

PRESS

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Note to Editors

Guildford Shakespeare Company is an award-winning, site-responsive theatre company, established in 2006 by actor-managers Sarah Gobran and Matt Pinches. GSC has a site-responsive approach that places audiences right at the heart of the action, immersing them in the world of the play, enabling us to demystify the legend that theatre is for an elite, educated few but is immediate and accessible to everyone.

2022 will see the company produce its 50th production. Specialising in site-responsive interpretations of Shakespeare and other classics from literature, unique venues have included Guildford Cathedral, Watts Gallery, West Horsley Place and a Flemish Spiegel tent. In 2022 Freddie Fox played the title role in *Hamlet*, receiving wide-spread national acclaim and in 2015, Brian Blessed OBE played the title role in *King Lear*.

Its Education and Outreach works with over 8500 people young and old every year through workshops, in-house drama clubs and free-to-access social inclusion programmes. GSC's mental health programme for families, has gone on to be used as a case study for Systemic Family Training at Tavistock and also the British Association of Dramatherapy. TIE tours reach a further 9000 students a year in disadvantaged primary and secondary schools across Surrey.

GSC is a registered charity and one of the largest producers of home-grown theatre in the region.