



PRESS RELEASE

SUBJECT: Shakespeare's Globe elects Lord Bichard as Chair and two new Deputies

DATE: Friday 18 September 2015

Shakespeare's Globe elects The Lord Bichard of Nailsworth KCB as Chair of Shakespeare's Globe. He was previously Deputy Chair. His appointment follows the decision by The Rt. Hon. The Lord Falconer of Thoroton to step down, having completed three years in the role, as he continues his position as Shadow Minister of Justice and Shadow Lord Chancellor. He will remain a Trustee of Shakespeare's Globe.

Two new Deputy Chairs have also been elected: Emma Stenning, Chief Executive of Bristol Old Vic, and Iraj Ispahani, CEO of Ispahani Advisory Ltd, and Board Member of MM Ispahani Ltd, the 195-year old family company, headquartered in Bangladesh. Iraj also serves as a Senior Director at Oliver Wyman & Co and an Advisory Board Member of Seeing is Believing, the reversible blindness collaboration between Standard Chartered Bank and the International Agency for Prevention of Blindness (IAPB).

Neil Constable, Chief Executive at Shakespeare's Globe, said, '*Charlie (Lord Falconer) has provided strong leadership. In his three years we have seen successes such as the opening of the Sam Wanamaker Playhouse, the appointment of new Artistic Director, Emma Rice, and significant growth of our activities internationally, including the Globe-to-Globe Hamlet on its tour to every country. I have enjoyed working with him and I am very pleased that he will continue as a member of the Board.*

I am also delighted that Michael (Lord Bichard), who knows and has supported us as Deputy, will take up the Chair leading us to realise further ambitions and reach for new horizons. Michael has a wealth of art and design experience but his education experience will be particularly valuable as Globe Education, one of the UK's largest arts education departments, continues to grow to meet demand across the country and internationally for its respected learning and community programmes.'

Michael Bichard was Permanent Secretary of the Department for Education and Employment from 1995 to 2001. He introduced several modernising reforms to the Department and oversaw significant changes to education policy in the late 1990s. Following his retirement in 2001, he has served as Rector of The University of the Arts London and as Chairman of the Design Council. In 2013, he became Chair of the Social Care Institute for Excellence (SCIE) and is now Chair of the National Audit Office.

Michael Bichard, commented, '*I am thrilled to be asked to chair the Board of the Globe at such an exciting time in its life. I very much look forward to working with our new Artistic Director, Emma Rice, the other Executives and an outstanding team of Trustees, as we all prepare to mark the 400th anniversary of Shakespeare's death next year.'*

ENDS

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- **The Sam Wanamaker Playhouse:** The candlelit Jacobean theatre at Shakespeare's Globe opened in January 2014. The Playhouse hosts concerts and other events throughout the summer, with the main indoor theatre season running October to April.
- **Globe Education:** One of the largest arts education departments in the UK; each year, over 100,000 people of all ages and nationalities participate in its public events, workshops and courses. Globe Education also runs extensive outreach programmes for students and teachers in the Southwark community, nationally and internationally.
- **Globe Exhibition & Tour:** Open to the public all year round, the Globe Exhibition and Tour explores the life of Shakespeare, the London where he lived, and the theatre for which he wrote.
- **Globe On Tour:** The Globe's productions tour extensively in the UK and internationally. Current and forthcoming tours include: *Much Ado About Nothing*, *Romeo & Juliet*, *King John* and a production of *Hamlet* that is travelling to every country in the world.
- **Globe Player:** A brand new online platform offering full-length HD films of over 50 Shakespeare productions at the Globe to rent or buy.
- **Globe On Screen:** Shakespeare's Globe returns to cinemas in early 2015, bringing 2014's season of triumphs to cinemas worldwide. Globe On Screen 2015 features *The Duchess of Malfi*, *Titus Andronicus*, *Antony and Cleopatra*, *Julius Caesar* and *The Comedy of Errors*, all captured 'live' in high definition.
- **Globe Shop:** Stocks a variety of products, including theatre season-specific merchandise. All profits go towards supporting our educational mission.
- **The Swan Bar and Restaurant and the Foyer Café Bar:** Open all year round, for reservations and more information please call 020 7928 9444 or visit loveswan.co.uk
- **The Shakespeare Globe Trust:** Registered UK charity No. 266916. Shakespeare's Globe receives no regular public subsidy.