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**ARTS COUNCIL
ENGLAND**

YORK INTERNATIONAL SHAKESPEARE FESTIVAL

Friday 21 April to Monday 1 May 2023

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**YORK
ST JOHN
UNIVERSITY**



YORK INTERNATIONAL SHAKESPEARE FESTIVAL

We are delighted to continue working closely with the York International Shakespeare Festival (@YorkShakes) for its 2023 edition. This year we have a number of exciting, award-winning productions coming to the main stage in our new Creative Centre, and we are honoured to be showcasing the production of A Midsummer Night's Dream from Ukraine. Alongside this we are hosting workshops, readings, talks, displays and our afternoon exploring Shakespeare (and) Sanctuary. This festival aligns closely with York St John University's commitment to social justice, inclusion and diversity, and in these sometimes divisive times, we celebrate how Shakespeare can bring us together. So come and join us!

Dr Saffron Vickers Walking

York International Shakespeare Festival Advisor

Senior Lecturer in English Literature at York St John University



another
Parrabbola
project

esfn
EUROPEAN
SHAKESPEARE
FESTIVALS
NETWORK



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**ARTS COUNCIL
ENGLAND**

WELCOME

We have arrived at the 5th edition of this festival, continuing in our mission to bring productions and adaptations of Shakespeare's works to York from around the world. These productions act as windows into other cultures, enabling us to see diverse perspectives as we engage with international artists and their interpretation of plays that we think we know well. This is important after Brexit, and the restraints of Covid, as the UK reconfigures its relationship with Europe and other parts of the world. Without fail, we are prompted to think again.

It is particularly special to have the Kyiv National Academic Molodyy Theatre with us. Their production of A Midsummer Night's Dream is joyous and life affirming, and they will also be sharing their skills with us in workshops and talking a little about what it's like to make theatre in Ukraine in a time of conflict.

Festival Artist in Residence Jakub Snochowski comes from Poland to present the first performance of his new play in English, and to work with students across the city. We also have premieres in English of Shakespeare-related plays from Croatia and Romania. From the UK, both Flabbergast Theatre and Tim Crouch are decidedly international in their outlook. York Shakespeare Project turn Shakespeare's

long poem Lucrece into a play for our times. For children, there's Shakespeare Storytelling in Primary Schools and Libraries, and we're launching our first book – York Loves Shakespeare.

We're delighted to have received funding from Arts Council England. Their support means that much of the festival is free or at an accessible ticket price. We encourage you to see work that might be something new and different.

We're also pleased to continue previous relationships and build new ones across the city. These include York Theatre Royal and the University of York. Our festival hub is at Friargate Theatre and we are grateful to the administrative team from Riding Lights. We are excited to be building a new collaboration with staff and students at York St John University.

Our festival opens up a conversation between Shakespeare, our city and our time, and we're delighted to invite you to come and be part of it.

Philip Parr
Festival Director

Dr Rowena Hawkins and Dr Saffron
Vickers Walking, Festival Advisers

2023 PROGRAMME

THROUGHOUT THE FESTIVAL



SHAKESPEARE STORYTELLING

Free to attend | York Libraries

Public sessions will be hosted in York Libraries throughout the week from Monday April 24 to Saturday April 29. Please check with the festival website for exact details of times and locations. A storytelling project for young people, visiting Schools and Libraries across York. Hear the stories of The Tempest, Romeo and Juliet, and Hamlet.

Suitable for ages 5 and upwards, the session lasts one hour. Shakespeare Storytelling is funded by the York Common Good Trust – Adding to York's Quality of Life.

Tuesday 25 April 2.00pm | Marriot Room York Central Library

Saturday 29 April 10.00am | Acomb Library

Saturday 29 April 1.30pm | Clifton Explore Library



FRIDAY 21 APRIL



RIGHT HERE RIGHT NOW

7.30pm | Friargate Theatre | All tickets £6

A Shakespeare Special from York's favourite comedy improv night, with its own brand of sensational silliness based on audience suggestions. It's funny, it's foolish, it's fit for family audiences, and it really does make it up as it goes along. Never the same show twice. Presented by Riding Lights Theatre.



Find out more and book your place at our events online:

yorkshakes.co.uk

Concessions tickets are eligible for those who are under 18, students, disabled, a carer, or registered unemployed.

SATURDAY 22 APRIL

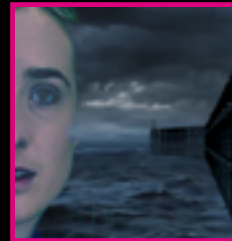


SHAKESPEARE SONNET MARATHON

11.00am | The Garden, York Theatre Royal

Free to attend

An all day public reading of all of Shakespeare's sonnets in consecutive order as a celebration of his birthday and of the poetry he wrote. Featuring iconic sonnets such as Sonnet 18 'Shall I compare thee to a summer's day' and Sonnet 130 'My mistress' eyes are nothing like the sun'. If you would like to be part of the event, email sonnets@parrabbola.co.uk



FILM SCREENING: PERICLES PRINCE OF TYRE

6.00pm | Friargate Theatre

Full price £8 | Concessions £6

Riding Lights, a York company with an enviable reputation for breathing new life into Shakespeare's less well-known comedies, brings a sparkling, streamlined (80 minute) version of this gripping story for the 2023 York International Shakespeare Festival. See it on the big screen at Friargate Theatre.



LUCRECE

2.30pm and 6.00pm | Friargate Theatre
Full price £10 | Concessions £8

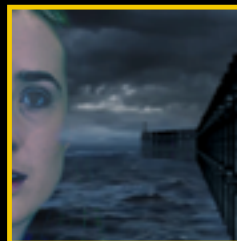
York Shakespeare Project presents LUCRECE, a semi-staged adaption of Shakespeare's vivid narrative poem 'The Rape of Lucrece', an early work by the then young poet. Reworking the classical history of 'chaste Lucrece', his storytelling brings to life the people and actions of this traumatic tale with emotionally arresting and thrilling verse. In its power, observation and sheer humanity the writing anticipates the great playwright Shakespeare was to become.



BOOK LAUNCH: YORK LOVES SHAKESPEARE

5.00pm | Friargate Theatre
Free to attend

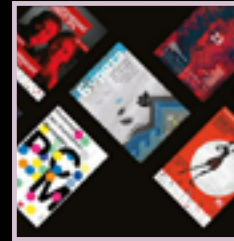
For the 2021 Festival, which was entirely online, we created York Loves Shakespeare – an Instagram project in which a selection of York people shared their favourite line from a Shakespeare play, and were photographed by John Saunders in a York location that had meaning for them and for their chosen quote. We liked the project so much that we decided to turn it into a book. You're invited to come and join us, meet the people who made it, and hear readings and stories from those who took part.



FILM SCREENING: PERICLES PRINCE OF TYRE

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WHAT IS A EUROPEAN SHAKESPEARE FESTIVAL?

2.00pm | The Marriot Room, York Explore
Tickets are free but must be booked in advance

**Speakers: Professor Nicoleta Cinpoes,
Professor Florence March and Professor Paul Prescott**

In the face of war, disasters and displacement, Shakespeare on festival stages continues to be a cultural and social game changer: it stands in solidarity with and offers sanctuary to the silenced, the oppressed and the dispossessed, working on healing. This is a presentation by the York International Shakespeare Festival in association with the European Shakespeare Research Association.



LUCRECE

6.00pm | Friargate Theatre
Full price £10 | Concessions £8

York Shakespeare Project presents LUCRECE, a semi-staged adaption of Shakespeare's vivid narrative poem 'The Rape of Lucrece', an early work by the then young poet. Reworking the classical history of 'chaste Lucrece', his storytelling brings to life the people and actions of this traumatic tale with emotionally arresting and thrilling verse. In its power, observation and sheer humanity the writing anticipates the great playwright Shakespeare was to become.



Find out more and book your place at our events online:

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IN THE CAULDRON BOIL AND BAKE AN OWLET'S WING, BY JAKUB SNOCHOWSKI

European Reading in Performance series
– World Premiere English Translations

6.00pm | StreetLife Hub, 29-31 Coney Street
Tickets are free but must be booked in advance

An American ornithologist sets out to introduce every bird mentioned in Shakespeare's plays, little knowing that, owing to his decision, the United States would one day fall victim to an avian plague of unprecedented proportions. Who is to blame for the disaster? Is it the Starlings that destroy crops, the benevolent ornithologist, or perhaps Shakespeare himself? Schieffelin, Shakespeare, a farmer and a Starling fix a date out of time to finally set things straight. Translated by Magdalena Szwedowska.



SHAKESPEARE'S FOOL

Written and Directed by Ben Humphrey

8.00pm | Theatre@41 | All tickets £10

Join 'Cavaliero' Kempe on the streets of London as he gives his final performance to an audience of a mouse and a marrote and tells the tale of his life, his rise to stardom and what really happened between him and William Shakespeare.

This one-actor show, starring Robin Leetham premiered at the Edinburgh Fringe in 2021 and returned in 2022. Shakespeare's Fool has sold out theatres across the UK, at the National Theatre, Craiova, Romania as part of the International Shakespeare Festival, and is delighted to be appearing at the York International Shakespeare Festival in 2023.

Tickets for this event must be booked through Theatre@41:
tickets.41monkgate.co.uk



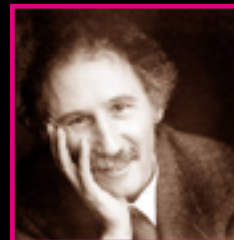
LET US RECOUNT OUR DREAMS

12.00pm | York St John University (Skell 128)

Tickets are free but must be booked in advance

A Midsummer Night's Dream in many performances: a guest lecture hosted by York St John University.

Festival Director Philip Parr, actor David Monteith and friends discuss productions of Dream they have seen or been involved in. Sydney, Belfast, Craiova, South Shields, in Korean, Lithuanian, and occasionally in English! This lecture will be streamed, please visit the festival website for the link.



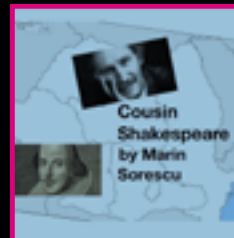
AN INTRODUCTION TO COUSIN SHAKESPEARE AND ROMANIAN THEATRE

Translated into English by Adam J Sorkin and Lidia Vianu

4.30pm | York St John University Creative Centre

Tickets are free but must be booked in advance

Professor Nicoleta Cinpoes (Worcester) and Dr Sorin Cazacu (Craiova, Romania) will discuss the play, the playwright, and the theatrical conditions under which he worked. They will also share some details of the first production of the play.



COUSIN SHAKESPEARE, BY MARIN SORESCU

European Reading in Performance series

– World Premiere English Translations

6pm | York St John University Creative Centre

Tickets are free but must be booked in advance

In this rarely performed piece, Romanian poet and playwright, Marin Sorescu takes an unusual approach to the Bard, moving deftly through place, time and history. Written in 1987 at a time of theatrical censorship and suppression of the arts under Ceausescu's brutal regime, never seen in performance by the author, we are lucky to be able to bring some of the text to life for you in a rehearsed reading, directed by Terry Ram.

WEDNESDAY 26 APRIL



RICHARD III

7.30pm | Friargate Theatre

Full price: £15 | Concessions: £10

York Shakespeare Project launches its new mission with director Daniel Roy Connelly's bold interpretation of one of Shakespeare's greatest villains.



THE TRAGEDY OF MACBETH

8.00pm | York St John University Creative Centre

Full price: £15 | Concessions: £10

In this classic tale of greed and guilt, Flabbergast's Macbeth fuses a rigorous and respectful approach to text and storytelling with dark, visceral Grotowski-inspired physicality to bring a magical and lucid interpretation of Shakespeare's blood-soaked tragedy to life. This production was the selection of the ESFN Shakesphere project and will be seen at Shakespeare festivals across Europe throughout the year. www.esfn.eu



THURSDAY 27 APRIL



EVERYTHING TO EVERYBODY, AN INTRODUCTION TO THE BIRMINGHAM SHAKESPEARE LIBRARY

York St John University Creative Centre
12.00pm and 2.00pm

The 12.00pm presentation will be streamed online (link available on the website)

Tickets are free but must be booked in advance

An introduction to one of the largest Shakespeare collections in the world – and it's in Birmingham! Presented by Everything to Everybody and the York International Shakespeare Festival.

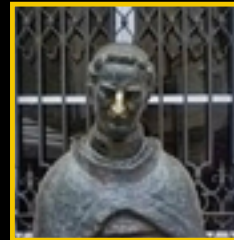
THURSDAY 27 APRIL



AN INTRODUCTION TO THE WORK OF MARIN DRŽIĆ (1508 – 1597), AND TO HIS LIFE IN DUBROVNIK

5.00pm | Berrick Saul Building, University of York
Tickets are free but must be booked in advance

An introduction by Professor Wendy Bracewell (University College London), Nikša Matić, Director of The House of Marin Držić in Dubrovnik, and translator Filip Krenus.



OLD STAN OR A FOOL FOOLED BY MARIN DRŽIĆ

European Reading in Performance series

– World Premiere English Translations

6.00pm | Berrick Saul Building, University of York
Tickets are free but must be booked in advance

Old Stan or A Fool Fooled by Marin Držić (the greatest Slavic Renaissance playwright and a Dubrovnik native) is a 1551 comedy about an old peasant Stan fooled by tales of false fairies whose magic supposedly restores youth. This staged reading of A Fool Fooled is directed by Jacob Ward and will be followed by a Q&A with the translator Filip Krenus, scholar Professor Wendy Bracewell, and members of the cast.

The Humanities Research Centre and the University of York are pleased to invite you to join the company for a celebratory glass of wine after the reading.



RICHARD III

7.30pm | Friargate Theatre

Full price: £15 | Concessions: £10

York Shakespeare Project launches its new mission with director Daniel Roy Connelly's bold interpretation of one of Shakespeare's greatest villains.

FRIDAY 28 APRIL

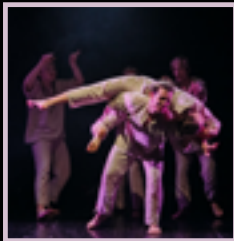


RICHARD III

7.30pm | Friargate Theatre

Full price: £15 | Concessions: £10

York Shakespeare Project launches its new mission with director Daniel Roy Connelly's bold interpretation of one of Shakespeare's greatest villains.



A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM

Presented by the Kyiv National Academic Molodyy Theatre, Ukraine

8.00pm | York St John University Creative Centre

Full price: £10 | Concessions: £5

How does the well-known romantic comedy A Midsummer Night's Dream sound in the context of a Ukrainian traditional rite? Shakespeare's play is seen as a one-of-a-kind ceremonial performance. In the words of a famous writer, we poetize traditional rituals. In the global narrative, we locate the key to the national code and adapt it to the present. We establish parallels with our historical stories by changing the major characters from Greeks to Ukrainians. At the same time, we leave the foundation to William Shakespeare, and the resulting blend appears current, natural, and unique. On stage, reality melts into legend.

Performed in Ukrainian with projected English translation.



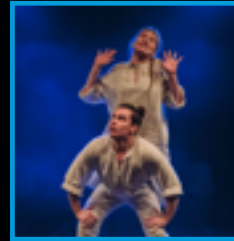
SHAKING ALL OVER

10.00pm | Friargate Theatre

Full price: £8 | Concessions: £6

Round off your festival day with a rollicking quick-fire burst of Shakespearian comic delight. Golden highlights, songs, jokes and sketches, bouncing affectionately off the greatest poetic dramatist the world has ever known.

SATURDAY 29 APRIL



OPEN WORKSHOP WITH THE KYIV NATIONAL ACADEMIC MOLODYI THEATRE

10.00am | York St John University Creative Centre

An open workshop for actors and theatre makers from York, an opportunity to work with the team from the Kyiv National Academic Molodyy Theatre. During the two hour session, the actors and creative team will share some insights into their theatre making methods, and the very different training that actors undertake.



MAKING THEATRE IN UKRAINE TODAY - Q&A WITH THE KYIV NATIONAL ACADEMIC MOLODYI THEATRE

12.00pm | York St John University Creative Centre

A Q&A with members of the Kyiv National Academic Molodyy Theatre. A chance for you to ask questions about the state of theatre making in Ukraine today. A unique insight into what it's like to be an artist living and working in a time of war.

There are spaces in the workshop for a fixed number of participants and places must be booked. It is also possible to attend the workshop as an auditor and non-participant. These places should also be booked via the festival website.



SHAKESPEARE (AND) SANCTUARY

2.00pm | York St John University Creative Centre

Tickets are free but must be booked in advance

An afternoon of talks, presentations and discussion exploring elements of Shakespeare and Social Justice, curated by Dr Saffron Vickers Walkling (York St John) and Professor Nicoleta Cinpoes (Worcester).

The Open Workshop and the Q&A that follows are Pay What You Like for participants and auditors. All funds raised will go to support the Ukrainian Shakespeare Community.

SATURDAY 29 APRIL



RICHARD III

7.30pm | Friargate Theatre

Full price: £15 | Concessions: £10

York Shakespeare Project launches its new mission with director Daniel Roy Connelly's bold interpretation of one of Shakespeare's greatest villains.



TRUTH'S A DOG MUST TO KENNEL – TIM CROUCH

8.00pm | York St John University Creative Centre

Full price: £10 | Concessions: £5

Truth's a Dog Must to Kennel opened at the Lyceum Theatre Studio, Edinburgh, during Fringe 2022. It won a Fringe First award and was invited to New York as part of Soho Playhouse's Fringe Encore Festival. With Crouch in the character of the Fool, King Lear meets stand-up meets the metaverse, and the play confirms Crouch's place as the country's pre-eminent interrogator of form and liveness.



SHAKING ALL OVER

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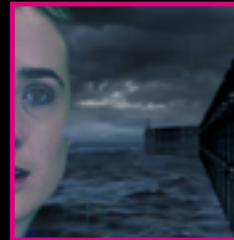


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SUNDAY 30 APRIL



FILM SCREENING: PERICLES PRINCE OF TYRE

6.00pm | Friargate Theatre

Full price £8 | Concessions £6

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MONDAY 1 MAY



SHAKING ALL OVER

7.30pm | Friargate Theatre

Full price: £8 | Concessions: £6

Round off your festival day with a rollicking quick-fire burst of Shakespearian comic delight. Golden highlights, songs, jokes and sketches, bouncing affectionately off the greatest poetic dramatist the world has ever known.



EXHIBITIONS

Both exhibitions are free and open during the opening hours of the building where they are being hosted.



THE TEMPEST

Friargate Theatre

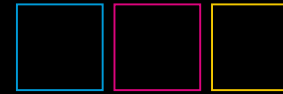
The story of York Shakespeare Project's 2022 production of The Tempest – the culmination of their 20 year journey to present all the Shakespeare plays in order. Told through rehearsal drawings by Lynne O'Dowd, and production photographs by John Saunders.



POLISH SHAKESPEARE THEATRE POSTERS

York Explore Central Library

Striking theatrical images from the collection held by the Birmingham Memorial Shakespeare Library, and curated by the Everything to Everybody project.



FESTIVAL TEAM

Philip Parr
Director

Dr Rowena Hawkins and Dr Saffron Vickers Walkling
Festival Advisers

For Riding Lights at Friargate Theatre
Paul Burbridge, Chloe Oldroyd, Rachel Sanders

Production Manager
Skylar Mabry

Festival Team
Rosie Dutton, Jeremy Hodgson, Daisy Lawrence, Damien Nyx, Elle Hartley Smith, Effie Warboys, Hollie White

With special thanks to all our partners across the city,
York St John University Events and Marketing teams, and the School of Humanities at York St John University.



Find out more and book your place at our events online:

yorkshakes.co.uk

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Find out more and book your tickets: **yorkshakes.co.uk**

@yorkshakes **/yorkshakes** **@yorkshakes**

email: **info@yorkshakes.co.uk**

YORK ST JOHN UNIVERSITY

At York St John University our undergraduate and postgraduate courses will ignite your creativity and let explore the subjects you are passionate about. Our English Literature team includes Shakespeare specialists, while our courses also explore diverse texts from many different times, places, genres and voices.

Find out about all of the courses we offer at:

yorksja.ac.uk/courses

Meet us at an Open Day:

yorksja.ac.uk/open-days

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OUR WORK PLACEMENT STUDENTS

We are working with English Literature students at York St John University to deliver the York International Shakespeare Festival. Here they reflect on the experience.



This is also an area that I'm really interested in outside of my degree. I feel it has helped me develop transferrable skills, from researching productions and working with international theatre companies, to developing my communication skills and learning how to use IT in a professional capacity. This is good experience for a variety of jobs.

Jeremy



I've found this a really interesting work placement. It has really broadened my horizons in terms of my career prospects. Working with events or with theatre companies wasn't anything I'd thought of before. I had no experience or knowledge about this type of work, but now it is definitely a career option. I would love to do something like this after I graduate, and I'm developing skills that can help make that a reality.

Hollie



I've learnt a lot of new skills that will be useful in the workplace. I've written a press release and I have been contacting national media outlets. I also really like that working for the York International Shakespeare Festival ties in with my degree subject. It feels relevant to my course.

Daisy

Two other students are also doing work placements:

Rosie is the festival blogger. This placement centres on interviewing festival contributors, such as writers and directors, to publicise the festival and create a record of it.

Damien is working on the art and photographic exhibitions that run alongside the productions. This involves composing the exhibit labels and introductions.



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