



20 August 2010

## ***Shakespeare is German at Shakespeare's Globe***

### **A season of events which celebrates Germany's special affinity with Shakespeare beginning October 2010**

Germans speak of "unser" (our) Shakespeare. He remains the most played author on the German stage where more Shakespeare plays are performed than in England. His work has been translated and admired through the centuries by German greats, Christoph Martin Wieland, Herder, Goethe, Hegel, Heine and Nietzsche. Much German vocabulary comes from Shakespeare and he is so revered in Germany that he has been adopted by the German people as one of their own national heroes. This autumn's season, ***Shakespeare is German***, at Shakespeare's Globe celebrates Germany's special affinity with Shakespeare.

#### **Cord Meier-Klodt, Head of Culture and Education at the German Embassy, London explains:**

"*Shakespeare is German* - who would not be puzzled by this statement at first? Upon reflection, however, it captures a deeper truth. No other national culture has Shakespeare embedded quite so deeply into its literary DNA. Of course there are many examples of British giants becoming German favourites, but Shakespeare's Globe is to be praised for highlighting the enormous impact 'The Bard of Avon' had on the German greats - ever since Lessing, Herder and Goethe during the famous 'Sturm und Drang' period. The Embassy is proud to support the Season within the framework of its 'Think German' campaign."

Goethe, the renowned German writer and polymath, championed Shakespeare in an impassioned speech in 1771 when he was only 22. The *Shakespeare is German* season opens on 7 October with the launch of a book of new translations of Goethe's essays on Shakespeare commissioned by Globe Education.

The acclaimed German actor, Sebastian Koch (*Effi Briest*, *The Lives of Others*, *The Black Book*), will commemorate *Shakespeare – the German Writer* on 14 October, with an evening of readings in English and German and extracts from German films of Shakespeare. It was on this day in 1771 that Goethe presented his speech 'For Shakespeare's Day' in which he described his encounter with Shakespeare as his personal awakening in literature.

The wealth and range of German Shakespeare film adaptations, from silent to avant-garde, will be featured in a series of screenings at the Goethe-Institut, London. Leading German and Shakespeare scholars will speak about German responses to Shakespeare.

**Sabine Hentzsch, director of the Goethe-Institut London, said:**

“It is generally not known here in Britain, quite how popular and beloved Shakespeare is in Germany. This is reflected in many things: The German Shakespeare society was founded as early as 1864 in Weimar, where Goethe had lived and worked for 57 years. Over the centuries various famous German writers and poets have translated Shakespeare into German, with the effect that Shakespeare today might well be easier to understand in German than in English. This results in the huge popularity of his plays. We are delighted to be able to share and compare our readings of Shakespeare’s works with Shakespeare’s Globe and London audiences.”

The German actor and director Norbert Kentrup – the Globe’s first Shylock in 1998 – is this year’s Theo Crosby Fellow. He will describe his experiences of playing Shakespeare in English and in German. He suggests that he is “*Much better in German*”.

Staged readings include a 1590s play set in Germany that influenced Shakespeare and a 1630s English play about Wallenstein that influenced Schiller’s play about the German hero.

There will be a Gala presentation of the 1920 silent film of *Hamlet* starring silver screen goddess Asta Nielsen in the title role – a world premiere of a new print of the film with music composed especially by Claire van Kampen and played live by six musicians.

**Patrick Spottiswoode, Director of Globe Education, said:**

“Shakespeare’s Globe has long had a relationship with Germany. Sam Wanamaker first met Norbert Kentrup in 1991 in Neuss and was determined a German should be the first Shylock at the Globe.

“In 1991 a partnership began between Shakespeare’s Globe and SET Bremen which brought German students to London for lectures and workshops. Twenty years on, over 18,000 German Mittelstufe and Oberstufe students, teachers and undergraduates visit the Globe every year for lectures, workshops and courses. Indeed over half of our visiting overseas students are German. Our annual *Playing Shakespeare with Deutsche Bank* project provides over 16,000 London students and families with free tickets to a production at the Globe.

“We are delighted that German people, who had a reconstructed Globe theatre some 6 years before we existed here in Bankside, are happy to share *unser* Shakespeare in *unser* Globe.”

- ENDS -

## Shakespeare is German – listings information

---

7pm, Thursday 7 October 2010 at Shakespeare's Globe

### **Book launch: "Goethe on Shakespeare"**

A new book which brings together Goethe's essays on Shakespeare in a single volume for the first time. The evening will include an introduction to the book and readings from the two translations by Globe actors.

Tickets: A limited number of free tickets available from [ed.events@shakespearesglobe.com](mailto:ed.events@shakespearesglobe.com)

6.30pm, Thursday 14 October 2010 at Shakespeare's Globe

### **Shakespeare – a German Writer starring Sebastian Koch**

A celebration of Shakespeare's impact on German culture with readings, film extracts and an introduction from Martin Swales (Professor Emeritus, University College London). This event is organised in association with the Institute of Germanic and Romance Studies.

Tickets: £12 (£10 Friends of Shakespeare's Globe, Concessions, Students). Available through the box office. Contact details supplied at the end.

7pm, Thursday 21 October 2010 at Shakespeare's Globe

### **Talk – A Tale for all Seasons: Reflections on the German Preoccupation with Shakespeare by Professor Rüdiger Görner (Queen Mary, University of London)**

Professor Görner will assess some of the reasons for Germany's pre-occupation with Shakespeare

Tickets: £5 (£3 Friends of Shakespeare's Globe, Concessions, Students). Available through the box office.

7pm, Tuesday 26 October 2010 at Shakespeare's Globe

### **Talk – Shakespeare and George's Circle by Dr Ray Ockenden (Wadham College, Oxford)**

This talk will explore why Shakespeare fascinated Gundolf, George and Germany

Tickets: £5 (£3 Friends of Shakespeare's Globe, Concessions, Students). Available through the box office.

7pm, Thursday 28 October 2010

### **2010 Theo Crosby Fellowship Event: Much Better in German**

Actor Norbert Kentrup in conversation with Patrick Spottiswoode, Director of Globe Education at Shakespeare's Globe, discussing whether Shakespeare is *Much Better in German*.

Tickets: £12 (£10 Friends of Shakespeare's Globe, Concessions, Students). Available through the box office.

7pm, Tuesday 2 November 2010 at Shakespeare's Globe

### **Talk – Made in Germany: Shakespeare's Sonnets by Professor Manfred Pfister (Freie Universität Berlin)**

This talk will explore Germany's fascination with the sonnets and various approaches to translation

Tickets: £5 (£3 Friends of Shakespeare's Globe, Concessions, Students). Available through the box office.

7pm, Tuesday 9 November 2010 at Goethe-Institut London

### **Screening – Der Kaufmann von Venedig (The Jew of Mestri)**

Silent film, written, directed and produced by Peter Paul Felner with live piano accompaniment by Stephen Horne. Includes a post-show discussion

Tickets: £3 available via 020 7596 4000

7pm, Thursday 11 November 2010 at Goethe-Institut London

### **Screening – Der Rest is Schweigen (The Rest is Silence)**

Käutner transposes *Hamlet* to post-war West-Germany, critiquing the war profiteering of the German industry during World War II, the film makes many direct references to Shakespeare's original. Includes a post-show discussion

Tickets: £3 available via 020 7596 4000

7pm, Saturday 13 November 2010 at Goethe-Institut London

### **Platform discussion – Hamlet**

Using excerpts from a recording of Schaubüüne's production, director Thomas Ostermeier discusses his radical approach to the play and the character of Hamlet with David Lan, Artistic Director of the Young Vic.

Tickets: £3 available via 020 7596 4000

Sunday 14 November 2010 at Shakespeare's Globe Sackler Studios

**12-2pm, seminar introduction to the following *Read not Dead* performance**

**3-6pm, staged reading – Alphonse Emperor of Germany (published 1654) by George Chapman**

The story of a ruthless emperor who never learned to share. Although not published until 1654, the play dates from the 1590s. Some scenes in *Henry V* suggest that Shakespeare knew this play.

Tickets: seminar £13 (£10 Friends of Shakespeare's Globe, Concessions, Students); staged reading £8 (£5 Friends of Shakespeare's Globe, Concessions, Students). Available through the box office.

7pm, Thursday 18 November 2010 at Goethe-Institut London

**Platform discussion – hamlet\_X**

Herbert Fritsch, the author and director of *hamlet\_X*, and his collaborator Sabrina Zwach will present a selection of clips and talk about their sacrilegious approach to the material.

Tickets: £3 available via 020 7596 4000

Sunday 21 November 2010 at Shakespeare's Globe Sackler Studios

**12-2pm, seminar introduction to the following *Read not Dead* performance**

**3-6pm, staged reading – Albertus Wallenstein (published 1640) by Henry Glapthorne**

Wallenstein had been assassinated only a few years before this play about him was staged. Schiller knew Glapthorne's play when he embarked upon his more famous version a century and a half later.

Tickets: seminar £13 (£10 Friends of Shakespeare's Globe, Concessions, Students); staged reading £8 (£5 Friends of Shakespeare's Globe, Concessions, Students). Available through the box office.

16.45pm, Thursday 27 January 2011 at BFI Southbank

**Screening – Sven Gade's *Hamlet* (1920)**

A world premiere of a new print with music composed by Claire van Kampen and played live by six musicians. Supported by The Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany and BFI

Tickets TBC

March 2011, Shakespeare's Globe

**Playing Shakespeare with Deutsche Bank**

Globe Education's flagship project for London schools which was launched in 2007. Globe Education and Deutsche Bank provide workshops, on-online resources, teacher training and 18,000 free tickets to a Globe production for London students and families each March.

Shakespeare's Globe box office: 020 7401 9919 or [www.shakespeares-globe.org](http://www.shakespeares-globe.org)

---

**For more information please contact:**

Francesca Maguire on +44 (0)20 7902 1491 or [Francesca.m@shakespearesglobe.com](mailto:Francesca.m@shakespearesglobe.com)

Eleanor Lovegrove on +44 (0)20 7902 1468 or [Eleanor.l@shakespearesglobe.com](mailto:Eleanor.l@shakespearesglobe.com)

Jo Philpotts on +44 (0)7775 895680 or [jo.philpotts@gmail.com](mailto:jo.philpotts@gmail.com)