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**PRESS RELEASE**

**SUBJECT: Two winners chosen for this year's Shakespeare's Globe Book Award focussing on food and religion**

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**DATE: Tuesday 5 August 2014**

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Globe Education has chosen two titles as joint winners of this year's **Shakespeare's Globe Book Award**, David B. Goldstein's *Eating and Ethics in Shakespeare's England*, published by Cambridge University Press, and Gillian Woods' *Shakespeare's Unreformed Fictions*, published by Oxford University Press. The biennial award is given to a first monograph published in the last two years which has made an important contribution to the understanding of Shakespeare, his theatre, or his contemporaries. Also shortlisted this year was Kevin A. Quarmby's *The Disguised Ruler in Shakespeare and his Contemporaries*, published by Ashgate.

The two winning authors will share the £3,000 cash prize as well as receive workshops on presentation skills, in preparation for delivering a public lecture on their work in the newly opened Sam Wanamaker Playhouse on **Wednesday 1 October at 7pm**. They will be presented with their award at the event by world-renowned Shakespeare scholar, Professor Stanley Wells. Tickets for the lecture are available online: [shakespearesglobe.com/education/events](http://shakespearesglobe.com/education/events)

Patrick Spottiswoode, Director of Globe Education and Chair of the Judging Panel, celebrated the choice of joint winners: "I am delighted that two scholars have been invited to speak about their books in the Sam Wanamaker Playhouse. Sam always wanted the Globe to be the place where scholars could share their knowledge and expertise with the general public. This Award is one way in which Globe Education is supporting and celebrating new scholars and new research."

David Goldstein, Associate Professor of English at York University, Toronto, explained what the award meant to him, "I'm thrilled to receive this recognition—after so many years of working on a book, you send it out into the world and fear it will just sink into the abyss, but you hope people will enjoy it and engage with it. It's also gratifying to see that the study of food in Shakespeare has moved from a pastime to a serious field of analysis."

Gillian Woods, Lecturer in Renaissance Theatre and Drama at Birkbeck College, University of London, was equally delighted, "It's a terrific honour to receive an award from the Globe, an institution that does such a brilliant job of making Shakespeare accessible to a wide range of people. The recent opening of the Sam Wanamaker Playhouse has made the last few months a



really exciting time for students of Renaissance drama. The indoor space enables researchers to frame new questions and think through the answers in practical ways (while seeing some fantastic productions). I'm thrilled to be able to present my work here."

Both authors described what led them to their chosen field of study for their PhDs. "I came to the PhD directly from working at a food magazine" said Goldstein, "and I set about trying to combine food and literature—two of my passions—in a way that could shed light both on the plays of Shakespeare and the customs and rhythms of eating in our own time. This book was a natural outgrowth of that pursuit."

Gillian Woods felt something seemed out of place in early modern drama, "Metaphors, idioms, characters and ideas that had been condemned by the Reformation remained glaringly present in post-Reformation plays. At the time I started my research, a number of critics were interested in what such content told us about Shakespeare's personal faith. I had different questions in mind: how might audiences have reacted to this material? What would have been the associations of, say, a friar, and how did that impact on the meaning of plays like *Romeo and Juliet* and *Measure for Measure*? The theatre provided a space for dramatists to work through all kinds of contentious political and social issues at a (relatively) safe fictional distance. I was intrigued about how matters of faith and belief were handled in a venue that requires some willing suspension of disbelief."

The Shakespeare's Globe Book Award was judged by a panel of prestigious academics comprising Patrick Spottiswoode, Director Globe Education (Chair); Dr Farah Karim-Cooper (Globe Education); Professor David Lindley (University of Leeds); Professor Gordon McMullan, (King's College London); Professor Laurie Maguire (University of Oxford); and Dr Abigail Rokison (The Shakespeare Institute, University of Birmingham, and inaugural Shakespeare's Globe Book Award winner in 2012).

For further information about Globe Education's work with young scholars, visit

[shakespearesglobe.com/education](http://shakespearesglobe.com/education)

## ENDS

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## Notes to Editors:

- **David B. Goldstein**, Associate Professor of English at York University, Toronto, writes on issues related to Shakespeare, early modern and Renaissance literature, food studies and



contemporary poetry. He has received numerous grants and awards, including fellowships at the Huntington Library, the Lilly Library and the University of Wisconsin, Madison. A former food magazine editor and restaurant critic, he is also a widely published poet. Before joining the faculty at York, he was an assistant professor of English at the University of Tulsa.

***Eating and Ethics in Shakespeare's England*** by David B. Goldstein (Cambridge University Press 2013).

David B. Goldstein argues for a new understanding of Renaissance England from the perspective of communal eating. Rather than focus on traditional models of interiority, choice and consumption, Goldstein demonstrates that eating offered a central paradigm for the ethics of community formation. The book examines how sharing food helps build, demarcate and destroy relationships – between eater and eaten, between self and other, and among different groups. Tracing these eating relations from 1547 to 1680 – through Shakespeare, Milton, religious writers and recipe book authors – Goldstein shows that to think about eating was to engage in complex reflections about the body's role in society. In the process, he radically rethinks the communal importance of the Protestant Eucharist. Combining historicist literary analysis with insights from social science and philosophy, the book's arguments reverberate well beyond the Renaissance. Ultimately, *Eating and Ethics in Shakespeare's England* forces us to rethink our own relationship to food.

- **Gillian Woods** is a Lecturer in Renaissance Theatre and Drama at Birkbeck College, University of London. She has published on a range of early modern drama, including works by Shakespeare, Christopher Marlowe, John Ford and Anthony Munday.

***Shakespeare's Unreformed Fictions***, Gillian Woods (Oxford University Press, 2013)

Why does Catholicism have such an imaginative hold on Shakespearean drama, even though the on-going Reformation outlawed its practice? *Shakespeare's Unreformed Fictions* contends that the answers to this question are theatrical rather than strictly theological. In exploring the dramaturgical variety of the 'Catholic' content of Shakespeare's plays, Gillian Woods argues that habits, idioms, images, and ideas lose their denominational clarity when translated into dramatic fiction: they are awkwardly 'unreformed' rather than doctrinally Catholic. Providing nuanced readings of generically diverse plays, this book emphasises the creative function of such unreformed material, which Shakespeare uses to pose questions about the relationship between self and other. A wealth of contextual evidence is studied, including catechisms, homilies, religious polemics, news quartos, and non-Shakespearean drama, to highlight how early modern Catholicism variously provoked nostalgia, faith, conversion, humour, fear, and hatred. By recognizing the playfulness of Shakespeare's unreformed fictions, this book offers a different perspective on the interactions between post-Reformation religion and the theatre, and an alternative angle on Shakespeare's interrogation of the scope of dramatic fiction.



- **Globe Education** is one of the largest arts education departments in the UK. Each year, more than 100,000 people of all ages and nationalities participate in Globe Education's programme of public events, workshops and courses. Globe Education also runs an extensive programme in the Southwark community, creates national and international outreach projects and delivers pioneering digital learning resources and cutting-edge research. For more information, visit [www.shakespearesglobe.com/education](http://www.shakespearesglobe.com/education)
- **The Sam Wanamaker Playhouse:** Shakespeare's Globe is in the final stages of fundraising for the new indoor Jacobean theatre, which opened in January 2014 with *The Duchess of Malfi*. For more information, please visit [shakespearesglobe.com/the-sam-wanamaker-playhouse](http://shakespearesglobe.com/the-sam-wanamaker-playhouse)
- **The Shakespeare Globe Trust** is a registered charity No. 266916. Shakespeare's Globe receives no regular public subsidy.