



# PSST!

PRESS RELEASE

**SUBJECT: Lord Falconer appointed as Chair at Shakespeare's Globe**

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**DATE: 1 August 2012**

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The board of Shakespeare's Globe has appointed Charlie Falconer, the Lord Falconer of Thoroton, former Lord Chancellor as its new chairman to lead the next stage of its ambitious development. In the 15 years since the opening of the reconstructed Globe theatre, and the realisation of actor and director Sam Wanamaker's vision, Shakespeare's Globe has become a London landmark, a cultural icon and is the recognised authority on Shakespeare's work in performance. Charlie Falconer will formally take up the post from 1 January 2013, when current chairman, Roger Parry, steps down after seven years.

Lord Falconer's extensive experience as a barrister, cabinet minister, and as chairman of organisations such as the Thames Gateway London Partnership, John Smith Memorial Trust and Amicus Housing Group, coupled with his personal passion for Shakespeare and the arts, will help lead the board and guide Shakespeare's Globe when it opens an indoor Jacobean theatre on site next year and as it looks towards planning a new building to house its valuable library, archive and research work. Successful commercial and development activities contribute to Shakespeare's Globe's £16 million turnover and provide the independence for it to operate without annual public subsidy.

Lord Falconer commented: "Shakespeare's Globe is a brilliant success story. Sam Wanamaker's dream is now the focus for the performance and understanding of Shakespeare. I am so proud to have been asked to be the chair of the Globe. The next steps are the development and opening of the Indoor Jacobean Theatre. I am utterly committed to ensuring the next phase for the Globe will be as successful as the last."

The appointment comes during a season which has seen unprecedented international success for Shakespeare's Globe with its Globe to Globe festival in which all 37 of Shakespeare's plays were performed by 37 companies from around the world in their native language, including *Henry V* in English, directed by Dominic Dromgoole, artistic director at Shakespeare's Globe. The season also sees the return of the Globe's first artistic director, Mark Rylance, in the title role of *Richard III* and later in the season as Olivia in *Twelfth Night*. Globe Education welcomes over 100,000 students annually, and its work under director, Patrick Spottiswoode, extends around the world supporting pre-school to postgraduate



learning, leading academic research and it is extensively involved with its local community in its home borough of Southwark.

Retiring chairman, Roger Parry, welcomed his successor, "I am delighted by the appointment of Charlie Falconer. He has all the experience and energy to take the Globe to the next phase of its development. I have been working on this project for nearly 30 years and have been chairman of the board for the past seven; I felt this was an ideal time to hand over as we will have completed a hugely successful Olympic season and have now started work on the new indoor theatre to open in 2013 which was always a key element of founder, Sam Wanamaker's original vision."

Neil Constable, chief executive at Shakespeare's Globe, commented upon the appointment, "We are delighted that Charlie will be joining the board of Shakespeare's Globe as our chairman in the new year. I know the Globe staff and volunteers will welcome him warmly to the Globe family and he is very well placed to build on our current strong foundations and help us realise our exciting ambitions for the future."

## ENDS

For further information, please contact Julia Hallawell, Press and PR Manager for Shakespeare's Globe on +0044 207 902 1491 or email [julia.h@shakespearesglobe.com](mailto:julia.h@shakespearesglobe.com)

## EDITORS NOTES

- **Biography of Lord Falconer**  
Professional Life - 1974: Called to the Bar; 1974 – 1997: Commercial Barrister in Fountain Court, Temple EC 4 (1991: Queen's Counsel.); 1997-8: Solicitor General; 1998-2001: Minister of State in the Cabinet Office: responsibilities included the Dome, and working closely with PM on strategy; 2001-2: Housing and Planning Minister; 2002-3: Criminal Justice Minister in the Home Office; 2003-7: Lord Chancellor, and Minister of Justice; 2007- date:  
Chairman John Smith Memorial Trust, Amicus Horizon Housing Group, Thames Gateway London Partnership, Newcastle/Gateshead – City Development Company; Senior Counsel, Gibson Dunn and Crutcher (US Law Firm); Visitor, Queens' College, Cambridge; Trustee, Roy Castle Lung Cancer Foundation. Education: 1965-70: Trinity College, Glenalmond; 1970-73: Queens' College, Cambridge; 1973-4: College of Law, London. Qualifications: MA – Cambridge University, Admitted barrister, QC, RICS (honorary)
- **Globe Exhibition and Tour** is open all year round. For more information visit [www.shakespearesglobe.com/exhibition](http://www.shakespearesglobe.com/exhibition)
- **Indoor Jacobean Theatre:** Shakespeare's Globe is currently fundraising to build an indoor Jacobean theatre, opening in 2013. For further information please visit [www.shakespearesglobe.com/indoorjacobeantheatre](http://www.shakespearesglobe.com/indoorjacobeantheatre)
- **Globe on Tour:** The Globe's productions tour the UK, Europe and America and the Globe is currently developing its touring schedule, as well as screening productions in cinemas. For more information [www.shakespearesglobe.com/theatre/on-tour](http://www.shakespearesglobe.com/theatre/on-tour)



- **Globe Education** presents a programme of workshops, lectures, events and staged readings all year round. For more information this programme of events call Globe Education 020 7902 1438 or visit [www.shakespearesglobe.com/education](http://www.shakespearesglobe.com/education)
- **Globe Shop** stocks a variety of products, including theatre season specific merchandise. Shakespeare's Globe is a registered charity and all profits from sales go towards supporting our educational mission. Items can be bought at the onsite shop or online at [www.shakespearesglobe.com/shop](http://www.shakespearesglobe.com/shop)
- **Swan Bar and Restaurant** is open all year round. For reservations please call 020 7928 9444. [www.loveswan.co.uk](http://www.loveswan.co.uk)
- **Shakespeare's Globe on Screen:** The highly successful 2010 productions of *Henry VIII* and *The Merry Wives of Windsor* are now available on DVD from the Globe Shop, and across the UK and internationally. DVDs of the award-winning productions of *Henry IV, parts 1 and 2* are now on sale internationally and in the Globe Shop, and will be available across the UK 1<sup>st</sup> August.
- **The Shakespeare Globe Trust** is a registered charity No.266916. Shakespeare's Globe receives no public subsidy.