

#AtHomeWithGSC – ONLINE MURDER MYSTERIES

2 May (7.30pm), 3 May (6pm), 8 May (8pm), 9 May (7.30pm)

Tickets **£20** | Running time **90 minutes**, approx.

www.guildford-shakespeare-company.co.uk/onlineshows/

Guildford Shakespeare Company have announced a second set of live online performances following an initial run of dates that sold out in under 18 hours.

Across four dates, the award-winning theatre company are staging a live Murder Mystery, where participants get to engage with the suspects, question them and have a go at solving the mystery of **The Shakespeare Solitaire**.

Using a video communications platform, guests will 'arrive' at Solanio's Swinging Speakeasy, where instructions will be given by the host. Participants will then witness live scenes played out by actors, before being divided into 'breakout rooms' to further interrogate the characters. Start times vary to ensure families and couples with very young children can take part.

Set in the 1920s, The Shakespeare Solitaire is a classic-style Whodunnit?, written by GSC's Assoc. Playwright Ant Stones:

The Solitaire is rumoured to have been gifted to Shakespeare by Elizabeth I herself; but following its theft from the Bard's lodgings soon after, the precious diamond has laid a curse on every one of its owners since. The last owner's body – Henry Lear - was discovered in the streets of Guildford just two weeks ago. Will it be the last murder, or was that just the beginning?

The initial two performances sold out in under 18 hours, so two more dates have now been added. The cast features GSC's Co-Founders SARAH GOBRAN as host Solanio and MATT PINCHES as Inspector Gaunt. Joining them are JACK WHITAM (Macbeth 2020), ANNABELLE TERRY (Macbeth 2020) and ELEANOR MURTON (Alice in Wonderland 2015/18). Participants are encouraged to get in to the 1920s Speakeasy spirit by dressing up and joining in the fun.

Matt Pinches: *"We're thrilled that these online live performances have had such a wonderful response. They're vital not only in helping keep actors and artists employed but are integral to ensuring there is a future for GSC. GSC is a family and in these difficult times it is of paramount importance that we can find ways to keep in touch. We want our audiences to stay involved with us and very much hope that these will be the first of more live events to come."*

GSC's Online Shows are part of the **#AtHomeWithGSC**; a commitment to inspire and entertain, whilst ensuring the charity can continue to operate. The theatre company's Education Department continue to deliver all regular weekly classes online, and there is still time to register and join for this term.

Press Contact: Matt Pinches matt@guildford-shakespeare-company.co.uk

Note to Editors

Guildford Shakespeare Company is an award-winning, site-responsive theatre company. Established in 2006 by actor-managers Sarah Gobran and Matt Pinches, it has produced over 40 shows in unique venues including Guildford Cathedral, Watts Gallery, West Horsley Place and a Flemish Spiegeltent. In 2015, Brian Blessed OBE played the title role in *King Lear*.

During the last 14 years the company has expanded its Education and Outreach, now working with over 5000 people young and old every year through classes and in-school workshops. It also creates and delivers free-to-access social inclusion programmes across Surrey for some of the least advantaged parts of the community. In 2019 Co-Founders Matt and Sarah were honoured with the Institute of Directors Award for Inclusivity. GSC is one of the largest producers of home-grown theatre in the region. **"This is what makes British theatre such a marvel!"** Daily Telegraph