

SUMMER 2021 OPEN-AIR CAST ANNOUNCED

17 JUNE – 31 JULY
Guildford, Surrey

With rehearsals starting next week for Guildford Shakespeare Company's return to the stage, they are proud to announce the cast for their 15th open-air season.

Cast across both plays, the company will perform Shakespeare's **AS YOU LIKE IT** in July and begin the summer with **SHE STOOPS TO CONQUER**.

Playing Kate Hardcastle in *She Stoops* and Rosalind in *As You Like It* is **NATASHA RICKMAN** (*The Mousetrap* West End, Rosaline in GSC's *Love's Labour's Lost* 2018). Natasha has also directed with the RSC and Shakespeare's Globe, and is Co-founder of *Women at RADA*, an initiative campaigning for gender equality in theatre.

ROBERT MASKELL (Tevye in *Fiddler on the Roof*, Alban in *Le Cage aux Faux* and *The Sound of Music*, all West End) returns to GSC to play Kate's father Mr Hardcastle and Duke Senior. GSC's actor-manager and co-founder **SARAH GOBRAN** plays Mrs Hardcastle/Jacques.

Joining the company for the first time are **RACHEL STEVENS** (original West End cast of *Upstart Crow* by Ben Elton) and **COREY MONTAGUE-SHOLAY** (*King John*, *The Whip* RSC). They play Miss Neville/Celia and Tony Lumpkin/Audrey/Le Beau in the season.

JAMES SHELDON (Theatre by the Lake Keswick; Jermyn Street Theatre) takes the roles of Young Marlow/Orlando and **TOM RICHARDSON** (*Lady Chatterley's Lover*, *Tilted Wig*) plays Hastings/Silvius/Oliver. Both have enjoyed previous open-air seasons with GSC. Completing the cast is **MATT PINCHES** (GSC's co-founder and actor-manager) as Diggory/Touchstone.

The season opens with Oliver Goldsmith's irresistible comedy staged in the stunning Guildford Castle Gardens. Director **TOM LITTLER** (Artistic Director of award-winning Jermyn Street Theatre, London) transports the Georgian play to the country house world of *Jeeves and Wooster*, replete with fearsome aunts, hapless young men, determined debutantes and hilarious misunderstandings.

In July, the company moves to the former chalk quarry in Guildford's town centre for **AS YOU LIKE IT**. Now a luscious green oasis, Racks Close is a fitting setting for Shakespeare's sunniest play. Director **CAROLINE DEVLIN** follows her hugely popular *The Merry Wives of Windsor* from 2019 with a 1930s-set production. Both productions will be designed by long-time GSC collaborator **NEIL IRISH**.



Clockwise from top left: Natasha Rickman, Rachel Stevens, Corey Montague-Sholay, Robert Maskell



Press Release

Date: **20 May 2021** Use: **IMMEDIATE**
GSC Honorary Patron **Brian Blessed OBE**

ACTING COMPANY

NATASHA RICKMAN
ROBERT MASKELL
SARAH GOBRAN
RACHEL STEVENS

COREY MONTAGUE-SHOLAY
JAMES SHELDON
TOM RICHARDSON
MATT PINCHES

ARTISTIC TEAM

TOM LITTLER, director
NEIL IRISH, designer
MATT EATON, sound designer

ANETT BLACK, associate designer
INDIANA LOWN-COLLINS, assistant director

TICKETS

Full **£26.50**
Concessions **£23.50**
(over 65, students, Equity, Jobseekers, Reg Disabled)
Children **£16.50** (under 16)
Family tickets **£78** (2 children, 2 full)

Schools **£15** pupils (1 teacher free for every 10)
She Stoops Preview 17 June £18.50 (£16.50 children)
As You Like It Preview 19 July £18.50 (£16.50 children)

DATES

She Stoops to Conquer 17 June – 03 July

PRESS NIGHT 21 JUNE, 7.30pm

Evenings 7.30pm (03 July, 7pm)

Audio Description 02 July, 7.30pm

As You Like It 19 – 31 July

PRESS NIGHT 21 JULY, 7.30pm

Evenings 7.30pm

Sat mats 2.30pm

BOOKING & FURTHER DETAILS

www.guildford-shakespeare-company.co.uk

PRESS

Matt Pinches matt@guildford-shakespeare-company.co.uk
07971 234141



ENDS 2 OF 2

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*. Its Education and Outreach works with over 5000 people young and old every year including free-to-access social inclusion programmes. GSC is one of the largest producers of home-grown theatre in the region.

In August 2020 GSC piloted Guildford's only outdoor event in association with Guildford Borough Council, bringing over 800 people to the town's Castle Gardens. During the last 12 months GSC have continued to stage original shows online, producing 9 live productions, seen by over 4000 households worldwide. Together with their ongoing education and outreach work, the theatre company created 145 jobs for freelance artists, and winning a number of local awards for their commitment to the community.