

GUILDFORD SHAKESPEARE COMPANY ANNOUNCE FUNDING FROM CULTURE RECOVERY FUND ROUND TWO

GUILDFORD SHAKESPEARE COMPANY are among more than 2,700 recipients to benefit from the latest round of awards from the £1.57 billion Culture Recovery Fund.

GUILDFORD SHAKESPEARE COMPANY in Surrey have received a grant from the Government's £1.57 billion Culture Recovery Fund to help the organisation recover and reopen. More than £300 million has been awarded to thousands of cultural organisations across the country including in the latest round of support from the Culture Recovery Fund, the Culture Secretary announced today.

This money will be used to help ensure **GUILDFORD SHAKESPEARE COMPANY** are able to fully reopen with a raft of original work, alongside their usual programmes over the next 3 months. New projects include the delivery of a primary school tour about hidden disabilities and a full-scale open-air season of two plays with audiences present.

Alongside these, regular classes and outreach programmes that work with care homes and families with teenagers living with the challenges of mental health, will all have the reassurance to continue. It will also create jobs for freelance artists and help protect the charity for the immediate future by covering running costs.

Throughout the coronavirus pandemic **GUILDFORD SHAKESPEARE COMPANY** has continued to operate, producing 8 original live-streamed online productions, an open-air pilot event, created jobs for 134 freelance artists and engaged with over 6000 households and participants around the world with shows and education and outreach programmes.

GSC Co-Founder, Matt Pinches, said:

"This investment from the Government is the most wonderful news. It represents a lifeline at a crucial stage in our journey back to recovery. To be able to safeguard the jobs of our team who have worked relentlessly to keep the charity going and our audiences and participants engaged, is invaluable; as is the reassurance that we can continue to create and engage with new and existing projects."

"The road ahead is still a long and unknown one, but it is imperative that we make positive steps forward and begin to bring our communities back together. Theatre is perfectly placed to do that, and this support from the Culture Recovery Fund enables Guildford Shakespeare Company to be there for ours."

Culture Secretary, Oliver Dowden, said:

"Our record breaking Culture Recovery Fund has already helped thousands of culture and heritage organisations across the country survive the biggest crisis they've ever faced.

Now we're staying by their side as they prepare to welcome the public back through their doors - helping our cultural gems plan for reopening and thrive in the better times ahead."





Media Release

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GSC Honorary Patron **Brian Blessed OBE**

Sir Nicholas Serota, Chair, Arts Council England, said:

“Investing in a thriving cultural sector at the heart of communities is a vital part of helping the whole country to recover from the pandemic. These grants will help to re-open theatres, concert halls, and museums and will give artists and companies the opportunity to begin making new work.

We are grateful to the Government for this support and for recognising the paramount importance of culture to our sense of belonging and identity as individuals and as a society.”

Over £800 million in grants and loans has already been awarded to support almost 3,800 cinemas, performance venues, museums, heritage sites and other cultural organisations dealing with the immediate challenges of the coronavirus pandemic.

The funding awarded today is from a £400 million pot which was held back last year to ensure the Culture Recovery Fund could continue to help organisations in need as the public health picture changed. The funding has been awarded by Arts Council England, as well as Historic England and National Lottery Heritage Fund and the British Film Institute.

PRESS

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Notes 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.

Arts Council England is the national development agency for creativity and culture. We have set out our strategic vision in [Let's Create](#) that by 2030 we want England to be a country in which the creativity of each of us is valued and given the chance to flourish and where everyone of us has access to a remarkable range of high quality cultural experiences. We invest public money from Government and The National Lottery to help support the sector and to deliver this vision. www.artscouncil.org.uk

Following the Covid-19 crisis, the Arts Council developed a £160 million **Emergency Response Package**, with nearly 90% coming from the National Lottery, for organisations and individuals needing support. We are also one of the bodies administering the Government's **Culture Recovery Fund**. Find out more at www.artscouncil.org.uk/covid19.

At the Budget, the Chancellor announced the £1.57 billion Culture Recovery Fund would be boosted with a further £300 million investment. Details of this third round of funding will be announced soon.