

**16 October –
06 November**
**St Nicolas' Church,
Guildford**

**7 tales, 4 actors, 1 life-affirming
journey...**

This Autumn the award-winning Guildford Shakespeare Company invite you to join them on a musical journey and some of the best-loved tales of all time.

A young girl, her worldly belongings in a small rucksack, takes refuge in a draughty church... in her hands she cradles her only friend. Into this solitary world comes a warm-hearted gentleman. Together, and with the help of a box of matches, they ignite their imaginations and take us on a musical journey full of light and laughter.

For almost 200 years, the tales of Hans Christian Andersen have become some of the most-treasured stories we have all grown up with: *The Snow Queen*, *The Little Mermaid*, *The Tinderbox*, *The Steadfast Tin Soldier*... the list is endless, and their delight continues.

This autumn GSC are bringing **seven** of them to life in a brand-new stage adaptation with original music and lyrics, staged in the Victorian St Nicolas' Church, in central Guildford. The shows runs for 26 performances.

Inspired by the story of *The Little Match-Girl* and set in the present day, GSC Associate Playwright **ANT STONES** (*Grimms' Fairy Tales*, *Alice in Wonderland*), weaves together four other favourite tales (*The Ugly Duckling*, *The Emperor's New Clothes*, *The Princess and the Pea*, *Thumbelina*) with two rarer stories of *The Darning Needle* and *The Puppet Showman*.

Long-time GSC collaborators Director **CHARLOTTE CONQUEST** (RNT, RSC) and Designer **NEIL IRISH** (Opera Holland Park, Derby Theatres), have given each tale a distinctive flavour of their own, from Gilbert & Sullivan operetta to medieval romance. Complementing them is a completely original score and lyrics commissioned from **TOM JACK MERIVALE** (Salisbury Playhouse, Creation).

Cast includes **ANNABELLE TERRY** (GSC *Macbeth*; Creation *The Tempest Live Online*, *Romeo & Juliet*), **JAMES CAMP** (GSC *Alice in Wonderland*; Lord Chamberlain's Men), and GSC are pleased to welcome two cast members who are new to the company, recent graduates **JONATHAN OLDFIELD** (Bristol Old Vic) and **SARA HAZEMI** (Cambridge).

Postponed from last Autumn, **Tales from Hans Christian Andersen** follows in the 5-star footsteps of GSC's other classic retellings of family favourites *Alice in Wonderland*, *The Wind in the Willows* and *Grimms' Fairy Tales*. **"Today is my 70th Birthday and you've made me feel 7 again!"** Audience Member, 2016





Press Release

Date: **10 September 2021** Use: **IMMEDIATE**
GSC Honorary Patron **Brian Blessed OBE**

ACTING COMPANY

ANNABELLE TERRY
JAMES CAMP

JONATHAN OLDFIELD
SARA HAZEMI

ARTISTIC TEAM

ANT STONES, adaptor
CHARLOTTE CONQUEST, director
TOM JACK MERIVALE, composer & lyricist
NEIL IRISH, designer

MARK DYMOCK, lighting designer
MATT EATON, sound designer
INDIANA LOWN-COLLINS, movement/assistant director
ANETT BLACK, associate designer

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)
**essential carer goes free*

Previews 16 October £18.50 (£16.50 children)

DATES

16 October – 06 November
Evenings Mon-Wed 6.30pm, Thu-Sat 7.30pm
Saturday matinees 2.30pm
Mid-week matinees 27, 28 Oct, 3 Nov 2.30pm

Relaxed Performance Sat 30 Oct, 2.30pm
Audio Description Sat 06 Nov, 2.30pm

PRESS NIGHT 18 October, 6.30pm

BOOKING & FURTHER DETAILS

www.guildford-shakespeare-company.co.uk

PRESS

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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.

Throughout the pandemic GSC 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. Summer 2021 saw them stage two full-scale open-air shows, and five unique summer drama clubs.