



**GUILDFORD
SHAKESPEARE
COMPANY**

Press Release

Date: **15 September 2021** Use: **immediate**
GSC Honorary Patron **Brian Blessed OBE**

GSC INTRODUCE NEW 'BUDDY SCHEME'

The award-winning Guildford Shakespeare Company are introducing a new scheme for solo theatregoers, to attend with like-minded audience members.

MATT PINCHES, Producer: *"Following feedback from audiences to our Front of House Team, it became apparent that there are many people out there who love theatre but for whatever reason, don't enjoy attending on their own. This simple scheme hopes to address that need."*

Free to register, the scheme will identify a specific performance during the run of a production as '**Buddy Night**'. There will be small section of the seating reserved for 'Buddies' to be able to sit together, chat and share the experience. Any social distancing restrictions in force at the time will be maintained and the seats will be subject to availability.

"As our communities continue to return to normal activity, it's vital that we try to enable as many people as possible to re-engage with the things they love doing in a safe and reassured manner. Hopefully the Buddies scheme a simple, social way to help with that. Along with access seats, large print cast lists, free places for essential carers, Audio Described and Relaxed Performances, we're continually looking at ways to ensure our work is as accessible as possible."

The first Buddy Night will be at **TALES FROM HANS CHRISTIAN ANDERSEN** on **WEDNESDAY 20 OCTOBER, 7.30pm**. For more details and to register interest, patrons are advised to go the GSC webpage <https://www.guildford-shakespeare-company.co.uk/gsc-buddies/>

TALES FROM HANS CHRISTIAN ANDERSEN

16 October – 06 November
St Nicolas' Church, Bury Street, Guildford
See [www](http://www.guildford-shakespeare-company.co.uk) for full schedule

Tickets £16.50 - £26.50
Previews 16 October £18.50 (£16.50 children)
PRESS NIGHT 18 October, 6.30pm

BOOKING & FURTHER DETAILS

www.guildford-shakespeare-company.co.uk

PRESS

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



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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.