



Press Release

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GSC Honorary Patron **Brian Blessed OBE**

Freddie Fox stars in Guildford Shakespeare Company's upcoming *Hamlet*

Guildford Shakespeare Company is delighted to announce that Olivier award-nominated actor Freddie Fox will be performing as Hamlet in their next production, which runs from 29 January to 19 February 2022 at Holy Trinity Church in Guildford.

Fox's recent credits include: Mark Thatcher in *The Crown* (Netflix); Tony in *The Pursuit of Love* (BBC1) and Jeremy Bamber in *White House Farm* (ITV), with theatre credits including *An Ideal Husband* (West End); Romeo in *Romeo and Juliet* (Sheffield Crucible – for which he was nominated for the Ian Charleson Award) and *Edmond de Bergerac* (Birmingham Rep/UK tour). He received his Olivier Award nomination (Best Actor in a Supporting Role) in 2017 for *Travesties* (West End).

Broken by his father's death, stunned by his mother's hasty remarriage, and rejected by his childhood sweetheart, Hamlet wants nothing more than to return to university and his previous life. But this is no ordinary family, and Hamlet is Prince of Denmark. The state is in turmoil. Enemy forces are on the border. The walls have ears.

And then one night, a watchman sees something terrifying. Something impossible.

Hamlet is the unforgettable story of a man trapped in a life he is desperate to leave behind, charged with fulfilling a destiny beyond his reach. Thriller, mystery and tragedy combine in Shakespeare's masterpiece.

GSC's production of *Hamlet* is directed by Tom Littler and designed by Neil Irish, and features live music performed by the cast. Littler is artistic director of Jermyn Street Theatre (winner of The Stage Award for Fringe Theatre of the Year, in January 2021) and has directed for GSC on several occasions; most recently *She Stoops To Conquer* and *All's Well That Ends Well*.

Hamlet is GSC's first production of 2022; the rest of the programme includes Sonnet Walk Weekend (23/24 April), *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (16 June – 2 July), *The Tempest* (15 – 30 July) and *Jekyll and Hyde* (14 October – 5 November), with further details to be announced in the new year. 2021 closes with 'Merry Wives – the sitcom', the online sitcom adaptation of their 2019 production; see website for more information.

CAST

Freddie Fox as Hamlet
Karen Ascoe as Gertrude
Daniel Burke as Laertes

Stefan Bednarczyk as Polonius
Rosalind Ford as Ophelia
Sarah Gobran as Rosencrantz
Further cast members to be confirmed

CREATIVE TEAM

Director – Tom Littler
Designer – Neil Irish
Assistant Designer/Costume Supervisor – Anett Black
Lighting Designer – Mark Dymock
Sound Designer – Matt Eaton
Vocal Coach – Sterre Maier
Fight Director – Philip D’Orléans

To find out more visit: www.guildford-shakespeare-company.co.uk

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)
Preview Saturday 29 Jan & Monday 31 Jan £18.50 (£16.50 children)

Tickets go on sale to Friends of GSC on Tuesday 7 December, and to the general public on Friday 10 December, and can be bought via the website or by calling the Box Office on 01483 304384.

Please note: a limited number of tickets will go on sale allowing for socially distanced performances. Nearer the time, should it be possible, further seats will be released.

VENUE

Holy Trinity Church, High Street, Guildford, GUI 3RR

DATES

29 January to 19 February 2022
Evenings (Mon – Sat) 7.30pm
Wednesday matinees (2, 9, 16 Feb) 2.30pm
Saturday matinees (5, 12, 19 Feb) 2.30pm
Buddy performance, Sat 5 Feb at 2.30pm
Post-show discussion, Tue 8 Feb
BSL performance, Sat 12 Feb at 2.30pm
Relaxed performance, Wed
Audio-described perf, Sat 19 Feb at 2.30pm

PRESS NIGHT TUE 1 FEBRUARY 7.30PM

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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 department 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.

Freddie Fox

In 2021 Freddie Fox starred in a new BBC mini-series *The Pursuit of Love* starring alongside Lily James and Andrew Scott. Recent roles include playing the lead role of 'Jeremy Bamber' in *White House Farm Murders* which aired on ITV and Netflix in 2020. Also in 2020, Freddie was seen in ITV's *Invisible*, Tony McNamara's hit series *The Great*, Matt Berry's Channel 4 comedy *The Year of The Rabbit* and the fourth season of *The Crown* for Netflix. In 2022 Freddie will appear in a new Apple TV series called *Slow Horses* starring Gary Oldman. Other recent roles include a leading role in Thomas Clay's film *Fanny Lye Deliver'd* alongside Maxine Peake and Charles Dance, which premiered at the London Film Festival in 2019. Freddie's film credits include Paul McGuigan's *Victor Frankenstein*, *The Three Musketeers* directed by Paul W.S. Anderson and *BLACK 47*, starring alongside Hugo Weaving and Jim Broadbent, which premiered at the Berlin Film Festival in 2018. Other notable credits include Lone Scherfig's *The Riot Club*, *Pride* directed by Matthew Warchus as well as Guy Ritchie's *King Arthur: Legend Of The Sword*.

In 2019 Freddie starred on stage in *Edmond* as Edmond Rostand the author of *Cyrano de Bergerac* and Freddie also appeared alongside his father Edward Fox in *An Ideal Husband* at the Vaudeville Theatre directed by Jonathan Church.

Freddie was nominated for Best Supporting Actor in the 2017 Olivier Awards for his performance in Tom Stoppard's *Travesties* directed by Patrick Marber in the West End. In 2016, he was nominated for an Ian Charleson award for his performance in *Romeo And Juliet* at the Sheffield Crucible.

Freddie graduated from The Guildhall School of Music and Drama in 2010. Amongst his acting work, he has also recently completed directing and producing his first short film *Hero* which stars Charles Dance and James Norton.

Hamlet Principal Sponsors

Chapters Financial

