



Press Release

Date: 28 April 2023

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GSC Honorary Patron **Brian Blessed OBE**

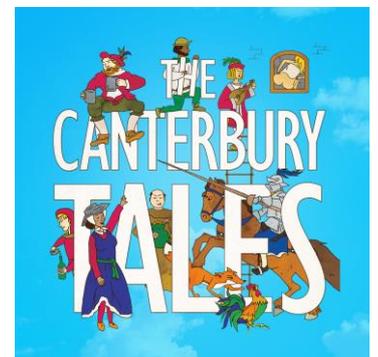
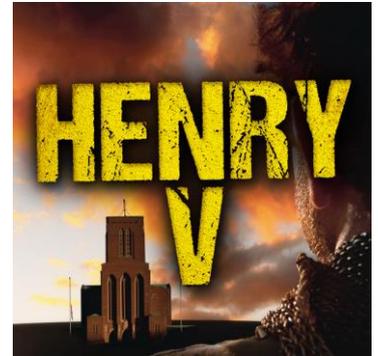
BOOKING OPENS FOR SURREY'S PREMIER OPEN-AIR THEATRE

Tickets are now on sale for Guildford Shakespeare Company's open-air season, which promises a dynamic double-bill of feel-good shows, staged at two of Guildford's stunning outdoor locations in June and July this summer.

HENRY V: Shakespeare's action-packed story of victory against the impossible, and a celebration of theatre's electrifying power, is staged at **GUILDFORD CATHEDRAL**.

GSC's acclaimed 2014 ★★★★★ "Phenomenal" production places **five** actors centre stage, conjuring more than 30 characters to life, with some of Shakespeare's best-known speeches.

As Henry's 'band of brothers' they'll transport audiences from Whitehall Palace to the mud and carnage of the Agincourt battlefield, staged against the majestic backdrop of the awesome Guildford Cathedral. Featuring an especially designed backdrop projected on to the building itself.



THE CANTERBURY TALES: For 700 years tales of chivalry, romance and farting have sat side-by-side in Geoffrey Chaucer's *The Canterbury Tales*, delighting, surprising and bamboozling readers and audiences alike.

Featuring original live music, puppetry, captivating storytelling and buckets of audience participation, GSC invite audiences to enjoy these deliciously colourful stories in an anarchic, fun-filled show.

Revised and reworked for the open air, this ★★★★★ production was created especially for Guildford audiences in 2014. Every show promises to be different because audiences will also be voting for their favourite tale of the night. Staged at GSC's own HQ in the beautiful **STOKE PARK**.

"MATT PINCHES (GSC Co-Founder) "We're so excited to be revisiting these two knock-out shows. There is something for everyone this summer: huge belly-laughs, rousing speeches, silly slapstick, epic battles, light projection, puppetry, and even a fart operetta! So, gather your friends and family, grab a picnic, and join us to find out what will happen when YOU'RE in the audience."

ARTISTIC TEAM

Caroline Devlin (Director, *Henry V*)

Abigail Anderson (Director, *Canterbury Tales*)

Neil Irish (Designer, both shows)

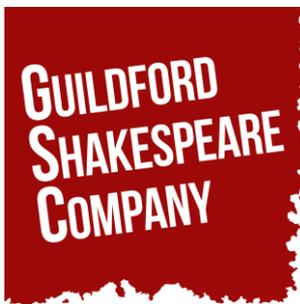
Mary McAdam (Composer, *Canterbury Tales*)

Matt Eaton (Sound Designer, both shows)

Beth Mann (AV Design, *Henry V*)

CAST TO BE ANNOUNCED

Continues 1/2



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DATES

HENRY V

15 June – 01 July

Guildford Cathedral, Stag Hill, Guildford, GU2 7UP

Evenings 7.30pm

Saturday matinees 2.30pm (01 July only)

PRESS NIGHT MONDAY 19 JUNE 7.30pm

THE CANTERBURY TALES

14 – 29 July

Astolat Pavilion, Lido Road, Stoke Park, GU1 1FH

Evenings 7.30pm

Saturday matinees (16, 23, 30 July) 2.30pm

PRESS NIGHT MONDAY 17 JULY 7.30pm

Details of Accessible performances to follow on website

TICKETS

Full £28.50

Concessions £25.50 (*over 65, students, Equity, Jobseekers, Reg Disabled*)

Children £16.50 (under 16)

Family tickets £80 (2 children, 2 full) | Schools £15 pupils (1 teacher free for every 10)

PAY WHAT YOU CAN NIGHTS

GSC are passionate about giving as many people as possible access to great theatre experiences, and that no one should be excluded because of their financial circumstances. Pay What You Can performances also offer people who *can* afford to pay the recommended price or more the **chance to support others who can't**.

BOOKING & FURTHER DETAILS

www.guildford-shakespeare-company.co.uk

PRESS

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Ends 2/2

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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. GSC has a site-responsive approach that places audiences right at the heart of the action, immersing them in the world of the play, enabling us to demystify the legend that theatre is for an elite, educated few but is immediate and accessible to everyone.

2022 saw the company produce its 50th production. Specialising in site-responsive interpretations of Shakespeare and other classics from literature, unique venues have included Guildford Cathedral, Watts Gallery, West Horsley Place and a Flemish Spiegeltent. In 2022 Freddie Fox played the title role in *Hamlet*, receiving wide-spread national acclaim and in 2015, Brian Blessed OBE played the title role in *King Lear*.

Its Education and Outreach creates opportunities for 15,000 people young and old every year through workshops, in-house drama clubs and classes; 11,000 of these are free-to-access social inclusion programmes. GSC's mental health programme for families, has gone on to be used as a case study for Systemic Family Training at Tavistock and also the British Association of Dramatherapy.

GSC is a registered charity and one of the largest producers of home-grown theatre in the region. Their buildings are supported by Guildford Borough Council.