



# Press Release

Date: 12 May 2023

Use: **immediate**

GSC Honorary Patron **Brian Blessed OBE**

## “WE FEW, WE HAPPY FEW” CAST ANNOUNCEMENT FOR SURREY’S PREMIER OPEN-AIR THEATRE

The award-winning Guildford Shakespeare Company are delighted to announce the acting company for this summer’s double-bill of open-air theatre in Guildford.

A company of just **five** actors will bring to life over **50 characters** in a dynamic double-bill of feel-good shows, **HENRY V** and **THE CANTERBURY TALES**.

Starting in June, **GAVIN FOWLER** will play the title role in **HENRY V**. Gavin has appeared in numerous seasons with the Royal Shakespeare Company, playing Troilus in *Troilus & Cressida* and last winter as Charles Dickens in *A Christmas Carol*. For GSC he has played Robin Hood, Berowne and Bertram in *All’s Well That Ends Well*, which transferred to Jermyn Street Theatre. Gavin only appears in *Henry V*.

**NIKITA JOHAL** has recently appeared in the acclaimed *Wife of Willesden* (★★★★★*The Times*) in London and New York. Nikita’s musical credits include *Chess in Concert* (Theatre Royal, Drury Lane), *Wendla* in *Spring Awakening* at the Hope Theatre, Manchester and *Broken Wings* at the Haymarket Theatre, London.

**WILL ARUNDELL** has an extensive musical repertoire that includes most recently *Kinky Boots* (Queens Hornchurch/New Wolsey Theatre), *Beggar’s Opera* (Sellador Theatres), *A Christmas Carol* (Dominion Theatre, West End), and UK tours with *The Opera Boys*. Will returns to Guildford having trained at Guildford School of Acting.

In July **ROSALIND BLESSED** joins the company for **THE CANTERBURY TALES**. She has worked for GSC on numerous occasions, including playing Goneril opposite her real-life father in *King Lear*. For RSC, Agrippina in *Octavia* at the Barbican. Rosalind is also a writer and hosts her own podcast, *Tales from Behind the Twitching Curtain*.

Completing the acting company are GSC’s founding actor-managers **SARAH GOBRAN** and **MATT PINCHES**. Between them they have appeared in almost all the company’s 52 productions to date.

**HENRY V**: GSC revisit their acclaimed 2014 ★★★★★ production at the majestic **GUILDFORD CATHEDRAL**. This is Shakespeare’s action-packed story of victory against the impossible, and a celebration of theatre’s electrifying power.

**THE CANTERBURY TALES**: Originally created by the company in 2014, GSC present this revised and reworked script for the open air. Featuring original live music, puppetry, captivating storytelling and buckets of audience participation. Staged at GSC’s own HQ in the beautiful **STOKE PARK**.





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## 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)  
**Philip d'Orléans** (Fight Director, both shows)  
**Indiana Lown-Collins** (Movement, *Henry V*)  
**Beth Mann** (AV Design, *Henry V*)

## 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** on website

*\*Script and lyrics originally devised and co-created in 2014 by Abigail Anderson, Philip Benjamin, Sarah Gobran, Bea Holland, Matt Pinches, Lauren Silver, and Ben Tolley.*

## 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 (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 also offers people who *can* afford to pay a recommended price or more the **chance to support others who can't**.

## BOOKING & FURTHER DETAILS

[www.guildford-shakespeare-company.co.uk](http://www.guildford-shakespeare-company.co.uk)

## PRESS

Matt Pinches [matt@guildford-shakespeare-company.co.uk](mailto:matt@guildford-shakespeare-company.co.uk) | 07971 234141

*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 immerses audiences in the world of the play, creating an experience that is immediate and accessible by everyone. Specialising in Shakespeare and other classics, unique venues have included Guildford Cathedral, Watts Gallery, West Horsley Place, a Flemish Spiegeltent and even Queen Mary 2. 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*.

Education & Outreach creates some 17,000 participant opportunities every year for young and old through workshops, clubs and classes. Their free-to-access social inclusion projects includes mental health, inter-generational and young carers programmes. TIE tours reach 7,500 students a year, in targeted, disadvantaged primary and secondary schools across Surrey. For the last 6 years, the secondary schools tour has been made possible by funding from the Geoff Herrington Foundation. GSC is one of the largest producers of home-grown theatre in the region.

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.