

Teachers' Conference: Shakespeare and Creativity

Thursday 3 August to Saturday 5 August 2017

All sessions will take place at the Shakespeare Centre, Henley Street, Stratford-upon-Avon and last approximately one hour unless listed otherwise.

Thursday 3 August

- From 1.30 pm Registration at the Shakespeare Centre
- 2.00 pm Welcome and introduction
- 2.10 pm Talk by actor, director and writer, Kelly Hunter [Title of talk TBC]
- 3.00 pm Tea break [**James 1 Lounge**]
- 3.30 to 4.30 pm Pre-performance talk on *Julius Caesar* with Rev. Dr Paul Edmondson
- 7.15 pm Performance of *Julius Caesar* at the Royal Shakespeare Theatre

Friday 4 August

- 9.30 am Professor Sir Stanley Wells will speak on 'The Genius of Shakespeare'
- 10.30 am Coffee break [**James 1 Lounge**]
- 11.00 am Pre-performance talk on *Antony & Cleopatra* with Dr Anjna Chouhan
- 12.00 noon Buffet lunch plus time to visit Shakespeare's Birthplace [**Marble Hall**]
- 2.00 to 4.00 pm Directing workshop
- 7.15 pm Performance of *Antony & Cleopatra* at the Royal Shakespeare Theatre

Saturday 5 August

- 9.15 am Group post-performance discussion of both RSC performances led by Dr Nick Walton
- 10.00 am Coffee break [**James 1 Lounge**]
- 10.30 am Q&A with a member of the RSC's acting company chaired by Dr Nick Walton

11.30 am	Lunch - own arrangements
1.00 pm	Talk by Dr Victoria Elliott [Title of talk TBC]
2.00 pm	Programme ends

SPEAKERS/FACILITATORS:

Dr Anjna Chouhan is Lecturer in Shakespeare Studies at the Shakespeare Birthplace Trust. She has published work on Victorian theatrical escapism, religion and theatre, Victorian Shakespeare reception, and has edited the Pickering and Chatto sourcebook on Victorian actor-manager Sir Henry Irving (2012). In addition to academic publications, Anjna is a contributor to *Cambridge School Shakespeare* online, the *Shakespeare Book* (Dorling Kindersley, 2015), and *Digital Theatre Plus*. As well as appearing on MOOCs for the RSC and British Council, Anjna acts as Shakespeare consultant for BBC Learning and has appeared on several programmes including *Great British Railway Journeys* and *Songs of Praise*. Anjna lectures on Shakespeare and his contemporaries at the Shakespeare Centre where she enjoys speaking to people of all ages from around the world.

Rev. Dr Paul Edmondson is Head of Research and Knowledge and Director of the Stratford-upon-Avon Poetry Festival for the Shakespeare Birthplace Trust. He is the author, co-author, and co-editor of many books and articles about Shakespeare, including *The Shakespeare Circle: An Alternative Biography* (with Stanley Wells for Cambridge University Press), *Shakespeare's Creative Legacies* (with Peter Holbrook for The Arden Shakespeare); and *Finding Shakespeare's New Place: an archaeological biography* (with archaeologists Kevin Colls and William Mitchell for Manchester University Press). His *Shakespeare: Ideas in Profile* is an overview of Shakespeare for the general reader, and a collection of his Shakespeare-related poetry, *Destination Shakespeare* has recently appeared (www.misfitpress.co: the publishers donate a pair of prescription spectacles to a child in India for each copy sold). He is currently working on *New Places: Shakespeare and Civic Creativity* (with Ewan Fernie, The Arden Shakespeare, 2018). He is Chair of the Hosking Houses Trust for women writers, a Trustee of the British Shakespeare Association, and a priest in the Church of England. He has lived and worked in Stratford-upon-Avon since 1995. @paul_edmondson

Dr Victoria Elliott has been a Lecturer in English in Education at the University of York and Course Leader for the PGCE in English with Drama at the University of Warwick Institute of Education. She began her academic career as a mediaeval Celticist, but after completing a BA and MPhil in Anglo-Saxon, Norse and Celtic at Cambridge University, she trained as a secondary English teacher at Leeds Trinity. She taught for several years in North Yorkshire, with a particular interest in English Language A level, before taking up an ESRC studentship at the Department of Education. She is an external subject expert for Ofqual. Dr Elliott researches in the fields of English in Education and Educational Assessment. Within the field of English, her work considers both what it means to be 'good' at English and what English, media and drama education are 'good for'. Some of her work considers the ways in which English education relates to political priorities and desires. She is particularly interested in the ways in which students and teachers engage with the subject of English, in its broadest sense. She contributes regularly to professional publications such as NATE's *Teaching English* magazine. She also researches at the intersection of English literature and education, looking in particular at Shakespeare and ways in which his work is refigured in educational contexts.

Kelly Hunter is an award-winning actor and director. Over thirty years she has played major roles at the RSC, National theatre, English Touring Theatre and with the Icelandic company Vesturport. She has also worked extensively in film, television and radio. She is the Artistic Director of Flute Theatre, a company she created to produce Shakespeare for inclusive audiences. Her production of *Hamlet, Who's There?* premiered at the Gdansk Shakespeare Festival in 2015 before going on to tour throughout the UK and Europe. She has created a series of Shakespeare drama games named The Hunter Heartbeat Method which forms her work with children with autism, currently being researched at Ohio State University. Her production of *The Tempest* for children with autism and their families premiered in Stratford-upon-Avon in June 2014 and was then performed in the UK, Spain and Los Angeles during 2016. She is the author of two books, *Shakespeare's Heartbeat, Drama Games for Children with Autism* and *Cracking Shakespeare: A hands-on Guide for Actors and Directors*, published by Methuen.

Dr Nick Walton is Shakespeare Courses Development Manager at The Shakespeare Birthplace Trust. As Executive Secretary to the International Shakespeare Association he helped organise the Eighth, Ninth, and Tenth World Shakespeare Congresses in Brisbane (2006), Prague (2011), and Stratford/London (2016). Nick has written introductory material for the Penguin editions of *Timon of Athens* and *Love's Labour's Lost*, and contributed chapters to *Director's Shakespeare*, *The Cambridge World Shakespeare Encyclopaedia, 1616: Shakespeare and Tang Xianzu's China*, and Dorling Kindersley's *The Shakespeare Book* and *The Literature Book*. Nick is co-author of *The Shakespeare Wallbook*, a giant version of which can be viewed in the Birthplace garden. He has worked with Actors' Shakespeare Project (Boston USA) on two of their Shakespearian productions, and has been a guest speaker at the British Museum, Central School of Speech and Drama, The Siegfried Sassoon Fellowship, Boston Athenaeum, and the National Theatre. Nick was one of the presenters for the RSC's *Hamlet* web resource produced by the BBC, and for their Massive Open Online Courses on *Much Ado About Nothing* and *Othello*.

Professor Sir Stanley Wells, C.B.E., F.R.S.L., is Honorary President and Former Chairman of the Trustees of Shakespeare's Birthplace, Emeritus Professor of Shakespeare Studies of the University of Birmingham, and Honorary Emeritus Governor of the Royal Shakespeare Theatre, of which he was for many years Vice-Chairman. He holds a Ph. D. of the University of Birmingham, is a Fellow of University College London, and holds honorary doctorates from Furman University, South Carolina, and from the Universities of Munich, Hull, Durham, Craiova, Marburg and Warwick. His books include *Literature and Drama*; *Royal Shakespeare: Studies of Four Major Productions at the Royal Shakespeare Theatre*; *Modernizing Shakespeare's Spelling*; *Re-editing Shakespeare for the Modern Reader*; and *Shakespeare: the Poet and his Plays*. He edited *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *Richard II*, and *The Comedy of Errors* for the New Penguin Shakespeare and *King Lear* for the Oxford Shakespeare. He was for nearly twenty years the editor of the annual *Shakespeare Survey*, and writes for the *New York Review of Books* and many other publications. He has edited *The New Cambridge Companion to Shakespeare Studies* and is General Editor (with Gary Taylor) of *The Complete Oxford Shakespeare* and co-author of *William Shakespeare: A Textual Companion*. His most recent books are *Shakespeare in the Theatre: An Anthology of Criticism*; *The Oxford Dictionary of Shakespeare*; *The Oxford Companion to Shakespeare* (edited with Michael Dobson); *Shakespeare For All Time*; *Looking for Sex in Shakespeare*; *Shakespeare's Sonnets* and *Coffee with Shakespeare*, both co-authored with Paul Edmondson, *Shakespeare & Co.*; *Is It True What they Say About Shakespeare?*; *Shakespeare, Sex, and Love* appeared from O U P in 2010, and *Great Shakespeare Actors: Burbage to Branagh* and *Shakespeare: A Very Short Introduction* in 2015. *The Shakespeare Circle: An Alternative Biography*, co-edited with Paul

Edmondson, was published by C.U.P. in November 2015. He was knighted in the Queen's Birthday honours 2016.