SELECT YOUR OWN SEAT ONLINE
www.rsc.org.uk
(NO BOOKING FEE)

RSC TICKET HOTLINE
0844 800 1110
(NO BOOKING FEE, CALLS FROM BT LANDLINE COST 5P PER MINUTE)
Following the conclusion of *The Histories* at London’s Roundhouse we begin our next voyage of discovery with a new ensemble of RSC actors coming together for two and a half years to further enhance our understanding of what makes great theatre.

In this first booking period for the RSC Ensemble 2009-2011 new productions of *The Winter’s Tale*, *As You Like It* and *Julius Caesar* are performed in repertoire with two new plays which signal the beginning of a strand of work entitled *Other Russia*: a major exploration of the culture of Russia and the former Soviet Union countries. As we look to the future it is important that large-scale new writing sits alongside Shakespeare at the heart of our work.

By the time we celebrate our 50th Anniversary year in 2011 the Ensemble will have developed a repertoire of unparalleled depth built upon the ambitions expressed in our *Complete Works Festival*, *The Histories*, and our 2008 Stratford Season. This leaflet alerts you to the first fruits of our new Ensemble.

Following the first six months of our campaign *Stand up for Shakespeare*, we have successfully initiated a debate on the teaching of Shakespeare in schools, but now is the time for us to build a real momentum for change. As our closest supporters we ask you to sign up to the manifesto by visiting the web pages detailed below where you can read more about the campaign.

I look forward to sharing the work of our new Ensemble with you.

Michael Boyd
Artistic Director
Leontes is the man with the perfect life. Powerful, wealthy and surrounded by a loving family he should be content, but instead he is ill at ease with the world around him. Isolated by a destructive jealousy, he lashes out at those closest to him, losing his wife and son and abandoning his daughter in distant Bohemia.

Sixteen years later, having grown up in a pastoral idyll, Leontes’ daughter falls in love with a young visitor, setting in motion a chain of events that could eventually reunite their scattered family.

In *The Winter’s Tale* Shakespeare strips away the trappings of a man’s success in a bewitchingly beautiful exploration of what constitutes true happiness.

Newly appointed RSC Associate Director David Farr returns to the RSC following his productions of *Julius Caesar* (2004) and *Coriolanus* (2003). Currently Artistic Director of the Lyric Hammersmith, David adapted and directed *The UN Inspector* for the National Theatre.

*The Winter’s Tale* begins the next RSC long ensemble. This company of actors will perform all of the plays in this season, going on to build a repertoire over the next two years.
When two young people fall in love they are unable to act on their impulse. Uncertain of their standing in court and fearing for their lives, Rosalind and Orlando are forced into exile in the Forest of Arden only to become entangled in a beguiling game of love, lust and mistaken identity.

One of Shakespeare’s great comedies, *As You Like It* subverts the traditional rules of romance, confusing gender roles, nature and politics in a play that reflects on how bewildering yet utterly pleasurable life can be.

RSC Artistic Director Michael Boyd directs the new RSC Ensemble in *As You Like It*. This acting company will work together for over two years, and follow the critical acclaim and popularity of *The Histories Ensemble*, also directed by Michael, who recently concluded their two-year residency in The Courtyard Theatre and completed a sell-out run at London’s Roundhouse.

*As You Like It*
As Julius Caesar’s strength and popularity look set to propel him to the imperial throne, those closest to him act to prevent what they fear will become a dictatorship. But the brutal assassination of one man unleashes a tide of violence that will drag thousands into a bloody civil war.

A masterpiece of political powerplay and manipulation, Julius Caesar examines the conflict between one man’s ambition and the good of the state.

Director Lucy Bailey joins the RSC for the first time. Lucy’s recent credits include Timon of Athens and Titus Andronicus for Shakespeare’s Globe as well as work with Chichester Festival Theatre, Hampstead Theatre and the National Theatre, where her acclaimed production of Baby Doll played before transferring to the West End. Other Shakespeare productions include Twelfth Night and A Midsummer Night’s Dream for the Royal Exchange Theatre. She also directed the West Yorkshire Playhouse and West End hit The Postman Always Rings Twice with a cast including Val Kilmer.
An unremarkable provincial town is in search of a hero. A shell-shocked soldier downs vodka on his return from the frontline in Chechnya. As Ilya arrives home he stumbles into the epicentre of an extraordinary power struggle that threatens to tear the town apart.

In this darkly comic and free-wheeling epic, the Durnenkov Brothers get to the heart of small town politics and what it means to please all of the people all of the time.

Launching our new strand of work exploring the breadth and beauty of Russian theatre before and after the fall of the Iron Curtain - Other Russia - this new commission marks the introduction of large-scale new writing to The Courtyard Theatre for the first time.

The Drunks is directed by recently appointed RSC Literary Associate Anthony Neilson. An acclaimed writer and director, Anthony’s previous work for the RSC includes God in Ruins (Soho Theatre). Elsewhere his recent credits include Realism (Edinburgh International Festival) and The Wonderful World of Dissocia (Royal Court).
Ukraine 1929.
As Stalin launches the first of his Five Year Plans, a close-knit rural community stands unwittingly in the path of his drive to create a thriving socialist Soviet Union.
The outcome is catastrophic.

What begins for the people of the village as an amusingly alien political concept rapidly becomes an unstoppable force for change. Robbed first of their land, then their religion and independence, the whole country soon becomes engulfed by a tragedy that will scar a nation for generations.

This RSC commission by Ukrainian playwright Natal’ia Vorozhbit is the second new play in the RSC’s strand of work examining the past, present and future of Russian playwriting. The Grain Store is an urgent and epic account of one of the untold stories of the 20th century.

Natal’ia Vorozhbit is one of the Ukraine’s most important emerging writers. Her play The Khomenko Family Chronicles was produced at the Royal Court in 2007.

Supported by The Columbia Foundation Fund of the Capital Community Foundation
Young People’s Shakespeare brings the power of seeing a live, innovative production of Shakespeare to young people in primary schools around the country.

Audiences in Stratford-upon-Avon will now have the opportunity to see one of these productions for the very first time as The Courtyard Theatre hosts 5 performances of a distilled version of The Comedy of Errors specially programmed for schools and family audiences.

Created in association with acclaimed theatre company Told By An Idiot, this new production of The Comedy of Errors offers children an ideal first opportunity to see a live Shakespeare performance.

When two sets of identical twins with identical names are shipwrecked as infants, their father can save only one of each set. Years later, one Antipholus and one Dromio arrive in Ephesus in search of their long-lost brothers only to find that everyone there seems a little odd…

Sign up in support of the manifesto and add your voice to the growing movement for change at: www.rsc.org.uk/standupforshakespeare
The work of the RSC’s Education Department is to deepen the understanding and enjoyment of Shakespeare for young people, up to the age of 19, regardless of ability and background. Our approach is to use creative learning methods adapted from the theatrical process, and to apply these to learning environments.

Our key aims are:
- To give young people access to positive experiences of Shakespeare
- To play a leadership role in the way Shakespeare is taught and assessed in schools
- To provide training opportunities for teachers, lecturers and theatre educators

For more information or to discuss your workshop needs call 01789 272520, email education@rsc.org.uk or visit www.rsc.org.uk/education

**PRE-SHOW WORKSHOPS FOR SCHOOLS**

Full and half day workshops created in line with curriculum requirements for speaking, listening, reading and writing across all Key Stages. Designed to give you and your students an insight into the production you are seeing.

Full day workshops are available Monday - Wednesday 10am - 3.30pm, half day workshops are available Monday - Thursday 10am - 12noon or 4 - 6pm.

Workshops cost £230 for a full day and £180 for a half day +£15 discount for Education Members + cost of performance tickets. Maximum 32 students.

**THE FOLLOWING WORKSHOPS ARE AVAILABLE:**
- Dramatic Approaches to Text and Language
- Dramatic Approaches to Character, Key Themes and Issues
- Dramatic Approaches to Improv Writing
- Breathing through Shakespeare
- Exploring Ritual Room Choices

**WORKSHOPS ARE AVAILABLE FOR MONDAY-THURSDAY PERFORMANCES OF THE WINTER’S TALE, AS YOU LIKE IT AND JULIUS CAESAR DURING TERM TIME.**

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**THEATRE DAYS**

School groups booking for a performance are able to attend a pre-show session with members of the Acting Company and Creative Team. Participants are guided through some of the key interpretive choices made for the current production.

**SESSIONS LAST 1 HOUR AND ARE SUITABLE FOR STUDENTS OF ALL AGES. £3 PER STUDENT.**

**AS YOU LIKE IT**

| **MON 25 APR** | 1-6.30PM FOLLOWED BY EVENING PERFORMANCE. FOR ENGLISH AND THEATRE STUDIES STUDENTS 16+ |
| **AS YOU LIKE IT MORNING** | This revision day provides students with an opportunity to review their understanding of the text from the perspective of current rehearsal room practice. Devised in collaboration with the Shakespeare Birthplace Trust to cover AQA syllabus requirements. The day includes a practical workshop, small group study opportunities and a talk with director Michael Boyd about his creative choices for the current production of A Midsummer Night’s Dream. £30 PER STUDENT INCLUDING PERFORMANCE TICKET |

**SIXTH FORM CONFERENCE**

| **TUES 29 SEP** | 10AM-4.30PM FOLLOWED BY EVENING PERFORMANCE. FOR ENGLISH AND THEATRE STUDIES STUDENTS 16+ |
| **TUES 29 SEP MORNING** | Our redesigned Sixth Form Conference is devised and delivered in collaboration with the Shakespeare Birthplace Trust to have direct application for A Level English and Theatre Students. Including practical workshops and small group study before culminating in the opportunity to see The Winter’s Tale, it will look at original performance conditions; compare those with the current RSC production and other contemporary versions; offer practical and active ways of exploring the play. £25 PER STUDENT INCLUDING PERFORMANCE TICKET |

**EXPLORING SHAKESPEARE**

Visit www.rsc.org.uk/explorer for the RSC’s free multimedia resource from past and current productions aimed at supporting teachers and students.

For more information on any of these activities visit www.rsc.org.uk/education.

**To book, call the RSC Schools Ticket Hotline on 0844 800 1112**

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**EVENTS**

Throughout the year the RSC hosts a comprehensive events programme for audiences of all ages www.rsc.org.uk/events

**DIRECTOR TALKS**

The Director in conversation, discussing the creative choices made in the production.

| **THU 9 JUL, 10:30-11:30AM** | **AS YOU LIKE IT** |
| **THU 9 JUL, 10:30-11:30AM** | **JULIUS CAESAR** |
| **WED 30 SEP 4:30-5:30PM** | **THE WINTER’S TALE** |

**POST SHOW TALKBACKS**

Stay on after the show and put your questions to the Acting Company and members of the Creative Team.

| **THU 6 APR** | **THE WINTER’S TALE** |
| **THU 6 APR** | **JULIUS CAESAR** |
| **WED 8 APR** | **THE WINTER’S TALE** |
| **WED 8 APR** | **JULIUS CAESAR** |

**SHAKESPEARE UNWRAPPED**

Join members of the Acting Company and Creative Team as they demonstrate some of the skills that go into creating a production. Suitable for ages 12+.

| **TUES 2 JUN,** 10:30-11.30 | **AS YOU LIKE IT** |
| **TUES 2 JUN,** 10:30-11.30 | **JULIUS CAESAR** |
| **WED 3 JUN,** 10:30-11.30 | **THE WINTER’S TALE** |

**OTHER RUSSIA SEASON EVENTS**

Russia was one of the world’s dominant forces in the 20th century and now, after the collapse of its empire, is reasserting its strength on the world stage. Complementing our productions of The Grin Store and The Drunks these events will explore our attitudes to Russia, its influence on our culture and its role today.

**OTHER RUSSIA BRUNCHES**

| **SAT 25 APR** | **SUN 10 JUN** | **SUN 23 JUN** |
| **MON 27 APR** | **TUES 28 JUN** | **TUES 3 JUL** |

**SHAKESPEARE’S BIRTHDAY FESTIVAL**

Sun 26 Apr

In the run up to Shakespeare’s Birthday weekend the RSC is working with a range of Stratford partners, including the Shakespeare Birthplace Trust, to produce a celebration of Shakespeare’s work on love, expect themed performances, readings and events across Stratford-upon-Avon. Further details coming soon.

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**PERFORMANCE DAYS**

Practical workshops for 16 - 25 year olds followed by a matinee performance and a post-show discussion with members of the acting company.

**RSC REHEARSAL ROOMS**

**ARDEN STREET, STRAFFORD-UPON-AVON FROM 10AM. LUNCH NOT INCLUDED. JULIUS CAESAR SAT 29 AUG AS YOU LIKE IT SAT 26 SEP £10 + COST OF MATINEE TICKET**

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**PUBLIC UNDERSTUDY PERFORMANCES**

See some of the leading actors of tomorrow as they perform some of Shakespeare’s most challenging roles.

**THE WINTER’S TALE WED 3 JUN 1.30PM AS YOU LIKE IT TUE 9 JUN 1.30PM £2.50 RSC MEMBER. £3 NON-MEMBER**

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**FAMILY PROGRAMME**

RSC Family Events are the perfect way to introduce children to the theatre. Often linked to the production on stage, these events include a range of creative activities, including story-telling, movement, dance and music.

**PLAY IN A DAY**

Create a play inspired by Shakespeare’s themes and characters in just six hours.

**RSC REHEARSAL ROOMS**

**ARDEN STREET, STRAFFORD-UPON-AVON FROM 10AM-4.30PM FOR AGES 5-10 SAT 23 MAY FOR AGES 11-14 SAT 13 JUN FOR AGES 15-18 SAT 11 JUL**

**STORYTELLING**

Introduce your child to the magic of Shakespeare’s plays with these lively, interactive storytelling sessions.

**THE COURTYARD THEATRE UPPER FOYER £2 PER ADULT, £1 PER CHILD FOR UNDER 5S, 9.15-10AM FOR 5 TO 9 YEAR OLDS, 10.30-11.30AM THE WINTER’S TALE SAT 11 APR AS YOU LIKE IT SAT 9 MAY**

**FAMILY DAYS**

Join members of the Creative Team and Acting Company to explore the story of the play and the theatre making process, including an opportunity to take part. Suitable for young people aged 7+ and their parents or guardians.

**THE COURTYARD THEATRE 10-11.30AM £4 PER ADULT, £2 PER CHILD AS YOU LIKE IT SAT 4 JUN THE WINTER’S TALE SAT 5 SEP**
Work is well underway on the transformation of the Royal Shakespeare Theatre. At the heart of the project is an intimate, thrust-stage auditorium, which brings the actor and the audience closer together.

Following the completion of our temporary home, The Courtyard Theatre, and the provision of new office and rehearsal spaces, we are now in the main phase of the project. The transformation includes the creation of a new auditorium, better and more accessible public spaces and improved backstage facilities for our artists and staff.

Keep up to date with the transformation at www.rsc.org.uk/transformation

£1 MILLION TO RAISE – 7 WAYS TO GIVE

Through our Transforming our Theatres Appeal we aim to generate £1 million towards the remaining total. We are asking you to contribute whatever you can. With the launch of the Appeal it is now even easier to play your part. There are seven ways to get involved:

1. **Name a seat** (£50/month for 24 months or from £1,200)
2. **Sponsor a Brick** with a donation of £50
3. **Donate online** at [www.rsc.org.uk/appeal](http://www.rsc.org.uk/appeal)
4. **Top up your ticket purchase** either online or by phone
5. **Deposit loose change** into our collection box at The Courtyard Theatre
6. **Call us on** +44 (0)1789 272526
7. **Post a cheque** made payable to RSC

**Play your part today**

If you are one of the thousands who have already contributed, thank you.

[www.rsc.org.uk/appeal](http://www.rsc.org.uk/appeal)
**Ticket Prices**

**The Courtyard Theatre**

**Reduced Price Previews**

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<th>Stalls</th>
<th>£20</th>
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<td>£8*</td>
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**Monday to Friday Evenings and All Matinees**

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**Saturday Evenings**

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<td>Gallery</td>
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<td>£20</td>
<td>£20*</td>
<td>£14</td>
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**Young People's Shakespeare**

Ages 25 and under £5

Ages 26 and over £10

*L* View from this seat may be restricted at certain times during the performance.

25 standing tickets are available in the Gallery. Superseats are available in the Stalls and Circle at a supplement of £10 per ticket.

Seats in the back row of the Stalls are sold at price bands B and C as they are high chairs and slightly narrower than other seating in the Stalls.

**Ticket Discounts**

<table>
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<th>16-25 Year Olds</th>
<th>£5 per ticket</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>50 tickets will be reserved for every performance (except Press Night). 40 of these can be booked in advance and 10 will be sold on the day from The Courtyard Theatre Box Office. This offer is for individuals only. Maximum of 2 tickets per person, per performance. All tickets, including those booked in advance, can only be collected from the Box Office from 1 hour before the performance. Proof of age will be required. Tickets will be allocated entirely at the discretion of the Box Office.</td>
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**Families**

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<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Up to 4 under 16s half price with every full price paying adult</th>
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<td>Monday - Friday evening performances and all matinees. Does not apply to groups.</td>
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**Over 60s**

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<th>£20 per ticket</th>
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<td>Applies to midweek matinees, Tuesday and Wednesday evenings. Individuals only (up to a maximum of 7 tickets per transaction).</td>
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**Schools and College Groups**

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<th></th>
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<td>Monday - Thursday performances for groups of 10 or more students. 1 adult is required for every 10 students. Adult free tickets will be placed amongst groups of students.</td>
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**Adult Groups 8+**

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<th>£5 off Superseats &amp; top price seats Plus half price ticket for group organiser</th>
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<td>Monday - Friday performances for adult groups of 8+ tickets.</td>
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**Standby Rate**

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<th>£15 for best available seats</th>
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<td>Available on the day of the performance only. Applicable to students in full time education, under 25s, over 60s, ESA40s, NCA Members, Equity and BECTU Members. Proof of entitlement will be required.</td>
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**People with Disabilities**

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<th>£14 per ticket</th>
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<tr>
<td>If your choice of seat is limited by your disability then your seat is £14. Should you need the service of a companion (including wheelchair users) their ticket is also £14. All discounts are subject to availability and at the discretion of the Box Office. Discounted tickets cannot be booked in conjunction with any other discount or offer. Discounts do not apply to Superseats with the exception of People with Disabilities and Adult Groups 8+. Discounts do not apply to Young People’s Shakespeare however school and college groups are entitled to 1 free teacher ticket for every 10 students tickets purchased.</td>
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**How to Book**

See the available seats on a plan of The Courtyard Theatre and use the photo preview option to see an example view of the stage. When you have selected your seats you can purchase your tickets securely online. Turn the page to read step by step instructions on how to book using Select Your Own Seat.

**Book Online**

www.rsc.org.uk

**RSC Ticket Hotline**

0844 800 1110

**Booking Touring Productions**

Visit www.rsc.org.uk/ontour to find booking details for each of our touring venues.

**In Person**

Tickets can be purchased in person from The Courtyard Theatre Box Office. Open 9.30am - 8pm, Monday to Saturday (opens at 10am on Tuesday). The Box Office closes at 6pm when there is no performance.

**By Post**

Box Office, Royal Shakespeare Company
The Courtyard Theatre
Southern Lane, Stratford-upon-Avon
Warwickshire, CV37 6BB

For a more detailed plan visit www.rsc.org.uk
To use Select Your Own Seat you must have Adobe Flash installed on your computer. If Flash is already installed, visit www.rsc.org.uk/syos for further details. Please note that Select Your Own Seat is only available for performances taking place at The Courtyard Theatre after 27 November 2008.
The RSC Ensemble

From July 2006-May 2008 one company of 34 actors presented Shakespeare’s cycle of eight History Plays to public and critical acclaim.

The RSC Ensemble 2009-2011 will see a new acting company work together for over two years, this time to present a repertoire of Shakespeare and new writing.

Public Booking for Booking Period One (March-October 2009) is now open, with Booking Period Two for the 2010 season announced next year.

Critical response to The Histories 2006-2008

‘The RSC is a company that is uniquely placed to give a cohesive vision to an entire body of work and to build and nurture a tremendous acting ensemble to give it an overwhelmingly intense physical and psychological voice’
SUNDAY EXPRESS

‘Some of the greatest acting, in some of the most imaginative and rigorous productions, that I have experienced in more than 30 years of professional theatre-going’
DAILY TELEGRAPH

‘A breathtakingly successful experiment in the revival of ensemble theatre’
GUARDIAN

‘The brilliance of this production lies in the same sleek ensemble acting that characterised Shakespeare's company...we will always be able to say of this once-in-a-lifetime theatrical adventure: ‘I was there!’
OBSERVER