



Press Release: Tuesday 21 July 2009

**Shakespeare's Globe presents the world premiere of
A New World: A Life of Thomas Paine by Trevor Griffiths**

Saturday 29 August – Friday 9 October 2009

Shakespeare's Globe presents the world premiere of **Trevor Griffiths'** new play *A New World: A Life of Thomas Paine*, between 29 August and 9 October 2009. This much-loved and greatly respected writer has created a vibrant picture of the life of a great Englishman, and of a moment in history whose influence still shapes our world today. *A New World* will be directed by Artistic Director **Dominic Dromgoole** with **John Light** in the title role of Thomas Paine.

Trevor Griffiths has been writing for the theatre, television and cinema since the late 60s. He is best known for his landmark play *Comedians* which has been in constant production around the world since its premiere in 1975. Within the next year, *Comedians* will appear at the Lyric Hammersmith and the Bolton Octagon. Griffiths' other theatre work includes *Piano* (National Theatre), *The Party* (National Theatre) and *Real Dreams* (Bristol Old Vic). For his film *Reds*, written with Warren Beatty, he received the WGA Best Screenplay Award and an Oscar nomination. Other films have included *Country* directed by Richard Eyre and *Fatherland* directed by Ken Loach.

In January 2009 President Obama quoted from Paine's pamphlet series *The American Crisis* in his inauguration speech, highlighting the enduring relevance of Paine's work. For Griffiths, this project marks the culmination of over twenty years of research and hard writing. This year is the 200th anniversary of the death of revolutionary Thomas Paine, who was the guiding hand behind both the American and the French revolutions.

In the last four seasons at the Globe, artistic director **Dominic Dromgoole** has directed *Romeo and Juliet* (2009), *King Lear* (2008), *Love's Labour's Lost* (2007 and 2009 revival), *Coriolanus* and *Antony and Cleopatra* (both 2006). This is the first time that Dominic has directed a new play at the Globe. Dominic was Artistic Director of the Oxford Stage Company, 1999-2005, and the

Bush Theatre 1990-96, and Director of New Plays for the Peter Hall Company in 1996/7. Also an author, his books include *The Full Room* (2001) and *Will and Me* (2006).

John Light will play the lead role of Thomas Paine. His previous stage work includes Brutus in *Julius Caesar* and Caliban in *The Tempest* (Royal Shakespeare Company), *Apologia* (Bush Theatre) and *The Night Season* (National Theatre). His film work includes Walter in *Partition* and his portrayal of the British pilot Robert Newman in the 2006 German film *Dresden*.

Stephen Warbeck has collaborated closely with Trevor Griffiths to create a number of songs for *A New World*. Warbeck is one of Britain's premier film score composers, winning an Academy Award for his score for *Shakespeare in Love*. He has written extensively for theatre, including *As You Like It*, *Othello* and *Pericles* (Shakespeare's Globe), *Parlour Song* and *When the Rain Stops Falling* (Almeida), and the Royal Court's production of *The Seagull* which transferred to Broadway.

Tim Shortall will design. His recent designs include the new set for *La Cage aux Folles* (Playhouse Theatre, West End), *Rookery Nook* (Menier Chocolate Factory), *For King and Country* and *The Philanthropist* (Roundabout Theatre, New York).

ENDS

Listings information

WORLD PREMIERE

***A New World: A Life of Thomas Paine* by Trevor Griffiths**

29 August – 9 October 2009 at Shakespeare's Globe

Press night – Thursday 3 September

Cast and creative team:

The full cast is – Daniel Anthony; Keith Bartlett; Michael Benz; Philip Bird; Sophie Duval; Peter Gale; James Garnon; Gregory Gudgeon; Brendan Hughes; Sean Kearns; Jack Laskey; John Light; Trevor Martin; Jamie Parker; Julia Reinstein; Alix Riemer; Laura Rogers; Dominic Rowan; Ewart James Walters; Jade Williams

Director	Dominic Dromgoole
Designer	Tim Shortall
Composer	Stephen Warbeck

Booking:

Phone	020 7401 9919 or 020 7087 7398
In person	Mon-Sat 10am-6pm (8pm on performance days) Sundays 10am-5pm (7pm on performances days)

On-line www.shakespeares-globe.org
Tickets £5.00 - £33.00

Education Events:

Perspective – platform discussion on Friday 11 September at 6pm

Talking Theatre (post matinee) – Saturday 12 and 19 September and Saturday 3 October

For further details please contact:

National Press – Francesca Eyles, Press and PR Manager, 020 7902 1491,
fran.e@shakespearesglobe.com

Local Press – James Lever, Press and PR Officer, 020 7902 1492,
james.l@shakespearesglobe.com

Please go to the Press Room at www.shakespeares-globe.org for recent press releases.

Publicity images are available via the online image library www.globe-images.org/

Notes to Editors:

Shakespeare's Globe's **Young Hearts** theatre season includes Shakespeare's *Romeo & Juliet*, *As You Like It*, *Troilus and Cressida* and *Love's Labour's Lost*. The Globe will also present two new plays: *Helen* by Euripides in a new version by Frank McGuinness and *A New World: A Life of Thomas Paine* by Trevor Griffiths. In addition to its main stage programme the Globe will present two national small-scale tours of *The Comedy of Errors* and *A Midsummer Night's Dream*.

- **Globe Education** offers workshops, lectures and evening courses to over 90,000 students of all ages.
- **Shakespeare's Globe Exhibition** is open daily – May to Sept 9am to 5pm. Oct to April from 10am to 5pm. Admission includes a guided tour of the Theatre. For further information, telephone 020 7902 1500.
- **Shakespeare's Globe Shop** stocks a variety of products, including season specific merchandise. Shakespeare's Globe is a registered charity and all profits from sales go towards supporting our educational mission. Items can be bought at the onsite shop or online at www.globe-shop.com
- **Shakespeare's Globe Bar and Brasserie** are open all year round. For reservations please call 020 7928 9444.
- **Shakespeare's Globe Trust** is a registered charity No.266916.