

# In Robeson's Footsteps Black and Asian Shakespeare Now



Hosted by the Multicultural Shakespeare in Britain project (University of Warwick) and Global Shakespeare (University of Warwick/Queen Mary University of London).

## PROGRAMME

**15 January 2016**

**The Cinema, Tricycle Theatre, London**



## In Robeson's Footsteps: Black and Asian Shakespeare Now

All sessions are in the Cinema unless otherwise noted.

1.00 Refreshments available in the Bar

1.30 Welcome by Professor Tony Howard

1.35 *This Island's Mine: Shakespeare's Communities*

Seminar chaired by Professor Ayanna Thompson, George Washington University

3.45 Break for refreshments in the Bar

4.00 *In Robeson's Footsteps*

Performed by Rakie Ayola, Nicholas Bailey and Simon Manyonda.

Directed by Tom Cornford. Script by Tony Howard.

Followed by an open discussion.

5.30 Reception in the Bar. All welcome.

Multicultural Shakespeare would like to acknowledge the special help and support of all participants in today's event; our Honorary Fellows Nicholas Bailey, Suman Bhuchar and Jami Rogers; Delia Jarrett-Macauley, Steve Ranford, Hannah Vickery, Alexander Buxton; Noma Dumezweni, Kobna Holdbrook-Smith, Paterson Joseph, Lucinda Morrison, Dr Daniel Rosenthal; Shakespeare's Globe, the Shakespeare Birthplace Trust, V&A, Donald Cooper.

## This Island's Mine: Shakespeare's Communities

**Professor Tony Howard** (PI, Multicultural Shakespeare in Britain): "'Ariel's Island": How Multicultural Shakespeare Has Challenged, and Changed, Us.'

**Professor David Schalkwyk** (Director, Global Shakespeare): 'Global Shakespeare'.

**Dr Jami Rogers** (Honorary Fellow, Multicultural Shakespeare): 'Uncovering the "black canon": The Findings of the British Black and Asian Shakespeare Performance Database'.

**Ms Sita Thomas** (Researcher, Multicultural Shakespeare): 'Bollywoodizing Shakespeare: Phizzical Productions' Praxis of Theatrical Adaptation'.

**Dr Preti Taneja** (Postdoctoral Research Fellow, Global Shakespeare): 'Who is the wise man and who is the Fool? The importance of buffoonery in Indian Shakespeare'.

## In Robeson's Footsteps

**Rakie Ayola:** her classical roles include Milament (*The Way of the World* -Ian Charleson Award Commendation) Ophelia, Viola, Dido Queen of Carthage, Olivia and Paulina (*The Winter's Tale*, RSC, 2013). In 2016 Rakie will play Goneril in *King Lear* at Manchester Royal Exchange.

**Nicholas Bailey:** He made his professional theatrical debut in *Julius Caesar* in 1994 at the Manchester Royal Exchange. Other Shakespeare credits are *A Winter's Tale* (Royal Exchange); *Hamlet* (Library Theatre Manchester); *King Lear* (BBC and National Theatre); *Macbeth* (Mercury Theatre Colchester).

**Simona Manyonda:** received an Ian Charleson Award Commendation for his work as Lucius in the RSC's *Julius Caesar*; other Shakespeare credits include *Antony and Cleopatra* (Liverpool Playhouse), *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (Filter); *King Lear* (National Theatre), *A Midsummer Night's Dreaming* (RSC).

**Tom Cornford** is a Lecturer in Theatre and Performance at Royal Central School of Speech and Drama, and a director and dramaturg; and has taught acting and directing in the UK, the USA and Germany.

**Multicultural Shakespeare in Britain** is an AHRC-funded research project (2012- 2015). It aims to map the history of non-white actors' and directors' growing role in British cultural life over several generations - by examining their involvement in the performance and re-interpretation of Shakespeare's plays. As the new BBA Shakespeare Performance database indicates, British Black and Asian Shakespeare stands at the symbolic heart of British culture.

**Global Shakespeare**, led by Professor David Schalkwyk, is a unique partnership between Queen Mary University of London and the University of Warwick that will shape the future research agenda in Shakespeare studies across criticism, performance, history and media, from television to digital reproduction. It is developing an exceptional interdisciplinary methodology that highlights the shared differences in approach to Shakespeare's plays, and examines the place and importance of his work in the global context. Global Shakespeare also offers a Master's course which presents a unique opportunity to gain a postgraduate qualification from two leading universities, and to be part of ground-breaking new research in the study of Shakespeare and his part in a globalised world.

Multicultural Shakespeare in Britain:

[www.warwick.ac.uk/MulticulturalShakespeare](http://www.warwick.ac.uk/MulticulturalShakespeare)

Global Shakespeare:

[www2.warwick.ac.uk/globalshakespeare](http://www2.warwick.ac.uk/globalshakespeare)

British Black and Asian Shakespeare Performance Database:

[BBAS.warwick.ac.uk](http://BBAS.warwick.ac.uk)

