

November 2014



## Press Release

# Propeller Theatre Company and Wimbledon College of Arts announce *Edward III* symposium

- *'Propelling Edward III': Research in Action* will take place across two days in January 2015 at the Wimbledon College of Arts
- Sessions will be led by Artistic Director Edward Hall, with Propeller designers Michael Pavelka and Ben Omerod, text editor Roger Warren and Professor Carol Rutter with further guest speakers
- Propeller will offer *Edward III* workshops, rehearsed reading and masterclasses following the symposium

Propeller Theatre Company have today announced plans for a unique two-day symposium in collaboration with Wimbledon College of Arts, exploring the text of *Edward III* through theatre practice and debate. The event will bring these two internationally-renowned organisations together for the first time through their common pursuit of interrogating Shakespeare in performance, and their commitment to the integration of professional practice, research and education.

This one-off research and development event will involve ten Propeller actors, artistic director Edward Hall, designer Michael Pavelka, lighting designer Ben Omerod and text editor Roger Warren who will, along with leading scholars and invited delegates, investigate the text through rehearsal and discussion. Additional speakers will include Professor Jean Howard (Columbia University, NY), Peter Kirwan (Nottingham University), Lucy Cullingford (University of Warwick), David Lindley (Leeds University) and Paul Allen (presenter of "Night Waves").

Following the symposium, Propeller will be offering workshops, masterclasses and rehearsed readings of the text to schools, colleges and universities.

For further information, ticketing enquiries or to book a workshop for your institution please contact Executive Producer Caro MacKay on 01386 853206 or email [caro.mackay@propeller.org.uk](mailto:caro.mackay@propeller.org.uk)

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NOTES TO EDITORS

**PROPELLER** seeks to find a more engaging way of expressing Shakespeare and to more completely explore the relationship between text and performance. Mixing a rigorous approach to the text with a modern physical aesthetic, they have been influenced by mask work, animation and classic and modern film and music from all ages. Productions are directed by Edward Hall and designed by Michael Pavelka. Propeller has toured internationally to Australia, Bangladesh, China, Cyprus, Denmark, France, Germany, Hong Kong, Indonesia, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Malaysia, Malta, Mexico, New Zealand, the Philippines, Poland, Romania, Spain, Sri Lanka, Turkey and the USA.

In 2013/14 the company toured worldwide with a double bill of *A Midsummer Night's Dream* and *The Comedy of Errors*. This was followed by a tour of *Pocket Dream*, a sixty-minute version of their full-length production which has toured to schools and theatres around the country. *Pocket Comedy* follows in January 2015.

For more information please visit [www.propeller.org.uk](http://www.propeller.org.uk)

**WIMBLEDON COLLEGE OF ARTS** is a constituent college of the University of the Arts London, along with Camberwell College of Arts, Central Saint Martins College of Art and Design, Chelsea College of Art and Design, London College of Communication and London College of Fashion. It has the largest theatre design department in Europe.

For more information please visit [www.arts.ac.uk/wimbledon](http://www.arts.ac.uk/wimbledon)

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## LISTINGS INFORMATION

Propeller Theatre Company and Wimbledon College of Arts, UAL

### ***'Propelling Edward III': Research in Action***

Friday 30th and Saturday 31st January 2015

WCA Theatre Space

Limited delegate tickets available to purchase. Please contact Caro MacKay  
[caro.mackay@propeller.org.uk](mailto:caro.mackay@propeller.org.uk)

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## BIOGRAPHIES

### **Edward Hall - Artistic Director**

Edward is Artistic Director of Propeller Theatre Company and Hampstead Theatre.

Theatre includes *Sunny Afternoon*, *Chariots Of Fire*, *No Naughty Bits*, *Loyalty*, *Enlightenment* (Hampstead Theatre); *The Taming of the Shrew*, *Twelfth Night*, *Richard III*, *The Comedy of Errors*, *The Merchant of Venice*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (Propeller, UK and international tour), *Two Men of Florence* with Edward Herrmann (Huntington Theatre, Boston), *The Deep Blue*

*Sea* with Greta Scaatchi (Vaudeville Theatre), *For Services Rendered* (Watermill Theatre Newbury), *The Taming of the Shrew* and *Twelfth Night* (Propeller, RSC, Old Vic & world tour - Drama Desk Award nomination in New York), Mark Ravenhill's *Dick Whittington* (Barbican), *Once In A Lifetime* with David Suchet (National Theatre), *A Streetcar Named Desire* with Natasha Richardson & John C Reilly (Roundabout Theatre, New York), *The Winter's Tale* (Propeller, National & World Tour), *A Funny Thing Happened On The Way To The Forum* (National Theatre - Olivier Award Nomination for Outstanding Musical Production), *Calico* (Duke of York's), *Edmond* with Kenneth Branagh (National Theatre), *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (Propeller, Comedy Theatre; Watermill Theatre Newbury; UK Tour - TMA Award for Best Touring Production), *The Hinge of the World* (Guildford), *Macbeth* with Sean Bean & Samantha Bond (Albery Theatre), *Rose Rage* adapted with Roger Warren from Henry VI parts I, II and III (Propeller, Haymarket Theatre, Watermill Theatre, UK/International Tour and Chicago Shakespeare Theatre; Duke's Theatre, New York - Olivier Award Nomination for Best Director and TMA Award for Best Touring Production), *The Constant Wife* (Apollo), *Putting It Together* (Chichester), *Julius Caesar* (RSC), *Tantalus* (Denver Centre and UK Tour), *Henry V* (RSC - The South Bank Show Award for Theatre for *The Histories*), *Twelfth Night* (Propeller, Watermill Theatre Newbury- Winner of the TMA/Barclays Theatre Best Director Award), *Sacred Heart* (Royal Court Theatre Upstairs), *Celaine* (Hampstead Theatre), *The Two Gentleman of Verona* (RSC), *The Comedy of Errors* and *Henry V* (Propeller, Watermill Theatre, Newbury; Pleasance Theatre London; RSC - The Other Place, Stratford and International Tour), *That Good Night* (Yvonne Arnaud Tour), *Othello* (Propeller, Watermill Theatre Newbury and the Tokyo Globe), *Richard III* (Tokyo Globe), *Cain* (Minerva Studio, Chichester).

His production of *A Midsummer Night's Dream* for Propeller which played in London at the Comedy Theatre in 2003, went on to play at the Brooklyn Academy of Music in New York in early 2004, where both he and the production were nominated for Drama Desk Awards.

His American production of *Rose Rage*, which he directed for the Chicago Shakespeare Theatre in 2003, transferred to the Duke's Theatre in New York in September 2004, where it won four Jeff Awards including Best Play, Best Director and Best Ensemble Cast.

Television: *Downton Abbey*, *Restless* by William Boyd, *Strike Back*, *Spooks*, (US title *MI5*) was nominated for the BAFTA Best Drama Series award in 2009. *Kingdom*, *Trial and Retribution XI*, *Miss Marple - Sleeping Murder* starring Geraldine McEwan, *Cutting Edge: Safari Strife*, and *Richard III* (NHK in Japan).

In January 2010, Edward was made Artistic Director of Hampstead Theatre. He is also an Associate at the National Theatre, the Old Vic and the Watermill Theatre.

## **Ben Omerod - Lighting Designer**

Previous productions for Propeller include *Twelfth Night*, *The Taming of the Shrew*, *Henry V*, *The Winter's Tale*, *Richard III*, *The Comedy of Errors*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *The Merchant of Venice*, *Rose Rage* (also New York/Chicago).

Theatre credits include *The Tempest* (Dundee Rep); *Titus* (Macrobert/Tour); *The Girl in the Yellow Dress* (Theatre 503); *The Heresy of Love* (RSC); *Fit and Proper People* (Soho Theatre); *Loyalty* (Hampstead); *The Crucible* (Lyric Belfast); *The Welsh Boy*, *Deadkidsongs*, *The Double*, *The Phoenix of Madrid*, *Iphigenia* (Theatre Royal Bath/Ustinov Season); *Onassis* (West End/Derby); *Zorro!* (West End/UK tour/Paris/Japan/Holland); *Serious Money*, *Last Easter* (Birmingham Rep); *Dimetos* (Donmar); *Two Men of Florence* (Boston); *Treasure Island* (Rose Theatre); *The Sanctuary Lamp* (B\*spoke); *Macbeth*, *Legal Fictions* (West End); *Translations*, *The Last Days of the Reluctant Tyrant* (Abbey, Dublin - nominated for 'Best Lighting', Irish Times Theatre Awards); *The Changeling*, *Hedda Gabler*, *The Doll's House*, *John Gabriel Borkmann*, *The*

*Masterbuilder, The Seagull, Macbeth, Hamlet, A Midsummer Night's Dream* (ETT); *Carmen - The Musical* (Pimlico); *The Beauty Queen of Leenane* (Druid, Galway/Royal Court/Broadway); *Macbeth, The Revenger's Tragedy, Henry V, Julius Caesar, The Spanish Golden Age Season* (RSC); *Bent, Uncle Vanya, The Winter's Tale, In Remembrance of Things Past* (National).

Recent Opera credits include *Götterdämmerung* for Longborough Festival Opera and *La Traviata* for Danish National Opera. Other Opera and Ballet credits include work for Scottish Opera, ENO, Buxton Opera Festival, Academia Santa Cecilia Rome, Ceder Lake Contemporary Ballet and Ballet Gulbenkian.

Ben also designed the lighting for the *Calico Museum of Textiles' Ahmedabad*, directed Athol Fugard's *Dimetos* (Gate, London) and adapted four films from Kieslowski's *Dekalog* for E15.

## **Michael Pavelka - Designer and Symposium Director**

Michael trained at Wimbledon College of Art, where he now leads the MA Theatre Design ([www.arts.ac.uk/wimbledon/courses/postgraduate/ma-theatre-design/](http://www.arts.ac.uk/wimbledon/courses/postgraduate/ma-theatre-design/)) He is one of the founder members of Propeller and has designed all but one of their productions. He also designed *Rose Rage* (based on Propeller's 2001 production) at the Chicago Shakespeare Theater that transferred to 42nd Street, New York, for which he was nominated Best Costume Design at Chicago's Jeff Awards.

His other designs, among over 150 productions, include two plays with Lindsey Anderson: *The Fishing Trip* and *Holiday* (Old Vic Theatre). At the Library Theatre, Manchester, his designs for Brecht and Shakespeare include; *The Life of Galileo* (Best Design Manchester Evening News Theatre Awards), *The Resistible Rise of Arturo Ui*, *The Caucasian Chalk Circle*, *Measure for Measure*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (Best Production MEN Awards), *Oliver Twist*, *Great Expectations* and, more recently, *The Good Soul of Szechuan*.

Michael co-produced a Young People's Shakespeare Festival in Ulan Bator, Mongolia, and designed the first African language *Mother Courage and Her Children* in Kampala, the Kennedy Center, Washington, DC and Grahamstown Festival, RSA.

He designed *Revelations* and *Off the Wall* with Liam Steel and Stan Won't Dance at the QEH on London's South Bank. His designs represented the UK at the Prague Quadrennial 2011 and designs for Propeller's *Richard III* at World Stage Design 2013.

Michael's many West End productions include: *Twelve Angry Men*, *Absurd Person Singular*, *The Constant Wife*, *How the Other Half Loves*, *Leonardo the Musical*, *Other People's Money*, *Blues in the Night* (also Dublin, New York, Tokyo), *Macbeth*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream* and *Rose Rage* (both Propeller); and *A Few Good Men* (Theatre Royal Haymarket), directed by David Esbjornson. Other productions with David include; *Twelfth Night* (Seattle Repertory Theater) and *Death of a Salesman* (Gate, Dublin).

He recently designed Frank McGuinness' new play *The Hanging Gardens* for the National Theatre in Dublin, the acclaimed chamber opera, *The Go Between* (nominated for TMA Best Musical) and *Hay Fever* (Gate, Dublin and Charleston NC).

Designs for the Royal Shakespeare Company in Stratford and at the Barbican include: *The Odyssey*, *The Two Gentlemen of Verona*, *Henry V* and *Julius Caesar*; and for the National Theatre in the Olivier, *Edmond*, starring Kenneth Branagh.

Michael won the TMA's Best Set Design 2009 for Propeller's *The Merchant of Venice*.

### **Professor Carol Rutter - Academic Coordinator**

Carol Chillington Rutter is Professor of Shakespeare and Performance Studies at the University of Warwick. Her most recent books are *Enter the Body: Women and Representation on Shakespeare's Stage* and *Shakespeare and Child's Play: Performing Lost Boys on Stage and Screen*. She reviews the annual work of Shakespeare performed in England for Shakespeare Survey and regularly records with Digital Theatre. Her current project is a biography of Henry Wotton, England's ambassador to the Venetian Republic 1604-1610. She is a National Teaching Fellow.

### **Roger Warren - Text Editor**

Roger Warren's numerous publications include five editions for the Oxford Shakespeare series; he has also prepared many performing editions, especially for Propeller and the Peter Hall Company. He has collaborated with Edward Hall on eleven Shakespeare productions in the last decade, and is also collaborating with him in preparing a series of Propeller Shakespeare texts published by Oberon Books.