



# **GLOBE 4 GLOBE** **SHAKESPEARE AND** **CLIMATE EMERGENCY** **SYMPOSIUM**

Friday 23 April 2021

*Shakespeare and the Planet Abstracts*

## **SOLITAIRE TOWNSEND**

As a sustainability advisor and entrepreneur, Solitaire is always looking for the 'story' that will unlock real action - her secret is Shakespeare. She will share her tactics for enabling climate justice, sustainable lifestyles and radical transformation, all with the help of the bard. How else might Shakespeare help shape the world for the better?

## **RANDALL MARTIN**

### **Activating Environmental Consciousness through Shakespeare**

The first Globe theatre began life in 1599 as a recycling project in new conditions of deforestation, climate volatility, and chronic plague reminiscent of the heightened environmental and health threats we face today.

Randall Martin will explore how Shakespeare's plays reflect these conditions, and how his fictional characters and real-life practitioners responded with material practices of conservation and sustainability which can move and inspire audiences today.

He will also consider how Shakespeare represented the emergence of early modern resource extraction, industry, and consumerism. These developments made audiences aware of the limits of natural world, and the globalization of their local desires and consumption.

Finally, he will show how the period's changing land-, water-, and weather-scapes interact with Shakespeare's characters in ways that shaped new forms of human ecological consciousness and subjectivity.

## **MADELINE SAYET**

### **Where Does The Story Meet the Earth?**

Mohegan theater director Madeline Sayet will offer insights on how Shakespeare allows us to examine our climate crisis in performance, and how we might continue to imagine those possibilities as a call to action. Within Shakespeare's plays, human actions are never isolated, independent events, but rather operate in relationship with the world around them. When a character enacts harm, it disrupts the world, creating violent natural repercussions, as is true in our current situation. In his plays, the audience is meant to understand the stakes of these disruptions and the necessity of healing, restoration and reciprocity, in a way contemporary ears often tune out. How might highlighting these relationships and the natural world's rules of exchange in these plays provide opportunities to dismantle cognitive dissonance around the climate crisis?

#Globe4Globe