

UN MOVIE SOCIETY  
OF THE UNITED  
NATIONS STAFF  
RECREATION  
COUNCIL  
Artistic Director:  
Brenda Vongova



United Kingdom  
Mission to the  
United Nations

THE UN MOVIE SOCIETY PRESENTS

# SHAKESPEARE AT THE UN

## IN CELEBRATION OF ENGLISH LANGUAGE DAY AT THE UNITED NATIONS

VIRTUAL GLOBAL LAUNCH: UNITED NATIONS  
UN GLOBAL YOUTUBE  
UN WEB TV

WEDNESDAY, 23 APRIL 2025  
9:00AM EST

### MESSAGES

H.E. DAME BARBARA WOODWARD, DCMG, OBE  
AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY  
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE UNITED KINGDOM  
TO THE UNITED NATIONS

JOSETTE BUSHELL-MINGO, OBE  
PRINCIPAL AND CEO OF THE ROYAL CENTRAL SCHOOL OF SPEECH AND DRAMA

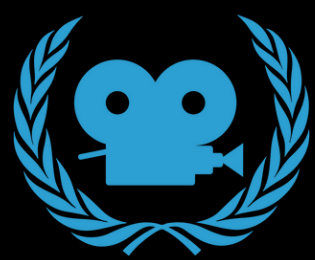
MICHELLE TERRY  
ARTISTIC DIRECTOR OF SHAKESPEARE'S GLOBE

DANIEL EVANS & TAMARA HARVEY  
CO-ARTISTIC DIRECTORS OF THE ROYAL SHAKESPEARE COMPANY

PROFESSOR MICHAEL DOBSON  
DIRECTOR OF THE SHAKESPEARE INSTITUTE







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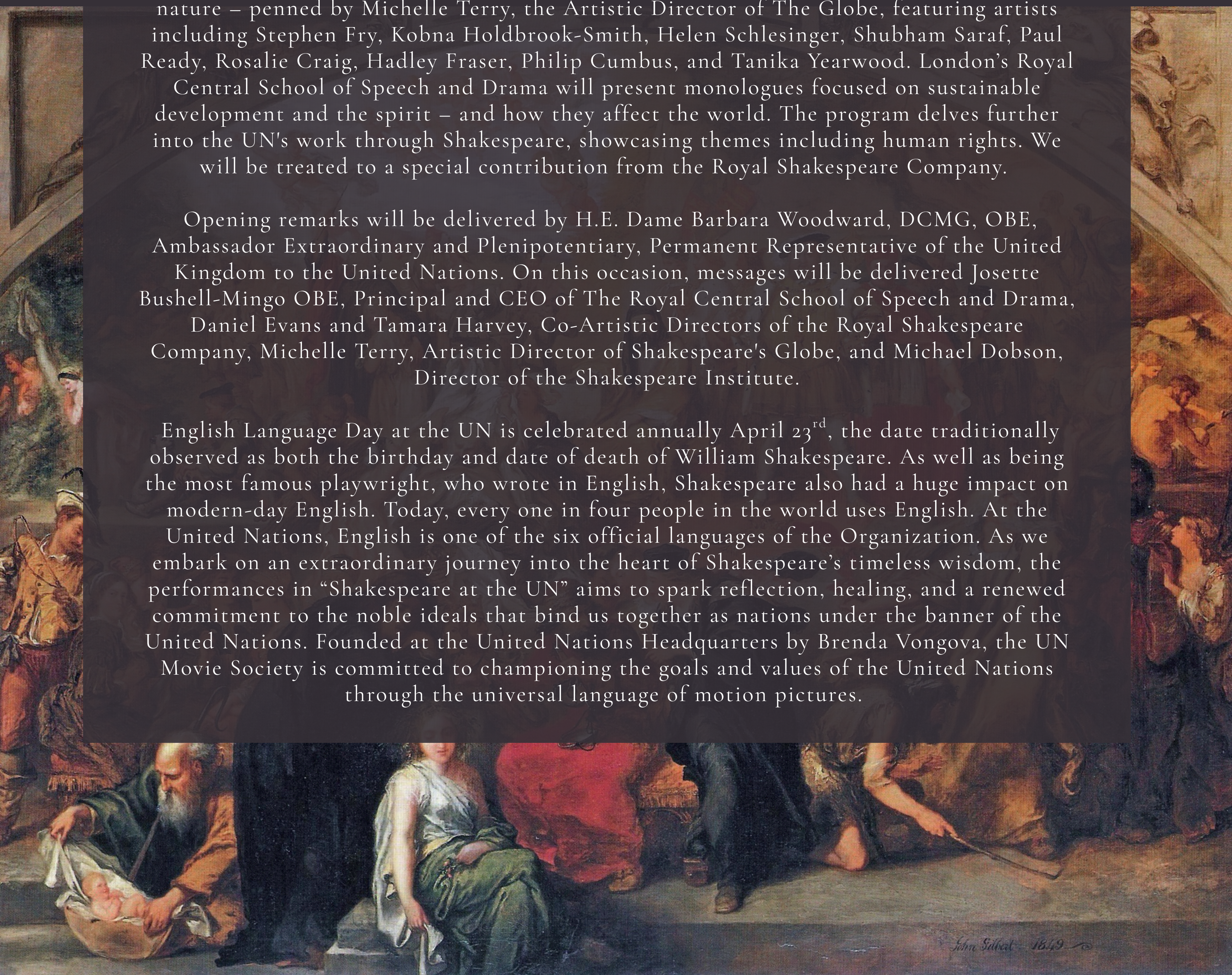
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On 23 April 2025, in commemoration of the English Language Day 2025 at the United Nations, the UN Movie Society of the United Nations Staff Recreation Council will present the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual “Shakespeare at the UN” – an exploration of how the timeless works of Shakespeare, in reflecting the human experience, can resonate with the core values of the UN, such as promoting understanding of humanity and strengthening global connections. The project will be launched on the official global channels of the United Nations – UN Web TV and UN YouTube.

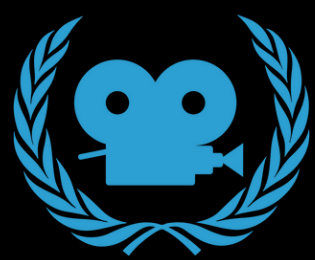
Shakespeare’s literature is more than mere words on a page. It is a mirror held up to the values and aspirations of our shared humanity, echoing the very essence of the United Nations. It resonates across languages and cultures. Shakespeare can connect us all: therefore, the excerpts will be performed through a multilingual and multicultural lens - featuring performances in some of the UN's official languages (including Mandarin Chinese, Swedish, Ukrainian). The programme will include monologues about peace and war. It will also delve into the UN theme of climate action, and showcase O ruined piece of nature – penned by Michelle Terry, the Artistic Director of The Globe, featuring artists including Stephen Fry, Kobna Holdbrook-Smith, Helen Schlesinger, Shubham Saraf, Paul Ready, Rosalie Craig, Hadley Fraser, Philip Cumbus, and Tanika Yearwood. London’s Royal Central School of Speech and Drama will present monologues focused on sustainable development and the spirit – and how they affect the world. The program delves further into the UN's work through Shakespeare, showcasing themes including human rights. We will be treated to a special contribution from the Royal Shakespeare Company.

Opening remarks will be delivered by H.E. Dame Barbara Woodward, DCMG, OBE, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary, Permanent Representative of the United Kingdom to the United Nations. On this occasion, messages will be delivered Josette Bushell-Mingo OBE, Principal and CEO of The Royal Central School of Speech and Drama, Daniel Evans and Tamara Harvey, Co-Artistic Directors of the Royal Shakespeare Company, Michelle Terry, Artistic Director of Shakespeare's Globe, and Michael Dobson, Director of the Shakespeare Institute.

English Language Day at the UN is celebrated annually April 23<sup>rd</sup>, the date traditionally observed as both the birthday and date of death of William Shakespeare. As well as being the most famous playwright, who wrote in English, Shakespeare also had a huge impact on modern-day English. Today, every one in four people in the world uses English. At the United Nations, English is one of the six official languages of the Organization. As we embark on an extraordinary journey into the heart of Shakespeare’s timeless wisdom, the performances in “Shakespeare at the UN” aims to spark reflection, healing, and a renewed commitment to the noble ideals that bind us together as nations under the banner of the United Nations. Founded at the United Nations Headquarters by Brenda Vongova, the UN Movie Society is committed to championing the goals and values of the United Nations through the universal language of motion pictures.







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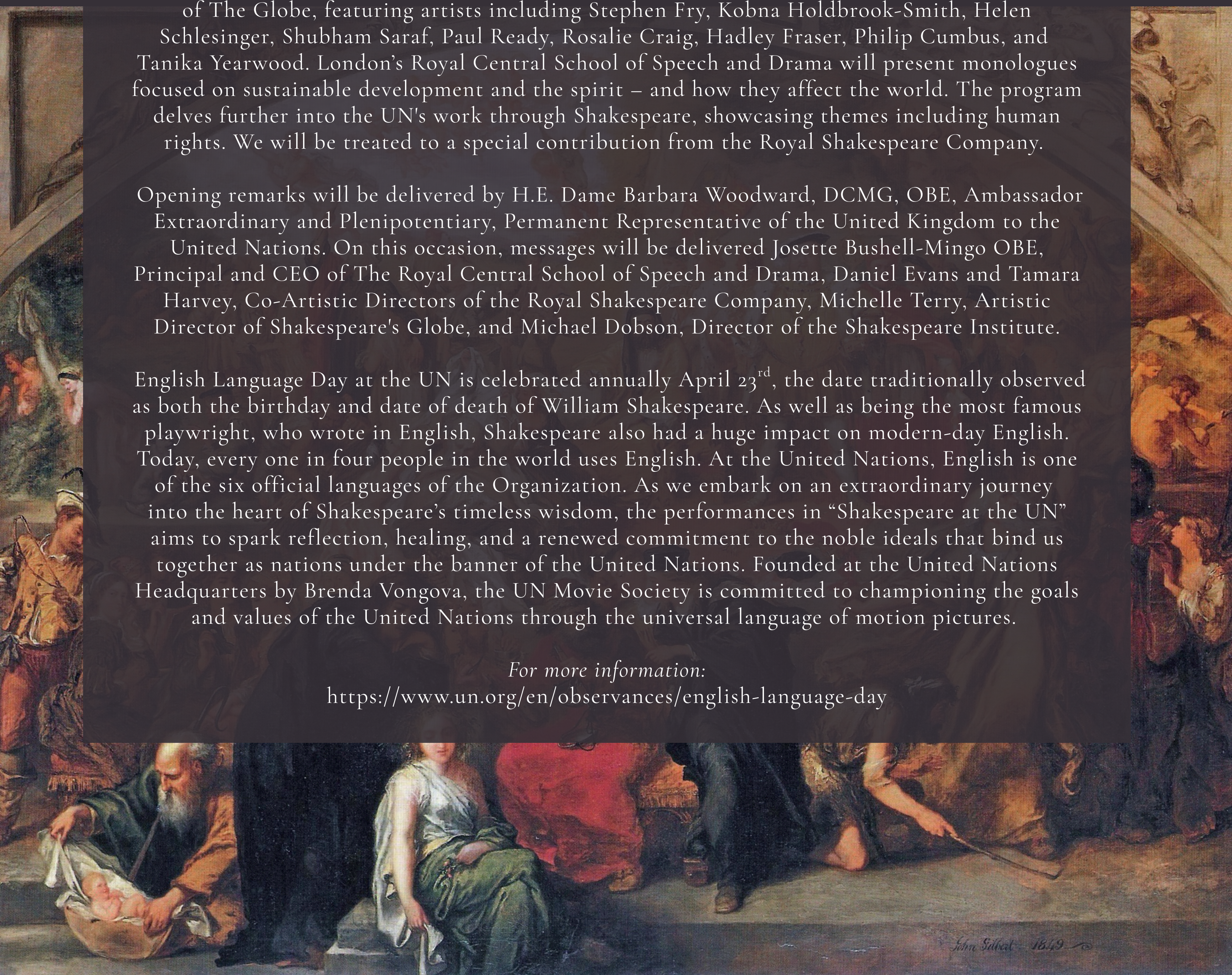
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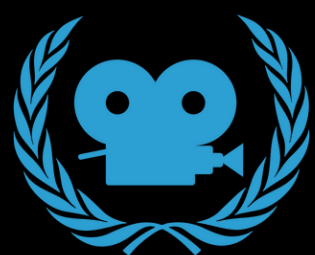
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*For more information:*

<https://www.un.org/en/observances/english-language-day>







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# PROGRAMME

## Opening

Brenda Vongova  
President of the UN Movie Society

H.E. Dame Barbara Woodward, DCMG, OBE  
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary  
Permanent Representative of the United Kingdom to the United Nations

## Peace and Security

Burgundy's peace speech from Henry V (Act 5, Scene 2), by William Shakespeare  
~ Performed by Richard Keith

Sonnet 55, by William Shakespeare  
~ Performed by Petro Ninovskyi (in Ukrainian)

King Henry's (Henry V, Act IV, Scene 7) "I was not angry since I came to France",  
by William Shakespeare  
~ Performed by Mark Olsen

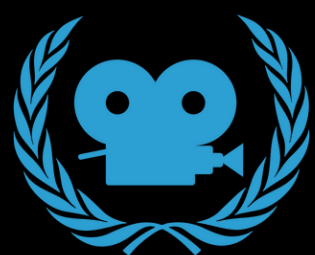
Remarks by Tamara Harvey & Daniel Evans  
Co-Artistic Directors of the Royal Shakespeare Company

## Climate Action

Remarks by Michelle Terry  
Artistic Director of Shakespeare's Globe

O ruined piece of nature: Shakespeare's Letter to the Earth  
~ Written by Michelle Terry, featuring artists including Stephen Fry, Kobna Holdbrook-Smith,  
Helen Schlesinger, Shubham Saraf, Paul Ready, Rosalie Craig, Hadley Fraser, Philip Cumby,  
and Tanika Yearwood





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## PROGRAMME (CONTINUED)

### Sustainable Development

Josette Bushell-Mingo OBE

Principal and CEO of The Royal Central School of Speech and Drama, University of London

Hamlet in Mandarin (Act III, Scene 1 – “To be or not to be...”), by William Shakespeare  
~ Performed by Robin Khor Yong Kuan (in Mandarin Chinese)

Titania’s monologue from A Midsummer Night’s Dream (Act II, Scene 1  
– “These are the forgeries of jealousy...”), by William Shakespeare  
~ Performed by Ruben Karsberg (in Swedish)

Kate’s monologue from The Taming of the Shrew in English (Act V, Scene 2 – “Fie, Fie...”),  
by William Shakespeare  
~ Performed by Tracy Ifeachor

### Human Rights

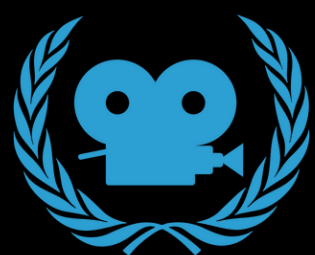
Portia's speech from The Merchant of Venice, Act IV, Scene 1, by William Shakespeare  
~ Performed by Brenda Vongova

### Closing

Remarks by Professor Michael Dobson  
Director of The Shakespeare Institute







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## SPECIAL THANKS

UN Department of Global Communications

Permanent Mission of the United Kingdom to the United Nations

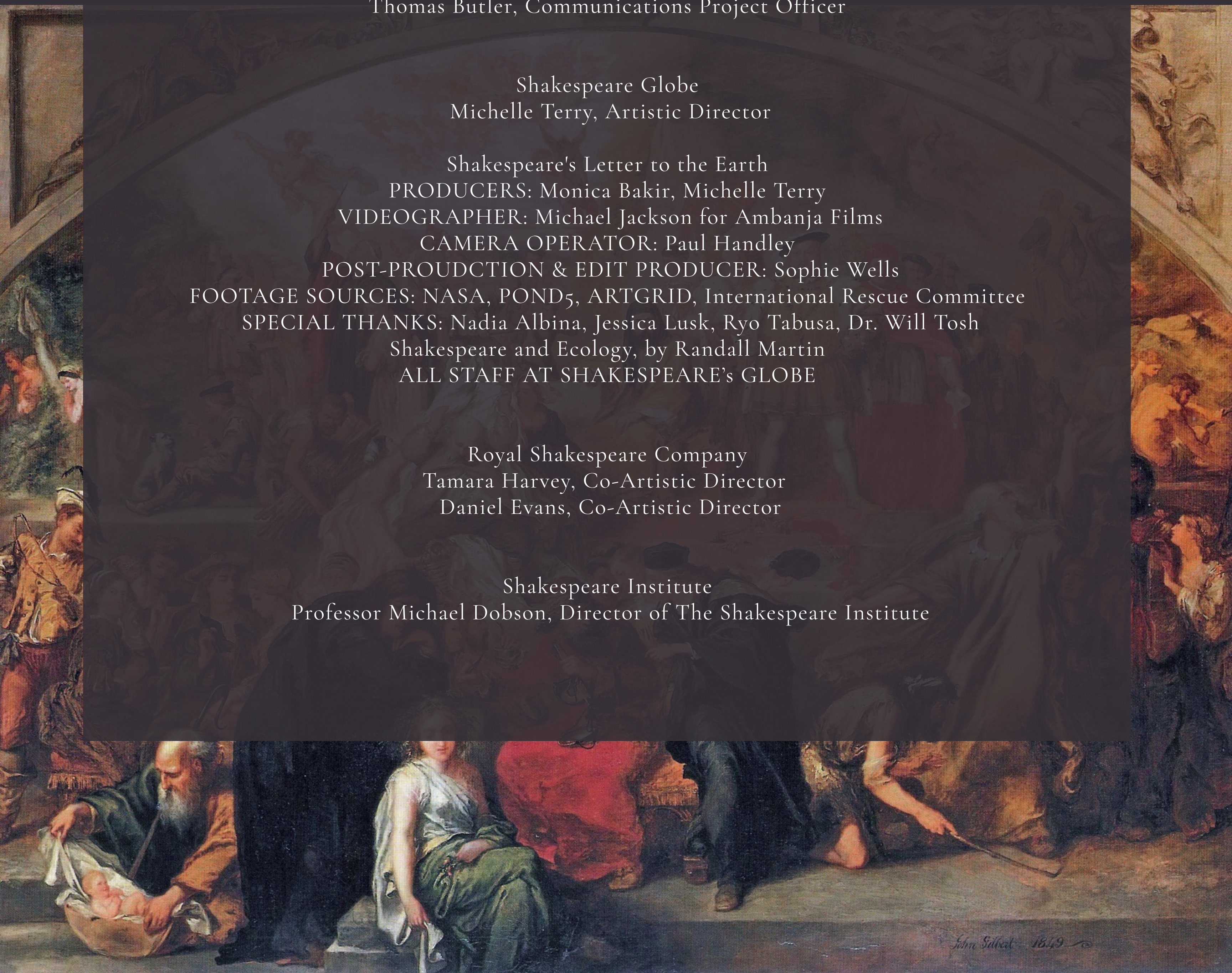
The Royal Central School of Speech and Drama  
Josette Bushell-Mingo OBE, Principal and CEO  
Megan Hunter, Head of Press and Public Relations  
Shaun Northover, Head of Alumni Relations  
Kate McCurdy, Digital Content and Social Media Manager  
Thomas Butler, Communications Project Officer

Shakespeare Globe  
Michelle Terry, Artistic Director

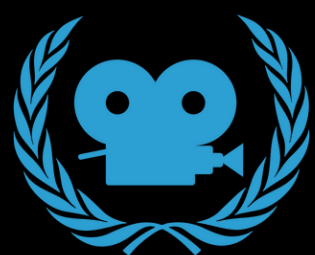
Shakespeare's Letter to the Earth  
PRODUCERS: Monica Bakir, Michelle Terry  
VIDEOGRAPHER: Michael Jackson for Ambanja Films  
CAMERA OPERATOR: Paul Handley  
POST-PRODUCTION & EDIT PRODUCER: Sophie Wells  
FOOTAGE SOURCES: NASA, POND5, ARTGRID, International Rescue Committee  
SPECIAL THANKS: Nadia Albina, Jessica Lusk, Ryo Tabusa, Dr. Will Tosh  
Shakespeare and Ecology, by Randall Martin  
ALL STAFF AT SHAKESPEARE'S GLOBE

Royal Shakespeare Company  
Tamara Harvey, Co-Artistic Director  
Daniel Evans, Co-Artistic Director

Shakespeare Institute  
Professor Michael Dobson, Director of The Shakespeare Institute







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## SPECIAL THANKS (CONTINUED)

Dr. Richard Keith  
Actor, Director, Acting Tutor

Royal Academy of Dance, London  
Aud Jebson Studio Theatre

Artwork in the Poster:

The Plays of William Shakespeare, a painting containing scenes and characters from several plays of Shakespeare (c. 1849), by Sir John Gilbert

Opening and Closing Music:

UN Chamber Music Society of the United Nations Staff Recreation Council

Brenda Vongova, Artistic Director

CHARLES GOUNOD (1818 – 1893) Ave Maria

(Originally published as “Méditation sur le Premier Prélude de Piano de S. Bach”)

Derek Louie (Cello), Brenda Vongova (Piano)

Ehren L. Valmé, Audio Production

Stephan Occenad  
Video Editor, UN Movie Society

