BAM, the Royal Shakespeare Company, and The Ohio State University present *King and Country: Shakespeare’s Great Cycle of Kings*, Mar 24–May 1, 2016

Exclusive US engagement of *Richard II; Henry IV, Parts I and II;* and *Henry V* performed in repertory and directed by Gregory Doran as part of the RSC’s worldwide program marking the 400th anniversary of Shakespeare’s death

World tour dates include London, Beijing, Shanghai, Hong Kong

Special companion exhibition from Folger Shakespeare Library planned during BAM engagement

**April 20, 2015/Brooklyn, NY**—BAM proudly announces plans to present the Royal Shakespeare Company productions of William Shakespeare’s history plays, *Richard II; Henry IV, Parts I and II;* and *Henry V*, all directed by RSC Artistic Director Gregory Doran and performed in repertory at the BAM Harvey Theater from Mar 24 through May 1, 2016. *King and Country: Shakespeare’s Great Cycle of Kings* is a worldwide theatrical event marking the 400th anniversary of Shakespeare’s death, with performances at BAM, London’s Barbican, and in Beijing, Shanghai, and Hong Kong.

Gregory Doran’s acclaimed productions of *Richard II* and *Henry IV, Parts I and II* are joined by a new production of *Henry V*, which premieres at Stratford-upon-Avon this fall (marking the 600th anniversary of the Battle of Agincourt). The majority of the original cast members reprise their roles at BAM: David Tennant returns in the title role of Richard II, Antony Sher and Jasper Britton play Falstaff and Henry IV, respectively, in the *Henry IV* plays, and Alex Hassell follows the journey of young Prince Hal, who reaches maturity as Henry V in the final play in the tetralogy.

*The Times* (UK) described *Henry IV, Parts I and II* as “rich, absorbing and pulsing with life” and “a triumphant achievement.” According to *The Guardian*, *Henry IV* “combines richness of texture with psychological insight” and Antony Sher as Falstaff gives “a magnificent, magnetic performance.” *Richard II* was cited by *The Independent* as “another crowning glory for David Tennant and his majestic accomplice Gregory Doran.”

*King and Country* marks the return of the RSC to BAM, following its acclaimed production of *Julius Caesar* (Winter/Spring 2013) directed by Gregory Doran, and the 2007 repertory productions of *King Lear* (featuring Ian McKellen) and Chekhov’s *The Seagull*—directed by Trevor Nunn.

Tickets for *King and Country: Shakespeare’s Great Cycle of Kings* will go on sale later this year.

RSC Artistic Director Gregory Doran said, “We are thrilled to return to BAM with this very special theatrical event. We loved being at BAM in 2013 with *Julius Caesar* and look forward to sharing these four great Shakespeare plays with New York audiences in 2016, as we mark the 400th anniversary of his death worldwide.”
BAM Executive Producer Joseph V. Melillo said, “We are honored to present the exclusive US engagement of the RSC’s King and Country productions. This momentous residency will be a highlight of New York’s theatrical season and we are thrilled to welcome Gregory Doran and his company back to BAM.”

The residency will include extensive education programs: the RSC’s First Encounters with Shakespeare production of The Famous Victories of Henry V for 8-13 year olds, which tells the story of Prince Hal’s journey from errant prince to King of England; a special conference for teachers; and workshops for students. The education programs will feature collaborations among BAM, the RSC, The Ohio State University, and the Folger Shakespeare Library.

The Folger Shakespeare Library—home to the world’s largest Shakespeare collection—will share rare books and artifacts from its Washington, DC vaults with BAM audiences in a special exhibition about the four history plays. It’s one of several touring exhibitions produced by the Folger in 2016 as part of The Wonder of Will commemorating the 400th anniversary of Shakespeare’s death. Other highlights include performances, lectures and readings, a new website, Shakespeare Documented, a public radio documentary about Shakespeare in American life, and a tour of the Shakespeare First Folio to all 50 states, Washington, DC, and Puerto Rico.

BAM will also collaborate with The Juilliard School during the engagement, inviting third-year students in its drama division to participate in events and learning experiences surrounding the production.

About The Royal Shakespeare Company
The Royal Shakespeare Company creates theater at its best, made in Stratford-upon-Avon and shared around the world. Everyone at the RSC—from actors to armorers, musicians to technicians—plays a part in creating the world you see on stage. All RSC productions begin life at Stratford workshops and theaters and the company brings them to the widest possible audience through touring, residencies, live broadcasts, and online activity. So wherever you experience the RSC, you experience work made in Shakespeare’s home-town.

The RSC encourages everyone to enjoy a lifelong relationship with Shakespeare and live theater. It produces inspirational artistic programming each year, setting Shakespeare in context, alongside the work of his contemporaries and today’s writers. The RSC has trained generations of the very best theater makers and continues to nurture the talent of the future. It reaches many thousands of children and young people annually through its education work across the world, transforming their experiences in the classroom, in performance and online.

The RSC has always had a special relationship with America, welcoming more than 20,000 US visitors to Stratford each year and bringing productions and education programs here regularly, with its presenting partners in the US, The Ohio State University.

www.rsc.org.uk

About The Ohio State University
The Ohio State University Arts Initiative supports a global community of the arts through collaborative alliances with state, national, and international organizations advancing the daily impact of the arts on the city of Columbus, the nation, and the world. The Arts Initiative positions The Ohio State University as a leader through connections with local, national, and international arts organizations, arts-supportive
companies, educational institutions, and established creative professionals in many fields. Located in downtown Columbus, Ohio, in the historic Lazarus Building. Learn more at http://artsinitiative.osu.edu

About the Folger Shakespeare Library
Folger Shakespeare Library is a world-renowned center for scholarship, learning, culture, and the arts. Home to the world’s largest Shakespeare collection and a primary repository for research material from the early modern period (1500–1750), the Folger is an internationally recognized research library offering advanced scholarly programs in the humanities; a national leader in how Shakespeare is taught in grades K–12; and an award-winning producer of cultural and arts programs–theater, music, poetry, exhibits, lectures, and family programs. A gift to the American people from industrialist Henry Clay Folger, the Folger Shakespeare Library–located one block east of the US Capitol–opened in 1932. Learn more at www.folger.edu

About Juilliard Drama
Founded in 1968 by the celebrated American director, producer, and theater administrator John Houseman and the French director, teacher, and actor Michel Saint-Denis, the Drama Division at The Juilliard School has become one of the most renowned training programs for theater artists in the world. Under the leadership of James Houghton, the Richard Rodgers Director of the Drama Division, the program is dedicated to training versatile 21st-century theater artists. To add to its longstanding B.F.A. program, in the fall of 2012, Juilliard Drama began its new M.F.A. program, providing a diversity of experience for undergraduate and graduate students working side by side on projects that span classic texts of Shakespeare and Chekhov to contemporary works. Juilliard’s program aims to give students valuable exposure to the professional world by creating a real bridge into the profession through the Juilliard Drama Division’s Professional Studio hosted by Signature Theatre, recipient of the 2014 Regional Theatre Tony Award. This connection to the broader theater community ties into the strong ethos of citizenship and community service at The Juilliard School. Juilliard Drama’s outstanding creative reputation, distinguished faculty, and rigorous professional training have enabled its alumni to excel as artists, leaders, and global citizens and will continue to shape the future of American theater for decades to come.

About BAM
Brooklyn Academy of Music (BAM) is recognized internationally for its innovative programming of dance, music, theater, music-theater, opera, and film. Its mission is to be the home for adventurous artists, audiences, and ideas. BAM presents leading national and international artists and companies in its annual Spring Season and highlights groundbreaking, contemporary work in the performing arts with its Next Wave Festival each fall. Founded in 1983, the Next Wave is one of the world's most important festivals of contemporary performing arts. BAM Rose Cinemas features new, independent film releases and BAMcinématek—a curated, daily repertory film program. In 2012, BAM added the Richard B. Fisher Building to its campus, providing an intimate and flexible 250-seat performance venue—the Fishman Space—as well as the Hillman Studio, a rehearsal and performance space.

BAM serves New York City's diverse population through a weekend concert series in BAMcafé, community events, literary series, and a wide variety of educational and family programs. BAM, America's oldest performing arts center, has presented performances since 1861, and attracts an audience of more than 700,000 people each year. The institution is led by President Karen Brooks Hopkins and Executive Producer Joseph V. Melillo. BAM.org

Contact: Sandy Sawotka, BAM communications director, 718.636.4190 or ssawotka@BAM.org
Credits

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General Information

BAM Howard Gilman Opera House, BAM Rose Cinemas, and BAMcafe are located in the Peter Jay Sharp building at 30 Lafayette Avenue (between St Felix Street and Ashland Place) in the Fort Greene neighborhood of Brooklyn. BAM Harvey Theater is located two blocks from the main building at 651 Fulton Street (between Ashland and Rockwell Places). Both locations house Greenlight Bookstore at BAM kiosks. BAM Fisher, located at 321 Ashland Place, is the newest addition to the BAM campus and houses the Judith and Alan Fishman Space and Rita K. Hillman Studio. BAM Rose Cinemas is Brooklyn’s only movie house dedicated to first-run independent and foreign film and repertory programming. BAMcafe, operated by Great Performances, offers a dinner menu prior to BAM Howard Gilman Opera House evening performances. BAMcafe also features an eclectic mix of live music for BAMcafe Live on Friday and Saturday nights with a bar menu available starting at 6pm.

Subway: 2, 3, 4, 5, Q, B to Atlantic Avenue – Barclays Center (2, 3, 4, 5 to Nevins St for Harvey Theater) D, N, R to Pacific Street; G to Fulton Street; C to Lafayette Avenue

Train: Long Island Railroad to Atlantic Terminal – Barclays Center

Bus: B25, B26, B41, B45, B52, B63, B67 all stop within three blocks of BAM

Car: Commercial parking lots are located adjacent to BAM

For ticket information, call BAM Ticket Services at 718.636.4100, or visit BAM.org.

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