



• Shakespeare •
TONIGHT

BREAKING...SHAKESPEARE ALIVE!
FIRST EVER INTERVIEW

WRITTEN BY PAUL WILSON & TIM FERGUSON

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Cast



Peter Revel-Walsh as William Shakespeare

Peter is a professional actor, voice-over artist and model. Schooled by Stephan Perdekamp in the PEM (Perdekamp Emotional Method), Peter is a permanent member of its London-based training group. He has many years' experience of stage and short films, and was principal in the feature film *The Drift* (2014).



Garry Voss as Sir Francis Bacon

Garry is a lead actor in both the UK and the US. Roles include Astrov (*Uncle Vanya*), Molino (*Kiss of the Spider Woman*), Yuri Gagarin (*The Motherland Hears*). Stage includes: *The Government Inspector*, *The Seagull* and most recently *Invitation to a Beheading!* In his commercial work, Garry serves as an ambassador for several global companies, including Sony.



Priscilla Fere as Martina

Priscilla has performed in several hit productions (*Dante's Inferno*, *Citizens of Hell*, *Hamlet*). This Shoreditch-born 29 year old made history in 2014, becoming the first actress to perform live inside the House of Lords (*Day In The Light*). She most recently played the voluptuous, food-obsessed Drag Queen *Priscilla, Queen of Deszerts*. Priscilla is also a voice model.



Paul Obertelli as The Duke

Paul is a member of *The New Avalonians* performing arts group. He is also a singer/song writer (Sony, Sanctuary, Bam Bam Music), who has toured the UK, Europe and the USA, performing with Alice in Chains, The Goo Goo Dolls & The Black Crows. Paul's podcasts are legendary.



Francesca Mephram as Rebekah

Francesca is an actress, classically trained singer and writer. Her most recent roles include 'Claudia' in *Hitchcock Homage*, and *Humans* (Channel Four). She is also a regular soloist, performing most notably with The RAF Presidents Band. Francesca is the author of *R(ex)ception* and the new short play *Time To Fly Solo?*



Kaara Benstead as Anne Hathaway

Kaara has been acting for many years, and attended the improvisation-based drama classes at the Anna Scher Theatre. She has appeared in several productions for stage and screen, including *Dante The Inferno*, *Crocodile Snap* (BAFTA nominated 'Best Short Film'), and *Champion Of The World* (Film Four).

Creative Team



Paul Wilson, Writer/Producer

Paul has been studying and researching Shakespeare for many years, often with his father (*Shakespeare and the Common Man, GP Wilson, Millrace*). Paul made his name in the UK with his travel books on The Silk Road (*The Silk Roads, Trailblazer; Global Suitcase, New Holland*). Since moving to Sydney he has had his first novel published, *The Alphabet Game* (Hertfordshire Press), a black comedy.



Tim Ferguson, Co-writer

Tim Ferguson is a comedian & screenwriter. He wrote the bestselling comedy screenwriting manual: *The Cheeky Monkey – Writing Narrative Comedy* (Currency Press). His memoir 'Carry A Big Stick' (Hachette) explores his life as a comedian with MS. Tim has co-written various sitcoms and the comedy-romance movie 'Spin Out' (Sony Pictures Releasing – on screens 2016). He has toured internationally with comedy trio the Doug Anthony Allstars (DAAS) since 1984.



David Parry, Director/Producer

David is an award-winning director, poet, playwright, and Fellow of the Royal Society of Arts. Highly influenced by Artaud and Ionesco, Parry has directed and produced innumerable productions in the UK over the past thirty years. He introduced 'Elchin Theatre' to Europe, is an Edinburgh regular and frequently wrestles with The Bard, most notably in *Shakespeare: A Comedy in Ten Scenes*.



Alan Cox, Creative/Assistant Producer

Alan is an accomplished radio broadcaster and producer, hosting four shows a week over a number of platforms. He is also assistant producer on Indian.English, a major Hollywood film set for worldwide release in 2017.



David Sears – Stage/Music/Technical Manager

Dave has worked in performance arts for nearly two decades. He has been a touring musician, writer and tech for Sony Music, as well as an events organiser, sound technician and stage manager for music festivals. Dave has also curated several stages at Croydon's *Ambition Festival*. In 2012 he founded *Airballoon Productions*.



John Pinder, Dramaturge

The show is dedicated to John Pinder. Back in the 80s, JP was the founder of the Melbourne International Comedy Festival, and led the 'Aussie Invasion' of the Edinburgh Fringe in the 90s. John was in on *Shakespeare Tonight* from the beginning, lending encouragement, wisdom and, most importantly, comedy. We miss him.



William Shakespeare

1564 – Born (probably April 23rd, St George's Day). Actual date of birth remains unclear. One of 8 children to Mary (née Arden) and John, glovemaker and alderman.

1570s – William's father disappears from public records. For the remainder of John Shakespeare's life indications as to his whereabouts are few and far between.

1582 – Anne Hathaway pregnant with William's child. She's 28, he's just 18; special licence to marry in a hurry. First child, Susanna (1583). Twins, Hamnet and Judith (1585).

1590s – The Bard wows London with a series of hits. History plays (Richard III, Henry VI), comedies (Comedy of Errors) and romances (Taming of the Shrew) feature heavily.

1596 – Hamnet dies, aged 11. William's plays immediately take a darker tone, whether histories (King John), comedies (Twelfth Night), or romances (Merchant of Venice).

1601 – Hamlet first performed (at the recently built Globe Theatre). Evidence of Shakespeare working on Hamlet from 1599, and reworking up until 1604. John Shakespeare dies September 7th.

1600s – Elizabeth I dies (1603). William produces more tragedies (Othello, King Lear, Macbeth), plus 'problem' plays (Measure for Measure, All's Well that ends Well, Troilus and Cressida).

1610s – The Tempest and The Winter's Tale traditionally mark the end of Shakespeare's career. William returns to Stratford (and Anne!) in 1612, before dying on April 23rd 1616 (aged 52).



Sir Francis Bacon

1561 – Born into wealthy Bacon family (father, Sir Nicholas Bacon; mother, Anne, daughter of distinguished humanist, Anthony Cooke). Nephew to William Cecil, Lord Burghley.

1570s – Enters Trinity College, Cambridge, aged 12. Further studies at many of Europe's finest institutions. Resident in law at Gray's Inn, but runs up debts and refused position at court.

1580s – Member of Parliament for a number of different constituencies. Speaks in favour of executing Mary, Queen of Scots, and allies himself to the Earl of Essex.

1590s – Attorney General bid rejected. Made Queen's Counsel but passed over for Master of the Rolls. Lady Elizabeth Hatton breaks off engagement (1596), amid further financial troubles.

1600s – Accession of James I brings upturn in fortunes. Finally knighted, marries Alice Barnham (although she is 14 to his 45), and helps promote exploration of British colonies in North America.

1610s – Appointed Attorney General and Lord Chancellor, but success tarnished by return of financial woes. Sent to The Tower in disgrace, more charges of corruption and bankruptcy.

1620s – Retreats into academia. Writes seminal work, *Novum Organum Scientiarum* ('New Method'). 1626 dies of pneumonia. *New Atlantis* published the following year.

1660 – Royal Society founded in Bacon's honour. In a lasting tribute to Sir Francis, society members still set out to promote science and recognise scientific excellence to this day.

Shakespeare Tonight is supported by

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