

# PRESS RELEASE

for immediate release

## TWELFTH NIGHT

the Lions part invites you to the 27th **TWELFTH NIGHT CELEBRATION** beginning on the Bankside near Shakespeare's Globe and continuing in procession to the historic George Inn, Borough High Street, Southwark.

**A collective celebration of the New Year, TWELFTH NIGHT mixes ancient Midwinter seasonal customs and contemporary festivity**

**On Bankside by Shakespeare's Globe  
Sunday 8th January 2023 at 2.00pm**

### THE HOLLY MAN FROM THE THAMES

To herald the celebration, the extraordinary HOLLY MAN, the winter guise of the GREEN MAN (from our pub signs, pagan myths and folklore), decked in fantastic green garb and evergreen foliage, is piped over the River Thames, with the devil Beelzebub.

### THE BANKSIDE WASSAILS

On Bankside by Shakespeare's Globe, led by the BANKSIDE MUMMERS and our London Beadle, the HOLLY MAN will 'bring in the green' and toast or 'WASSAIL' the people, the River Thames and the Globe. (Wassailing is an old tradition to encourage good health).

### THE MUMMERS' PLAY

The MUMMERS then process to the BANKSIDE JETTY, and perform the traditional 'freestyle' FOLK COMBAT PLAY, featuring the Turkey Sniper, Clever Legs, the Old 'Oss and many others, dressed in spectacular costumes. The play is full of wild verse and boisterous action, a time-honoured custom of the season, recorded since the Crusades.

### KING BEAN AND QUEEN PEA

CAKES safely distributed at the end of the play have a BEAN and a PEA hidden in two of them. Those from the crowd who find them are hailed KING and QUEEN for the day and crowned with ceremony. They then 'dance' the people through the streets to the historic **GEORGE INN**, Southwark, for a fine warming-up with the **FOWLERS TROOP**, STORYTELLING, the KISSING WISHING TREE, DANCING and MULLED WINE.

TWELFTH NIGHT is **for ALL THE FAMILY**, FREE, FUN and PHOTO-FRIENDLY

####Ends####