

PRESS RELEASE

the Lions part

I will roar that I will doe any mans heart good to heare me.

for immediate release

TWELFTH NIGHT

the Lions part invites everyone to their 15th TWELFTH NIGHT CELEBRATION beginning on the Bankside near Shakespeare's Globe and continuing by procession to the historic George Inn in Southwark.

A collective celebration of the new year, TWELFTH NIGHT mixes ancient Midwinter seasonal customs and contemporary festivity

**on the Bankside by Shakespeare's Globe
2pm on Sunday 4th January 2009**

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

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, appears from the River Thames brought by the Thames Cutter, *Master Shipbroker**.

THE BANKSIDE WASSAILS

With the crowd, led by the **BANKSIDE MUMMERS**, the **HOLLY MAN** will 'bring in the green' and toast or '**WASSAIL**' the people, the River Thames and the Globe (an old tradition to encourage good growth) with the London Town Crier.

THE MUMMERS' PLAY

The **MUMMERS** will then process to the **BANKSIDE JETTY**, and perform the traditional 'freestyle' St. George **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 part of the season recorded since the Crusades.

KING BEAN AND QUEEN PEA

CAKES 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 lead the people through the streets to the historic **GEORGE INN** in Southwark for a fine warming-up with **STORYTELLING**, the **KISSING WISHING TREE** more **DANCING** and **MULLED WINE**.

###Ends###

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Media Enquiries

For more information, please contact Emma Butler Smith, Company Manager

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Notes to editors

1. **TWELFTH NIGHT** is free to attend for everyone.
2. **the Lions part** is a group of professional performers who come together every year to celebrate the changing seasons and explore our English heritage. Performances often involve local artists & community groups making costumes, banners and props, often using recycled or unwanted materials. The company has strong links with storytellers, musicians, dancers, street performers, re-enactors, costume-makers, conservation groups & food producers.
3. Actors from **the Lions part** are currently performing in **THE CITY WIVES' CONFEDERACY** at Greenwich Playhouse until 18 January 2009. Tickets are available from the box office on 020 8858 9256 or from boxoffice@galleontheatre.co.uk / www.galleontheatre.co.uk.
4. The George Inn, Southwark is London's only surviving galleried coaching inn. Dating from the 1600s, The George, was rebuilt in 1676, after a devastating fire swept Southwark. It was one of many such inns in the area, perhaps the most famous being the Tabard, where Chaucer began his 'Canterbury Tales' in 1388. The Tabard too was rebuilt after the fire, but was demolished in the late 19th century, despite a public outcry. In the 17th century the Royal Mint failed to produce enough coins and the George issued its own coinage to keep business flowing. The George was mentioned in Dickens' *Little Dorrit*.
5. Information about **the Lions part** & their event partners can be found at www.thelionspart.co.uk
www.nationaltrust.org.uk/main/w-vh/w-visits/w-findaplace/w-georgeinn
6. There is a wide range of photos of the event, some of which have been sent with this press release. If you would like others or larger versions, please contact us.

