

PREVIEW SHAKESPEARE GALA BATH LITERARY FESTIVAL

Gala to mark 400 years since Bard's death

TO MARK 400 years of since the death of William Shakespeare Bath Literature Festival is organising a Shakespeare Gala on Saturday, February 27, at the Guildhall.

Audiences will be encouraged to turn up sporting smocks, ruffs and stockings.

Salon: Collective and Extempore Theatre will present five back-to-back scripted performances based on five of the Bard's best plays, including *The Tempest*, *Othello*, *The Winter's Tale* and *The Merchant of Venice*, performed exactly as they would have been in Shakespeare's day.

Lizzie Hughes, the project director for Salon: Collective said: "This is an extremely exciting project and it is a privilege to be asked to take part in this year's literature festival, in a city that is notorious for its literary connections.

"Shakespeare was a brilliant wordsmith and he clearly understood the intricacies of human nature - that's why it's so much fun to watch the Bard's work as it would have been performed during his time."

After the interval, Extempore Theatre will follow suit with an interactive and improvised performance that is both rib-tickling funny, touching and completely unrehearsed.

Audience participation is encouraged and no two performances are the same.

Tickets for both performances cost £15 or £12 concessions and under 18s have a 50 per cent discount.

The show starts at 8pm in the Guildhall, Bath.

Tickets for all other events in the full 10-day festival programme are now on sale. For full details of events and to book tickets visit bathfestivals.org.uk or call the box office on 01225 463 362.

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County sculptor Watts steps up to art society

A WILTSHIRE sculptor and ceramicist has become a member of a national art society.

Liz Watts, of Monkton Farleigh, has been elected a full member of The United Society Of Artists, founded in 1921.

"Being a full member means that I can now use UA rather than AUA after my name but more importantly will give more opportunities to exhibit in London, particularly at The Bankside Gallery on the Southbank," said Liz.

Before making her home in Wiltshire, Liz lived in France for 10 years and studied at l'Atelier des Beaux-Arts Henri Matisse, Creil.

"I lived in an isolated house in an ancient deer forest and spent time studying, drawing and sculpting the deer," said Liz, who returned to the UK in 2002.



She was a founder member of Art House Gallery Co-operative, in Bradford on Avon and currently has work on show at the Greenhill Cottage Gallery, in Brokerswood Road, Southwick. She will have an installation there for the Cloth Roads Arts Trail.

She said: "I create pieces in ceramic, porcelain and glass, papier-mâché, bronze and cement/fibreglass casts. My chosen range of media allows me freedom in the interpretation of the image.

"My passion is to represent the character and mood of the subject rather than just a physical form. I enjoy catching a sense of movement."

Liz worked as a veterinary

surgeon in farm and small animal practice and said: "My roots in veterinary medicine give an interesting anatomical edge to my interpretation of 'the nature of the beast'."

Liz's work moves from animal forms to pieces, which find their roots in writing, where the written piece and the artwork create work that is original and intriguing.

Left, the sculpture *Man In All His Emotion* by Liz Watts, pictured below

