

PRESENTING
The Owle Schreame Awards
for Innovation in Classical Theatre
2014

~the first and only full awards devoted to all aspects of classical theatre~

As of 2014, the 450th year since Shakespeare's birth, the Owle Schreame theatre company are proud to announce a new set of awards: the first and only full awards in Britain (and, apparently, the world) dedicated to all aspects of classical theatre in performance.

The Owle Schreame Awards have been established to fill a void; to encourage and recognise some of the most exciting, hot-blooded and innovative work in the performance of Classical Theatre today.

Shakespeare's Globe and the RSC may be the exciting mainstream of classical theatre, but they are not the entirety. These awards exist to give some of the most imaginative artists, practitioners and devotees an acknowledgement and an applause, to put them in a room together talking about their work, and perhaps to give an amplification where they would otherwise go unheard.

“Theatre is a mortal and ever-changing form, ephemeral by nature and constantly evolving. Historical theatre is a combination of that living, contemporary art and an ancient, pre-modern heritage; a way of hearing voices centuries old speak clearly and loud, of seeing the thoughts and the lives and the worlds of long dead generations flower fresh as a part of our own. A way to transcend time, and transcend death.”
(Brice Stratford)

The Award

“Act V, scene i of Hamlet is apparently the first known scene in English Renaissance drama to be laid in a graveyard, and the first scene in which skulls are used as stage properties” (Andrew Sofer)

A scene in which the long dead are given new resonance, paraded for the living. This scene is the inspiration behind the design of our award: an engraved glass skull. Something dead made new, strange and beautiful.

Each award is engraved by hand, and each Owle Schreame skull is a unique item in its own right.

The Book

Each award winner will give a small talk to the rest on their prize-winning project and the ethos behind it.

The recordings and transcripts will be made freely available online, then published physically as an unprecedented collection of essays designed both to record and to stimulate the alternative artistic landscape of historical theatre in performance today.

Where & When

Chaucer began the Canterbury Tales next door, Dickens described it in Little Dorritt, it is London's only surviving galleried coaching inn, and would have hosted the prostitutes, prize-fighters and bear-baiters of renaissance bankside; not to mention Shakespeare, Burbage, and the acting companies of the Globe, the Rose, and other Southwark playhouses.

The **thirteen** winners of 2014 will be announced on the **13th of September**, and presented with their awards at a small-scale, exclusive, invite-only ceremony **the next day**, at the historic

George Inn, Southwark

75-77 Borough High St, London SE1 1NH

the Owle Schreame theatre company

www.theOwleSchreame.com ~ theOwleSchreame@outlook.com
www.CannibalValour.com ~ www.OwleSchreameAwards.com ~ @OwleSchreame

Based in London, the Owle Schreame produce exploratory classical theatre – employing, experimenting and evolving ancient techniques and approaches to recreate for modern audiences the rough, visceral, interactive experience of historical storytelling and theatrical performance.

Through artistically and historically significant productions of their own (and through this set of awards designed to recognise those of others) they aim to encourage, promote and influence artistic freedom and innovation in contemporary classical theatre.

In **2011** they performed the first stage jig in over 400 years on the archeological site of the Elizabethan Rose Theatre.

In **2013** they produced the critically acclaimed **Cannibal Valour Rep Season**, in which a single company of actors spent four months making history with three obscure Jacobean plays performed in repertory at the burial site of their playwrights. Two of these plays were world premieres, 400 years after writing, performed for the first time in history.

Later this year they'll be producing the first recorded staging of '**The Soddered Citizen**' a 17th Century play thought lost for centuries, written by a highwayman sentenced to hang.

The handwritten manuscript was discovered in 1936, and their own script has been personally transcribed from the original by Artistic Director **Brice Stratford**.

The performance will be bookended with an 18th Century silent comedy for display after an execution, and the 10th Century originator of all religious drama.

"engaging and rambunctious" (A Younger Theatre)

"wildly different and absorbing" (So So Gay)

"intelligent, lively, and genuinely interactive" (Shakespeare's England)

"one of the most intelligent and yet accessible Shakespearean companies in performance at the moment"
(Tuppence Magazine)

"as Shakespeare wanted it" (PlayShakespeare.com)

Brice Stratford

Artistic Director ~ BriceStratford@live.co.uk ~ @BriceStratford

Brice founded the Owle Schreame in 2008, and has produced, directed and acted in every production thus far.

Originally from the New Forest, he is an actor, director, writer, storyteller and stuntman.

Past work includes Secret Cinema, Punchdrunk, Shunt, Old Vic New Voices, the Royal National Theatre, the Royal Opera House, Channel 4, the BBC, the Prince's Trust, and various others.

He won an Off-West End Award in 2013, and was shortlisted for The Genesis Future Directors Award at the Young Vic in 2014.

"a cocky combination of d'Artagnan, Porthos and Charlie Sheen" (The Londonist)

"wise and suitably dominant" (The Stage)

"just as commanding with the audience as you imagine he might have been with his cast" (A Younger Theatre)