**THE AUSTRALIAN SHAKESPEARE COMPANY
RETURNS TO THEATRE ON KEW
THIS SUMMER

WITH *MACBETH, ALICE IN WONDERLAND* AND**

***THE DREAM FAIRIES – ADVENTURE TO BUBBLE LAND***

**RUNNING FROM 18 JULY – 31 AUGUST 2025**

**WITHIN THE BEAUTIFUL GROUNDS OF KEW GARDENS**

**The Australian Shakespeare Company (ASC)** is delighted to return to Kew Gardens this summer, bringing exciting, accessible, contemporary productions of Shakespeare, children’s classics, musicals and other plays.

All directed by the ASC’s Artistic Director **Glenn Elston**, this summer they bring Lewis Carroll's whimsical ***Alice in Wonderland***, the “fairytastic” ***The Dream Fairies - Adventure to Bubble Land****,* and a powerful evening production of Shakespeare’s ***Macbeth.***

**Glenn Elston** has said, *“In my job there is nothing more rewarding than watching families laugh together and create lifelong memories. I can’t wait to see the young kids (and some of the adults) arriving dressed up as Fairies or their favourite super-hero then joining in the fun, singing along with the Fairies before we go running off to bubble-land to search for Tink’s lost wings.*

*“For the older kids Alice is a delightful adventure with lots of interactive moments along the way, including becoming the flamingos in the croquet game*

*“We had an amazing time producing Macbeth and I can’t wait to showcase this production in Kew Gardens. It’s a mesmerising and visceral production that I’m sure will be enjoyed even more in Kew’s stunning setting.”*

Tickets to all performances include entry into Kew Gardens, so audiences can enjoy an idyllic day exploring Kew’s 320 acres followed by a theatrical production in the sunshine or under the stars.

Families can also enjoy Kew’s Treetop Walkway, Badger Sett, Log Trail and Remarkable Trees trail.

\*\*\*

***MACBETH***18 July – 31 August 2025

This new, powerful and critically acclaimed production is fresh off a sold-out Melbourne season. Starring the “deeply compelling” (*Melbourne is Me*) **Hugh Sexton** (*Neighbors; Pop-up Globe; Ghost Rider*) as Macbeth and the “magnetic” (*ArtsHub*) **Nicole Nabout** (*The Clearing; Return to Paradise; The Librarians*) as Lady Macbeth, this production reminds audiences why the play is still relevant today.

*Three witches wait on a dank heath to tempt and entice Macbeth to follow his dream to reach for and ultimately receive the highest title – King of Scotland. But it comes with the very expensive price of self-destruction.*

Set amongst the trees, this *Macbeth* production offers a unique experience – as twilight falls, the stage is set for Shakespeare Under the Stars.

\*\*\*

***ALICE IN WONDERLAND***19 July – 31 August

This summer, experience an adventure like no other as Lewis Carroll’s absurd & wickedly clever classic *Alice In Wonderland* is brought to life in a setting straight from a book.

*Meet your favorite assortment of curious characters; the skittish, constantly late White Rabbit, the Dodo and other birds who love a sing-along, the Duchess and her crazy cook, the Cheshire Cat who will leave you with a grin and Humpty Dumpty on his way to meet Tweedledum and Tweedledee. You can’t miss the silliness as the Mad Hatter arrives with the March Hare and Dormouse to have a grand old time with Alice at the tea party.*

Come along and join the fun in this enchanting world of song, dance & interactive games that will have the whole family dizzy & giddy with nonsense.

\*\*\*
***THE DREAM FAIRIES - ADVENTURE THROUGH BUBBLE LAND***18 July – 31 August

*Join the magical fairies on an exciting musical adventure!*

In an enchanting world of song and dance, the adventurous Tinkerbell meets up with the fairies from A Midsummer Night’s Dream. Together, the cheeky Mustardseed, fluttery Moth, daring Cobweb, and sweet Peaseblossom embark on a magical quest with Tinkerbell.

The audience is invited to dress up and join in the fun - come as a fairy, an elf, a Jedi, a pirate, or even a superhero! Everyone is welcome to join this sparkling adventure with a special visit to ‘Bubble Land’ to help The Dream Fairies find her lost wings.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

*Macbeth, Alice In Wonderland* and *The Dream Fairies – Adventure Through Bubble Land* are all directed by Glenn Elston, with music by Paul Norton and choreography by Sue Ellen Shook.

**LISTINGS**

***MACBETH***

**From:** 18 July – 31 August 2025

**Performance Schedule:** Tuesday – Sunday, 7.30pm

**Press Night:** Wednesday 30 July

**Run Time:** 2 hours 20 mins including intermission.

**Ticket Price:** From £24.90\*
\*Tickets to all performances include entry into Kew Gardens

**Venue:** Kew Gardens, London

***ALICE IN WONDERLAND***

**From:** 19 July – 31 August 2025

**Performance Schedule:** Wednesday – Sunday, 11am

 Wednesday, Friday and Saturday, 2.30pm

**Press Night:** Friday 25 July at 2.30pm

**Run Time:** 1 hour 20 mins

**Ticket Price:** From £18.90\*
\*Tickets to all performances include entry into Kew Gardens

**Venue:** Kew Gardens, London

***THE DREAM FAIRIES – ADVENTURES THROUGH BUBBLE LAND***

**From:** 18 July – 31 August 2025

**Performance Schedule:** Tuesday – Thursday and Sunday, 10.30am

 Friday and Saturday, 10.30amd and 2.30pm

**Press Performance:** Thursday 24 July at 10.30am

**Run Time:** 70 mins

**Ticket Price:** From £17.90\*
\*Tickets to all performances include entry into Kew Gardens

**Venue:** Kew Gardens, London

**NOTES TO EDITORS**

**GLENN ELSTON** (DIRECTOR)

Glenn Elston OAM is a celebrated Australian theatre director and producer whose career spans more than three decades. With over 250 productions to his name, he is best known for pioneering outdoor picnic theatre in Australia and making Shakespeare and classic stories accessible to audiences of all ages.

Since founding a small performance collective in 1987 – The Australian Shakespeare Company is now grown to be Australia’s largest independent theatre company.

Glenn has created immersive, family-friendly experiences that have become beloved summer traditions. Glenn’s repertoire includes acclaimed outdoor stagings of A Midsummer Night’s Dream, Twelfth Night, Macbeth, Romeo and Juliet, and many more. He has also written and directed original adaptations of The Wind in the Willows, Alice in Wonderland, The Jungle Book – The Next Chapter, and Tinkerbell and the Dream Fairies. His productions of classics such as Wuthering Heights, The Crucible, and Lady Chatterley’s Lover further demonstrate his artistic range.

In 1990, he co-produced Hair, later directing its national tour. His 2002 rock musical version of Much Ado About Nothing, created with songwriter Paul Norton, has toured extensively and played sold-out seasons.

Glenn has produced a wide range of international and Australian acts. He has collaborated with Djilpin Arts since 2003 to co-present Walking with Spirits, a major Indigenous cultural festival in the Northern Territory. In 2010, he produced Little Black Bastard which took Indigenous storytelling to the Edinburgh Festival.

Recognized with a Melbourne Award in 2014 and the Order of Australia Medal in 2018, Glenn continues to lead as Artistic Director of the Australian Shakespeare Company.

In 2025, he returns to London’s Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, for his seventh season with three productions.

**PAUL NORTON (MUSIC)**

Paul Norton began his musical career playing bass in several notable Australian bands, including The Runners, Wendy and the Rocketts, and Steve Hoy and the Hoy Boys. In 1988, he launched a successful solo career, signing with Mushroom Records. His hit single *‘Stuck On You'* reached number two on the Australian charts, and a track from his album *‘Under a Southern Sky'* was later selected for the Australia Day celebrations at the 2000 Sydney Olympics.

As Musical Director for the Australian Shakespeare Company, Paul has composed original scores for numerous productions, including *Much Ado About Nothing, The Jungle Book – The Next Chapter, Romeo and Juliet, A Midsummer Night’s Dream, Hamlet, As You Like It, The Dream Fairies, Alice in Wonderland, Certified Male,* and *Barassi: The Stage Show.*

**SUE ELLEN SHOOK (CHOREOGRAPHY)**Sue-Ellen Shook has worked in the dance industry for over four decades. A graduate of the Victorian College of the Arts (VCA), her dynamic career spans film, television, musical theatre, and extensive freelance work both in Australia and internationally.

Her television choreography credits include *House Husbands* and *So You Think You Can Dance*. Sue-Ellen has served as resident choreographer for the Australian Shakespeare Company (ASC) for over 20 years, with additional stage credits including *Motherhood the Musical* and *Menopause the Musical*.

As a performer, Sue-Ellen’s credits are extensive and include roles in *Moulin Rouge* (Baz Luhrmann), *Preacher* (Stan), *The Divorce* (ABC), *A Chorus Line*, *Starlight Express*, *Pan*, *Oklahoma* (The Production Company), *The Boy From Oz*, *42nd Street*, *The Pajama Game*, *Sugar*, and *Promises, Promises*. She has also performed in multiple seasons of ASC’s *Tinkerbell & the Dream Fairies*.

**AUSTRALIAN SHAKESPEARE COMPANY**

ASC began life as Shakespeare Under the Stars in 1987 under the direction of Glenn Elston, who pioneered the experience of outdoor theatre in Australia. Glenn joined the Australian Shakespeare Company in 1998 as artistic director and producer. He has since developed the company into Australia’s largest independent theatre company.

The company performs and tours everywhere from cities to remote and outback settings.

Performance spaces range from Melbourne and Sydney’s Royal Botanic Gardens to Kakadu National Park and Beswick Falls in the Northern Territory.

Although best known for performances in parks and gardens, the Australian Shakespeare

Company also creates extraordinary productions for a range of site-specific locations and is adapted for particular communities and occasions.

Under Glenn’s direction the company has grown from a group of 12 in 1987 to the largest independent theatre company in Australia.

Glenn’s productions include *A Midsummer Night’s Dream, Romeo and Juliet, Twelfth Night, The Taming of the Shrew, Much Ado About Nothing, Richard III, Henry IV Pt 1, Hamlet, The Comedy of Errors, Macbeth* and *As You Like It.*

He has written and directed for the stage: *The Wind in the Willows, Alice in Wonderland, Jungle Book – The Next Chapter, Toad’s Birthday Party, Caribbean Pirate Party, Alice & Peter Pan in Never Neverland, Lady Chatterley’s Lover* and a *Picnic with Cole Porter.*

Since 2016, Glenn has been producing and directing in London’s Royal Botanic Gardens Kew. Productions include *The Wind in the Willows, Tinkerbell and The Dream Fairies, Alice in Wonderland* and *A Midsummer Night’s Dream.*

**ROYAL BOTANIC GARDENS, KEW**

The Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew is a world-famous scientific organisation, internationally respected for its outstanding collections and scientific expertise in plant and fungal diversity, conservation, and sustainable development in the UK and around the globe. Kew’s scientists and partners lead the way in the fight against biodiversity loss and finding nature-based solutions to the climate crisis, aided by five key scientific priorities outlined in Kew’s Science Strategy 2021-2025. Kew Gardens is also a major international and top London visitor attraction. Kew’s 132 hectares of historic, landscaped gardens, and Wakehurst, Kew’s Wild Botanic Garden and ‘living laboratory’, attract over 2.5 million visits every year. Kew Gardens was made a UNESCO World Heritage Site in July 2003 and celebrated its 260th anniversary in 2019. Wakehurst is home to the Millennium Seed Bank, the largest wild plant seed bank in the world and a safeguard against the disastrous effects of climate change and biodiversity loss. RBG Kew received approximately one third of its funding from Government through the Department for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) and research councils. Further funding needs to support RBG Kew’s vital scientific and educational work comes from donors, memberships and commercial activity including ticket sales. For tickets, please visit www.kew.org/kew-gardens/visit-kew-gardens/tickets. In the first six months since implementing a new accessibility scheme for those in receipt of Universal Credit, Pension Credit and Legacy Benefits, Kew has welcomed over 100,000 visitors with £1 tickets.

**\*\*\***

**Address:** Kew Gardens, London, TW9 3AE

**Website:** [www.kew.org/kew-gardens/whats-on/theatre-on-kew-25](http://www.kew.org/kew-gardens/whats-on/theatre-on-kew-25)

**PRESS CONTACT: EMMA HOLLAND PR (EHPR)**

**W:** [**www.emmahollandpr.com**](http://www.emmahollandpr.com)

 **Emma Holland Didi Ralph**

**E:** **emma@emmahollandpr.com** **E: didi@emmahollandpr.com**

 **M: 0791 709 4203 M: 0787 289 5051**