

PRESS RELEASE

for immediate release

the Lions part

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

TWELFTH NIGHT

the Lions part invites everyone to their 23rd 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 Bankside by Shakespeare's Globe
Sunday 6th January 2019
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

With the crowd 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 an old tradition to encourage good growth).

THE MUMMERS' PLAY

The **MUMMERS** 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**, Southwark, for a fine warming-up with the **FOWLERS TROOP**, **STORYTELLING**, the **KISSING WISHING TREE**, **DANCING** and **MULLED WINE**.

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

###Ends###

info@thelionspart.co.uk www.thelionspart.co.uk

Reg. Charity No: 108312 • Patron: Mark Rylance

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Media Enquiries

For more information, please contact info@thelionspart.co.uk / 07736150225

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. **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.
4. Information about **the Lions part** & their event partners can be found at <https://www.facebook.com/TTRALondon>
www.thelionspart.co.uk
www.nationaltrust.org.uk/main/w-vh/w-visits/w-findaplace/w-georgeinn
5. There is a wide range of photos of the event on our website as well as those below
6. If you would like others or larger versions, please contact us.



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