



Guild's 2016 GIELGUD AWARD Celebrates the Work of VANESSA REDGRAVE

Sunday, 9 October 2016

The Guildhall, City of London

Luncheon & Ceremony, 12:30-5:00

This presentation by **THE SHAKESPEARE GUILD** took place during the 2016 **UK THEATRE AWARDS** luncheon in one of England's most venerable settings. For details, please email shakesguild@msn.com or contact John F. Andrews at 1-505-988-9560.

A stage and screen legend whose accolades include a rich trove of BAFTA, Cannes, Emmy, Golden Globe, Olivier, Oscar, Tony, and Screen Actors Guild awards, Vanessa Redgrave has been described as the leading actress of her generation. Like her late siblings, Corin and Lynn, she grew up in a stellar theatrical family, with parents (Sir Michael Redgrave and his wife Rachel Kempson) who were contemporaries of such notables as Dame Peggy Ashcroft, Sir John Gielgud, Sir Laurence Olivier, and Sir Ralph Richardson. Among Ms. Redgrave's early successes was a delightful Rosalind in a famous



As You Like It for the RSC. She continues to excel in Shakespearean roles, with such recent triumphs as a riveting film of *Coriolanus* (2011) and a mesmerizing stage production of *Richard III* (2016) in which she portrays the powerful mothers of title characters depicted by Ralph Fiennes. Equally at home in dramatic vehicles such as *Long Day's Journey into Night* (2003), *The Year of Magical Thinking* (2007), and *Driving Miss Daisy* (2010-11) and in evocative films like *Blowup* (1966), *Isadora* (1969), *Julia* (1977), and *Howards End* (1996), Ms. Redgrave has also distinguished herself through a lifelong commitment to courageous activism. She has always been a vigorous advocate for human rights, protesting against policies, practices, institutions, and governments she regards as unjust and providing generous support for political dissidents, refugees, and others she regards as victims of oppression.

This was our third event at the historic Guildhall and our fifth in London. In 2000, following a BAFTA preview of his *Love's Labour's Lost*, the Guild honored Kenneth Branagh at Middle Temple Hall. In 2004 we joined RADA and the RSC in a *Gielgud Centenary Gala* at the Gielgud Theatre, where our eventual 2014 Guildhall laureate, Sir Donald Sinden, joined hands with Alan Bennett, Dame Judi Dench, Clive Francis, Sir Peter Hall, Sir David Hare, Rosemary Harris, Barbara Jefford, Barbara Leigh Hunt, Sir Ian McKellen, Michael Pennington, Ian Richardson, Paul Scofield, and Ned Sherrin. Last year we saluted Dame Eileen Atkins during UK Theatre's 2015 Guildhall luncheon.