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PETER HALL

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For immediate release

Monday 23 April marks the birth and death of William Shakespeare, so why not mark the date by watching the fascinating recordings of renowned theatre director Sir Peter Hall as he looks back over his remarkable career in British theatre and reminisces about his creation of the Royal Shakespeare Company?

Sir Peter Hall has directed more than 200 plays. He founded the Royal Shakespeare Company aged just 29 and directed the National Theatre for 15 years. In 1955, he directed the English language premiere of *Waiting for Godot* by Samuel Beckett and for years was regarded as the obvious director of Harold Pinter. He was appointed Commander of the Order of the British Empire in 1963, and in 1977 was knighted for his contribution to the theatre. In 1999, he was also honoured with a Laurence Olivier Award.

In this series of insightful recordings for Web of Stories, Hall looks back over his truly remarkable career, remembering what prompted him to become a director, and recounts his decision to create the Royal Shakespeare Company, as well as his reasons for leaving it. He also divulges what he feels the RSC did differently in order to make Shakespeare more accessible: *'We all knew the clues that Shakespeare puts in his verse which says: this is when you pause, this is when you go fast, this is when you go slow, this is when you come in on cue... he did it so that the audience were not overwhelmed with information. If you say, "If music be the food of love play on give me excess of it*

that surfeiting the appetite may sicken and so die', the audience say, 'I'm sorry, I don't know what you're talking about'. But if you say, "If music be the food of love, play on. Give me excess of it, that surfeiting, the appetite may sicken and so die" ... you can understand each line.'

Peter Hall also relays how *Waiting for Godot* marked a pivotal moment in his life and led to him receiving his first offer of work at Stratford as a director. His wealth of experience in the theatre is obvious and his passion for it infectious as he shares his thoughts on directing a play more than once, and divulges the issues he had with Laurence Olivier around joining the National Theatre, all of which make for enthralling viewing.

All of Hall's inspirational, fascinating recordings can be watched as a number of short clips ranging in length between one and several minutes, with a fully searchable transcript. All Web of Stories videos are easy to share with friends and colleagues, and may be embedded into personal blogs and websites.

<http://www.webofstories.com/people/peter.hall/1>

NOTES FOR EDITORS ABOUT WEB OF STORIES

Everyone has a story to tell. Over time many stories become forgotten, but now Web of Stories offers members of the public the chance to tell their stories for future generations to enjoy. The project is built on the belief that we all have wonderful stories to share, and have family and friends whose tales we would like to hear.

Web of Stories began as an archive of life stories told by some of the great scientists, writers and artists of our time. As the number of stories grew, it became obvious that some were on related topics and that a web was slowly being created of connected stories.

We welcome anyone to come and talk about virtually anything they like. Just like our famous speakers, we hope you will record your stories for others to enjoy.

CONTACT

For more information on Web of Stories or any of our videos please contact the Press Desk on +44(0)20 7323 0323 or press@webofstories.com

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