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Hamlet: Method and madness

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Globe theatre's Hamlet at the Shabyt Palace of arts in Astana, Kazakhstan, in September 2014.

BENGALURU: As a world-famous institution, Shakespeare's Globe Theatre has existed for more than 400 years. Its physical location might have changed - while remaining within a radius of a few hundred meters - but the ethos of the original theatre, created by William Shakespeare and his theatrical company, continues to thrive. Shakespeare's Globe, a world-famous theatre group which is taking Hamlet to cities across the world - including to Bengaluru this weekend - is steeped in this tradition.

"In 1608, only eight years after it was written, Hamlet was performed on a boat off the coast of Yemen. Just 10 years later it was being toured all over Northern Europe. The spirit of touring, and of communicating stories to fresh ears, was always central to Shakespeare's work. We couldn't be happier to be extending that mission even further. By train, coach, plane and boat we aim to take this wonderful, iconic, multifarious play to as many fresh ears as we can," said Dominic Dromgoole, artistic director of Shakespeare's Globe, which is on a marathon tour with Hamlet. It will be performed in every country on earth between April 2014 and April 2016, and has covered 208,423 km and 129 countries.

In India, the play -a sharp, `modern' version shorn of elaborate stagecraft -is stopping only in Bengaluru, with three shows at

Ranga Shankara. Arundhati Nag, founder, Ranga Shankara, believes this is a unique privilege. "Globe Theatre London is on one of the most ambitious theatre journeys in history . It's a glorious moment for Bengaluru and Ranga Shankara," said Nag.

The show has been brought here by Total Environment Building Systems. "From jazz pianist Ahmad Jamal and some of the most interesting musicians from around the world, to Globe Theatre's Hamlet -we have always tried to acquaint our city's audiences with the most enriching and challenging cultural experiences," said Kamal Sagar, founder, Total Environment.