



Tiffany Stern

**Deutsch-Britische Gesellschaft
München e.V.**

www.dbg-munich.de

**Tuesday 23. April 2024
19:00**

IBZ München

Amalienstr. 38

**THIS TALK WILL BE HELD IN
ENGLISH**

Playing Fair: Theatres and Fairs in the Time of Shakespeare

This talk tells the story of London fairs on the one hand, and theatre on the other, in the time of Shakespeare. It focuses on two fairs – Bartholomew Fair and Southwark Fair – and on moments in the plays of Shakespeare that arise from fairground activity. Considering performing monkeys, magic tricks and puppet shows on the one hand, and looking at plays including *Hamlet*, *Romeo and Juliet*, and *The Tempest* on the other (quotations are explained in context, so no expertise in these plays is required), it reveals how London fairs and theatre were interdependent in ways that are thought-provoking and, sometimes, hilarious.

Tiffany Stern is Professor of Shakespeare and Early Modern Literature at The Shakespeare Institute, University of Birmingham, having previously been Professor of Early Modern Drama at the University of Oxford. She has published thirteen books and editions on sixteenth to eighteenth century dramatic literature, book history, theatre history, editing and Shakespeare, including *Rehearsal from Shakespeare to Sheridan* (2000), *Making Shakespeare* (2004), [with Simon Palfrey] *Shakespeare in Parts* (2007), *Documents of Early Modern Performance* (2009), and *Shakespeare, Malone and the Problems of Chronology* (2023). General editor of The Norton Anthology of English Literature (16th century; with Stephen Greenblatt), and Arden Shakespeare Fourth Series (with Peter Holland and Zachary Lesser), she was elected Fellow of the British Academy in 2019.