

The Honorary Graduand: Erica Whyman OBE
The Orator: Paul Rummer

Erica Whyman is to be awarded the Honorary Degree of Doctor of Arts.

Erica is a theatre director with many years' experience, and became Deputy Artistic Director of the Royal Shakespeare Company in January 2013. Working closely with Gregory Doran on all aspects of artistic strategy, she takes a particular lead on the development of new work, and the planned re-opening of the RSC's studio theatre and laboratory space, The Other Place.

Erica was Chief Executive of Northern Stage from 2005 to 2012. She oversaw the opening of a new building, introduced a collaborative organisational culture and attracted local and national acclaim for the company's repertoire of work. In 2012 she won the TMA Award for Theatre Manager of the Year.

She was Associate Producer at the Tricycle Theatre and Associate Director at ETT, and then became Artistic Director of Southwark Playhouse (1998-2000) and of The Gate Theatre, Notting Hill (2000-2004). She chairs the Board of Theatre503 and is a trustee of RTYDS.

One of the first fellows of the Clore Leadership Programme, Erica speaks regularly on artists in leadership roles. In 2012 she was awarded an OBE for services to Theatre in the UK.

The Honorary Doctorate is awarded in recognition of Erica Whyman's contribution to the arts.