

National Theatre Live

24 August 2023

NATIONAL THEATRE ANNOUNCES PARTNERSHIP RENEWAL WITH SKY ARTS



Sky Arts has renewed its partnership with the National Theatre as Headline Sponsor of NT Live as it approaches its 15th anniversary next year.

National Theatre Live films and distributes world-class theatre straight from UK stages to cinema screens around the world. Sky Arts has been a key partner and headline sponsor of NT Live since 2017, supporting the National Theatre's aim to widen access to the best of British theatre nationwide.

NT Live has grown in success year on year since its inception in 2009, with 96 productions having now screened in cinemas, seen by over 11.5 million people in 65 countries across the globe. Broadcasts have twice broken records to become the highest-grossing event cinema releases of all time in the UK and Ireland: **Phoebe Waller-Bridge's *Fleabag*** in 2019, and last year *Prima Facie* in a partnership with Empire Street Productions featuring **Jodie**

Comer in her award-winning West End debut, with over 400,000 people watching the live broadcast.

Emma Keith, Managing Director, Digital, National Theatre, said:

“We are delighted that Sky Arts have renewed their support of National Theatre Live for a further three years. Over the last year we have been delighted to see audiences returning to our cinema broadcasts, with over 86% of tickets sold by cinemas outside of London.

In recent years our digital output has grown exponentially, undeniably placing us as world leaders in live and digital storytelling, making the NT more accessible than at any other point in our history. The renewal of this partnership with Sky Arts will allow us to further grow our reach bringing more world-class theatre to even more audiences across the globe.”

Phil Edgar-Jones, Director, Sky Arts, said:

“We are really pleased to be continuing our partnership with the National Theatre. Our sponsorship of NT Live is only part of the story which involves a deeper collaboration bringing some of the very best of NT’s theatre capture to our screens. We have enjoyed our relationship over the years and are very proud to be able to support all the brilliant creative talent who benefit from our work together.”

During the pandemic the NT were able to innovate and find new ways to reach audiences. With the vital support of Sky Arts, the National Theatre produced two original films in 2021 which premiered on Sky Arts free-to-air in the UK. Temporarily transforming the vast Lyttelton stage into a film studio, the films were shot with a collaborative team of theatre and film experts. *Romeo & Juliet* was directed by **Simon Godwin**, with **Jessie Buckley** and **Josh O’Connor** as the star-crossed lovers. A powerful and timely new film directed by Deputy Artistic Director **Clint Dyer** and **Roy Williams**, *Death of England: Face to Face*, followed later in the year earning the National Theatre’s first ever BAFTA nomination.

Sky Arts will be airing two NT Live productions on their channel in the coming months, expanding the partnership beyond cinema screens and into viewers' homes. More details to be revealed soon.

Further NT Live programming will be announced this autumn.

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Notes to Editors

For press enquiries, please contact: press@nationaltheatre.org.uk

NT Live images available [here](#).

About the National Theatre

The National Theatre makes theatre that entertains and inspires using its creativity, expertise and unique reach. The National Theatre shares unforgettable stories with millions of audience members across the UK and around the world – on its own stages, on tour, in schools, on cinema screens and streaming at home.

World-leading artists make their best work at the National Theatre with the widest possible audience and impact. The National Theatre invests in talent and innovation on stage and off, taking seriously its role as the nation's theatre. Of the new productions developed each year with a wide range of theatre companies, a third of that research and development resource is dedicated to shows staged at theatres outside London.

Through touring our work to local theatres and schools and nationwide education and community programmes, we are active in 71 of the 109 levelling up priority areas in the UK. A registered charity with deeply embedded social purpose, the National Theatre works with hundreds of schools and communities across the UK to fire imagination and inspire creativity, and to develop skills and pathways for careers in theatre.

For more information, please visit nationaltheatre.org.uk.

About Sky Arts

Sky Arts exists to bring more art to more people across the UK. In 2020, with the creative industries under serious threat, we threw open our doors to make the channel free for everyone to watch. We've redoubled our mission to increase access to the arts and we're committed to getting everyone involved as the industry moves from strength to strength. The fact is, we need the arts like never before, and Sky Arts brings them straight to your living room.

We have something for everyone, championing creative talent by showcasing the best in music, theatre, dance, literature, opera and visual art. From Glyndebourne to Grime and Nina Simone to Noel Gallagher, we've got your passions covered. Millions of viewers tune in to hit returning series such as Portrait Artist of the Year and British cultural institution The South Bank Show, but our acclaimed new programmes might take you anywhere from Wordsworth's favourite landscapes to headbanging at Download Festival.

Collaboration is at the heart of what we do. Sky Arts is the headline sponsor of National Theatre Live in the UK and we work with cultural partners across the country including the

English National Opera, Bristol Old Vic, Tate, Creative UK and the Crafts Council to name but a few.

You can watch Sky Arts for free on Freeview channel 11 and Freesat channel 147. If you've got Sky or a Now TV entertainment pass, you can also watch over 2,000 hours of shows exclusively on demand.