

National Theatre

Twelve emerging designers announced as recipients of 2023 Linbury Prize for Stage Design



For images of the finalists and their designs, click [here](#)

25th September 2023

Today twelve emerging designers from across the UK are announced as recipients of this year's **Linbury Prize for Stage Design 2023**, as part of the National Theatre and The Linbury Trust's commitment to supporting designers to develop a sustainable career in stage design.

Recipients of the biannual Linbury Prize are awarded a bursary prize of £5,000 and a design placement with an established industry designer or producing organisation, gaining first-hand experience of the production process, and developing their skills further. Additionally, the prize recipients will take part in an exhibition at the National Theatre from 13th November 2023 to showcase their work to the public and industry professionals opening career pathways into theatre.

This year's recipients of the award are **Ania Levy** (Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama), **Bethan Wall** (Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama), **Biz Sutton** (Edinburgh College of Art), **Finlay Jenner** (Liverpool Institute for Performing Arts), **Jodie Yates** (Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama), **Nitin Parmar** (London College of Fashion UAL), **Ola Klos** (Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama), **Peiyao Wang** (Royal Central School of Speech and Drama), **Tallulah Caskey** (Liverpool Institute for Performing Arts), **Tiffany Fraser Steele** (London College of Fashion UAL), **Yijing Chen** (Royal Central School of Speech and Drama) and **Yimei Zhao** (Royal Central School of Speech and Drama).

The Linbury Prize is the only nationwide prize for Stage Design in the UK, launching the careers of over 200 young talented stage designers since its founding in 1987 by Lady Anya

Sainsbury including **Es Devlin** in 1995 (Set Designer - *Dear England*, Set Designer - *The Crucible*), **Peter Butler** in 2021, who designed the set for the National Theatre's schools touring production of *Shut Up, I'm Dreaming*, and 2019 winner **Rose Revitt** who designed the public installation of *The Tree* at the National Theatre. In recognition of the diverse range of career paths that can lead to roles in stage design, this year's prize has been opened to those without degree qualifications for the first time.

Georgia Lowe, theatre designer and panellist on this year's Linbury Prize said "*The quality of applications and talent has been astounding and to select the final 12 recipients has not been an easy task. Having been a Linbury prize finalist myself, I understand and connect with the huge amount of work, effort and nerves that go into applying for this prize. The 12 recipients are an exciting and diverse group of artists and I can't wait to see their incredible work exhibited at the National Theatre.*"

Rufus Norris, Director of the National Theatre said "*The Linbury Prize is such a unique celebration of emerging talent in the world of theatre design. The National Theatre hopes to open pathways for designers from all backgrounds by celebrating and supporting them in these early stages of their career. It is a great privilege to be able to support something that empowers emerging talent.*"

This year's judging panel included award winning designers **Georgia Lowe**, **Tom Piper**, **Jean-Marc Puissant** and **Rajha Shakiry**. The competition was open to emerging designers with recent relevant degree qualifications or equivalent experience. Applicants submitted digital portfolios online, with shortlisted candidates subsequently invited to in-person interviews. To find out more about the Linbury Prize, visit the [Linbury Website](#).

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Notes to the Editor

For images of the finalists and their designs, click [here](#).

For press enquiries and more information, please contact Orla Bentley, at obentley@nationaltheatre.org.uk

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

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About the Linbury Trust

The Linbury Trust is an independent grant-making Trust established in 1973 by Lord Sainsbury of Preston Candover, and his wife Anya, Lady Sainsbury CBE, the former ballerina, Anya Linden. The Trust has awarded over £200m in grant funding across the world, funding a wide variety of compelling projects supporting public engagement with arts and culture; climate and the environment; social welfare, and overseas aid.

www.linburytrust.org.uk

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