

National
Theatre

What's



On

Nov 2023 – June 2024

At a glance

Olivier

Roald Dahl's The Witches 7 Nov–27 Jan

Nye 24 Feb–11 May

Lyttelton

The House of Bernarda Alba 16 Nov–6 Jan

Pin 12 Jan–27 Jan

Dear Octopus 7 Feb–27 Mar

London Tide 10 Apr–22 June

Dorfman

Infinite Life 22 Nov–13 Jan

Till the Stars Come Down 24 Jan–16 Mar

Underdog: The Other Other Brontë 27 Mar–25 May

Tickets from £20 for all shows

Members book first

Join today and secure your seats for *Nye*, *Dear Octopus*, *London Tide*, *Till the Stars Come Down* and *Underdog: The Other Other Brontë*, nine days ahead of the general public.

Priority booking opens from 31 Oct.

Public booking opens on 9 Nov.

nationaltheatre.org.uk/memberships



Preferred Card Partner of the National Theatre

Welcome, we are thrilled to announce our new season of shows playing from January 2024. Stories are at the heart of everything we do and we have a fantastic line-up to share on the South Bank this spring.

The National Theatre's mission is to make theatre that entertains and inspires using our creativity, expertise and unique reach. As we mark our 60th anniversary, we're more committed than ever to sharing unforgettable theatre across the UK and around the world.

A lot may have changed over the last 60 years, but our commitment to audiences remains paramount. This season we are delighted to pilot **6.30pm performances for all new shows**, offering even more flexibility for audiences.

It's a pleasure to welcome you as you join us at the start of our next 60 years as the nation's theatre, and we look forward to seeing you at the South Bank soon.

Rufus Norris, Director

Kate Varah, Executive Director

Nye

a new play by Tim Price

Cast includes

Roger Evans
Jon Furlong
Kezrena James
Rebecca Killick
Michael Sheen
Sharon Small

Director

Rufus Norris

Set Designer

Vicki Mortimer

Costume Designer

Kinnetia Isidore

Lighting Designer

Paule Constable

Co-Choreographers

Steven Hoggett

Jess Williams

Composer

Will Stuart

Sound Designer

Donato Wharton

Projection Designer

Jon Driscoll

Casting Director

Alastair Coomer CDG

Company Voice Work

Cathleen McCarron

Tamsin Newlands

From campaigning at the coalfield to leading the battle to create the NHS, Aneurin 'Nye' Bevan is often referred to as the politician with greatest influence on our country without ever being Prime Minister.

Confronted with death, Nye's deepest memories lead him on a mind-bending journey back through his life; from childhood to mining underground, Parliament and fights with Churchill in an epic Welsh fantasia.

Michael Sheen (*Under Milk Wood*) is Nye Bevan in this surreal and spectacular journey through the life and legacy of the man who transformed Britain's welfare state. It's written by Tim Price (*Teh Internet is Serious Business*) and directed by Rufus Norris (*Small Island*).

24 Feb–11 May

Mon–Sat at 7.30pm

Wed and Sat at 2.15pm and 7.30pm

Tue and Thu selected performances at 6.30pm

Access performances:

AD, BSL, Captioned, Sensory Adapted

Tickets: £20–£99

To book and find out more:



One man's dream of the NHS

Aneurin Bevan by Elliott & Fry © National Portrait Gallery, London.
Image distortion by National Theatre Graphic Design Studio.

The commissioning of this play was generously supported by the Sir Peter Shaffer Charitable Foundation. This production is supported by the Huo Family Foundation. This play is a recipient of an Edgerton Foundation New Plays Award.

The family, from whose tentacles
we can never quite escape

Dear Octopus

by Dodie Smith

Cast includes

Lindsay Duncan

Malcolm Sinclair

Director

Emily Burns

Set and Costume

Designer

Frankie Bradshaw

Lighting Designer

Oliver Fenwick

Sound Designer

Tingying Dong

Composer

Nico Muhly

Casting Director

Bryony Jarvis-Taylor

Company Voice Work

Shereen Ibrahim

Liz Flint

When a golden wedding anniversary reunites the Randolph family on the eve of WWII, Dora and Charles must reckon with the adults their children have become. Their children, meanwhile, are haunted by the memory of the family they once were.

As the weekend's celebrations unfold, the family walks a tightrope between intimacy and estrangement, camaraderie and rivalry, love and hate.

Heartbreaking and joyful, this captivating revival of Dodie Smith's (*I Capture the Castle*) play is a moving dissection of family and what it means to grow up and return home.

Lindsay Duncan (*Hansard*) plays Dora in this beautiful, contemporary production, directed by Emily Burns (*Jack Absolute Flies Again*).

7 Feb–27 Mar

Mon–Sat at 7.30pm

Wed and Sat at 2pm and 7.30pm

Tue and Thu selected performances at 6.30pm

Access performances:

AD, BSL, Captioned, Chilled

Tickets: £20–£99

To book and find out more:



Photography (Lindsay Duncan) by Kelvin Murray.

London Tide

based on Charles Dickens' *Our Mutual Friend*

adapted by Ben Power

songs by PJ Harvey and Ben Power

Cast includes

Brandon Grace
Scott Karim
Bella Maclean
Ami Tredrea
Peter Wight

Director

Ian Rickson

Set and Costume

Designer

Bunny Christie

Lighting Designer

Jack Knowles

Music Director

Ian Ross

Co-Sound Designers

Tingying Dong

Christopher Shutt

Movement Director

Anna Morrissey

Casting Director

Bryony Jarvis-Taylor

A storm rages and, in the darkest part of the night, a body is pulled from the swirling Thames.

Across the city, two young women confront an uncertain future. In Limehouse, Lizzie Hexam struggles to break free of the river and its dark secrets. On the other side of town, Bella Wilfer mourns a lost marriage. The appearance of the mysterious John Rokesmith has the potential to change their lives for ever. Will they sink or swim?

This romantic and propulsive thriller is a hymn to the city and the river that runs through it. Directed by Ian Rickson (*Translations*) and adapted by Ben Power (*The Lehman Trilogy*), with original songs throughout, the genius of Dickens meets the fierce musical imagination of acclaimed singer-songwriter, PJ Harvey.

10 Apr – 22 June

Mon–Sat at 7pm

Wed and Sat at 1pm and 7pm

Tue and Thu selected performances at 6.30pm

Access performances:

AD, BSL, Captioned, Sensory Adapted

Tickets: £20–£99

To book and find out more:

This production is supported by the National Theatre's
Official Hotel Partner Edwardian Hotels.



Photography by Tim Marshall on Unsplash.

It begins like this.
With the dusk and the storm and the Thames...



Everyone loves a wedding...

Photography (Marc Wootton and Sinéad Matthews) by Simon Sorted.

Till the Stars Come Down

a new play by Beth Steel

Cast includes

Lorraine Ashbourne
Lucy Black
Lisa McGrillis
Sinéad Matthews
Derek Riddell
Ruby Stokes
Marc Wootton

Director

Bijan Sheibani

Set and Costume

Designer

Samal Blak

Lighting Designer

Paule Constable

Choreographer and

Movement Director

Aline David

Sound Designer

Gareth Fry

Fight Director

Kev McCurdy

Casting Director

Alastair Coomer CDG

Dialect Coach

Charmian Hoare

Company Voice Work

Cathleen McCarron

Staff Director

Stephan Mysko
von Schultze

It's Sylvia and Marek's wedding and you are all invited.

Over the course of a hot summer's day, a family gathers to welcome a newcomer into their midst. But as the vodka flows and dances are shared, passions boil over and the limits of love are tested.

What happens when the happiest day of your life opens the door to a new, frightening and uncertain future?

Directed by Bijan Sheibani (*A Taste of Honey*, *Barber Shop Chronicles*), this new play by former National Theatre writer-in-residence Beth Steel (*The House of Shades*) is a passionate, heartbreaking and hilarious portrayal of a larger-than-life family struggling to come to terms with a changing world.

24 Jan–16 Mar

Mon–Sat at 7.30pm

Wed and Sat at 2.30pm and 7.30pm

Tue and Thu selected performances at 6.30pm

Access performances:

AD, BSL, Captioned, Chilled, SCG

Tickets: £20–£65

To book and find out more:



Underdog: The Other Other Brontë

a new play by Sarah Gordon

a co-production with Northern Stage

Cast includes

Rhiannon Clements

Gemma Whelan

Director

Natalie Ibu

Set and Costume

Designer

Grace Smart

Lighting Designer

Zoe Spurr

Sound Designer

Alexandra Faye

Braithwaite

Casting Director

Naomi Downham

Charlotte Brontë has a confession about how one sister became an idol, and the other became known as the third sister. You know the one. No, not that one. The other, other one... Anne.

This is not a story about well-behaved women.

This is a story about the power of words. It's about sisters and sisterhood, love and jealousy, support and competition.

Directed by Northern Stage Artistic Director Natalie Ibu (*The White Card*), Sarah Gordon's (*The Edit*) new play is an irreverent retelling of the life and legend of the Brontë sisters, and the story of the sibling power dynamics that shaped their uneven rise to fame.

27 Mar–25 May

Mon–Sat at 7.30pm

Wed and Sat at 2.30pm and 7.30pm

Tue and Thu selected performances at 6.30pm

Access performances:

AD, BSL, Captioned, Sensory Adapted

Tickets: £20–£65

To book and find out more:



Reader, I think you know who is most quotable

The Brontë Sisters by Patrick Branwell Brontë, circa 1834 © National Portrait Gallery, London.
Illustration by National Theatre Graphic Design Studio

A large, stylized number '60' is rendered in white against a solid red background. The '6' is on the left and the '0' is on the right. The text 'Years on Stage' is positioned inside the right-hand '0'.

**Years
on Stage**



Hamlet (1963) Peter O'Toole as Hamlet. Photo by Angus McBean.

Sarah Hemming talks to Director Rufus Norris about 60 years of the National Theatre

On 22 October 1963, the actor Peter O'Toole stepped onto a stage to deliver Hamlet's famous soliloquy, 'To be or not to be'. It was a speech even more highly charged than usual. Because this was the opening night for the brand-new National Theatre, which had itself hovered between states of 'being' and 'not being' for many decades. Sixty years on, with the National now a seminal presence on the world

stage and a critical player in the nation's cultural identity, it's hard to conceive that there was a struggle simply to bring it into existence.

It wasn't until the country emerged from the turbulence of two world wars and into the bright optimism of the 1960s that the National Theatre company finally arrived, with the great actor Sir Laurence Olivier as its first Director. For 13 years, the company's home was the handsome Old Vic Theatre. Half a mile away, the bespoke building, now so synonymous with the institution, slowly took shape on the bank of the River Thames.



Amadeus (2016) Lucian Msamati as Antonio Salieri. Photo by Marc Brenner.



Othello (2022) Giles Terera as Othello and Rosy McEwen as Desdemona. Photo by Myah Jeffers.

Key to both the company's thinking and the design of the new building (which opened in 1976) was that the desire, voiced decades earlier by the playwright Harley Granville Barker, to make a theatre that spoke to and for the nation: in his words, 'the property of the nation'. Since then successive Directors have sought to interrogate those guiding principles afresh in response to the world around them: to examine what it means to make 'theatre' and to be 'national', in both a domestic and global context.

'We have to walk the talk,' says current Director Rufus Norris. 'A national theatre can't be focused on one thing. It's got to have an eye to the present, an eye to the future and an eye to the heritage.'

'Our audience, if we're a National Theatre, is as broad as the nation is,' he adds. 'There's been a big push to diversify the artists and the staff. And the inevitable consequence of that is it also changes the demographic of the audience to make the audience more national. It's all based on the question "What is our nation? Is that being represented on our stages?"'

In line with these priorities, the National Theatre's 60th birthday celebrations focus on broadening access, particularly for young people. 3,600 free tickets – 60 tickets for

60 performances in October – will be available for 16–25-year-olds and ten new titles will be released onto the National Theatre Collection. In an initiative called Take Your Seats, there will be a celebratory worldwide stream of *Othello* (with the production free to watch on National Theatre at Home for a further week).

Turning 60 is a landmark in the life of any person or institution – but the National Theatre hits this pivotal moment at a time of great upheaval and uncertainty. The impacts of the pandemic and the cost-of-living crisis have created a challenging environment for the entire theatre community.



Grenfell: in the words of survivors (2023). Photo by Sophie Wedgwood.



The Oresteia: The Daughters of Darkness (1999) Furies. Photo by Ivan Kyncl.

That makes collaboration all the more important, says Norris. And, for all the uncertainty facing the industry, Norris is adamant that the National Theatre will still be here in another 60 years.

'We are a world-leading creative sector, this is a world-leading organisation and there's a lot to celebrate and feel confident about ... So it's about having the confidence to take those risks. So long as you do it well, audiences will really appreciate that. 'Theatre will never die. People like being together; people like being in

an audience together. We love the collective experience.'

Sarah Hemming writes about theatre for the Financial Times. She is the author of The National Theatre Guide, available at the National Theatre Bookshop instore and online.

This feature is extracted from a longer article, available in current National Theatre programmes.



A musical adventure

Illustration by Laurie Avon.

Roald Dahl's *The Witches*

book and lyrics by Lucy Kirkwood

music and lyrics by Dave Malloy

a co-production with Roald Dahl Story Company

Cast includes

Julie Armstrong
Chrissie Bhima
Zoe Birkett
Maddison Bullement
Miracle Chance
Daniele Coombe
Richard David-Caine
Molly-May Gardiner
Tiffany Graves
Adrian Grove
Irvine Iqbal
Katherine Kingsley
Bobbie Little
Tania Mathurin
Amira Matthews
Jacob Maynard
Laura Medforth
Ekow Quartey
Ben Redfern
Daniel Rigby
Maggie Service
Sally Ann Triplett
Alexandra Waite-Roberts

Director

Lyndsey Turner
Set and Costume Designer

Lizzie Clachan

Choreographer

Stephen Mear

Music Supervisor

Nigel Lilley

Music Director

Cat Beveridge

Lighting Designer

Bruno Poet

Co-Sound Designers

Alexander Caplen

Ian Dickinson

for Autograph

Video Designer

Ash J Woodward

Co-Illusions Designers

and **Directors**

Chris Fisher

Will Houston

Casting Director

Bryony Jarvis-Taylor

Voice Coach and

Children's Singing Coach

Liz Flint

Dialect Coach

Edda Sharpe

Associate Director

Séimí Campbell

Associate Set Designer

Shankho Chaudhuri

Associate Costume

Designer

Johanna Coe

Associate Choreographer

Ebony Molina

Associate Music Director

Natalie Pound

Children's and Assistant

Music Director

Sarah Morrison

Associate Wigs, Hair

and Make-up Designer

Kim Kasim

Staff Director

Priya Patel Appleby

Everything you know about witches is wrong. Forget the pointy hats and broomsticks: they're the most dangerous creatures on earth.

And now they've come up with their most evil plan yet.

The thing standing in their way is Luke and his Gran. But he's only ten and she's got a dodgy heart. Time is short, danger is everywhere, and they've got just one chance to stop the witches from squalloping every stinking little child in England.

The Witches is a rip-roaring musical version of Roald Dahl's timeless tale, filled with wit, daring and heart. With book and lyrics by Olivier Award-winner Lucy Kirkwood, music and lyrics by Tony Award-nominee Dave Malloy, and directed by Lyndsey Turner.

7 Nov–27 Jan

Mon–Sat at 7pm

Wed and Sat at 1.30pm and 7pm

Access performances:

AD, BSL, Captioned, Sensory Adapted

Tickets: £20–£99

To book and find out more:

For details of under-18s discounts please see our website.



The development of new music theatre is supported by the Genesis Foundation through the Genesis Music Theatre Programme. This is an Edgerton New Plays Commission. New Play Commissions are also supported by the Pritzker Pucker Family Foundation.

Costumes for this production supported by Jordan Roth.

The House of Bernarda Alba

by Alice Birch

after Federico García Lorca

a co-production with Playful Productions

Cast

Lizzie Annis
Pearl Chanda
Rosalind Eleazar
Isis Hainsworth
Bryony Hannah
Catharine Humphrys
Thusitha Jayasundera
Asha Kingsley
Marcia Lecky
James McHugh
Michael Naylor
Celia Nelson
Eileen Nicholas
Eliot Salt
Ellouise Shakespeare-Hart
Georgia Silver
Imogen Mackie Walker
Harriet Walter
Charlotte Workman

Director

Rebecca Frecknall

Set and Costume Designer

Merle Hensel

Lighting Designer

Lee Curran

Composer

Isobel Waller-Bridge

Sound Designer

Peter Rice

Intimacy Coordinator

Ingrid Mackinnon

Fight Director

Owain Gwynn

Casting Directors

Alastair Coomer CDG

Naomi Downham

Staff Director

Lilac Yosiphon

In the domain of Bernarda Alba, a daughter who disobeys is no longer a daughter.

Forced to live under their mother's tight grip as they mourn their father's death, can five sisters survive when young Adela dares for passion and freedom?

Olivier Award-winner Harriet Walter (*Succession*) plays the formidable matriarch, guarding her reputation against the rising tide of her family's desires in this devastatingly dark and comic drama exploring the consequences of oppressing women.

Following Olivier Award-winning revivals of *Cabaret* and *A Streetcar Named Desire*, Rebecca Frecknall makes her directorial debut at the National Theatre with Alice Birch's (*Normal People*) radical version of Federico García Lorca's modern masterpiece.

16 Nov–6 Jan

Mon–Sat at 7.30pm

Wed and Sat at 2.15pm and 7.30pm

Access performances:

AD, BSL, Captioned, Chilled

Tickets: £20–£99

To book and find out more:



You bring such scandal to my house

Photography (Harriet Walter) by Charlie Clift.

This production is supported by the Red Butterfly Foundation.

‘Supremely successful. Riveting theatre’
★★★★★ *The Stage*



Illustration by Sam Green.

Infinite Life

a new play by Annie Baker
a co-production with Atlantic Theater Company

Cast

Marylouise Burke
Mia Katigbak
Christina Kirk
Kristine Nielsen
Brenda Pressley
Pete Simpson

Director

James Macdonald

Set Designer

dots

Costume Designer

Ásta Bennie Hostetter

Lighting Designer

Isabella Byrd

Sound Designer

Bray Poor

Movement Director

Sasha Milavic Davies

Props Designer

Noah Mease

Associate

Sound Designer

Nathan Rubio

Staff Director

Georgia Green

Marylouise Burke,
Mia Katigbak,
Christina Kirk,
Kristine Nielsen,
Brenda Pressley and
Pete Simpson are
appearing with the
permission of Equity
UK, incorporating
the Variety Artists'
Federation, pursuant
to an exchange
programme between
American Equity and
Equity UK.

Five women in Northern California lie outside on
chaise longues and philosophise.

Annie Baker's (*The Flick*, *The Antipodes*) new play
is a surprisingly funny enquiry into the complexity of
suffering, and what it means to desire in a body
that's failing you.

James Macdonald (*The Welkin*, *Who's Afraid of
Virginia Woolf?*) directs this bold, dreamlike story,
direct from a run at the Tony Award-winning
Atlantic Theater Company in New York.

'Annie Baker is one of the most singular
talents in modern theatre.' *Guardian*

22 Nov–13 Jan

Mon–Sat at 7.30pm

Wed and Sat at 2.30pm and 7.30pm

Access performances:

AD, BSL, Captioned, Chilled, SCG

Tickets: £20–£65

To book and find out more:



The New American Work Programme is supported by
Lawton W Fitt & James I McLaren Foundation.

‘You can’t beat Gecko, Amit Lahav has a distinct theatrical style which is unique in British Theatre’
Lyn Gardner, *Stage Door*



Photography by Richard Haughton.

Kīn

created by Amit Lahav

a Gecko Production

in association with the National Theatre

supported by HOME Manchester, Lighthouse Poole and London International Mime Festival

Cast includes

Chris Evans
Madeleine Fairminer
Vanessa Guevara
Flores
Saju Hari
Amit Lahav
Wai Shan Vivian Luk
Miguel Hernando
Torres Umba
Mario Patrón
Kenny Wing Tao Ho

Director

Amit Lahav

Set and Costume

Designer

Rhys Jarman

Lighting

Chris Swain

Sound

Mark Melville

Music

Dave Price

In 1932, Leah and her family escaped persecution and embarked on a journey from Yemen to Palestine.

Ninety years later, her grandson Amit Lahav (Artistic Director of Gecko) reflects on the life-changing decision his family made to flee and build a better life.

This powerful piece of physical theatre is a provocative story of desperation, compassion and acceptance, inspired by the migration stories of Gecko's international performers and the extraordinary voyage Leah undertook as a young child.

12–27 Jan

Mon–Sat at 7.30pm

Wed and Sat at 2.15pm and 7.30pm

Access performances:

AD, Captioned

Tickets: £20–£89

To book and find out more:



Food & Drink



Our newly opened restaurant, **Lasdun**, is inspired by modernist design and the rich diverse culinary history of London, with a carefully curated menu offering a series of standout main dishes and sharing plates.

Forza Wine, the South London venue known for its small plates, views and drinks, has opened its doors on the Weston Terrace.

Join us for delicious 'sort of Italian' snacks, natural wines and cocktails until late.

Lasdun and Forza Wine are open for lunch and dinner, pre and post theatre.

Book now on our website
nationaltheatre.org.uk

The Linbury Prize Exhibition



Step into a world of artistic innovation of stage design at the National Theatre.

This exhibition features the work of 12 talented winners of the renowned Linbury Prize for Stage Design 2023, reshaping the art of stage and set design. Join us for an inspiring look into the creative minds shaping the next generation of theatrical storytelling.

A free exhibition in the Lyttelton Lounge opening from Nov 2023.

How to book

Online	nationaltheatre.org.uk
By phone	020 3989 5455 9.30am–6pm, Mon to Fri 10am–6pm, Sat
In person	South Bank, London, SE1 9PX 10am–6pm, Mon to Sat

Tickets available from £20 for all shows

Adjusted ticket prices are available for Access list members

To book access tickets call our access booking line on 020 7452 3961.

Under-18s, 16–25-year-olds and over-60s prices

Please see the website or contact the Box Office for more details.

Members book first

Join today and secure your seats for *Nye*, *Dear Octopus*, *London Tide*, *Till the Stars Come Down* and *Underdog: The Other Other Brontë*, nine days ahead of the general public.

Priority booking opens from 31 Oct.

Public booking opens on 9 Nov.

nationaltheatre.org.uk/memberships

Book early for the best seats

Prices may change according to demand.

No booking fee online. A £3 fee per transaction for phone bookings.



020 3989 5455

nationaltheatre.org.uk



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From the Archive

Fury mask from *The Oresteia*, 1981

This is a mask for a Fury in Peter Hall's *The Oresteia* (1981). Jocelyn Herbert designed the set, costumes and masks for this production, the first to use masks at the National Theatre. Herbert's designs, masks and models from her whole career are housed at the National Theatre Archive.

The National Theatre's Archive documents every production from opening night in 1963 right up to the present day. The Archive is free and open to everyone by appointment. To find out more: nationaltheatre.org.uk/about-us/archive