

# National Theatre

13 October 2023

REHEARSAL PHOTOS RELEASED FOR THE NATIONAL THEATRE'S MUSICAL VERSION OF ROALD DAHL'S *THE WITCHES*, PLAYING IN THE OLIVIER THEATRE THIS CHRISTMAS



[Click here for images by Marc Brenner](#)

The National Theatre today releases photos of the company in rehearsal for Roald Dahl's *The Witches*, a co-production with the Roald Dahl Story Company playing in the Olivier theatre from November. Directed by **Lyndsey Turner** (*The Crucible*) with book and lyrics by Olivier Award-winner **Lucy Kirkwood** (*Mosquitoes*) and music and lyrics by Tony Award-nominee **Dave Malloy** (*Natasha*, *Pierre & The Great Comet of 1812*), *The Witches* is a rip-roaring musical version of Roald Dahl's timeless tale, filled with wit, daring and heart.

*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 only thing standing in their way is Luke and his Gran. But he's 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 cast includes three-time Olivier-nominated **Katherine Kingsley** (*The Larkins*) as the Grand High Witch, BAFTA Award-winner **Daniel Rigby** (*Accidental Death of an Anarchist*) as hotel manager Mr Stringer and **Sally Ann Triplett** (*Oklahoma!*) as Gran.

Playing Luke's parents are **Laura Medforth** as Mum and **Richard David-Caine** as Dad, playing Bruno's parents are **Ekow Quartey** as Mr Jenkins and **Maggie Service** as Mrs Jenkins, and playing Chef Chevalier at Hotel Magnificent is **Irvine Iqbal**.

Playing the witches are **Julie Armstrong**, **Chrissie Bhima**, **Zoe Birkett**, **Maddison Bullement**, **Miracle Chance**, **Daniele Coombe**, **Molly-May Gardiner**, **Tiffany Graves**, **Bobbie Little**, **Tania Mathurin**, **Amira Matthews**, and **Alexandra Waite-Roberts**.

Completing the team at Hotel Magnificent are **Adrian Grove**, **Jacob Maynard** and **Ben Redfern** and completing the company is **Emily Langham**.

The cast will be playing multiple roles as part of the ensemble.

Amongst the young cast and playing our hero, Luke, are **Bertie Caplan**, **Frankie Keita** and **Vishal Soni**. Playing Bruno are **Cian Eagle-Service**, **George Menezes Cutts** and **William Skinner**, and playing Helga are **Jersey Blu Georgia**, **Asanda Abbie Masike** and **Chloe Raphael**.

Completing the young ensemble are **Nesim Adnan**, **Alaia Broadbent**, **Chenai Broadbent**, **Cristian Buttaci**, **Sekhani Dumezweni**, **Rudy Gibson**, **Florence Gore**, **Elara Jagger**, **Annabelle Jones**, **Jemima Loosen**, **Charlie Man-Evans**, **Iesa Miller**, **Jack Philpott**, **Sienna Sibley**, **Savannah Skinner-Henry**, **Poppy-Mei Soon**, **Benjamin Spalding**, **Dylan Trigger**, **Alice Valeriano**, **Sasha Watson-Lobo** and **Stella Yeoman**.

One of Roald Dahl's most loved stories, *The Witches* is a brilliant blend of his trademark humour and hair-raising action, featuring one of his most iconic characters, the Grand High Witch. A firm fan favourite across the generations, the book has sold over 11 million copies since it was first published.

The set and costume designer is **Lizzie Clachan** with choreographer **Stephen Mear**, music supervisor **Nigel Lilley**, music director **Cat Beveridge**, lighting designer **Bruno Poet**, co-sound designers **Alexander Caplen** and **Ian Dickinson**, video designer **Ash J Woodward**,

illusions by **Chris Fisher** and **Will Houstoun**, casting director **Bryony Jarvis-Taylor**, associate director **Séimí Campbell**, staff director **Priya Patel Appleby**, associate set designer **Shankho Chaudhuri**, associate costume designer **Johanna Coe**, associate wigs, hair and makeup designer **Kim Kasim**, associate choreographer **Ebony Molina**, associate music director **Natalie Pound** and children's and assistant music director **Sarah Morrison**.

*The Witches* will play in the Olivier theatre from Tuesday 7 November until Saturday 27 January, with press night on Tuesday 21 November. It is recommended for ages 8+.

Tickets are available from £20 and are on sale now via the National Theatre website. For further information, including details about assisted performances, please visit [nationaltheatre.org.uk](http://nationaltheatre.org.uk).

**ENDS**

### **Notes to Editor**

For further press information contact Louisa Terry: [lterry@nationaltheatre.org.uk](mailto:lterry@nationaltheatre.org.uk)

For images [click here](#).

### **Assisted performances of *The Witches*:**

**Captioned:** Thursday 14 December – 7pm, Wednesday 17 January – 1pm, Wednesday 24 January – 7pm, Saturday 27 January – 1.30pm

**BSL Interpreted:** Thursday 28 December – 7pm, Wednesday 17 January – 1pm

**Audio described:** Saturday 9 December – 1.30pm, Saturday 20 January – 1.30pm, Wednesday 24 January – 1pm

**Sensory adapted:** Thursday 21 December – 7pm

### **With thanks**

The development of new music theatre is supported by the Genesis Foundation through the Genesis Music Theatre Programme.

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

Costumes for this production supported by Jordan Roth.

### **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](https://nationaltheatre.org.uk)

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### **About the Roald Dahl Story Company**

The Roald Dahl Story Company (RDSC) is the home of Roald Dahl's beloved stories and characters. With over 300 million books sold globally and translated into 68 languages, we're one of the world's greatest story brands. We're now part of Netflix, and together, united by our love of these great stories, we're building a unique Roald Dahl universe.

We are working with some of the world's best storytellers and creative minds to bring our stories to life in ways that will delight current and new fans across animated and live action films and series, publishing, theatre, immersive experiences, games, consumer products, brand partnerships, and more.