

# National Theatre

## Rehearsals begin for the National Theatre's upcoming schools tour of *Jekyll & Hyde*, reaching 10,000 young people nationwide

- The production is on sale to the public for the first time with two performances at The Lowry in Salford on 12 – 13 January 2024
- *Jekyll & Hyde* will visit school halls across the country for 9 weeks from 8 January – 16 March 2024
- The production will be seen by **10,000** young people nationwide from North Devon to Sunderland



For group image and cast headshots, click [here](#)

**Monday 27 November 2023**

Rehearsals start today for the National Theatre's upcoming touring production of **Evan Placey**'s radical reimagining of *Jekyll & Hyde*. Following the success of the *Jekyll & Hyde* schools tour in 2022, the production will be seen by students from 60 state secondary schools across the country from 8 January – 16 March 2024.

Directed by **Kirsty Housley**, the 9-week tour will be watched by over 10,000 students with the production visiting school halls across the country. For the first time the production will also visit The Lowry in Salford, with two public performances on 12 and 13 January now available to book.

In a reimagining of **Robert Louis Stevenson**'s classic tale, this new version sees Victorian England merged with the modern day as it explores how the repression of

female voices can be as prevalent today as it was in the 19th century. Confronting contemporary social issues such as identity, online personas, culpability and the right to protest, the production aims to bring education beyond the classroom and inspire students to engage with topical issues through the arts.

In partnership with local theatres, the production will be seen by students in schools across **Greater Manchester, Sunderland, Leicester, Stoke, Peterborough, Wakefield, Doncaster, Wolverhampton, Hornchurch** and **North Devon**. The Lowry and Victoria Hall in Stoke will also host performances exclusively for local schools. This will allow the tour to reach as wide an audience as possible and strengthen connections between schools and their local venues.

The cast includes **Sophie Atherton, Philip Bosworth, Wesley Bozonga, Ellie Gallimore, Scott Howland, Angela Jones, Andy Sellers** and **Lucy Elizabeth Thorburn**.

Costume and set designed by **Amanda Stoodley**, with lighting designer **Joshua Pharo**, associate lighting designer **Sarah Readman**, and **Benjamin Grant** as sound designer.

**Emma Tully**, a teacher from Sunderland said *“Theatre should belong to everybody and the work that the National Theatre does should belong to everybody. I feel like it does this with the school tours. It builds that bridge between you and our students and gives them access to a wider world.”*

**Rufus Norris**, Director of the National Theatre, said *“Theatre plays an important role in sparking discussions and developing skills that go beyond the classroom. We are delighted to be bringing back the schools’ touring production of Jekyll & Hyde to even more schools across the country. By visiting young people in their school halls and in their local venues we hope they will be inspired to continue exploring theatre and what their brilliant local venues have to offer.”*

The schools’ tour forms part of the NT’s *Theatre Nation Partnerships* network to grow and sustain new audiences for live theatre and create more opportunities to engage in the arts. Our partner theatres include **Queen’s Theatre Hornchurch, Theatre Royal Wakefield, CAST** in Doncaster, **Sunderland Culture** and **Sunderland Empire, The Wolverhampton Grand, Curve** in Leicester, **Landmark Theatres** in North Devon and Peterborough, **Restoke, Regent Theatre & Victoria Hall** in Stoke, **Trowbridge Town Hall** and **The Lowry** in Salford.

The National Theatre’s Learning department aims to inspire creativity and boost skills for the future workforce of the sector and build a more creative nation. With 85% of all UK state secondary schools now signed up to the National Theatre Collection, National Theatre Learning is present in every local authority in the UK through its in-person and digital programmes, making it easier for schools to place arts and creativity at the heart of education.

For more information about *Theatre Nation Partnerships* and the schools’ tour, visit the [NT Website](#).

For tickets to the public performances at The Lowry on 12 and 13 January, please visit [The Lowry website](#).

**ENDS**

### **Notes to the Editor**

For a group image and cast headshots, click [here](#).

For press enquiries and more information, please contact Orla Bentley, at [OBentley@nationaltheatre.org.uk](mailto:OBentley@nationaltheatre.org.uk)

### **Tour Schedule**

Date	Location
8 – 12 Jan	Greater Manchester
15 – 19 Jan	Sunderland
22 – 26 Jan	Leicester
29 Jan – 2 Feb	Stoke
5 – 9 Feb	Peterborough
19 – 22 Feb	Wakefield and Doncaster
26 Feb – 1 Mar	Wolverhampton
4 – 8 Mar	Hornchurch
11 – 15 Mar	North Devon

### **With Thanks**

The Mohn Westlake Foundation supports nationwide Learning programmes for young people.

Nationwide learning is supported by Buffini Chao Foundation and Clore Duffield Foundation, Tim & Sarah Bunting, MFPA Trust Fund for the Training of Handicapped Children in the Arts, Behrens Foundation, Cleopatra Trust and The Andor Charitable Trust.

Secondary Schools Touring is supported by Delta Air Lines, The Ingram Trust, The Constance Travis Charitable Trust, Susan Miller & Byron Grote, The Anthony and Elizabeth Mellows Charitable Settlement, The Dow Clewer Foundation and Shears Foundation.

### **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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