

**REHEARSAL IMAGES JUST RELEASED FOR
THE WEST END TRANSFER OF SAM MENDES'
THE MOTIVE AND THE CUE
RECENT WINNER OF 'BEST PLAY' AT THE EVENING
STANDARD THEATRE AWARDS**



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Rehearsal images have been released for the National Theatre and Neal Street Productions critically acclaimed West End transfer, ***The Motive and the Cue***. Recent winner of 'Best Play' at the Evening Standard Theatre Awards, this '*brilliant new play*' (Financial Times), written by **Jack Thorne** and directed by **Sam Mendes**, is inspired by the making of Richard Burton and Sir John Gielgud's landmark Broadway production of *Hamlet* in 1964. Offering a glimpse into the politics of a rehearsal room and the relationship between art and celebrity, ***The Motive and the Cue*** will play for a strictly limited run at the Noël Coward Theatre from 9 December until 23 March 2024.

Following a sold-out run at the National Theatre, **Johnny Flynn**, **Mark Gatiss** and **Tuppence Middleton** return to play the iconic roles of Richard Burton, John Gielgud and Elizabeth Taylor in this '*thrilling rollercoaster of high drama*' (The Sunday Times).

Joining them in this '*theatrical extravaganza*' (Evening Standard) is, **Allan Corduner** as Hume Cronyn, **Sarah Woodward** as Eileen Herlie, **Rebecca Collingwood** as Linda Marsh, **Luke Norris** as William Redfield, **Laurence Ubong Williams** as Hugh McHaffie, **Elena Delia** as Jessica Levy, **Huw Parmenter** as Clement Fowler, **Shaun Yusuf McKee** as Robert Milli, **Adam Sina** as Frederick Young, **Ryan Ellsworth** as George Voskovec, **Daniel Krikler** as Dillon Evans and Waiter, **David Tarkenter** as Alfred Drake, **Kate Tydman** as Christine Cooper, **Mark Extance** as Mick Burrows and **Stephanie Siadatan** as Susannah Mason.

1964: Richard Burton, newly married to Elizabeth Taylor, is to play the title role in an experimental new Broadway production of Hamlet under John Gielgud's exacting direction. But as rehearsals progress, two ages of theatre collide and the collaboration between actor and director soon threatens to unravel.

Mendes is joined by set designer, **Es Devlin**; costume designer, **Katrina Lindsay**; lighting designer, **Jon Clark**; composer, **Benjamin Kwasi Burrell**; sound designer, **Paul Arditti** with casting by **Alastair Coomer CDG** and **Naomi Downham**. West End director, **Zoé Ford Burnett** and associate director **Yasmin Hafesji** complete the creative team.

Originally commissioned by Neal Street Productions and developed and co-produced with the National Theatre, ***The Motive and the Cue*** played to sold-out audiences in spring 2023. It is inspired by *Letters from an Actor* by **William Redfield** and *John Gielgud Directs Richard Burton in Hamlet* by **Richard L. Sterne**.

Tickets for this '*palpable hit*' (Daily Telegraph) are available from £20 at TheMotiveandtheCue.com with assisted performances across the run.

ENDS

For further information please contact **Clare McCormack** at cmccormack@nationaltheatre.org.uk and **Holly Nicholls** at honicholls@nationaltheatre.org.uk

Listings Information

Dates: From 9 December 2023 – 23 March 2024
Press Night: 18 December 2023

Website: TheMotiveandtheCue.com

Address: Noël Coward Theatre (a Delfont Mackintosh Theatre),
85 - 88 St Martin's Lane,
London,
WC2N 4AP

Assisted Performances:

BSL Performance: Saturday 3 February 2024, 2pm

Captioned Performances: Tuesday 20 February 2024, 7:30pm & Saturday 9 March 2024, 2pm

Audio Described: Thursday 29 February 2024, 7:30pm & Saturday 16 March 2024, 2pm

Tickets: From £20

Box Office: Book via delfontmackintosh.co.uk / 0344 482 5151*
*Calls to Delfont Mackintosh Theatres 03 numbers cost no more than a national rate call to an 01 or 02 number (Lines open Monday - Saturday 10am - 7.30pm)

Or book via nationaltheatre.org.uk

For details about how to purchase in person, please visit
noelcowardtheatre.co.uk

Running Time: 2 hours 40 minutes, including an interval

Follow us on social media:

Instagram: @motiveandthecue
Twitter: @MotiveandTheCue
Facebook: The Motive and The Cue

Digital Assets

- **Rehearsal Images** are available [here](#)
- **Marketing image** is available [here](#)
- **Production Images** (featuring original cast) are available [here](#)
- **Official Trailer Download File** is available [here](#) (please note it features the original 2023 National Theatre production)
- **Official Trailer Embed Link** is available [here](#) (please note it features the original 2023 National Theatre production)

Biographies

- Cast Biographies are available [here](#)
- Creative Biographies are available [here](#)

Notes to Editors

With Thanks

The Motive and the Cue is supported by Mark Pigott KBE, KStJ.

This play is a recipient of an Edgerton Foundation New Plays Award.

About the National Theatre

The National Theatre's mission is to make world-class theatre, for everyone. The NT creates and shares unforgettable stories with audiences across the UK and around the world. On its own stages, on tour, in schools, on cinema screens and streaming at home, it strives to be accessible, inclusive and sustainable.

The National Theatre empowers artists and craftspeople to make world-leading work, investing in talent and developing new productions with a wide range of theatre companies at its New Work Department.

Our nation thrives on fresh talent and new ideas, so the National Theatre works with young people and teachers right across the UK through performance, writing and technical programmes to ignite the creativity of the next generation.

Together with communities, the NT creates ambitious works of participatory theatre in deep partnerships that unite theatres and local organisations – showing that nothing brings us together like theatre.

The National Theatre needs your support to shape a bright, creative future.

For more information, please visit nationaltheatre.org.uk

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About Neal Street Productions

Neal Street Productions is one of the UK's most respected production companies, producing film, television and theatre. Founded 2003 by Sam Mendes, Pippa Harris and Caro Newling, it makes distinctive, popular award-winning projects on both sides of the Atlantic.

TV series: *Call the Midwife*, *Britannia*, *Informer*, *Penny Dreadful*, *Stuart A Life Backwards*, *The Hollow Crown*.

Films include Mendes' *Empire of Light*, *1917*, *Revolutionary Road*, *Away We Go*, *Jarhead* and *Things We Lost in The Fire*.

Current/ recent theatre: *Hamnet* (co-producer RSC), *The Motive and the Cue* & *The Lehman Trilogy* (co-produced with National Theatre), *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory* (co-produced with Leeds Playhouse and touring nationally), *Walking with Ghosts*, the new stage adaptation of *Local Hero* (co-produced with Chichester Festival Theatre).

Previous theatre includes: *The Ferryman*, *This House*, *Shrek the Musical*, *The Bridge Project*.

The theatre slate is overseen by Newling together with producer, Georgia Gatti. In 2015 Neal Street moved under the umbrella of parent company, All3Media, owned jointly between Discovery Communications and Liberty Global.

nealstreetproductions.com