

National
Theatre

What's



On

Feb–Sep 2024

At a glance

Olivier

Nye 24 Feb–11 May

Alan Bleasdale's Boys from the Blackstuff 22 May–8 June

Mnemonic 22 June–10 Aug

Lyttelton

Dear Octopus 7 Feb–27 Mar

London Tide 10 Apr–22 June

The Grapes of Wrath 17 July–14 Sep

Dorfman

Till the Stars Come Down 24 Jan–16 Mar

Underdog: The Other Other Brontë 27 Mar–25 May

The Hot Wing King 11 July–14 Sep

Tickets from £20 for all shows

Members book first

Join today and secure your seats for *Alan Bleasdale's Boys from the Blackstuff*, *Mnemonic*, *The Grapes of Wrath* and *The Hot Wing King*, at least seven days ahead of the general public.

Patron and Supporting Cast booking opens on 30 Jan.

Priority membership booking opens on 1 Feb.

Public booking opens on 8 Feb.

nationaltheatre.org.uk/memberships

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Preferred Card Partner of the National Theatre

Welcome, we are delighted to announce our new season of shows playing from May 2024.

This spring and summer our stages will host an exhilarating range of work including the return of a *Complicité* classic.

James Graham's critically acclaimed adaptation of Alan Bleasdale's television drama *Boys from the Blackstuff* comes to the Olivier stage from Liverpool's Royal Court. Following swiftly is *Complicité's Mnemonic* which celebrates its 25th anniversary by playing at the National Theatre once again. The Lyttelton sees Frank Galati's powerful adaptation of Steinbeck's seminal novel *The Grapes of Wrath*. And in the Dorfman, Pulitzer Prize-winning *The Hot Wing King* by Katori Hall brings a taste of Memphis' culture and cuisine to the stage.

We look forward to welcoming you and this exciting programme of world-class theatre to the South Bank soon.

Rufus Norris, Director
Kate Varah, Executive Director

Boys from the Blackstuff

Alan Bleasdale's *Boys from the Blackstuff* by James Graham
a Liverpool's Royal Court production by arrangement with Bill Kenwright Limited

Cast includes

George Caple
Dominic Carter
Helen Carter
Nathan McMullen
Lauren O'Neil
Mark Womack
Barry Sloane

Director

Kate Wasserberg

Set and Costume Designer

Amy Jane Cook

Lighting Designer

Ian Scott

Movement Director

Rachael Nanyonjo

Composer and

Sound Designer

Dyfan Jones

Associate Sound

Designer

Kate Harvey

Audio Visual Designer

Jamie Jenkin

Associate Director

Francesca Goodridge

Fight Director

Rachel Bown-Williams
of Rc-Annie Ltd

80s Liverpool. Life is tough as Chrissie, Loggo, George, Dixie and Yosser play the game. But there is no work and no money. What are they supposed to do?

Find jobs, avoid the 'sniffers', work harder, work longer, buy cheaper, spend less? All whilst having a laugh along the way.

Following its ★★★★★ (*Daily Mail*) run at Liverpool's Royal Court, James Graham's (*Dear England*) powerful new adaptation comes to the South Bank, 40 years after Alan Bleasdale's ground-breaking television series. Directed by Kate Wasserberg (Artistic Director, Theatr Clwyd) in her National Theatre debut.

22 May–8 June

Mon–Sat at 7.30pm

Wed and Sat at 2.15pm and 7.30pm

Tue and Thu selected performances at 6.30pm

Assisted performances:

AD, BSL, Captioned

Tickets: £20–£99

To book and find out more:



'Gizza job. Go on, gizzit.'

Photography (Barry Sloane) by AB Photography

Mnemonic

conceived by Simon McBurney
a co-production with Complicité

Cast includes

Richard Katz
Kostas Philippoglou

Director

Simon McBurney

Set Designer

Michael Levine

Costume Designer

Christina Cunningham

Lighting Designer

Paul Anderson

Sound Designer

Christopher Shutt

Casting Director

Alastair Coomer CDG

Associate Director

Christina Deinsberger

Associate Set Designer

Peter Butler

Originally devised
by the company

mnemonic / ni'monik / adj. 1. assisting or intended to assist memory; 2. of memory

A body is found in the ice, and a woman is looking for her father while a man searches for his lost lover.

This story is as much about origins as it is about memory; who we are, how we came to be, how we remember what is lost. What is our relationship to the natural world, and how have our environments impacted our movement and subsequent relationship with who we are and where we come from?

25 years after its first staging, Complicité bring their 'Astonishing, transfixing, transcendent production' (*New York Times*) back to the National Theatre. Simon McBurney (*Drive Your Plow Over the Bones of the Dead*) directs.

22 June–10 Aug

Mon–Sat at 7.30pm

Wed and Sat at 2.30pm and 7.30pm

Tue and Thu selected performances at 6.30pm

Assisted performances:

AD, BSL, Captioned, Chilled

Tickets: £20–£99

To book and find out more:



'I shall remember *Mnemonic* all my life'

Guardian

Photography by Sebastian Hoppe.

The Grapes of Wrath

based on the novel by John Steinbeck
adapted by Frank Galati

Cast includes

Cherry Jones

Director

Carrie Cracknell

Set Designer

Alex Eales

Costume Designer

Evie Gurney

Lighting Designer

Guy Hoare

Composer

Stuart Earl

Casting Directors

Alastair Coomer CDG

Naomi Downham

Staff Director

Georgia Green

Forced to travel West in search of a promised land, the Joad family embark on an epic journey across America in the hope of finding work and a new life in California.

Their story is one of false hopes, wrong turns and broken dreams, but also a hymn to human kindness and a tribute to the endurance of the human spirit.

Carrie Cracknell (*Julie, The Deep Blue Sea*) directs Frank Galati's Tony Award-winning adaptation of John Steinbeck's masterpiece. Cherry Jones (*Succession, The Handmaid's Tale*) plays Ma Joad in this moving and deeply atmospheric story of a struggle against a hostile climate to find a place to call home.

17 July–14 Sep

Mon–Sat at 7pm

Wed and Sat at 1pm and 7pm

Tue and Thu selected performances at 6.30pm

Assisted performances:

AD, BSL, CAP, SCG, Relaxed, Dementia Friendly

Tickets: £20–£99

To book and find out more:



The great American novel reimagined

Art direction and design by National Theatre Graphic Design Studio.

The Pulitzer Prize-winning comedy
makes its UK premiere

The Hot Wing King

by Katori Hall

Cast includes

Jason Barnett

Kadiff Kirwan

Director

Roy Alexander Weise

Set and Costume

Designer

Rajha Shakiry

Lighting Designer

Joshua Pharo

Composer

Femi Temowo

Choreographer

DK Fashola

Casting Director

Jacob Sparrow

Dramatherapist

Samantha Adams

Dialect Coach

Hazel Holder

Things are heating up in Memphis as the annual Hot Wing Festival rolls into town. With their sights set on the crown, Cordell, his partner Dwayne and friends Isom and Big Charles team up again as the New Wing Order, with a new attitude and a mouth-watering new wing recipe.

But after an unexpected family emergency, their plans get derailed as the men navigate the meaning of love, family and staying true to yourself.

Full of laughter, song and healing, Katori Hall's (*Tina: The Tina Turner Musical*, *The Mountaintop*) Pulitzer Prize-winning comedy makes its London debut in a fiery new production directed by Roy Alexander Weise (*'Master Harold'... and the Boys*, *Nine Night*).

11 July – 14 Sep

Mon–Sat at 7.30pm

Wed and Sat at 2.15pm and 7.30pm

Tue and Thu selected performances at 6.30pm

Assisted performances:

AD, BSL, CAP, Relaxed, SCG

Tickets: £20–£65

To book and find out more:



The National Theatre's New Work programme is supported
by the Lawton W Fitt & James I McLaren Foundation

One man's dream of the NHS



Photography (Michael Sheen) by Rachel Louise Brown.

Nye

a new play by Tim Price

a co-production with Wales Millennium Centre

Cast

Remy Beasley
 Matthew Bulgo
 Dyfan Dwyfor
 Roger Evans
 Ross Foley
 Jon Furlong
 Daniel Hawksford
 Bea Holland
 Stephanie Jacob
 Kezrena James
 Tony Jayawardena
 Michael Keane
 Nicholas Khan
 Rebecca Killick
 Oliver Llewellyn-Jenkins
 Mark Matthews
 Rhodri Meilir
 Ashley Mejri
 Lee Mengo
 David Monteith
 Mali O'Donnell
 Sara Otung
 Michael Sheen
 Sharon Small

Director

Rufus Norris

Set Designer

Vicki Mortimer

Costume Designer

Kinnetha 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

Chloe Blake

Dialect Coach

Patricia Logue

Company Voice Work

Cathleen McCarron

Tamsin Newlands

Associate Director

Francesca Goodridge

Associate Set Designer

Matt Hellyer

Associate Costume Designer

Zoë Thomas-Webb

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

Assisted performances:

AD, BSL, Captioned, SCG, Sensory Adapted

Tickets: £20–£99

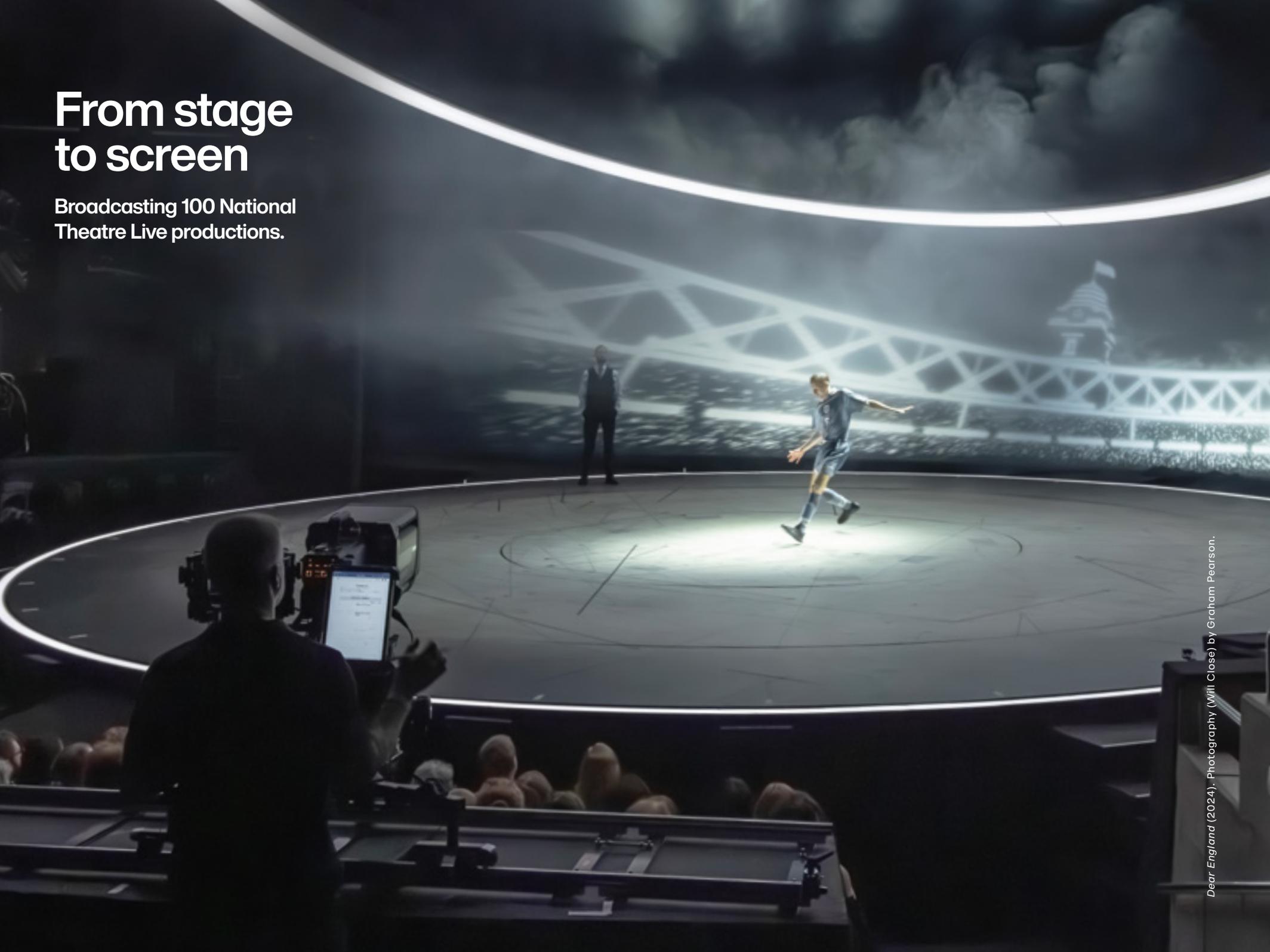
To book and find out more:



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

From stage to screen

Broadcasting 100 National
Theatre Live productions.



In April 2024, National Theatre Live celebrates its 100th cinema broadcast, *Nye*. We found out what really goes into creating a National Theatre Live.

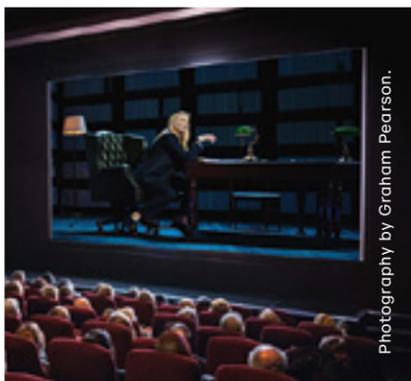
'I met a young producer last week,' says Celeste Markwell, Head of Programming for National Theatre Live, 'she said the reason that she became a theatre producer – she's from China – was because of NT Live. She saw *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time* and realised that London had an amazing theatre scene and that changed the entire trajectory of her life.'

Between them, Celeste Markwell and Head of Production and Content, Jess Richardson, have 12 years' experience of working

on National Theatre Live. 'I think the thing that has kept me working on this for such a long time is how much joy you see it brings to people who can't get to the National Theatre,' says Richardson.

At its inception in 2009, National Theatre Live was a ground-breaking way of sharing live theatre with cinema audiences. Now National Theatre Live reaches over 800 venues in the UK alone and 2,000 worldwide and has been watched by over 11 million people. Sharing theatre in this way has led to National Theatre Live becoming an integral part of the cultural offering in local venues and around the world. 'It is quite a challenging environment for cinemas, post-pandemic,' says Markwell 'we look to share the hot tickets from across the National Theatre and the West End for audiences to experience the best of British theatre in their community'.

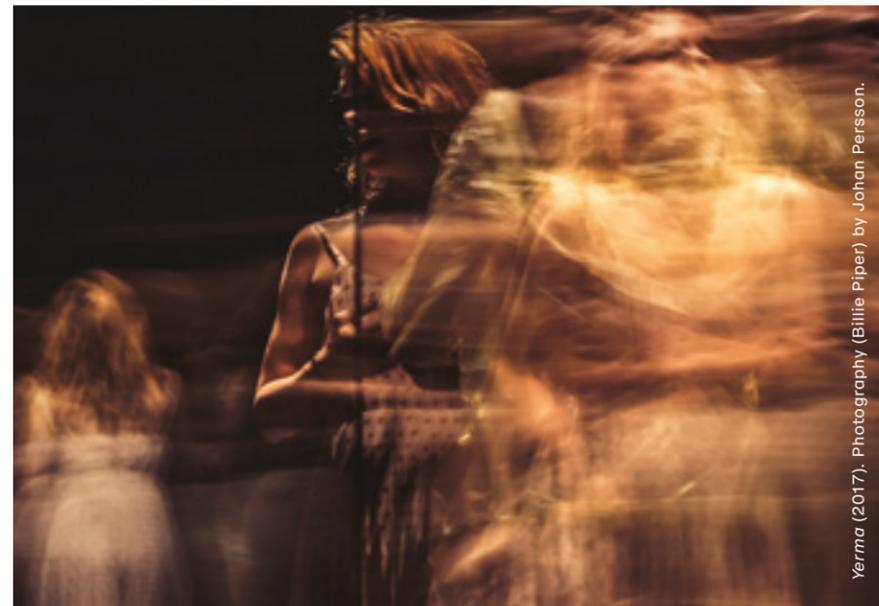
Markwell and Richardson sit on either side of the process for taking a show from stage to screen. The Programming team handle initial rights conversations as well as



Photography by Graham Pearson.



Follies (2021). Photography (Jordan Shaw) by Ellie Kurttz.



Yerma (2017). Photography (Billie Piper) by Johan Persson.

paying royalties once a show is in the cinema, while the Production and Content team look at the logistics of sharing the show with cinema audiences, ensuring that a director of photography is appointed who can translate the vision of the production's director effectively. A National Theatre Live could have a year's lead-in time or sometimes as little as 32 days.

While the teams take care to ensure that the broadcast remains true to the production team's vision, with as few changes as possible, there are some surprising considerations they

have to take in. 'White tablecloths might look too white on camera and be really jarring, so they need to be lightly dyed to an egg white colour,' says Richardson. 'Sometimes we ask for any painting or flooring to be touched up and on a couple of occasions we've needed to change the pattern of a shirt if it creates a strobing effect on camera that makes it look like it is alive with worms.'

Follies has been Markwell (as an audience member) and Richardson's favourite National Theatre Live, but musicals are a huge technological challenge.

'There were over 100 different microphones on *Follies*,' notes Richardson, 'and the microphones on lots of the characters changed part way through because they went from their head mic to their hat mic in the Dreamland scenes when they then are in top-hats.' But while it may have been a technological challenge, the broadcast also offered the opportunity to showcase the work that goes on backstage.

And ultimately, that is at the heart of what National Theatre Live is about: sharing the best of British

theatre, both on and off stage, with audiences around the world and inspiring many more theatre-makers from all walks of life.

Upcoming cinema releases:
Dear England from 25 Jan
Vanya from 22 Feb
The Motive and the Cue from 21 Mar
Nye from 23 Apr

Find your nearest venue:
ntlive.com



Follies (2009). Photography (Helen Mirren) by Catherine Ashmore.

The family, from whose tentacles
we can never quite escape



Photography (Lindsay Duncan) by Kelvin Murray.

Dear Octopus

by Dodie Smith

Cast includes

Amaia Naima Aguinaga
Alice Bounsall
Bessie Carter
Pandora Colin
Miriam Cooper
Bethan Cullinane
Lindsay Duncan
Kate Fahy
Tom Glenister
Jo Herbert
Billy Howle
Ethan Hughes
Deven Modha
Syakira Moeladi
Amy Morgan
Celia Nelson
Dharmesh Patel
Malcolm Sinclair
Natalie Thomas
John Vernon

Director

Emily Burns

Set and Costume Designer

Frankie Bradshaw

Lighting Designer

Oliver Fenwick

Sound Designer

Tingying Dong

Composer

Nico Muhly

Music Director

David Shrubsole

Casting Director

Bryony Jarvis-Taylor

Company Voice Work

Shereen Ibrahim

Liz Flint

Associate Sound Designer

Joel Price

Staff Director

Júlia Levai

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

Assisted performances:

AD, BSL, Captioned, Chilled, SCG

Tickets: £20–£99

To book and find out more:



London Tide

based on Charles Dickens' *Our Mutual Friend*
 adapted by Ben Power
 songs by PJ Harvey and Ben Power

Cast includes

Beth Alsbury
 Crystal Condie
 Brandon Grace
 Scott Karim
 Joshua Lacey
 Bella Maclean
 Tom Mothersdale
 Ami Tredrea
 Jake Wood
 Peter Wight
 Rufus Wright

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

Video Designer

Hayley Egan

Casting Director

Bryony Jarvis-Taylor

Voice and Dialect Coach

Simon Money

Associate Set Designer

Verity Sadler

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

Assisted performances:

AD, BSL, Captioned, SCG, 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 and The Polonsky Foundation.



Photography (Ami Tredrea and Bella Maclean) by Spencer Murphy.

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

Till the Stars Come Down

a new play by Beth Steel

Cast

Lorraine Ashbourne
 Lucy Black
 Bodhi Rae Breathnach
 Maggie Livermore
 Lisa McGrillis
 Sinéad Matthews
 Derek Riddell
 Ruby Stokes
 Philip Whitchurch
 Alan Williams
 Cadence Williams
 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

Intimacy Director

Asha Jennings-Grant

Casting Director

Alastair Coomer CDG

Dialect Coach

Charmian Hoare

Company Voice Work

Cathleen McCarron

Tamsin Newlands

Staff Director

Stepan 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

Assisted performances:

AD, BSL, Captioned, Chilled, SCG

Tickets: £20–£65

To book and find out more:



With thanks to the Areté Foundation, who support the National Theatre to make work that is ambitious and socially relevant.



Everyone loves a wedding...

Photography (Lorraine Ashbourne, Lucy Black, Lisa McGrillis, Sinéad Matthews, Derek Riddell and Marc Wootton) by Simon Sorted.

Reader, I think you know who is most quotable



Photography (Rhiannon Clements, Adele James, Gemma Whelan) by Felicity McCabe.

Underdog: The Other Other Brontë

a new play by Sarah Gordon
a co-production with Northern Stage

Cast

Nick Blakeley
Rhiannon Clements
Adam Donaldson
Adele James
Kwaku Mills
Julian Moore-Cook
James Phoon
Gemma Whelan

Director
Natalie Ibu

Set and Costume Designer
Grace Smart

Lighting Designer
Zoe Spurr

Sound Designer
Alexandra Faye

Movement Director
Nadia Iftkhar

Fight Director
Haruka Kuroda

Casting Director
Naomi Downham

Dialect Coach
Charmian Hoare

Company Voice Work
Shereen Ibrahim

Associate Lighting Designer
Charlotte Burton

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

Assisted performances:

AD, BSL, Captioned, Sensory Adapted

Tickets: £20–£65

To book and find out more:



Food



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



& Drink

Abstractions: Studies of the National Theatre

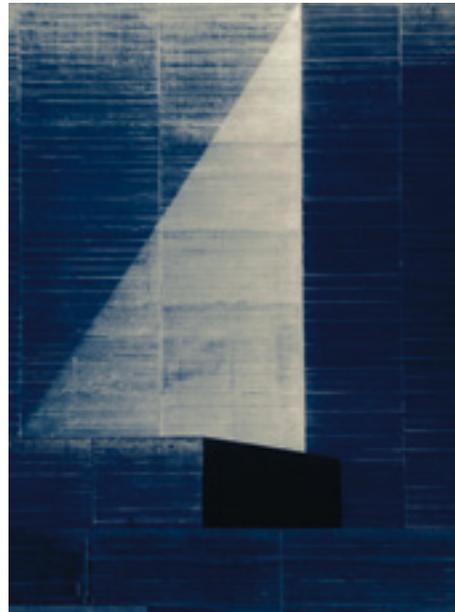
View the iconic architecture of the National Theatre through a new lens.

Amelia Lancaster has been photographing the South Bank and its architecture since 2003.

This exhibition presents a selection of her works from throughout this time, which centre on the National Theatre's architecture.

A free exhibition in the Wolfson Gallery, open until autumn 2024

Right image, artwork (*Concrete Composition. National Theatre I*) by Amelia Lancaster.



The Linbury Prize for Stage Design 2023 Exhibition

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

This exhibition features the work of 12 talented recipients 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, open until 30 Mar 2024

Right image, photography by Ian Tillotson.



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

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Priority membership booking opens on 1 Feb.

Public booking opens on 8 Feb.

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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<p>Official Airline Partner Your Carrier to the USA and beyond</p>	<p>Official Hotel Partner</p>	<p>Official Sound Partner of the Olivier Theatre</p>	<p>Sponsor of NT Live in the UK</p>
<p>Outdoor Media Partner</p>	<p>Official Hotel Partner</p>	<p>Pouring Partner</p>	



From the Archive

Frankenstein HDCam SR video cassette, 2011

This is a digital recording of *Frankenstein* (2011). Benedict Cumberbatch and Jonny Lee Miller alternated playing Frankenstein and The Creature during this production. The National Theatre Archive preserves all digital outputs of the National Theatre, such as National Theatre Live recordings, for future generations to enjoy.

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