

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](https://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* / nɪˈmonɪk / *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  
Kerenza 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

Kinneth 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**

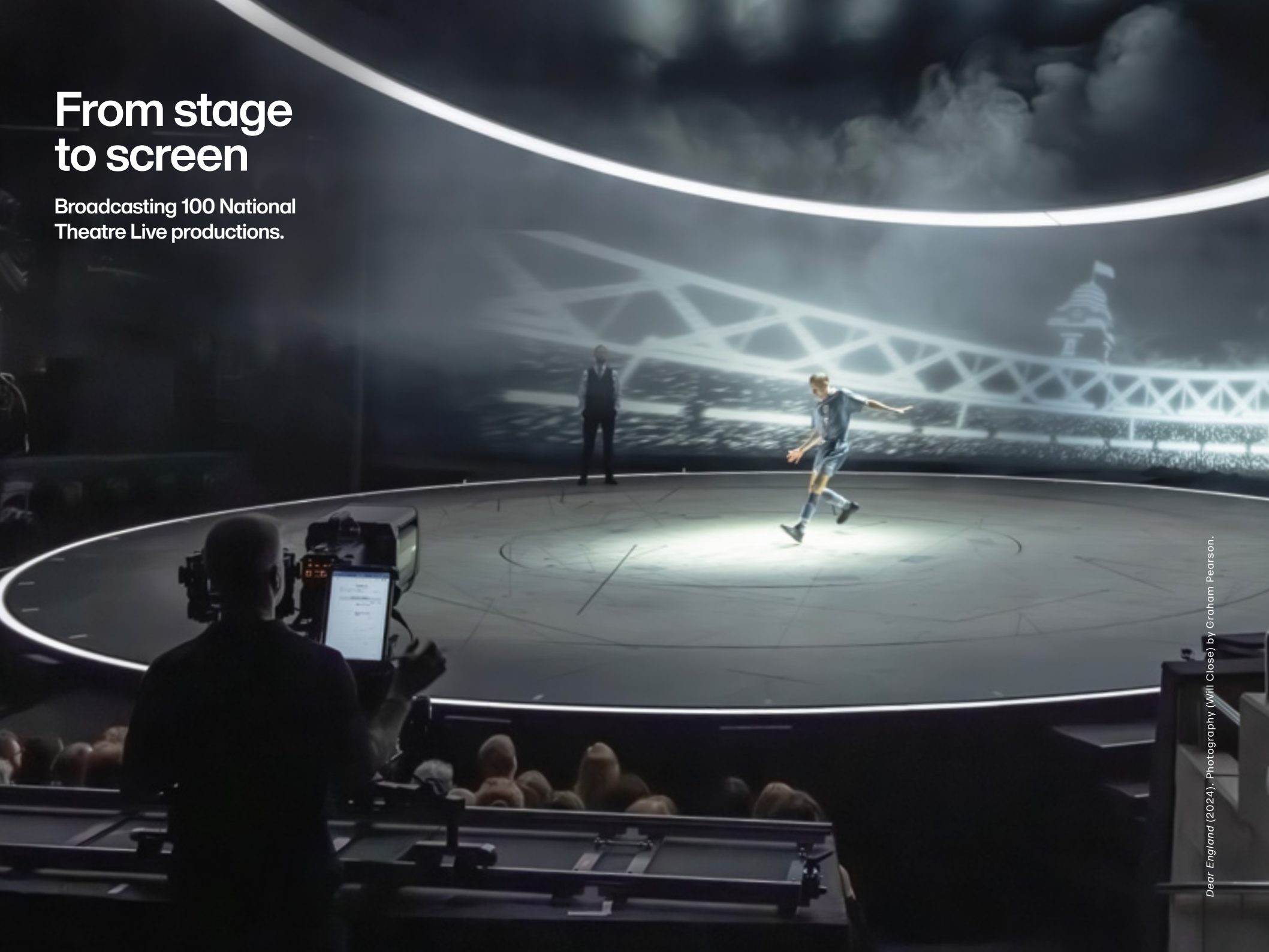
**To book and find out more:**



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.



*Folies* (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](https://www.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

Braithwaite

#### 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](https://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	<a href="https://nationaltheatre.org.uk">nationaltheatre.org.uk</a>
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 *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](https://nationaltheatre.org.uk/memberships)

**Book early for the best seats**

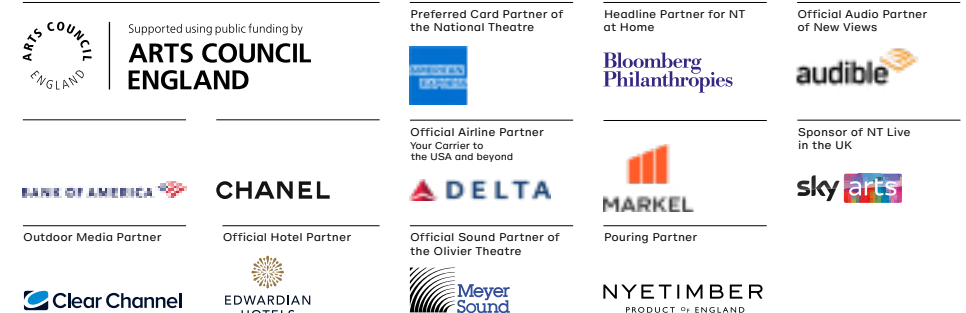
Prices may change according to demand.

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



020 3989 5455

[nationaltheatre.org.uk](https://nationaltheatre.org.uk)





## 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](http://nationaltheatre.org.uk/about-us/archive)