

National Theatre

For immediate release: Tuesday 13 February

PRODUCTION IMAGES RELEASED FOR *DEAR OCTOPUS*, A PLAY BY DODIE SMITH AT THE NATIONAL THEATRE



IMAGES (C) BY MARC BRENNER CAN BE FOUND [HERE](#)

The National Theatre today released production images for [Dear Octopus](#) by **Dodie Smith** (*I Capture the Castle*), which has its Press Night in the Lyttelton theatre on 14 February.

Directed by **Emily Burns** (*Jack Absolute Flies Again*), in its first revival since the 1960s, *Dear Octopus* is a heartbreaking and moving dissection of family and what it means to grow up and return home.

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.

Olivier Award-winner **Lindsay Duncan** (*Hansard*) plays the Randolph matriarch Dora, **Billy Howle** (*On Chesil Beach*) plays her youngest child Nicholas and **Bessie Carter** (*Bridgerton*) plays Dora's companion Fenny.

They are joined by **Amaia Naima Aguinaga, Alice Bounsall, Pandora Colin, Miriam Cooper, Bethan Cullinane, Kate Fahy, Tom Glenister, Jo Herbert, Ethan Hughes, Deven Modha, Syakira Moeladi, Amy Morgan, Celia Nelson, Dharmesh Patel, Malcolm Sinclair, Natalie Thomas** and **John Vernon**. Nine children will perform the roles of Kathleen (Scrap), Bill and Guinevere (Flouncy) over the course of the season - **Kalyani D'Ambra, Ariella Elkins-Green, Serena Guo, Isla Ithier, Molly Jin, Felix Tandon, Ashwin Sakthivel, Tarun Sivakanesh** and **Asha Sthanakiya**.

The children performing on Press Night are Ariella Elkins-Green (Flouncy), Isla Ithier (Scrap) and Felix Tandon (Bill).

The creative team includes director Emily Burns, set and costume designer **Frankie Bradshaw**, lighting designer **Oliver Fenwick**, sound designer **Tingying Dong**, composer **Nico Mulhy**, casting director **Bryony Jarvis-Taylor**, company voice work by **Shereen Ibrahim** and **Liz Flint** and staff director **Júlia Levai**.

Dear Octopus is playing in the Lyttelton theatre until 27 March.

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.

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Notes to Editor

For further press information, please contact Emily Ritchie at eritchie@nationaltheatre.org.uk.

Assisted performances of *Dear Octopus*:

Captioned Performances: Wednesday 6 March 2024 – 7.30pm, Wednesday 27 March 2024, 2pm

BSL Interpreted: Saturday 16 March 2024 – 7.30pm

Audio described: Saturday 2 March 2024 – 2pm, Friday 22 March 2024 – 7.30pm

Chilled performance Tuesday 27 February 2024 – 7.30pm

With thanks

This production is supported by Red Butterfly Foundation.

About the National Theatre

The National Theatre's mission is to make world-class theatre, for everyone. The National Theatre 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 National Theatre creates ambitious works of participatory theatre in deep partnerships that unite theatres and local organisations – showing that nothing brings us together like theatre.

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