

# National Theatre

## NATIONAL THEATRE PARTNERS WITH THE NHS INVITING HEALTHCARE WORKERS TO WATCH *NYE* LIVE ON STAGE AND IN CINEMAS NATIONWIDE FOR FREE

- The National Theatre has invited 400 NHS workers to watch *Nye*, a play charting the life of Aneurin 'Nye' Bevan and his battle to create the NHS, at the Olivier theatre on 23 April.
- In addition, 1000 NHS workers from across the UK have been invited to watch this performance in cinemas through National Theatre Live, in collaboration with Vue cinemas.
- *Nye* is the 100<sup>th</sup> title to be released through National Theatre Live since its inception in 2009.



The National Theatre has partnered with the NHS to give 400 NHS workers free tickets to watch a live performance of *Nye* – **Tim Price's** (*Teh Internet is Serious Business*) new play directed by **Rufus Norris** (*Small Island*), charting the life of Aneurin 'Nye' Bevan and his battle to create the NHS, playing in the Olivier theatre.

To celebrate *Nye* as the 100<sup>th</sup> release from National Theatre Live, the National Theatre in collaboration with Vue has also invited 1000 NHS workers nationwide to watch the live broadcast in cinemas on 23 April, extending its commitment to share impactful stories that inspire and unite people.

The National Theatre has worked with the NHS to ensure tickets are allocated across the NHS including doctors, nurses, and student doctors for both the South Bank performance and Vue cinema tickets.

**Michael Sheen** plays Nye Bevan in a surreal and spectacular journey through the life and legacy of the man who transformed Britain's welfare state and created the NHS, in this co-production with **Wales Millennium Centre**. Confronted with death, Aneurin 'Nye' Bevan's deepest memories lead him on a mind-bending journey back through his life; from childhood to mining underground, Parliament and fights with Churchill.

**Rufus Norris, Director of *Nye* and Director of the National Theatre, said,** "I am honoured to extend a heartfelt invitation to NHS workers to share in this powerful story. This moment epitomises the National Theatre's commitment to extending the reach of theatre to audiences wherever they are, both at the South Bank and through National Theatre Live. In collaboration with the NHS, we celebrate not only a historic moment, but also the ongoing journey to make theatre an accessible experience for everyone."

**Amanda Pritchard Chief Executive of NHS England, said,** "Since Nye Bevan launched the NHS in 1948, it has never stood still – our history is one of innovation and adaption to meet the changing needs of the public, but the principles and the unwavering dedication always remain the same. And that is why it is such an honour that we will be joined by a range of NHS staff - past and present - to watch *Nye* at the National Theatre while giving hundreds of others the opportunity to see it across the country."

**Toby Bradon, General Manager for Vue UK and Ireland, said,** "We are passionate about making quality event cinema such as live theatre accessible throughout the country on the Big Screen, and we are delighted that our partnership with National Theatre goes from strength to

strength as they make their 100th production available. In particular, we are happy to welcome NHS workers to our screens across the country so they can be a part of this premiere that celebrates the origins of such a vital institution.”

**ENDS**

### **Notes to Editors**

For further press information, please contact Zara Jayant at [zjayant@nationaltheatre.org.uk](mailto:zjayant@nationaltheatre.org.uk)

Production Images can be accessed [here](#).

### **Assisted performances of *Nye* at the National Theatre**

**Captioned Performances:** Saturday 16 March 2024 – 7.30pm, Wednesday 3 April 2024 – 2.15pm, Friday 26 April 2024 – 7.30pm

**BSL Interpreted:** Friday 19 April 2024 – 7.30pm

**Audio described:** Saturday 30 March 2024 – 2.15pm, Friday 3 May 2024 – 7.30pm

**Sensory adapted:** Wednesday 10 April 2024 – 7.30pm

### **With thanks**

This production is supported by the Huo Family Foundation and Rosetrees Trust. 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.

Sky Arts is the Headline Sponsor of National Theatre Live in the UK.

### **About Sky Arts**

Sky Arts exists to bring more art to more people across the UK. In 2020, with the creative industries under serious threat, we threw open our doors to make the channel free for everyone to watch. We've redoubled our mission to increase access to the arts and we're committed to getting everyone involved as the industry moves from strength to strength. The fact is, we need the arts like never before, and Sky Arts brings them straight to your living room.

We have something for everyone, championing creative talent by showcasing the best in music, theatre, dance, literature, opera and visual art. From Glyndebourne to the Isle of Wight Festival and Botticelli to Barbara Kingsolver, we've got your passions covered. Millions of viewers tune in to hit returning series such as Portrait Artist of the Year, but our acclaimed new programmes might take you anywhere from the quiet calm of Hockney's studio to headbanging with Black Sabbath.

Collaboration is at the heart of what we do. Sky Arts is the headline sponsor of National Theatre Live in the UK and we work with cultural partners across the country including the English National Opera, Bristol Old Vic, Tate, Creative UK and the Crafts Council to name but a few.

You can watch Sky Arts for free on Freeview channel 36 and Freesat channel 147. If you've got Sky or a Now TV entertainment pass, you can also watch over 2,000 hours of shows exclusively on demand.

### **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](http://nationaltheatre.org.uk)

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### **About Wales Millennium Centre**

**Wales Millennium Centre** is a home for the arts in Wales, a cauldron of creativity for the nation. We fire imaginations by creating our own theatre productions, festivals and digital experiences – as well as curating world-class, critically acclaimed touring productions – from musical theatre and comedy to dance and cabaret. We kindle emerging talents with our own fresh, provocative and popular productions, rooted in Welsh culture. We're also a charity, collaborating with organisations, communities and young people to make the arts accessible to everyone. We ignite a passion for the arts with life-changing learning experiences and chances to shine in the spotlight. Every year we attract over 1.6 million visitors and generate £70 million for local businesses.

For further information, please visit: [wmc.org.uk](http://wmc.org.uk).

Wales Millennium Centre is a registered charity, no. 1060458.