

# National Theatre

Thursday 21 March 2024

**FIRST LOOK REHEARSAL IMAGES FOR *LONDON TIDE*,  
BEN POWER'S ADAPTATION OF CHARLES DICKENS'  
*OUR MUTUAL FRIEND*, WITH ORIGINAL SONGS BY  
PJ HARVEY AND BEN POWER**



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

The National Theatre today released first look rehearsal images for the world premiere of [London Tide](#). Based on Charles Dickens' final completed novel, *Our Mutual Friend*, *London Tide* is directed by **Ian Rickson** (*Translations*), adapted by **Ben Power** (*The Lehman Trilogy*), with original songs throughout by acclaimed singer-songwriter **PJ Harvey** and **Ben Power**. This romantic and propulsive thriller is a hymn to London and the river that runs through it.

Full cast includes **Beth Alsbury** as Lavinia Wilfer, **Joe Armstrong** as Roger Riderhood, **Hayley Chilvers** as understudy Nancy, **Crystal Condie** as Miss Potterson, **Laura Cubitt** as Nancy, **Jonathan Dryden Taylor** as Mr Cleaver, **Brandon Grace** as Charley Hexam, **Miya James** in the Ensemble, **Scott Karim** as Bradley Headstone, **Stephen Kennedy** as Reg Wilfer, **Joshua Lacey** as Inspector Bucket, **Penny Layden** as Mary Wilfer, **Bella Maclean** as Bella Wilfer, **Eric Mok** as understudy Charlie Hexam, **Tom Mothersdale** as John Rokesmith, **Liam Prince-Donnelly** in the Ensemble, **Ellie-May Sheridan** as Jenny Wren,

**Georgia Silver** as understudy Bella Wilfer, **Ami Tredrea** as Lizzie Hexam, **John Vernon** as understudy Reg Wilfer/Noddy Boffin/Mortimer Lightwood, **Jamael Westman** as Eugene Wrayburn, **Peter Wight** as Noddy Boffin, **Jake Wood** as Gaffer Hexam and **Rufus Wright** as Mortimer Lightwood.

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?

Directed by **Ian Rickson**, the set and costume designer is **Bunny Christie**, lighting designer **Jack Knowles**, music director **Ian Ross**, co-sound designers **Tingying Dong** and **Christopher Shutt**, movement director **Anna Morrissey**, video designer **Hayley Egan**, fight director **Terry King**, casting director **Bryony Jarvis-Taylor**, voice and dialect coach **Simon Money**, associate set designer **Verity Sadler** and staff director **Yasmin Hafesji**.

*London Tide* is playing in the Lyttelton theatre from 10 April until 22 June, with press night on 17 April.

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

**ENDS**

### **Notes to Editors**

For further press information, please contact James Lever at [jlever@nationaltheatre.org.uk](mailto:jlever@nationaltheatre.org.uk).

Images can be accessed [here](#).

### **Assisted performances of *London Tide* at the National Theatre:**

**Captioned Performances:** Thursday 23 May 2024 – 7pm, Friday 17 June 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 National Theatre's Official Hotel Partner Edwardian Hotels, The Polonsky Foundation, Bill and Penny Bardel, Monica Gerard-Sharp and Ali Wambold, Lawton W Fitt & James I McLaren Foundation, Cockayne – Grants for the Arts and The London Community Foundation. This is an Edgerton New Plays Commission. New Play Commissions are also supported by the Pritzker Pucker Family Foundation.

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

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