

# National Theatre

13 March 2024

## REHEARSAL IMAGES RELEASED FOR *UNDERDOG: THE OTHER OTHER BRONTË*, A NEW PLAY BY SARAH GORDON



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The National Theatre and Northern Stage today released rehearsal images for **Sarah Gordon**'s new play [\*Underdog: The Other Other Brontë\*](#), an irreverent retelling of the lives and legend of English literature's famed sisters – the Brontës – playing the Dorfman theatre from 27 March to 25 May.

A co-production with Northern Stage, helmed by their Artistic Director **Natalie Ibu** (*The White Card*) in her National Theatre directing debut, this play is about sisterhood, jealousy, the power of words and the sibling dynamics that shaped the Brontë's uneven rise to fame.

The show stars **Rhiannon Clements** (*Hollyoaks*), **Adele James** (*Queen Cleopatra*) and **Gemma Whelan** (*Game of Thrones*) as the Brontës, alongside **Nick Blakeley**, **Julian Moore-Cook**, **Adam Donaldson**, **Kwaku Mills** and **James Phoon**.

The creative team, led by director Natalie Ibu, includes set and costume designer **Grace Smart**, lighting designer **Zoe Spurr**, associate lighting designer **Charlotte Burton**, sound designer **Alexandra Faye Braithwaite**, movement director **Ingrid Mackinnon**, fight director **Haruka Kuroda**, associate movement director **Ana Beatriz Meireles**, casting director **Naomi Downham** and staff director **Natasha Haws**.

*Underdog: The Other Other Brontë* is playing in the Dorfman theatre from 27 March until 25 May, with press night on 4 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](http://nationaltheatre.org.uk).

Following its world premiere in the Dorfman theatre, *Underdog: The Other Other Brontë* will play at [Northern Stage](#) in Newcastle Upon Tyne from 7 to 22 June.

**ENDS**

### **Notes to Editor**

For further press information, please contact Press Manager Emily Ritchie at [eritchie@nationaltheatre.org.uk](mailto:eritchie@nationaltheatre.org.uk).

Images can be found [here](#).

### **Assisted performances of *Underdog: The Other Other Brontë*:**

**Captioned Performances:** Thursday 11 April – 7.30pm, Wednesday 1 May – 7.30pm

**BSL Interpreted:** Saturday 27 April – 2.30pm, Friday 24 May, 7.30pm

**Audio described:** Friday 10 May – 7.30pm

**Sensory adapted:** Saturday 4 May, 2.30pm, Thursday 16 May, 7.30pm

**Please note** the 6.30pm start time on the following performances: Thu 18 Apr, Tue 23 Apr, Thu 9 May and Tue 21 May

## **With thanks**

This production is supported by Red Butterfly 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'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.

The National Theatre needs your support to shape a bright, creative future. For more information, please visit [nationaltheatre.org.uk](https://nationaltheatre.org.uk)

## **About Northern Stage**

Northern Stage is more than a night out. We go beyond the ordinary to bring people together to share stories through live experiences. We are a place to laugh, discover, challenge and learn - a place to think and rethink. We believe in the power of stories to help us understand the world around us, imagine alternatives, and create new narratives. We are custodians of the resources entrusted to us, and work with generosity, care and collaboration to ensure they reach as many people across our community as possible. [northernstage.co.uk](https://northernstage.co.uk)

Natalie Ibu is Artistic Director and Joint Chief Executive of Northern Stage. Previously Artistic Director of tiata fahodzi (Dec 2014- 2020), the only Black-led theatre company in the UK with a sole focus on new work, during her time there Natalie

increased the company's activity levels including seven productions in five years, revived tiata delights in a reimagined format as a talent development festival at Watford Palace Theatre, presented work during the summer festivals, brokered the company's first international collaboration and opened up talent and career development pathways for African heritage individuals. For her Northern Stage debut, Natalie directed Jim Cartwright's *Road* and in 2022 was nominated for a UK Theatre Award for directing the UK and European premiere of Claudia Rankine's *The White Card*.