

# National Theatre

Wednesday 20 March 2024

**LONDON'S LARGEST FREE OUTDOOR FESTIVAL, RIVER STAGE,  
RETURNS THIS SUMMER TO THE NATIONAL THEATRE**



Image link available [here](#).

- London's largest free outdoor arts festival **River Stage** returns to the National Theatre for the eighth year this summer from **5-28 July 2024**
- Four entertainment-packed weekends will run on the South Bank, brimming with live music, theatre, dance and more from the UK's leading arts and culture organisations
- This year's River Stage partners are **The Glory** (5-7 July), **Greenwich+Docklands International Festival** (12-14 July) and **Rambert** (19-21 July)
- The **National Theatre** (26-28 July) will host the closing weekend of River Stage

- **KERB** will serve a selection of delicious flavours with an array of South Bank traders

The National Theatre's **River Stage** returns this July with an exciting programme of live music, theatre, dance and more, curated by some of the UK's leading arts venues. Over four weekends, the South Bank will come to life with performances alongside a delicious selection of independent food and drink from street food suppliers **KERB**.

This year's River Stage partners include **The Glory, Greenwich+Docklands International Festival, Rambert** and the **National Theatre**.

### **The Glory: 5-7 July**

The Glory is back for the eighth year to open another spectacular weekend on National Theatre's River Stage 2024. The Glory's Grande-Dames of drag and performance, Jonny Woo and John Sizzle, will host and curate a sensational line-up of top drag queens, kings, cabaret artists, DJs, and theatre makers to present a weekend of exciting free queer music, performance and hi-jinks.

### **Greenwich+Docklands International Festival: 12-14 July**

Greenwich+Docklands International Festival curates a celebratory programme of street theatre, dance and circus at the National Theatre's River Stage, kicking off the one-month countdown to GDIF 2024. Join them for an extraordinary weekend of up-close performances that will immerse audiences of all ages in GDIF's much-loved festival atmosphere and signature mash-up of vibrant, inclusive and disruptive summer fun.

### **Rambert: 19-21 July**

The Rambert dance company, one of the world's most diverse companies of dancers, curate a weekend to remember at River Stage. Rambert, together with the dynamic artists they work with, will bring awe-inspiring dance performances and special guests across the weekend. There will be a chance for everyone to learn some new moves from Rambert's extraordinary

faculty of teachers.

### **National Theatre: 26-28 July**

The National Theatre will once again bring the festival to a close by throwing its doors open and letting the creativity spill out, giving everyone the chance to experience the delights that our South Bank venue has to offer. Expect the very best in family theatre, dance, workshops, music, an NT Live screening and tours of the building.

Behind the scenes, the River Stage team is joined by the **National Theatre Young Technicians** in the delivery of two weekends for the festival. Launched in 2017, Young Technicians is the NT's flagship technical training programme for young people aged 14-18, taking place both at the NT and nationwide to offer in-depth training for free to young people from groups currently underrepresented in the technical theatre industries. Participants work with the NT's production team to develop practical skills across a variety of backstage roles, including lighting, sound, video and more.

Alongside **The Understudy** and the riverside bar, KERB will be serving up a range of London's most exciting street food. Club Mexicana, Chicken Bandits and Baba Dhaba bring an array of delectable flavours whilst Hackney Gelato serve delicious, refreshing ice-cream. KERB will be partnering with Two Tribes on the bar for some of the finest cold beer.

### **Ends**

For further press information contact NT Press Coordinator:

[achakrapani@nationaltheatre.org.uk](mailto:achakrapani@nationaltheatre.org.uk)

Image link available [here](#).

### **The Glory**

The Glory is East London's legendary queer bar, drag hothouse, LGBTQIA+ performance venue, nightclub and curators of major events and festivals across the country. Opened in 2014

by iconic London drag queens Jonny Woo and John Sizzle, plus infamous party-starter, and TV director Colin Rothbart, with many of their staff being influential creatives and some of their performers such as Bimini and Crystal, to name but two, end up gracing the UK's television sets! Not just a pub, The Glory can be found at leading festivals like Glastonbury, Latitude and Mighty Hoopla and regularly features on documentaries and features.

### **Greenwich+Docklands International Festival**

Recently described in the Guardian as “one of the best free festivals in the UK” and an event "whose annual contribution to the happiness of the people of London is unrivalled", Greenwich+Docklands International Festival is London's leading free festival of outdoor theatre and arts which takes place in public spaces across the Royal Borough of Greenwich, East London and the City of London each Summer. In 2023 GDIF became the first festival in the UK to be awarded the Platinum level for accessibility by Attitude is Everything, recognising the festival's profound commitment to removing barriers between audiences and arts.

Founded in 1996, GDIF is the flagship annual event produced by FESTIVAL.ORG, one of the UK's leading outdoor arts producing organisations and charities, renowned for producing ambitious, inclusive and accessible outdoor events in the UK and beyond.

### **Rambert**

What if...

...there was a dance company where brilliant and daring people could show up and be supported to push themselves to move the world forward.

Welcome to Rambert.

We believe that to give brilliant and daring people the chance to inspire others is to give them the power to change the world for the better. As one of the world's most diverse companies of

dancers we transform everyday spaces by making dance that is awe-inspiring, adventurous, dynamic, and relevant, and taking it to our neighbourhood, the nation and the world. We want to hear the most exciting and radical ideas wherever they may come from and connect with brilliant and daring audiences and participants from all backgrounds. Through performances; dance and wellness classes and courses for people of all ages and abilities we want to ensure we are inspiring, engaging and relevant to everyone.

Rambert's Chief Executive is Helen Shute and Benoit Swan Pouffer is Artistic Director. Rambert is a National Portfolio Organisation of Arts Council England.

### **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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