

National Theatre

Thursday 16 May 2024

Young people from across the UK to perform new plays at National Theatre 2024 Connections Festival

- Connections Festival, the annual nationwide youth theatre festival, returns to the National Theatre from 25-29 June
- *Dy Enw Marw* to be performed in Welsh as part of this year's festival, making it the first fully non-English language play on a National Theatre Stage
 - Tickets are on sale now for £5 per performance
- Applications to take part in Connections 2025, the festival's 30th anniversary, are open now



For images, click [here](#)

Ten youth theatre and school groups from across the UK have been selected to perform new plays on the Dorfman stage at the National Theatre from 25-29 June as part of the National Theatre's 2024 Connections Festival.

Now in its 29th year, the Connections Festival is an annual nationwide youth theatre festival that champions the talent of young people aged 13-19 from across the UK. Over 7,500 young people from 250 companies from Plymouth to Pitlochry have

taken part this year, performing ten specially commissioned plays at one of 33 leading partner theatres this Spring.

Developed in consultation with young people, the festival showcases new plays performed by youth groups nationwide, exploring a range of themes including neurodiversity, cancel culture and mental health.

Writers of this year's plays include **Mojisola Adebayo** (*Stars*), and **Charlie Josephine** (*Cowboys*) as well as **Elgan Rhys** (*Llais / Voice*) who, in collaboration with **Leo Drayton**, has written Connections' first play offered in both English and Welsh language scripts. Their play *Dy Enw Marw (Your Name is Dead)* will be performed by youth group **Ysgol Gyfun Gŵyr**, from Swansea, this summer in Welsh, making it the first full non-English play to be staged at the National Theatre.

To represent the vast range of young talent that has been on display throughout this year's festival, the following ten companies will perform on the Dorfman stage at the National Theatre:

<u>Date and Time</u>	<u>Play</u>	<u>Group</u>
Tuesday 25 June, 7pm	<i>Back in the Day</i> by Yasmeen Khan	The Folkestone School for Girls, Folkestone, Kent
Tuesday 25 June, 8:30pm	<i>Orchestra</i> by Charlie Josephine	Porthcawl Comprehensive School, Porthcawl, Wales
Wednesday 26 June, 7pm	<i>Kiss / Marry / Push Off Cliff</i> by Josh Azouz	Sir Henry Floyd Grammar School, Aylesbury, Buckinghamshire
Wednesday 26 June, 8:30pm	<i>Shout</i> by Alexis Zegerman	Stockton Riverside College, Stockton-on-Tees, Durham
Thursday 27 June, 7pm	<i>Age is Revolting</i> by Abi Zakarian	Queen's Park High School, Chester, Cheshire
Thursday 27 June, 8:30pm	<i>The Periodicals</i> by Siân Owen	Plympton Academy, Plymouth, Devon
Friday 28 June, 7pm	<i>Replica</i> by Titas Halder	Sir Robert Pattinson Academy, Lincoln, Lincolnshire
Friday 28 June, 8:30pm	<i>Dy Enw Marw</i> (performed in Welsh) by Elgan Rhys in Collaboration with Leo Drayton	Ysgol Gyfun Gŵyr, Swansea, Wales
Saturday 29 June, 7pm	<i>The Sad Club</i> by Luke Barnes with music by Adam Pleeth	Spotlights Community Youth Theatre, Forfar, Scotland
Saturday 29 June, 8:30pm	<i>Wind/Rush Generation(s)</i> by Mojisola Adebayo	Make Sense Theatre Company (Villiers High School), Ealing, London

Engaging in all levels of the theatre making process, the young people have the chance to develop new creative skills and learn more about backstage and offstage roles in the creative industry. Across the ten selected groups over 25 young people

have supported their productions by working offstage and backstage, from costume, lighting and sound design to directing and scoring.

Rufus Norris, Director of the National Theatre said *“It is one of my favourite times of year when the National Theatre is buzzing with excitement as these ten youth groups flood the building for Connections Festival. Connections is such a brilliant opportunity for young people from every corner of the UK to stage new plays and develop skills through the world of theatre-making both on stage and off, firing imagination and creativity that lasts a lifetime. To have our first ever full non-English play just spotlights the talent and creativity of the young theatre-makers nationwide. I can't wait to welcome them all to the National Theatre in June.”*

All performances will be captioned. *Dy Enw Marw* will be performed in Welsh with Welsh and English captions.

Tickets are £5 per performance, or £8 for two performances in an evening, and go on sale on Thursday 23 May. To book tickets visit the [National Theatre website](#).

Applications for Connections 2025 are now open. To take part in the National Theatre's annual nationwide youth theatre festival's 30th anniversary, visit the [National Theatre website](#). Applications close on 8 July at midday.

ENDS

Notes to Editors

To download images of this year's participating theatre companies, click [here](#).

For more information, please contact Orla Bentley at Obentley@nationaltheatre.org.uk

With Thanks

The Mohn Westlake Foundation supports nationwide Learning programmes for young people. Nationwide learning is supported by Buffini Chao Foundation, Clore Duffield Foundation, MFPA Trust Fund for the Training of Disabled Children in the Arts, Behrens Foundation, Marlow Trust, Cleopatra Trust, and The Andor Charitable Trust. The Hearn Foundation is the Principal Funder of the Primary Schools Programme.

Connections is supported by The Mohn Westlake Foundation, Buffini Chao Foundation, The EBM Charitable Trust, Andrew Lloyd Webber Foundation, Katie Bradford Arts Trust, Susan Miller & Byron Grote, Mulberry Trust, Tuixen Foundation, Rigby Foundation, The Peter Cundill Foundation, The D'Oyly Carte Charitable Trust, The Woodward Charitable Trust and The John Thaw 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.

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