

National Theatre

For immediate release: 27 June 2024

Record-breaking National Theatre Live, *Prima Facie* starring Jodie Comer returns to cinemas worldwide in partnership with Empire Street Productions

- Empire Street Production's *Prima Facie* is the most-watched National Theatre Live title to date, watched by nearly half a million people around the world.
- Captured live from the West End, *Prima Facie* will be available to watch worldwide from **12 September 2024** in partnership with Empire Street Productions.
- Jodie Comer received Olivier, Tony, WhatsOnStage, Evening Standard Theatre, and The Stage Debut Awards for her performance in *Prima Facie*.



Photo by Helen Murray

National Theatre and Empire Street Productions announce *Prima Facie*, the most watched National Theatre Live title to date, is returning to cinemas from **12 September 2024**. Jodie

Comer's (*Killing Eve*) 'extraordinarily gutsy and rich' (★★★★ *Evening Standard*) performance in **Suzie Miller's** gripping one-women play has been watched by nearly half a million people worldwide, and from September more audiences will have the opportunity to watch the award-winning production, with screenings found at primafacie.ntlive.com.

Audiences can watch Comer's 'masterful West End debut' (★★★★ *Guardian*), captured live in 2022 during a sold out run at the Harold Pinter Theatre in London's West End. Directed by **Justin Martin** (*Stranger Things: The First Shadow*), Comer plays Tessa, a young, brilliant barrister who has worked her way up from working class origins to be at the top of her game; defending; cross examining and winning. An unexpected event forces her to confront the lines where the patriarchal power of the law, burden of proof and morals diverge in this "unforgettable moment of theatre" (★★★★ *WhatsOnStage*).

The play has since become a global phenomenon, adapted into a novel by Suzie Miller, with the audiobook narrated by Jodie Comer. In Northern Ireland, new protocols have been implemented so that judges must now watch the film of the production as part of their training for sexual assault cases. Jodie Comer received Olivier, Tony, WhatsOnStage, Evening Standard Theatre, and The Stage Debut Awards for her performance in *Prima Facie*, and the play itself won an Olivier award.

Playwright Suzie Miller has said: *"Thrilled to be able to tell fans that Jodie's magnificent performance in Prima Facie is back in cinemas with National Theatre Live. I'm so intensely proud of the creative and production teams for all the changes it has provoked."*

Jodie Comer has said: *"I'm thrilled that the NT live recording of our London run of Prima Facie will be screening worldwide in cinemas again. It's a wonderful opportunity to keep spreading this important message and for those who couldn't make it in person, here is your invitation, come join us!"*

The production of **Prima Facie** continues to partner with **The Schools Consent Project**. Set up in 2014 by barrister Kate Parker, **The Schools Consent Project** is a charity which sends lawyers into schools to teach 11-18 year olds the legal definition of consent and key sexual offences. For further information, please see <https://www.schoolsconsentproject.com>

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

ENDS

Notes to Editors

For further information please contact Zara Jayant at National Theatre
zjayant@nationaltheatre.org.uk

Images are available [here](#).

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

@NationalTheatre

@NT_PressOffice

**empire
street**

productions

EMPIRE STREET PRODUCTIONS

Empire Street Productions was set up by James Bierman to develop and produce work across theatre, television and film. Recent theatre credits include the forthcoming production of Jeremy

O.Harris's *Slave Play* at the Noel Coward Theatre; Martin McDonagh's *The Pillowman* starring Lily Allen and Steve Pemberton at the Duke of York's Theatre; Suzie Miller's Olivier award winning *Prima Facie* starring Olivier and Tony Award Winning Jodie Comer which transferred to Broadway in April 2023 after a sold out run at the Harold Pinter Theatre and a NTLive co production which is the highest grossing live event cinema of all time in the UK; Sam Shepard's *True West* starring Kit Harington and Johnny Flynn at the Vaudeville Theatre; and Tracy Letts' *Killer Joe* at the Trafalgar Studio starring Orlando Bloom. *Ballywalter*, a feature film by Stacey Gregg and directed by Prasanna Puwanarajah; *Through the Dunes*, a short film starring Ian Hart written & directed by Tim Price; and *The Real Charlie Chaplin*, directed by Peter Middleton & James Spinney. ESP are currently developing Film and TV projects with FilmNation, Complete Fiction and EOne.

For more information, please visit empirestreetproductions.com

@estreetprods

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 recovers. The fact is, we need the arts now 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 Grime and Cézanne to The Style Council, we've got your passions covered. Millions of viewers tune in to hit returning series such as Portrait Artist of the Year, Urban Myths and British cultural institution The South Bank Show, but our acclaimed new programmes might take you anywhere from Pinter's house with Danny Dyer to a Scottish road trip with Samuel Johnson.

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, Royal Academy of Arts, Tate, Creative Industries Federation and Coventry City of Culture to name but a few.

You can watch Sky Arts for free on Freeview channel 11 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.

