

# National Theatre

National Theatre Live to rerelease The Old Vic's production of *Present Laughter* with Andrew Scott to cinemas worldwide from 18 July



IMMEDIATE RELEASE 6 JUNE 2024

National Theatre announces the multi award-winning production *Present Laughter* is returning to the big screen on **18 July 2024** with National Theatre Live. **Matthew Warchus** (*Matilda The Musical*) directs the 'slick, witty and unexpectedly tender' (★★★★ *The Stage*) production of Noel Coward's provocative comedy, filmed live from its sold out run at The Old Vic in 2019.

Audiences worldwide can watch **Andrew Scott** (*Vanya, All of Us Strangers, Fleabag*) in his Olivier award-winning 'revelatory performance' (★★★★★ *Telegraph*) as Gary Essendine, a star actor preparing to embark on an overseas tour, alongside **Indira Varma** (*Game of Thrones*), who also won an Olivier award for her 'excellent' (★★★★ *Guardian*) performance, and **Sophie Thompson** (*Four Weddings and a Funeral*).

Engulfed by an escalating identity crisis as his many and various relationships compete for his attention, Gary's few remaining days at home are a chaotic whirlwind of love, sex, panic and soul-searching. Audiences can find their nearest screening at [Presentlaughter.ntlive.com](http://Presentlaughter.ntlive.com)

**Caroline Maddison, Deputy Director of Digital Products at the National Theatre has said,**  
“*Present Laughter* is a fan favourite for National Theatre Live audiences and a brilliant addition to the NT Live programme this year, following our successful releases of *Dear England*, *Vanya*, *The Motive and the Cue* and *Nye*. We're thrilled to rerelease this incredible production from The Old Vic to cinemas this summer and make it accessible to ever wider audiences.”

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 Live,  
[zjayant@nationaltheatre.org.uk](mailto:zjayant@nationaltheatre.org.uk)

Images [HERE](#).

Audiences can find their nearest screening at [ntlive.com](http://ntlive.com).

For access requirements and screenings, please visit the listing for your local cinema.

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

### **About The Old Vic**

The Old Vic is an independent creative powerhouse for entertainment and education. A not-for-profit theatre, proud to be a charity. We believe that theatre makes the world better and that anyone should be able to access and experience it – to understand it, entertain it and benefit from it.

We are uniquely placed to achieve all of this as a large 1,000 seat theatre in the heart of London, focusing on creating equal access. We make world-class entertainment on an international scale, reaching audiences of 270k+ every year through eclectic seasons of work, and a further 5,000 through free programmes for engagement, employment and social mobility.

### **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.