

National Theatre

4

June 2024

The National Theatre announces the return of its smash-hit production of *Dear England* by James Graham

This Olivier Award-winning 'Best New Play' will return to the National Theatre in Spring 2025, followed by a 4-week run at The Lowry, Salford



Dear England 2023 West End cast © Marc Brenner

The National Theatre announces today that its smash-hit production of *Dear England* will return to the Olivier theatre from 10 March to 24 May 2025 followed by a four-week run at its Theatre Nation Partner, The Lowry in Salford, from 29 May to 29 June 2025.

James Graham's Olivier Award-winning play, directed by the Almeida Theatre's Artistic Director, **Rupert Goold**, tells the story of the England men's football team under **Gareth Southgate**. As the nation watches the drama unfold at this summer's UEFA EURO 2024, **Graham**'s critically acclaimed play will evolve to include this key European championship – continuing to examine the crucial role the England team and manager play in English society.

Tickets for both the National Theatre and The Lowry will go on sale to the General Public at **10am on Friday 14 June 2024**, coinciding with the start of the UEFA EURO 2024 tournament.

Director of the **National Theatre**, **Rufus Norris**, said:

'*Dear England* is a captivating examination of football, leadership and English identity that has already resonated with so many people, and we now have the unique opportunity of restaging it with a script which will reflect the outcome from this summer's Euros. In bringing the narrative right up to 2025, we acknowledge how pertinent and urgent the work is – a living, breathing play that cuts straight to the heart of our nation's psyche. James and Rupert have created such a special show, and we're thrilled that even more audiences in London and Greater Manchester will have the chance to experience it.'

Playwright **James Graham** said:

'To continue the life of *Dear England* feels like coming top of the group and moving onto the knockout stages - it's genuinely thrilling, and I'm so grateful to all the audiences who supported the show. Knowing that we welcomed thousands of people who had never see a play before was a huge honour for us all, but also a responsibility. We hope to continue that mission in London and now in Salford too.'

CEO of The Lowry, **Julia Fawcett** said:

'The National Theatre is one of our founding partners - and over the last twenty-five years they have played an incredibly important role - helping develop our programme and build our audiences for world class drama. It's a partnership that continues to grow and develop and this run of *Dear England* is a unique and incredibly special event. With football being so integral to the whole culture of the North West, we know that this production is going to really resonate with our audiences. But first.....this summer's Euros!'

Dear England reunites writer **James Graham** (*Punch*, Nottingham Playhouse; *Sherwood*, BBC) with director **Rupert Goold** (*Patriots*; *Tammy Faye*, Broadway) for this gripping examination of both nation and game. **Goold** will be joined by set designer, **Es Devlin**; costume designer, **Evie**

Gurney; lighting designer, **Jon Clark**; co-movement directors, **Ellen Kane** and **Hannes Langolf**; co-sound designers, **Dan Balfour** and **Tom Gibbons**, and video designer, **Ash J Woodward**. Dialect coach is **Richard Ryder** and associate director is **Elin Schofield**.

The country that gave the world football has since delivered a painful pattern of loss. Why can't England's men win at their own game?

The team has the worst track record for penalties in the world, and manager Gareth Southgate knows he needs to open his mind and face up to the years of hurt to take team and country back to the promised land.

Casting to be announced.

Dear England was originally commissioned by the National Theatre and developed with the theatre's New Work department. It had its world premiere in the Olivier theatre on 20 June 2023. Following a sold-out run, *Dear England* transferred to the Prince Edward Theatre, in London's West End, from 9 October 2023 to 13 January 2024 where it broke box office records. *Dear England* was subsequently released to cinemas through National Theatre Live on 24 January 2024 and has been screened almost 2,500 times across the UK. It will also be screened for free at this year's [River Stage](#) on Saturday 27 July. The BBC has also recently commissioned a four-part drama of *Dear England* based on the stage production for BBC One and BBC iPlayer.

ENDS

For images from the previous production of *Dear England* in the West End, click [here](#).

For press enquiries re the run at the **National Theatre**, please contact **Emily Ritchie**:
eritchie@nationaltheatre.org.uk

For press enquires re the run at **The Lowry**, please contact **Holly Nicholls**:
honicholls@nationaltheatre.org.uk

LISTINGS

National Theatre

Dates: 10 March 2025 – 24 May 2025

Press Night: Tuesday 18 March 2025, 7pm

Box Office: nationaltheatre.org.uk

Member presales: 5 – 13 June

Public on-sale: 14 June

Address: National Theatre, Upper Ground, London, SE1 9PX

Performance Schedule:

Mon–Sat at 7.30pm

Wed and Sat at 2pm and 7.30pm

Tue and Thu selected performances at 6.30pm

*schedule may differ during previews and bank holidays, please see website for details

Assisted Performances:

Audio Described performances: Fri 11 Sat 12 Apr, 2pm; Wed 30 Apr, 1 pm (school matinee);
Fri 23 May, 7.30pm

Captioned Performances: Sat 19 Apr, 2pm Wed 7 May (school matinee, also with BSL), 1pm
Thu 15 May, 7.30pm

BSL performances: Wed 7 May (school matinee, also with captions), 1pm; Fri 2 May, 7.30pm

Relaxed performance: Tue 15 Apr, 7.30pm

The Lowry

Dates: 29 May - 29 June 2025

Press Night: Sunday 1 June 2025, 3pm

Box Office: thelowry.com

Address: The Lowry, Pier, 8 The Quays, Salford, Manchester M50 3AZ

Assisted Performances:

BSL Performance: Saturday 7 June, 7pm & Wednesday 11 June, 2pm

Captioned Performances: Wednesday 11 June, 7pm

Audio Described: Saturday 14 June, 2pm & Wednesday 18 June, 7pm

With Thanks

The commissioning of this production was supported by the Sir Peter Shaffer Charitable Foundation. The original production at the National Theatre was generously supported by the Dear England Team of Production Champions.

Dear England at the National Theatre and The Lowry is supported by American Express, the National Theatre's Official Payment Partner.

About American Express® Experiences:

Through Amex® Experiences, Cardmembers have access to presale tickets, as well as the best seats and exclusive offers at some of the UK's most sought-after entertainment events via partnerships with a range of institutions, including the National Theatre. Cardmembers will receive presale access to *Dear England* from 10am on 12 June. Amex Experiences is just one example of the powerful backing that American Express provides its Cardmembers.

About American Express:

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Nationaltheatre.org.uk/amex/

NOTES TO EDITOR

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

About The Lowry

The Lowry is a registered charity committed to using visual and performing arts to enrich people's lives. The Lowry presents audiences with a diverse programme of theatre, opera, musicals, dance, music, comedy and visual art as well as events and activities to expand the horizons of audiences and artists alike.

At the heart of The Lowry's work is a commitment to local communities and young people. Tapping into the work on stage and in the galleries, The Lowry offer thousands of free creative participation opportunities each year. The Lowry is passionate about nurturing talent, developing creative professionals of the future and raising aspirations.

The Lowry has an extensive commissioning and artist development scheme that underpins its programme and showcases its commitment to the development of new work for theatre. Recent commissions and co-commissions include Operation Mincemeat, Drive Your Plow Over the Bones of the Dead, Rambert's Peaky Blinders, CAKE, Police Cops The Musical and The Good Enough Mums Club.

About Theatre Nation Partnerships

Theatre Nation Partnerships is a collaborative network of arts organisations aiming to strengthen their relationships with local audiences, schools, and communities. Convened by the National Theatre, the network is made up of theatres and creative organisations in 13 priority areas of England. Between 2022 to 2025, the network's focus is on welcoming new audiences to theatre and creating more opportunities for people to engage, supporting long-term health of local theatre audiences. The Theatre Nation Partnerships network will reach 500,000 targeted audiences, young people, and community groups over this three-year period.