

THURSDAY 11 JULY

# National Theatre

FULL CAST ANNOUNCED FOR THE  
UPCOMING UK & IRELAND TOUR OF  
*WAR HORSE*  
BEGINNING PERFORMANCES  
ON 5 SEPTEMBER 2024



The National Theatre today announces the cast for the internationally acclaimed production of *War Horse*, based on **Michael Morpurgo**'s beloved novel, which embarks on a major UK and Ireland tour from 5 2024September, touring through to 2026.

The full cast of 35 includes: **Rianna Ash** (Joey/Topthorn head), **Alexander Ballinger** (Friedrich/Allan), **Diany Bandza** (Emilie/Baby Joey), **Eloise Beaumont-Wood** (Baby Joey), **Ike Bennett** (David Taylor/Thomas Bone), **Haydn Burke** (Billy Narracott/Heine/Klebb), **Sophie Cartman** (Matron Callaghan), **Jo Castleton** (Rose Narracott), **Owen Dagnall** (Geordie), **Alexandra Donnachie** (Joey/Topthorn head), **Felicity Donnelly** (Joey/Topthorn hind), **Tom Gilbey** (Sergeant Fine), **Thomas Goodridge** (Joey/Topthorn hind), **Karl Haynes** (Ted Narracott), **Robin Hayward** (Joey/Topthorn heart), **Michael Larcombe**

(Joey/Tophorn hind), **Matthew Lawrence** (Joey/Tophorn head), **Madeleine Leslay** (Paulette/Sarah Carter), **Jack Lord** (Klausen), **Damian Lynch** (Carter/Strauss), **Lewis McBean** (Joey/Tophorn heart), **Chris Milford** (Joey/Tophorn heart), **Jordan Paris** (Baby Joey), **Anne-Marie Piazza** (Nell Allan/Schnabel), **Tea Poldervaart** (Joey/Tophorn head), **Lucy Thorburn** (Jenny Bone/Annie Gilbert), **Gareth Radcliffe** (Arthur Narracott/Sergeant Thunder), **Daniel Rock** (Captain Stewart/Ludwig), **Tom Sturgess** (Albert Narracott), **Alistair So** (Vet Martin), **Simon Stanhope** (Manfred), **Gun Suen** (Joey/Tophorn hind), **Sally Swanson** (The Singer), **Chris Williams** (Lieutenant Nicholls/Dr Schewyk) and **Rafe Young** (Joey/Tophorn heart).

**War Horse**, adapted by **Nick Stafford** and originally directed by **Marianne Elliott** and **Tom Morris**, has become the most successful play in the history of the National Theatre, winning more than 25 major awards and has been seen by over 8.3 million people worldwide. This new tour is co-produced with Michael Harrison, Fiery Angel, and Playing Field.

**War Horse** tells the remarkable story of a young boy called Albert and his horse Joey, set against the backdrop of the First World War. This powerfully moving and imaginative drama is a show of phenomenal inventiveness, filled with stirring music and songs, featuring ground-breaking puppetry work by South Africa's **Handspring Puppet Company**, which brings breathing, galloping, charging, horses to thrilling life on stage and has inspired a generation of theatre-makers since its premiere in 2007.

The tour will be playing at: **New Wimbledon Theatre** (5 – 14 September 2024), **The Lowry, Salford** (18 – 28 September 2024) **Mayflower Theatre, Southampton** (8 – 19 October 2024), **The Marlowe, Canterbury** (22 October – 2 November 2024), **Sunderland Empire** (5 – 16 November 2024), **Theatre Royal Plymouth** (26 November – 7 December 2024), **New Theatre Oxford** (10 December 2024 – 4 January 2025), **New Victoria Theatre, Woking** (14 – 25 January 2025), **Bord Gáis Energy Theatre, Dublin** (29 January – 1 February 2025), **Grand Opera House, Belfast** (4 – 15 February 2025), **The Regent Theatre, Stoke** (4 – 8 March 2025), **Wolverhampton Grand Theatre** (11 – 22 March 2025), **Theatre Royal Glasgow** (25 March – 5 April 2025), **Liverpool Empire** (8– 19 April), **Milton Keynes Theatre** (22 April – 3 May 2025), **Nottingham Royal Concert Hall** (7 – 17 May 2025) and **Bristol Hippodrome** (3 – 21 June 2025).

Casting for **Leeds Grand Theatre** (19 August – 6 September 2025), **Edinburgh Festival Theatre** (2 – 11 October 2025), **Wales Millennium Centre** (15 – 25 October 2025) and **Norwich Theatre Royal** (28 October – 8 November 2025) to be announced.

Assisted performances are available throughout the run at each venue. Further tour dates and venues to be announced. For more information and to book tickets visit [WarHorseOnStage.com](https://www.warhorseonstage.com).

At the outbreak of World War One, Joey, young Albert's beloved horse, is sold to the Cavalry and shipped to France. He's soon caught up in enemy fire, and fate takes him on an extraordinary journey, serving on both sides before finding himself alone in no man's land. Albert, who remained on his parents' Devon farm, cannot forget Joey. Though still not old enough to enlist he embarks on a treacherous mission to find him and bring him home.

This tour of **War Horse** marks 110 years since the start of the First World War and follows the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the publication of Michael Morpurgo's global best-selling novel, which has now sold over 35 million copies world-wide and in 37 different languages.

Creative development for the tour has been led by **Tom Morris** with revival director **Katie Henry**, featuring reimagined designs by **Rae Smith** and additional music by **Adrian Sutton**. Puppet design and fabrication is by **Adrian Kohler** for **Handspring Puppet Company**, lighting design is by **Rob Casey**, movement and horse choreography is by **Toby Sedgwick** with puppet direction by **Matthew Forbes**. Animation and projection design is by **Nicol Scott** for **59 Productions**, **John Tams** is songmaker and sound design is by **Christopher Shutt**. Casting is by **Jill Green CDG**. They are joined by associate designer **Will Fricker** and associate costume designer **Johanna Coe**; associate lighting designer **Tom Turner**; associate sound designer **Rob Bettle**, assistant sound designer **Raffaella Pancucci**, musical director **Dom Coyote**, voice coach **Carol Fairlamb**, dialect coach **Rebecca Daltry**, resident director **Anna Marshall** and assistant puppetry director **Lewis Howard**.

**War Horse** received its world premiere on 9 October 2007 at the National Theatre, where it played for two seasons before opening at the New London Theatre in March 2009. Since then, **War Horse** has been seen in 97 cities in 14 countries, including productions on Broadway, in Toronto and Berlin, with touring productions in the UK and Ireland, North America, the Netherlands and Belgium.

The National Theatre's Partner for Financial Wellbeing, Charles Stanley, is supporting **War Horse** on tour. **War Horse** will visit *Theatre Nation Partnerships* venues, including The Lowry in Salford, Sunderland Empire, Regent Theatre in Stoke-on-Trent and Wolverhampton Grand Theatre.

**ENDS**

### **Notes to Editors**

For further information please contact **Holly Nicholls** at [honicholls@nationaltheatre.org.uk](mailto:honicholls@nationaltheatre.org.uk)

### **Further Materials**

- Cast headshots [here](#)
- Cast biogs [here](#)
- Artwork available [here](#)
- Images from previous productions by Brinkhoff/Moegenburg are available [here](#)

### **LISTINGS**

- **Dates:** Performances from 5 September 2024 (detailed tour schedule below)  
Press performance: Sunday 22 September 2024, 2:30pm at The Lowry, Salford
- **Assisted Performances:** Check individual venue websites for information and booking details
- **Age Recommendation:** 10+

- **Social Platforms:**

Follow on **Instagram** @WarHorseOnStage

**Twitter** @WarHorseOnStage

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#WarHorse

## **WAR HORSE UK TOUR DATES FOR 2024-2025**

<b>New Wimbledon Theatre</b> <a href="https://atgtickets.com/new-wimbledon-theatre">atgtickets.com/new-wimbledon-theatre</a>	5 – 14 September 2024
<b>The Lowry, Salford</b> <a href="https://thelowry.com">thelowry.com</a>	18 – 28 September 2024
<b>Mayflower Theatre, Southampton</b> <a href="https://mayflower.org.uk">mayflower.org.uk</a>	8 – 19 October 2024
<b>Marlowe Theatre Canterbury</b> <a href="https://marlowetheatre.com">marlowetheatre.com</a>	22 October – 2 November 2024
<b>Sunderland Empire</b> <a href="https://atgtickets.com/sunderland-empire">atgtickets.com/sunderland-empire</a>	5 – 16 November 2024
<b>Theatre Royal Plymouth</b> <a href="https://theatreroyal.com">theatreroyal.com</a>	26 November – 7 December 2024
<b>New Theatre Oxford</b> <a href="https://atgtickets.com/new-theatre-oxford">atgtickets.com/new-theatre-oxford</a>	10 December 2024 – 4 January 2025
<b>New Victoria Theatre, Woking</b> <a href="https://atgtickets.com/venues/new-victoria-theatre">atgtickets.com/venues/new-victoria-theatre</a>	14 – 25 January 2025
<b>Bord Gais Energy Theatre, Dublin</b> <a href="https://bordgaisenergytheatre.ie">bordgaisenergytheatre.ie</a>	29 January – 1 February 2025
<b>Grand Opera House, Belfast</b> <a href="https://goh.co.uk">goh.co.uk</a>	4 – 15 February 2025
<b>Regent Theatre, Stoke-on-Trent</b> <a href="https://atgtickets.com/venues/regent-theatre">atgtickets.com/venues/regent-theatre</a>	4 – 8 March 2025
<b>Wolverhampton Grand Theatre</b> <a href="https://grandtheatre.co.uk">grandtheatre.co.uk</a>	11 – 22 March 2025

<b>Theatre Royal Glasgow</b>	25 March – 5 April 2025
<a href="https://atgtickets.com/venues/theatre-royal-glasgow">atgtickets.com/venues/theatre-royal-glasgow</a>	
<b>Liverpool Empire</b>	8 – 19 April 2025
<a href="https://atgtickets.com/venues/liverpool-empire">atgtickets.com/venues/liverpool-empire</a>	
<b>Milton Keynes Theatre</b>	22 April – 3 May 2025
<a href="https://atgtickets.com/venues/milton-keynes-theatre">atgtickets.com/venues/milton-keynes-theatre</a>	
<b>Royal Concert Hall, Nottingham</b>	7 – 17 May 2025
<a href="https://trch.co.uk">trch.co.uk</a>	
<b>Bristol Hippodrome</b>	3 – 21 June 2025
<a href="https://atgtickets.com/venues/bristol-hippodrome">atgtickets.com/venues/bristol-hippodrome</a>	
<b>Leeds Grand Theatre</b>	19 August – 6 September 2025
<a href="https://leedsheritagetheatres.com">leedsheritagetheatres.com</a>	
<b>Edinburgh Festival Theatre</b>	2 – 11 October 2025
<a href="https://www.capitaltheatres.com">www.capitaltheatres.com</a>	
<b>Wales Millennium Centre</b>	15 – 25 October 2025
<a href="https://www.wmc.org.uk">www.wmc.org.uk</a>	
<b>Norwich Theatre Royal</b>	28 October – 8 November 2025
<a href="https://norwichtheatre.org">norwichtheatre.org</a>	

### ***War Horse* – original creative credits**

The original production of *War Horse* was co-directed by **Tom Morris** and **Marianne Elliott**, with design by **Rae Smith** and puppet design and fabrication by **Basil Jones** and **Adrian Kohler** for **Handspring Puppet Company**. Original lighting design was by **Paule Constable**, with movement and horse choreography by **Toby Sedgwick** and animation and projection design by **Leo Warner** and **Mark Grimmer** for **59 Productions**. Original Music was by **Adrian Sutton** with **John Tams** as songmaker and sound design was by **Christopher Shutt**.

### **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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### **About Michael Harrison**

Michael Harrison's West End musicals include: *The Little Big Things* (@sohoplace), *Crazy For You* (Gillian Lynne), *The Wizard of Oz* (The London Palladium), *Oklahoma!* (Wyndham's), *The Drifters Girl* (Garrick), two seasons of *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat* (The London Palladium), Mel Brooks' *Young Frankenstein* (Garrick), *Annie* (Piccadilly), *Mrs Henderson Presents* (Noël Coward), *Gypsy* (Savoy) and *The Bodyguard* (Adelphi and Dominion).

In 2022 with Andrew Lloyd Webber, he formed Lloyd Webber Harrison Musicals to produce both new musicals and revivals of Andrew's existing work. Productions include Jamie Lloyd's reimagined *Sunset Boulevard* (Savoy) starring Nicole Scherzinger and a new production of *Starlight Express* at Troubadour Wembley Park Theatre. *Sunset Boulevard* will transfer to Broadway later this year.

This summer Michael will produce *Hello, Dolly!* starring Imelda Staunton at The London Palladium.

Michael's London Palladium pantomimes: *Peter Pan*, *Jack and the Beanstalk*, *Pantoland*, *Goldilocks and the Three Bears*, *Snow White*, *Dick Whittington* and *Cinderella*, have proved to be huge popular hits, with *Dick Whittington* winning the Olivier Award for Best Entertainment and Family.

He is Chief Executive of Crossroads Pantomimes, responsible for many of the major number one pantomimes across the UK.

### **About Fiery Angel**

Headed by Edward Snape and Marilyn Eardley, Fiery Angel is an award-winning international production company based in London's West End.

Recent productions in the West End include: *King Lear*, *Hairspray*, *Peppa Pig Live*, *Dolly Parton's Smoky Mountain Christmas Carol*, *Circus 1903*, *Touching The Void*, *The Son*, *The Night of the Iguana*, *Fleabag*, *Home I'm Darling*, *Long Day's Journey into Night*, *Mary Stuart*, *Mel Brooks' Young Frankenstein*, *Kenneth Branagh Theatre Company*; *The Winter's Tale*, *All On Her Own/Harlequinade*, *Red Velvet*, *The Painkiller*, *Romeo and Juliet*, *The Entertainer*, *The 39 Steps*, *The Scottsboro Boys*, *The Ladykillers*, and *Ghost Stories*.

Recent UK Tours include: *Rob Brydon: A Night of Songs and Laughter*, *The 39 Steps*, *The Boy at the Back of the Class*, *And Then There Were None*, *Kathy and Stella Solve A Murder!*, *Tubular Bells*, *The Smartest Giant in Town*, *Peppa Pig Live*, *Unexpected Twist*, *Animal Farm*, *The Good Life*, *Love From A Stranger*, and *To Kill a Mockingbird*.

Fiery Angel has acted as a co-producer alongside The National Theatre on its West End productions of *Nine Night*, *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time*, and *The Lehman Trilogy*.

### **About Playing Field**

Combining our knowledge of theatre and capital, Playing Field is dedicated to accelerating the creation of world class theatre. We are involved in the early-stage development, late-stage investment and production of a wide variety of projects in London, nationally and internationally.

Work includes *Life of Pi* (London, UK Tour, NY, US Tour), *Back to the Future* (London, NY, US Tour), *The Hills of California*, *Standing at the Sky's Edge*, *Red Pitch*, *Starlight Express*, *MJ The Musical*, *Hello Dolly!*, *Opening Night*, *Dear England*, *King Lear*, *Stranger Things*, *The Motive and the Cue*, *Dr Strangelove*, *Just For One Day*, *Lyonesse*, *Edward Scissorhands*, *Merrily We Roll Along* (NY), *Dr Semmelweis*, *For Black Boys Who Have Considered Suicide*, *A Strange Loop*, *The Crucible*, *Accidental Death of an Anarchist*, *Crazy for You*, *Groundhog Day*, *A Little Life*, *A Streetcar Named Desire*, *Patriots*, *2.22*, *A Doll's House*, *Medea*, *The Wizard of Oz*, *Sleeping Beauty*, *New York, New York*, *Oklahoma!*, *Sylvia*, *The Piano Lesson* (NY), *Death of a Salesman* (NY), *Moulin Rouge*, *The Lehman Trilogy* (London, NY), *Jerusalem*, *Funny Girl* (NY), *The Time Travellers Wife*, *101 Dalmatians*, *Good, Cruise*, *Girl from the North Country*, *Grease*, *Hairspray*, *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*, *The Pillowman*, *Touching the Void*, *The Bodyguard*, *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night Time*, *Fiddler on the Roof*.

[playingfield.co.uk](http://playingfield.co.uk)