

THURSDAY 8 AUGUST 2024

National Theatre

FIRST LOOK: REHEARSAL IMAGES RELEASED FOR
THE UPCOMING UK & IRELAND TOUR OF
WAR HORSE
BEGINNING PERFORMANCES
ON 5 SEPTEMBER 2024



Link to rehearsal images [here](#)

Rehearsal images have been released for the National Theatre's internationally acclaimed production of *War Horse*, based on **Michael Morpurgo's** beloved novel, which begins its major UK and Ireland tour on 5 September 2024 at the New Wimbledon Theatre. A press performance will be held on Sunday 22 September at The Lowry in Salford.

The full cast of 35 includes: **Rianna Ash** (Joey/Tophorn head), **Alexander Ballinger** (Friedrich/Allan), **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/Tophorn head), **Felicity Donnelly** (Joey/Tophorn hind), **Tom Gilbey** (Sergeant Fine), **Thomas Goodridge** (Joey/Tophorn hind), **Karl Haynes** (Ted Narracott), **Robin Hayward** (Joey/Tophorn 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/Topthorn head), **Lucy Thorburn** (Jenny Bone/Annie Gilbert), **Gareth Radcliffe** (Arthur Narracott/Sergeant Thunder), **Daniel Rock** (Captain Stewart/Ludwig), **Diany Samba-Bandza** (Emilie/Baby Joey), **Tom Sturgess** (Albert Narracott), **Alistair So** (Vet Martin), **Simon Stanhope** (Manfred), **Gun Suen** (Joey/Topthorn hind), **Sally Swanson** (The Singer), **Chris Williams** (Lieutenant Nicholls/Dr Schewyk) and **Rafe Young** (Joey/Topthorn 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 including the Tony Award for ‘Best Play’, 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.

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.

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.

This tour of **War Horse** marks 110 years since the start of the First World War and follows the 40th anniversary of the publication of Michael Morpurgo’s global best-selling novel, which has now sold over 2 million copies world-wide and in 44 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**, fight director **Paul Benzing**, 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.

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Notes to Editors

For further information please contact **Holly Nicholls** at honicholls@nationaltheatre.org.uk

Further Materials

- Rehearsal images [here](#)
- 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:**

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WAR HORSE UK TOUR DATES FOR 2024-2025

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

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

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 every local authority 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

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About Michael Harrison

West End musicals include: *Hello Dolly* (The London Palladium) *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), *The Bodyguard* (Adelphi and Dominion), *Peter Pan*, *Jack and the Beanstalk*, *Pantoland*, *Goldilocks and the Three Bears*, *Snow White*, *Dick Whittington* (Olivier Award for Best Entertainment and Family) and *Cinderella* (The London Palladium). In 2022, with Andrew Lloyd Webber, he formed Lloyd Webber Harrison Musicals to produce both new musicals and revivals of Andrew's existing work.

Lloyd Webber Harrison Musicals productions include: *Starlight Express* (Troubadour) and Jamie Lloyd's re-imagined *Sunset Boulevard* starring Nicole Scherzinger (Savoy). Later this year, they will produce *Sunset Boulevard* at the St James Theatre on Broadway.

Upcoming 2024 productions include: *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat* starring Donny Osmond (Edinburgh Playhouse) and *War Horse* (UK tour). Michael produced Disney's *Bedknobs and Broomsticks* on tour in the UK.

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

Michael was awarded a companionship to the Liverpool Institute of Performing Arts by Sir Paul McCartney and the Freedom of the City of Newcastle upon Tyne in recognition of his services to theatre in the region.

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: *The 39 Steps*, *Kathy and Stella Solve A Murder!*, *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 Scottsboro Boys, The Ladykillers, and Ghost Stories.

Recent UK Tours include: *Murder on the Orient Express, 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: *Back to the Future* (London, NY, US Tour), *Starlight Express, MJ The Musical, Hello Dolly!, Stranger Things, Life of Pi* (London, UK Tour, NY, US Tour), *Moulin Rouge, The Hills of California, Dear England, Standing at the Sky's Edge, Red Pitch, The Motive and the Cue, Dr Strangelove, Merrily We Roll Along* (NY), *Opening Night, King Lear, The Lehman Trilogy* (London, NY), *Jerusalem, Funny Girl* (NY), *Just For One Day, Lyonesse, Edward Scissorhands, 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), *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

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