

National Theatre

Monday 4 November 2024

WHAT'S ON THIS FESTIVE SEASON FROM THE NATIONAL THEATRE



IMAGES CAN BE FOUND [HERE](#)

This festive season, the National Theatre is offering audiences a variety of experiences to enjoy – from world class theatre and festive dining at our South Bank home, to acclaimed productions in the West End and on tour across the country, alongside exceptional theatre broadcast live in cinemas or streamed directly into the comfort of your own home.

On the South Bank, the first major stage adaptation of **Noel Streatfeild**'s best-selling book ***Ballet Shoes***, adapted by **Kendall Feaver**, plays at the Olivier theatre. Set in a crumbling house full of dinosaur bones and fossils, three adopted sisters are learning who they are and what they want to be. A family-friendly story for those aged 7+, ***Ballet Shoes*** is directed by **Katy Rudd**, who returns to

the National Theatre following her acclaimed production of *The Ocean at the End of the Lane*. Tickets are available from £20 at nationaltheatre.org.uk.

Further charming audiences on the South Bank is a reimagining of Oscar Wilde's most celebrated comedy *The Importance of Being Earnest*, directed by **Max Webster**, which follows two gentlemen who find themselves caught in a web of lies whilst assuming false identities, with hilarious consequences. Starring a cast including three-time Olivier Award-winner **Sharon D Clarke**, **Ncuti Gatwa**, **Hugh Skinner**, **Eliza Scanlen**, and **Ronke Adékoluejo**. Tickets are available at nationaltheatre.org.uk.

The Importance of Being Earnest will be filmed from its run on the Lyttelton stage for **National Theatre Live**, screening across the globe from **20 February 2025**. The perfect festive gift for family and friends, tickets are available at theimportanceofbeingearnest.ntlive.com.

In the West End, the critically acclaimed, five-time Tony Award® winning production of *The Lehman Trilogy* is playing at the Gillian Lynne Theatre. Written by **Stefano Massini**, adapted by **Ben Power** and directed by Academy Award®, Tony Award®, and Golden Globe winner **Sam Mendes**, this landmark production has now been seen by over half a million people worldwide. Following recent, highly acclaimed international performances, **John Heffernan**, **Aaron Krohn** and **Howard W. Overhown** reprise their roles, playing the Lehman brothers, their sons and grandsons. **Cat Beveridge** and **Anyssa Neumann** reprise their respective performances as principal pianist and alternate pianist. *The Lehman Trilogy* is a sweeping story of a family spanning generations and a company that changed the world. Tickets are available from £20 at thelehmantrilogy.com.

Also running in the West End is the multi award-winning musical *Hadestown*. Winner of 8 Tony® Awards and a Grammy® Award for 'Best Musical Theatre Album', *Hadestown* continues its critically acclaimed run at the Lyric Theatre, five years after its sold-out engagement at the National Theatre. Blending modern American folk music with New Orleans-inspired jazz, *Hadestown* takes you on an unforgettable journey to the underworld and back, intertwining two mythic love stories –

that of young dreamers Orpheus and Eurydice, and that of King Hades and his wife Persephone. Featuring music, lyrics, and book by singer-songwriter **Anaïs Mitchell**, direction by **Rachel Chavkin** and a cast that includes **Madeline Charlemagne, Melanie La Barrie, Trevor Dion Nicholas, Rachel Tucker** and **Dylan Wood**. Tickets are available from £20 at uk.hadestown.com.

For audiences further afield, **War Horse**, which is currently touring the UK and Ireland, will be playing at the New Theatre Oxford during the Christmas period. Based on the beloved novel by **Michael Morpurgo**, **War Horse** has become the most successful play in the history of the National Theatre and has been seen by over 8.3 million people worldwide. Adapted by **Nick Stafford** and originally directed by **Marianne Elliott** and **Tom Morris**, creative development for this new tour has been led by **Tom Morris** with revival director **Katie Henry** and features reimagined designs by **Rae Smith** with additional music by **Adrian Sutton**. **War Horse** is an unforgettable theatrical experience which takes audiences on an extraordinary journey from the fields of rural Devon to the trenches of First World War France. This powerfully moving and imaginative drama is a show of phenomenal inventiveness, featuring astonishing life-sized horses by South Africa's **Handspring Puppet Company**. Tickets are available at www.warhorseonstage.com.

Audiences worldwide can enjoy over 90 productions available to stream on National Theatre at Home (NTatHome.com). Recent releases include **Vanya** with **Andrew Scott**, **Macbeth** with **Ralph Fiennes** and **Indira Varma**, and **London Tide** with **Bella Maclean**. Upcoming releases this festive season include the joyous **Present Laughter** with Andrew Scott and Indira Varma, and **The Hot Wing King** with **Kadiff Kirwan**. NT at Home subscriptions are available for £9.99 a month, or £99 a year, with gifting options for 1, 3- and 6-month subscriptions. All titles are available with captions and 85% offer Audio Description.

The National Theatre is not only home to the very best in British theatre, but also some incredible dining experiences at Lasdun Restaurant, Forza Wine and the Understudy bar at our home on London's South Bank. Offerings include delicious pre-theatre menus, or visitors can simply pop in

for a feed and a cocktail even if they aren't seeing a show. Explore the festive dining offerings here:

<https://www.nationaltheatre.org.uk/your-visit/eat-and-drink/>.

ENDS

For further information please contact **Amy Johnson** at ajohnson@nationaltheatre.org.uk

Notes to Editors

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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LISTINGS

On the South Bank

Ballet Shoes

26 November – 22 February 2024

Where: Olivier theatre, National Theatre, Upper Ground, London SE1 9PX

Tickets available: nationaltheatre.org.uk

Recommended for ages 7+

Images: [here](#).

The Importance of Being Earnest

21 November – 25 January 2025

Where: Lyttleton theatre, National Theatre, Upper Ground, London SE1 9PX

Tickets available: nationaltheatre.org.uk

Images and trailer: [here](#).

In the West End

The Lehman Trilogy

Playing now until 5 January 2025

Where: Gillian Lynne Theatre, 166 Drury Lane, London, WC2B 5PW

Tickets available at: thelehmantrilogy.com

Images and trailer: [here](#).

Hadestown

Playing now

Where: Lyric Theatre, 29 Shaftesbury Avenue, London, W1D 7ES

Tickets available at: uk.hadestown.com

Images: [here](#)

On Tour

War Horse

Now until 8 November 2025

Where: across the UK and Ireland currently until 8 November 2025, visiting New Theatre Oxford in December 2024

Tickets available at: warhorseonstage.com

Images and trailer: [here](#).