

National Theatre

Wednesday 27 November 2024

NATIONAL THEATRE COLLABORATES WITH CORAM FOR FORTHCOMING PRODUCTION OF *BALLET SHOES*

The **National Theatre** today announces a collaboration with **Coram**, the UK's first and longest continuing children's charity who provide adoption services for families and children across the capital and beyond, to coincide with the National Theatre's new production of *Ballet Shoes*, **Noel Streatfeild's** beloved story about three adopted sisters and their found family, adapted for the stage by **Kendall Feaver** and directed by **Katy Rudd**.

The collaboration aims to raise awareness for adoption and celebrate adopted families. To mark **Big Adoption Day** on **Wednesday 15 January 2025**, the National Theatre and Coram will invite families and supporters to the matinee and evening performances of *Ballet Shoes*, to experience the magic and power of storytelling through theatre. Guests will be invited to attend a special panel discussion hosted by writer and broadcaster **James O'Brien**, who has spoken about his own experience of being adopted. Alongside the panel discussion guests will be offered bespoke family tours of the National Theatre, giving a glimpse behind the scenes of *Ballet Shoes* to discover the backstage magic and highly skilled team that bring the show to life.

During the run of *Ballet Shoes*, the National Theatre will also work with Coram to offer discounted tickets to members of The Consortium of Voluntary Adoption Agencies (CVAA) who will reach out to adoptive families across the country to see the show.

Speaking about the National Theatre’s collaboration with Coram, Kate Varah, Executive Director of the National Theatre said:

“Our festive production of Ballet Shoes celebrates and raises awareness of adopted families, whose story is at the heart of Noel Streatfeild’s cherished story, brilliantly reimaged by Kendall Feaver. We’re delighted in this moment to be collaborating with Coram to celebrate Big Adoption Day and offer discounted tickets through the run. The National Theatre is committed to opening up the world of the play to families nationwide and give them the opportunity to see their own experiences reflected through the magic of live theatre.”

Dr Carol Homden CBE, CEO of Coram said:

“We are delighted to collaborate with the National Theatre around this exciting new production, giving adopted children and their families a special opportunity to experience the magic of the show and shining a spotlight on adoption at a time when we need more loving families to come forward for the growing numbers of children waiting. We hope anyone considering adoption will be inspired to take their first step and get in touch at coramadoption.org.uk.”

Ballet Shoes is set in a crumbling house full of dinosaur bones and fossils, where three adopted sisters – Pauline, Petrova and Posy – are learning who they are and what they want to be. Under the watchful eyes and guidance of their guardian Sylvia, Nana, and some unlikely lodgers, they fight to pursue their individual passions. But in a world that wasn’t built for women with big ambitions, can they forge a future, keep their family together, and even learn a dance or two along the way?

Ballet Shoes will play in the Olivier theatre until 22 February 2025, with the press performance on 5 December 2024. Recommended for ages 7+.

Tickets are on sale now, nationaltheatre.org.uk.

ENDS

For images, click [here](#).

For press enquiries about the National Theatre and Ballet Shoes please contact:

Production	Theatre	Dates	Press Night	Publicist
<i>Ballet Shoes</i>	Olivier theatre	Until 22 February 2025	Thursday 5 December 2024	James Lever

For press enquiries about Coram please contact:

Emma Lamberton, Senior Communications Manager, Coram:

emma.lamberton@coram.org.uk / 07908 827908.

Assisted performances of *Ballet Shoes* at the National Theatre:

Captioned Performances: Thursday 19 December 2024 – 7pm, Saturday 11 January 2025 – 1.30pm, Wednesday 5 February 2025 – 1pm, Wednesday 19 February 2025 – 1.30pm.

BSL Interpreted: Wednesday 5 February 2025 – 1pm, Thursday 6 February 2025 - 7pm

Audio described (with touch tours taking place 90 minutes before the show): Saturday 21 December 2024 – 1.30pm, Thursday 30 January 2025 – 7pm, Wednesday 5 February 2025 – 1pm.

Relaxed performance: Wednesday 15 January 2025 – 7pm

With thanks:

This is an Edgerton New Plays Commission. New Play Commissions are also supported by the Pritzker Pucker Family Foundation.

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

About Coram

Coram is the first and longest serving children's charity in the UK. Established as the Foundling Hospital in 1739, today we are a vibrant charity group of specialist organisations, supporting hundreds of thousands of children, young people and families every year.

We do this by championing children's rights and wellbeing and making their lives better every day through our range of services. These include reading support and life skills education in schools for 300,000 children, adoption services for children waiting to find a home, mental health support, cultural programmes, and legal advice and advocacy for thousands of children and families every year.

All of our work delivers across seven key outcomes for children and young people: A fair chance, A loving home, A voice that's heard, A chance to shine, Skills for the future, No matter where and A society that cares.

For more information, please visit:

Website: www.coram.org.uk

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