

# National Theatre

Wednesday 5 July 2024

## Two students announced as winners of the 2024 National Theatre New Views playwriting competition

- **Luke Fields** from Belfast and **Emyr Strudwick** from South Wales announced as joint winners of this year's **New Views** playwriting competition
- Plays will be presented at the National Theatre, directed by **Rufus Norris** and **Emily Burns**
- The **New Views Festival** will take place on **4-5 July**, with free tickets available now via the National Theatre website

For the winners' headshots, click [here](#)

Two young writers have been announced today as the winners of this year's **New Views** programme, the **National Theatre's** annual playwriting competition for young people.

***House on Fire*** by **Luke Fields**, 17, from **Aquinas Diocesan Grammar School** in Belfast and ***Teulu*** by **Emyr Strudwick**, 19, from **Merthyr College** in South Wales, will be presented as staged readings, followed by a post-performance discussion with the writers and directors in the Gorvy Rehearsal Room at the National Theatre on **4-5 July**, as part of the free **New Views** Festival. Luke and Emyr will have the opportunity to develop their plays from page to stage alongside Director of the National Theatre **Rufus Norris** (Nye), who will direct ***Teulu***, and theatre director **Emily Burns** (*Dear Octopus*), who will direct ***House on Fire***.

**New Views** is the National Theatre's nationwide playwriting programme for students aged 14-19. Participating schools work with a professional playwright to mentor students in writing their own original 30-minute play. 500 plays were submitted for **New Views** 2024 from 90 schools across the UK.

Luke's play, ***House on Fire***, follows recently elected Head Boy and Girl, Stephen and Caitlin, as they are called to the headteacher's office. Following their contentious rise to power, the school has broken into a riot in this comedy which also comments on the politics of today.

Emyr's play, **Teulu**, explores the world of Owen, a teenage boy dealing with the grief of losing his mother, as he reconnects with his father Wyn. Set in Wales, this play is a portrayal of community, family and leaning on those who love you.

**Luke Fields**, one of this year's winning playwrights, said *"I found it an incredible experience. Getting to advance my own skills whilst interacting with likeminded students and having the chance to read and see their work and what inspires everyone else was really special and exciting. I am overwhelmed with shock and surprise."*

**Emyr Strudwick**, one of this year's winning playwrights, said *"I was genuinely shocked: although I believe in the message of this play, I did not believe that my writing would be appreciated by other people. I am extremely grateful for this opportunity and excited to see how this play will develop."*

**Rufus Norris**, Director of the National Theatre, said *"I am so excited to be supporting this year's New Views writers as one of the directors in my final year at the National Theatre. New Views is a wonderful platform for young people across the UK to be empowered to share their perspective on topical issues as well as develop their creativity and writing skills, helping to nurture the next generation of theatre makers and writers while encouraging creative self-expression in whatever they choose to do in life."*

**Keira Grierson**, New Views 2023 Winner and New Views 2024 panel member, said *"Winning New Views last year was an emotional and rewarding time that I feel so fortunate to have experienced. Returning this year as a judge, and watching several young writers be presented with the same opportunities that validated and inspired my passion for writing and theatre further, is another privileged experience at the National Theatre I won't forget."*

**House on Fire** and **Teulu** were selected by a panel of judges from across the industry including director **Lyndsey Turner** (*The Witches*), 2023 New Views winner **Keira Grierson** (3.2.1), actor **Kel Matsena** (*Dear England*), playwright **Dipo Baruwa-Etti** (*The Clinic*) and was chaired by director **Sasha Milavic Davies** (*Infinite Life*). They were selected from a shortlist of nine plays, with the other seven shortlisted plays also featuring at the New Views Festival as rehearsed readings.

The seven shortlisted plays are open to the public to watch for free and include themes of LGBTQIA+ relationships, AI, community, war, mental health and online safety. Schools are invited to watch the staged readings and attend National Theatre Archive tours and workshops organised by the National Theatre's 2024 Young Producers for free.

Tickets to watch the winning plays and attend the post-performance discussion from 2pm-4pm on Thursday 4 July and Friday 5 July at the New Views Festival are free and now available to book on the [NT Website](#).

The seven shortlisted plays being presented as rehearsed readings in the Duffield Studio are:

- ***Broken Frames*** by **Adanna Paradise Isiodu** (16) from The Henrietta Barnett School in Barnet, London
- ***Here to Help*** by **Isobel Guyer** (15) from King's Ely in Ely, Cambridgeshire
- ***Invitation to Pantalone's*** by **Adeniola Adesanya** (14) from St Paul's Academy in Greenwich, London
- ***Sweetness*** by **Mirabel Yeboah** (17) from Wanstead High School in Redbridge, London
- ***The Journey*** by **Phoebe Land** (14) from Chislehurst & Sidcup Grammar School in Sidcup, Kent
- ***The Kids are Smoking, Again*** by **Clay Colman** (16) from Exeter College in Exeter, Devon
- ***Tonight's Interview with Claire Harvey*** by **Emma Levin** (18) from Highgate School in Haringey, London

**ENDS**

### **Notes to Editors**

To download images of the winning and shortlisted students, and last year's production images, click [here](#).

For more information, please contact Orla Bentley at [Obentley@nationaltheatre.org.uk](mailto:Obentley@nationaltheatre.org.uk)

### **With Thanks**

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### **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.

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