

For immediate release: Wednesday 11 December

National Theatre

NATIONAL THEATRE PRODUCTIONS IN 2025



Spend 2025 with the National Theatre on stage, in the cinema and from the comfort of your own home. Whether it's enjoying the heartwarming tale of *Ballet Shoes* on the South Bank, the multi award-winning musical, *Hadestown* in the West End, catching the global sensation *War Horse* on tour around the UK and Ireland, watching *Dr Strangelove* in cinemas or streaming *Prima Facie* from home, National Theatre has something to offer everybody in 2025.

On the South Bank, 2025 begins with the continuation, until 25 January, of Oscar Wilde's most celebrated comedy *The Importance of Being Earnest* in the Lyttelton theatre. Directed by Max Webster, this hilarious play follows two gentlemen who find themselves caught in a web of lies whilst assuming false identities. Starring three-time Olivier Award-winner **Sharon D Clarke**, **Ncuti Gatwa**, **Hugh Skinner**, **Eliza Scanlen** and **Ronke Adékoluejo**, tickets are available at nationaltheatre.org.uk

Following its stage run, *The Importance of Being Earnest* will be filmed for **National Theatre Live**, screening in cinemas across the globe from **20 February 2025**. Tickets are available at theimportanceofbeingearnest.ntlive.com.

Also continuing until 22 February in the Olivier theatre is the heartwarming, family-friendly tale *Ballet Shoes*, a spectacular reimagining of **Noel Streatfeild's** beloved novel, in a new version by **Kendall Feaver**. In a crumbling house full of dinosaur bones and fossils, three adopted sisters – Pauline, Petrova and Posy – are learning who they are and what they want to be. Directed by *The Ocean at the End of the Lane's* **Katy Rudd**. Tickets are available at nationaltheatre.org.uk

In the Lyttelton Theatre, the largest ever staging of *Alterations* plays from 20 February - 5 April 2025. Walker Holt has big dreams for his tailor's shop, and an even bigger order to complete and over the course of 24 hours, he must work tirelessly to satisfy his new client's impossible tailoring needs. **Lynette Linton** directs **Michael Abbensetts'** era-defining comedy and reinvigorated version of Abbensetts' seminal work, which illuminates the Guyanese experience of 1970s London, with additional material by **Trish Cooke**. Initial casting includes **Arinzé Kene** (*Get Up, Stand Up: The Bob Marley Story*) making his National Theatre debut and **Cherelle Skeete** (*Hanna*). Tickets are available at nationaltheatre.org.uk

With Spring comes the return of the Olivier Award-winning 'Best New Play', *Dear England*, as the smash-hit production returns to the Olivier theatre 10 March to 24 May 2025, followed by a four-week run at The Lowry in Salford from 29 May until 29 June 2025. **James Graham's** Olivier Award-

winning play, directed by **Rupert Goold**, follows the story of the England men's football team under manager Gareth Southgate and has evolved to include the recent European championship, continuing to examine the crucial role the England team and manager play in English society. Tickets are available at nationaltheatre.org.uk

Celebrate World Theatre Day on **27 March** in style with the release of **Stanley Kubrick's** comedy masterpiece **Dr. Strangelove** captured live from London's West End and releasing to cinemas worldwide through **National Theatre Live**. Seven-time BAFTA Award-winner **Steve Coogan** (*Alan Partridge, The Trip*) takes on a 'tour de (armed) force' (★★★★ *Daily Mail*) performance, playing four roles in this theatrical reimagining. Audiences can find their nearest screening at drstrangelove.ntlive.com.

In April, the Olivier theatre will welcome Stephen Sondheim's final musical, **Here We Are**, after receiving its world premiere in New York in 2023 with a new production at the National Theatre from 23 April to 28 June 2025. Directed by two-time Tony Award-winner **Joe Mantello**, with a book by **David Ives**, this incredible musical follows Leo and Marianne Brink. Having found the ideal spot to take their friends, a strange series of events interrupt their meal, and they realise they may have bitten off more than they can chew. Cast will include **Tracie Bennett** (*Follies*) and **Denis O'Hare** (*Tartuffe*), who reprise their roles from the original production in New York, and **Rory Kinnear** (*No Time to Die*) who will join this new production in London. Tickets are available at nationaltheatre.org.uk

Ushering in the summer in the Olivier Theatre is the return of the innovative musical **London Road** for a limited run from 5 June to 21 June 2025. Directed by **Rufus Norris**, written by **Alecky Blythe** and composed by **Adam Cork**, this moving story of ordinary people coming together during an extraordinary time is set in the Suffolk town of Ipswich in 2006, where the bodies of five women are discovered and the community grapples with being at the epicentre of the tragedy. Using their own

words set to an innovative musical score, the highly anticipated return of the remarkable, award-winning verbatim musical is not to be missed. Tickets are available at nationaltheatre.org.uk

Also playing at the Olivier theatre is the return of **Nye**, written by **Tim Price** and directed by **Rufus Norris**, an epic Welsh fantasia charting the life of Aneurin 'Nye' Bevan, often referred to as the politician with the greatest influence on our country, without ever being Prime Minister. From campaigning at the coalfield to leading the battle to create the NHS, Nye is led on a mind-bending journey back through his life, with **Michael Sheen** reprising his role as Nye Bevan. It will run at the National Theatre from 3 July to 16 August 2025, before returning to the Wales Millennium Centre's Donald Gordon Theatre from 22 to 30 August 2025. Tickets are available at nationaltheatre.org.uk.

From summer 2025, four new plays announced at the National Theatre will also include the world premiere of **Inter Alia** in the Lyttelton theatre, reuniting the team behind **Prima Facie**, writer **Suzie Miller** and director **Justin Martin**. **Rosamund Pike** (*Saltburn*) makes her National Theatre debut as an eminent High Court Judge forced to reckon her professional life and role as wife, mother, friend and feminist. In the Dorfman **The Estate** written by **Shaan Sahota** and directed by **Daniel Raggett** (*Accidental Death of an Anarchist*) will have its world premiere. An ambitious politician has sights set on Number 10, but his father's death brings questions about the family estate to the fore. Casting includes **Adeel Akhtar** (*Fool Me Once*). This is followed by **The Land of the Living** by former Young Vic Artistic Director **David Lan**, which tells the story of children stolen by the Nazis during World War II. Directed by **Stephen Daldry** (*An Inspector Calls*), the cast includes **Juliet Stevenson** (*The Doctor*). From November 2025, in the Dorfman will be the world premiere of **End**, a new play by **David Eldridge** (*Beginning, Middle*), the concluding part of his trilogy commissioned by Rufus Norris during his tenure. Directed by Lyric Hammersmith Artistic Director **Rachel O'Riordan** (*Romeo and Julie*). Further casting, dates and onsale for **Inter Alia**, **The Estate**, **The Land of the Living** and **End** is to be announced in the New Year.

Continuing 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 the National Theatre experience all around the country, the global smash hit ***War Horse*** continues its UK and Ireland tour until 8 November 2025. 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.

ENDS

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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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