

National Theatre

29 January 2025

Further casting announced for the return of smash-hit play *Dear England* by James Graham

The Olivier Award-winning 'Best New Play' returns to the National Theatre in March, followed by a 4-week run at the Lowry, Salford



The National Theatre today announces further casting for its highly anticipated return of James Graham's smash-hit production of [*Dear England*](#) as rehearsals begin on the South Bank. The Olivier Award-winning play will be staged at the Olivier theatre from 10 March to 24 May 2025, followed by a 4-week run at the **Lowry** in Salford from 29 May to 29 June 2025.

Written by playwright **James Graham** (*Punch*, *Young Vic*; *Sherwood*, BBC One) and directed by the Almeida Theatre's Artistic Director **Rupert Gould** (*Patriots*, *Ink*; Almeida Theatre/West

End/Broadway), *Dear England* is an epic examination of nation and game, which has been updated following the 2024 UEFA EURO tournament to reflect Gareth Southgate's final chapter as England manager.

Liz White (*Life on Mars*) will play the role of Pippa Grange, sports psychologist and Head of People and Team Development at The Football Association from 2017 – 2019, joining previously announced cast member **Gwilym Lee** (*SAS Rogue Heroes*, *Bohemian Rhapsody*) who will play the role of Gareth Southgate.

The cast also includes returning performers **Josh Barrow** as Jordan Pickford, **Gunnar Cauthery** as Gary Lineker, **Tony Turner** as Greg Dyke, **John Hodgkinson** as Greg Clarke and **Ryan Whittle** who is this time taking on the role of Harry Kane. They will be joined by new cast members **Matt Bardock** as Mike Webster, **Jude Carmichael** as Marcus Rashford, **Gamba Cole** as Raheem Sterling, **Ryan Donaldson** as Harry Maguire, **Felix Forde** as Alex Scott, **Kadell Herida** as Jadon Sancho, **Joshua Hill** as Jordan Henderson, **Martin Marquez** as Sam Allardyce, **Tane Siah** as Bukayo Saka and **Tristan Waterson** as Dele Alli.

Also joining the company are **Jass Beki**, **Courtney George**, **Will Harrison-Wallace**, **Jordan Ford Silver**, **Philip Labey** and **Ellouise Shakespeare-Hart**. The cast will also be playing additional roles as part of the ensemble.

The wider creative team for *Dear England* includes set designer **Es Devlin**, costume designer **Evie Gurney**, lighting designer **Jon Clark**, co-movement directors **Ellen Kane** and **Hannes Langolf**, video designer **Ash J Woodward**, co-sound designers **Dan Balfour** and **Tom Gibbons**, additional music by **Max Perryment**, revival director **Elin Schofield**, casting director **Bryony Jarvis-Taylor**, dialect coach **Richard Ryder**, voice coaches **Cathleen McCarron** and **Tasmin Newlands**, associate lighting designer **Ben Jacobs**, revival movement associate **Thomas Herron**, associate sound designer **Johnny Edwards**, casting associate **Lilly Mackie** and staff director **Connie Treves**.

The country that gave the world football has since delivered a painful pattern of loss. Why can't England's men win at their own game? The team has the worst track record for penalties in the world, and manager Gareth Southgate knows he needs to open his mind and face up to the years of hurt to take team and country back to the promised land.

Dear England was originally commissioned by the National Theatre and developed with the theatre's New Work department. It had its world premiere in the Olivier theatre on 20 June 2023. Following a sold-out run, *Dear England* transferred to the Prince Edward Theatre, in

London's West End, from 9 October 2023 to 13 January 2024, where it broke box office records. *Dear England* was subsequently released to cinemas through National Theatre Live on 24 January 2024 and has been screened almost 2,500 times across the UK. The BBC has also commissioned a four-part drama of *Dear England* based on the stage production for BBC One and BBC iPlayer which will broadcast later this year.

ENDS

For headshots and production images from the previous production of *Dear England* in the West End, click [here](#).

For press enquiries re the run at the **National Theatre**, please contact **Emily Ritchie**:
eritchie@nationaltheatre.org.uk

For press enquires re the run at the **Lowry**, please contact **Clare McCormack**:
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LISTINGS

National Theatre

Dates: 10 March 2025 – 24 May 2025

Press Night: Tuesday 18 March 2025, 7pm

Box Office: nationaltheatre.org.uk

Address: National Theatre, Upper Ground, London, SE1 9PX

Performance Schedule:

Mon–Sat at 7.30pm

Wed and Sat at 2pm and 7.30pm

Tue and Thu selected performances at 6.30pm

*schedule may differ during previews and bank holidays, please see website for details

Assisted Performances:

Audio Described performances: Sat 12 Apr, 2pm; Wed 30 Apr, 1 pm (school matinee); Fri 23 May, 7.30pm

Captioned Performances: Sat 19 Apr, 2pm Wed 7 May (school matinee, also with BSL), 1pm Thu 15 May, 7.30pm. Smart caption glasses will be available from 7:30pm on Weds 26 March.

BSL performances: Wed 7 May (school matinee, also with captions), 1pm; Fri 2 May, 7.30pm

Relaxed performance: Tue 15 Apr, 7.30pm

Lowry

Dates: 29 May - 29 June 2025

Press Night: Sunday 1 June 2025, 3pm

Box Office: thelowry.com

Address: Lowry, Pier, 8 The Quays, Salford, Manchester M50 3AZ

Assisted Performances:

BSL Performances: Saturday 7 June, 2pm & Wednesday 11 June, 2pm

Captioned Performances: Wednesday 11 June, 7pm

Audio Described: Wednesday 18 June, 7pm & Saturday 28 June, 2pm

With Thanks

The commissioning of this work was supported by the Sir Peter Shaffer Charitable Foundation. The original production at the National Theatre was generously supported by the Dear England Team of Production Champions.

Dear England at the National Theatre and the Lowry is supported by American Express, the National Theatre's Official Payment Partner.

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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 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 Lowry

Proudly rooted in Salford, Lowry is here to spread the joy of art and creativity, and give space to different views, voices and opinions. As a registered charity, every penny we earn goes directly back into our community, nurturing local talent and fostering the creative professionals of tomorrow. Welcoming more than 800,000 visitors a year, our diverse program—featuring theatre, dance, musicals, music, comedy, visual arts, and more—reflects the vibrant spirit of our city. Whatever you're here for, we're here for it! Visit us at www.thelowry.com.