

National Theatre

26 February 2025

**First look rehearsal images released for the return of smash-hit play
Dear England by James Graham**

**The Olivier Award-winning 'Best New Play' returns to the National Theatre
from 10 March, followed by a 4-week run at the Lowry, Salford**



IMAGES (C) BY MARC BRENNER CAN BE FOUND [HERE](#)

The National Theatre today offers a first look inside the rehearsal room for its highly anticipated return of James Graham's smash-hit production of [Dear England](#). 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 Goold** (*Patriots*, *Ink*; Almeida Theatre/West

End/Broadway), *Dear England* tells the uplifting, at times heartbreaking, and ultimately inspiring story of Gareth Southgate's revolutionary tenure as England manager in this gripping examination of nation and game.

The production, which won 'Best New Play' at the 2024 Olivier Awards, has been updated following last year's UEFA EURO tournament to reflect Southgate's final chapter as England manager.

Gwilym Lee (*SAS Rogue Heroes, Bohemian Rhapsody*) plays the iconic role of Gareth Southgate alongside **Liz White** (*Life on Mars*) as sports psychologist Pippa Grange. 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 are 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, **Felixe Forde** as Alex Scott, **Kadell Herida** as Jadon Sancho, **Joshua Hill** as Jordan Henderson, **Tom Lane** as Eric Dier, **Martin Marquez** as Sam Allardyce, **Tane Siah** as Bukayo Saka and **Tristan Waterson** as Dele Alli.

Rounding out the company are **Jass Beki**, **Courtney George**, **Will Harrison-Wallace**, **Miles Henderson**, **Jordan Ford Silver**, **Philip Labey** and **Ellouise Shakespeare-Hart**. The cast also play 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 **Shereen Ibrahim**, associate lighting designer **Ben Jacobs**, revival movement associate **Thomas Herron**, associate sound designer **Johnny Edwards**, casting associate **Lilly Mackie** and staff director **Connie Treves**.

It's time to change the game. The country that gave the world football has since delivered a painful pattern of loss. The England men's 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.

Dear England will also tour to 16 venues across England from **15 September 2025** until **14 March 2026** in a co-production with Josh Andrews and Stuart Galbraith for JAS Theatricals. Casting for the tour to be announced.

ENDS

For images, 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** or the **national tour**, please contact **Clare McCormack**: cmccormack@nationaltheatre.org.uk or **Amy Johnson** via ajohnson@nationaltheatre.org.uk.

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

National-wide tour schedule for 2025-2026

Dear England will tour 16 venues across England from 15 September 2025 until 14 March 2026 in a co-production with Josh Andrews and Stuart Galbraith for JAS Theatricals.

Assisted performances are available throughout the run at each venue. Check individual venue websites for information and booking details.

Theatre Royal Plymouth

15 – 20 September

theatreroyal.com

On sale from 3 March

Nottingham Theatre Royal

23 – 27 September

trch.co.uk

On sale from 3 March

Marlowe Theatre Canterbury

7 – 18 October

marlowetheatre.com/

On sale from 7 April

Sheffield Lyceum

21 – 25 October

sheffieldtheatres.co.uk/lyceum

On sale from 8 March

Leeds Grand Theatre

4 – 8 November

leedsheritagetheatres.com

On sale soon

Newcastle Theatre Royal

11 – 15 November

theatroyal.co.uk

On sale from 4 April

Chichester Festival Theatre

20 – 29 November

cft.org.uk

On sale from 7 July

Mayflower Theatre, Southampton

13 – 17 January 2026

<https://www.mayflower.org.uk/>

On sale from 25 February

Milton Keynes Theatre

20 – 24 January

atgtickets.com/milton-keynes-theatre

On sale soon

New Theatre Oxford

27 – 31 January

atgtickets.com/new-theatre-oxford

On sale soon

Norwich Theatre Royal

3 – 7 February

norwichtheatre.org

On sale soon

New Victoria Theatre, Woking

10 – 14 February

atgtickets.com/new-victoria-theatre

On sale soon

The Alhambra Theatre, Bradford

17 – 21 February

bradford-theatres.co.uk/alhambra-theatre

On sale from 10 March

New Wimbledon Theatre

24 - 28 February

atgtickets.com/new-wimbledon-theatre

On sale soon

Liverpool Empire

3 – 7 March

<https://www.atgtickets.com/venues/liverpool-empire/>

On sale soon

Birmingham Hippodrome

10 – 14 March

birminghamhippodrome.com

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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Nationaltheatre.org.uk/amex/

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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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.

About JAS Theatricals

Jas Theatricals was established by Joshua Andrews and Stuart Galbraith to produce and general manage shows. Previous work as producers or co-producers includes *9 to 5* at the Savoy; *Muriel's Wedding* in Australia; *On Your Feet* at London Coliseum; *Noises Off* at the Garrick; *Frankie and Johnny*, *Grey House* and *Hadestown* on Broadway; *Life of Pi* at Wyndham's; UK tours of Agatha Christie's *The Mirror Crack'd*, *Cluedo* and *Cluedo 2* and *Pretty Woman* West End, US and UK Tour. Current projects include *Hadestown* in the West End and *Birdsong* on UK Tour. Stuart Galbraith is the CEO of KMJ Entertainment Group, whose group of companies produce and promote music concerts, festivals, theatre, comedy and spoken word. Joshua Andrews has produced *A Streetcar Named Desire*, starring Gillian Anderson, with the Young Vic; *An American in Paris* at the Dominion; and Kay Mellor's *Fat Friends – The Musical*. Other stage adaptations include the franchise of seven stage plays of Peter James' *GRACE* novels, *The Girl on the Train* and two stage plays based on other Kay Mellor hit TV series, *Band of Gold* and *The Syndicate*, which toured in 2024. Danni Powell, former Vice President of Production and General Manager at The Really Useful Group, has recently joined JAS as Head of Business Development and General Management.