

# National Theatre

THE NATIONAL THEATRE'S SMASH-HIT PRODUCTION  
*DEAR ENGLAND* TO EMBARK ON A HIGHLY ANTICIPATED  
TOUR FROM SEPTEMBER 2025

VISITING 16 VENUES ACROSS ENGLAND, JAMES GRAHAM'S OLIVIER  
AWARD-WINNING 'BEST NEW PLAY' WILL TOUR UNTIL MARCH 2026



*Dear England, West End cast 2023. Image: Marc Brenner*

18 FEBRUARY 2025

The National Theatre today announces a highly anticipated tour of its smash-hit production, *Dear England*. Written by the multi-award-winning stage and screen writer, **James Graham**

(*Sherwood*, BBC One; *Quiz*, ITV) and directed by the Almeida Theatre's Artistic Director **Rupert Goold** (*Patriots*, *King Charles III*), *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 Olivier Award-winning 'Best New Play' will 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.

Opening at **Theatre Royal Plymouth** (15 – 20 September), *Dear England* will then tour to **Nottingham Theatre Royal** (23 - 27 September), **The Marlowe, Canterbury** (7 – 18 October), **Sheffield Lyceum** (21 – 25 October), **Leeds Grand Theatre** (4 – 8 November), **Theatre Royal Newcastle** (11 – 15 November), **Chichester Festival Theatre** (20 – 29 November) and in 2026, **Mayflower Theatre, Southampton** (13 – 17 January), **Milton Keynes Theatre** (20 – 24 January), **New Theatre, Oxford** (27 – 31 January), **Norwich Theatre Royal** (3 – 7 February), **New Victoria Theatre, Woking** (10 – 14 February), **The Alhambra Theatre, Bradford** (17 – 21 February), **New Wimbledon Theatre** (24 – 28 February), **Liverpool Empire** (3 – 7 March) and **Birmingham Hippodrome** (10 – 14 March). For more information and to sign up for priority booking visit [dearenglandonstage.com](https://dearenglandonstage.com).

Playwright **James Graham** said:

*"I am beyond delighted and grateful that Dear England is heading out on a nation-wide tour across England. To put the national game on the stage of the National Theatre and then into the West End back in 2023 was an utter dream. Now, to head out on a nationwide tour feels like winning the treble. As someone from a community that had limited access to culture growing up, I'm especially aware of how vital it is to share work of such a scale beyond the capital. And as a lifelong theatre and England fan, the chance to tell a story about the beautiful game and through the prism of Gareth Southgate's transformative term has been a privilege. I think he has been a remarkable leader, and it fills me with great excitement and joy that we get to share Rupert's euphoric and*

*entertaining production, with all its incredible movement and music, once more with audiences around the country."*

**Kate Varah**, Executive Director & Co-Chief Executive of the National Theatre, said:

*"Dear England by James Graham is our award winning, brilliant play that takes the much-loved topic of football and opens up a lens on so much more: English identity, masculinity and what it means to be a leader. We had a tremendous reaction to Dear England when it was with us on the South Bank, and in the West End. Director Rupert Goold has crafted such a wonderful production that will leave you wanting to sing and smile in the stalls and gasp at the penalty shoot-outs. We are delighted to be working with JAS Theatricals and our partner venues across England to deliver this important nationwide tour so that more people will have access to this incredible show. Whether you are a football fan or not, Dear England will bring you joy and hope for all we can achieve in this country."*

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.

Goold is joined by 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** with additional music by **Max Perryment**.

***Dear England*** was originally commissioned by the National Theatre and developed with the theatre's New Work department. Its world premiere was on 20 June 2023 in the Olivier theatre. 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. In February 2024, the BBC announced it had commissioned a four-part drama of *Dear England* based on the stage production for BBC One and BBC iPlayer. *Dear England* won 'Best New Play' at the 2024 Olivier Awards.

*Dear England* will be staged at the National 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. The play has been updated following the 2024 UEFA EURO tournament to reflect Gareth Southgate's final chapter as England manager, and **Gwilym Lee** (*SAS Rogue Heroes*, *Bohemian Rhapsody*) will play the iconic role of Southgate. Casting for the tour to be announced.

The 2025/2026 national tour of *Dear England* is a co-production between National Theatre Productions and JAS Theatricals. Assisted performances are available throughout the run at each venue. Check individual venue websites for information and booking details.

## ENDS

For further information, please contact **Clare McCormack** via [CMcCormack@nationaltheatre.org.uk](mailto:CMcCormack@nationaltheatre.org.uk) and **Amy Johnson** via [AJohnson@nationaltheatre.org.uk](mailto:AJohnson@nationaltheatre.org.uk)

Images from previous productions by Marc Brenner are available [here](#)

Film Footage is available [here](#)

## LISTINGS

**Dates:** Performances from 15 September 2025 – 14 March 2026 (full tour schedule below)

**National Press Performance:** Wednesday 24 September at 730pm at the Nottingham Theatre Royal

**Assisted Performances:** Check individual venue websites for information and booking details

**Age Recommendation: 10+**

**Social Platforms:**

Follow on **Instagram** [@dearenglandplay](https://www.instagram.com/dearenglandplay)

**X** [@dearenglandplay](https://twitter.com/dearenglandplay)

**Facebook** [Dear England Play](https://www.facebook.com/DearEnglandPlay)

[#DearEnglandOnStage](https://www.facebook.com/DearEnglandPlay)

## **TOUR SCHEDULE FOR 2025-2026**

**Theatre Royal Plymouth** 15 – 20 September

[theatreroyal.com](http://theatreroyal.com)

On sale from 3 March

**Nottingham Theatre Royal** 23 – 27 September

[trch.co.uk](http://trch.co.uk)

On sale from 3 March

**Marlowe Theatre Canterbury** 7 – 18 October

[marlowetheatre.com/](http://marlowetheatre.com/)

On sale from 7 April

**Sheffield Lyceum** 21 – 25 October

[sheffieldtheatres.co.uk/lyceum](http://sheffieldtheatres.co.uk/lyceum)

On sale from 8 March

**Leeds Grand Theatre** 4 – 8 November

[leedsheritagetheatres.com](http://leedsheritagetheatres.com)

On sale soon

**Newcastle Theatre Royal** 11 – 15 November

[theatreroyal.co.uk](http://theatreroyal.co.uk)

On sale from 4 April

**Chichester Festival Theatre** 20 – 29 November

[cft.org.uk](http://cft.org.uk)

On sale from 7 July

**Mayflower Theatre, Southampton** 13 – 17 January 2026  
[mayflower.org.uk](http://mayflower.org.uk)

On sale from 25 February

**Milton Keynes Theatre** 20 – 24 January  
[atgtickets.com/milton-keynes-theatre](http://atgtickets.com/milton-keynes-theatre)

On sale soon

**New Theatre Oxford** 27 – 31 January  
[atgtickets.com/new-theatre-oxford](http://atgtickets.com/new-theatre-oxford)

On sale soon

**Norwich Theatre Royal** 3 – 7 February  
[norwichtheatre.org](http://norwichtheatre.org)

On sale soon

**New Victoria Theatre, Woking** 10 – 14 February  
[atgtickets.com/new-victoria-theatre](http://atgtickets.com/new-victoria-theatre)

On sale soon

**The Alhambra Theatre, Bradford** 17 – 21 February  
[bradford-theatres.co.uk/alhambra-theatre](http://bradford-theatres.co.uk/alhambra-theatre)

On sale from 10 March

**New Wimbledon Theatre** 24 - 28 February  
[atgtickets.com/new-wimbledon-theatre](http://atgtickets.com/new-wimbledon-theatre)

On sale soon

**Liverpool Empire** 3 – 7 March  
[atgtickets.com/liverpool-empire](http://atgtickets.com/liverpool-empire)

On sale soon

**Birmingham Hippodrome** 10 – 14 March  
[birminghamhippodrome.com](http://birminghamhippodrome.com)

On sale from 7 April

**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.

### **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 a 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](https://nationaltheatre.org.uk).

[@NationalTheatre](#)

[@NT\\_PressOffice](#)

## **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.