

National Theatre

First look at the National Theatre's nationwide schools tour of *The LeftBehinds* as it embarks across England

Thursday 6 February 2025



For images, click [here](#)

The National Theatre today releases production images for its new schools touring production, *The LeftBehinds*. In partnership with local theatres, the production will be seen by 10,000 young people on its 11-week-long tour to school halls across England.

Co-created by Bristol playwright **Ross Willis** and director **Ned Bennett**, *The LeftBehinds* is a new production set in a post-apocalyptic future. *The LeftBehinds* must race across a desolate wasteland in a high-octane quest to rebuild an android, unlock its power and save the planet. In addition to seeing the show in their school hall, pupils will take part in an interactive workshop exploring theatre-making and teachers will receive accompanying education resources.

Part of the **Theatre Nation Partnerships** network, the production will be seen by students in schools across Outer East London and South Essex, Sunderland,

Wolverhampton, North Devon, Wakefield, Doncaster, Greater Manchester, Leicester and Peterborough.

The Theatre Nation Partnerships network introduces new audiences to theatre in areas which have historically experienced low investment and engagement in cultural activities. The network combines local expertise with nationally delivered activity, creating more opportunities for local communities and schools to engage with cultural and creative experiences.

Co-creators **Ned Bennett** and **Ross Willis** said *“We are thrilled to be collaborating again on this new incarnation of The LeftBehinds. From its beginnings at LAMDA to its development with the NT, this production has continually evolved, and we’re delighted to now share it with young people. We couldn’t be more excited that the National Theatre is bringing this production directly into school halls across the country.”*

Joe Graffham, Curriculum Team Leader for English at The Warren School, Romford, said *“The National Theatre’s production of The Left Behinds is without doubt one of the most enriching and inspiring events to have taken place at The Warren School. The impeccable standard of professionalism and care made us feel part of something special and, most importantly, that our students deserved to immerse themselves in theatre of the highest calibre. Also the Q&A provided a wonderful opportunity for students to learn more about careers in the arts and the breadth of opportunities in live theatre- a career which, thanks to the NT, is now a prospect for many of our students!*

A student from The Warren School, Romford, said *“The Left Behinds was such a unique and progressive production. The performance was an excellent blend of comedy, action and suspense, transporting us to another world through the engaging use of special effects, phenomenal acting and impressive props and costumes. I particularly enjoyed the futuristic and dystopian elements to the show introducing the audience to a whole new world and creating a stir of anticipation and excitement for what was to come.”*

The LeftBehinds cast includes **Ryn Alleyne** as Kit KnightShade, **Tanaka Mpofo** as Bandit, **Julian Brett** as Shadow, **Gabriella Foley** as Rot, **Francis Nunnery** as the Android, **Ethan Hughes** as Beandigo, **Emma Gray** as Ducky, and **Brandon Kimaryo** as swing.

The creative team includes Associate Director **Rachel Lemon**, Movement Director **Jackie Kibuka**, Puppetry Designer, Builder and Director **Matt Hutchinson**, Production Manager **Jordan Harris**, Set and Costume Designer **Georgia Lowe**, Lighting Designer **Jessica Hung Han Yun**, Composer & Sound Designer **Giles Thomas**, Casting Director **Abby Galvin**, Associate Designer **Jasmine Araujo**, Associate Lighting Designer **Lucy Adams** and Trainee Resident Director **Rita Pula**.

For more information about Theatre Nation Partnerships and the schools’ tour, visit the [NT Website](#).

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Notes to Editors

To download images please click [here](#).

For press enquiries and more information, please contact Orla Bentley at Obentley@nationaltheatre.org.uk

Tour Schedule

Date	Location
13-17 January	Outer East London and South Essex
20-24 January	Sunderland
27-31 January	Wolverhampton
3-7 February	Wolverhampton
10-14 February	North Devon
24-28 February	Wakefield/ Doncaster
3-7 March	Greater Manchester
10-14 March	Leicester
17-21 March	Peterborough
24-28 March	London

With Thanks

Secondary Schools Touring is supported by The Mohn Westlake Foundation, Delta Air Lines, The Ingram Trust, The Constance Travis Charitable Trust, Susan Miller & Byron Grote, The Anthony and Elizabeth Mellows Charitable Settlement, The Britford Bridge Trust, and The Dow Clewer Foundation.

The Mohn Westlake Foundation supports nationwide Learning programmes for young people. Nationwide learning is supported by Buffini Chao Foundation, Clore Duffield Foundation, Crevan O'Grady & Jane McClenahan, MFPA Trust Fund for the Training of Disabled Children in the Arts, The Kartik Foundation, Behrens Foundation, Marlow Trust, Cleopatra Trust, and The Andor Charitable Trust.

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 Theatre Nation Partnerships

A collaboration between 13 partners across 14 areas, TNP combines local expertise with nationally-delivered activity to build and sustain audiences for theatre across England.

Activity includes touring to local venues and into schools, participatory opportunities and in-depth engagement with community groups.

Between 2022 to 2025, the network's focus is on welcoming new audiences to theatre and creating more opportunities for people to engage, supporting the long-term health of local theatre audiences. The Theatre Nation Partnerships network will reach 500,000 targeted audiences, young people, and community groups over this three-year period.

Our Theatre Nation Partners are Cast in Doncaster; Curve in Leicester; New Theatre and Key Theatre in Peterborough, Queen's Theatre Barnstaple and The Landmark in Ilfracombe, North Devon with Landmark Theatres; Queen's Theatre Hornchurch; Restoke, Regent Theatre & Victoria Hall (Ambassador Theatre Group) in Stoke-on-Trent; Sunderland Empire, Sunderland Culture; Lowry in Salford (covering Greater Manchester including Rochdale & Wigan); Theatre Royal Wakefield; Trowbridge Town Hall; and Wolverhampton Grand Theatre.

www.nationaltheatre.org.uk/about-us/theatre-nation-partnerships