

National Theatre

NATIONAL THEATRE LIVE UNVEILS BLOCKBUSTER LINE-UP OF THEATRE IN CINEMAS FEATURING AWARD-WINNING TALENT FROM STAGE AND SCREEN

Mrs. Warren's Profession, The Fifth Step, and Hamlet set for global cinematic release.



Images are available [here](#).

Immediate Release 2 July 2025

Today, [National Theatre Live](#) announces a landmark slate of theatre broadcasting to cinemas around the world led by a roster of award-winning talent. This line-up spans classic revivals and contemporary new works captured from the National Theatre and London's West End, including the first broadcast from National Theatre Director **Indhu Rubasingham's** inaugural season.

Olivier Award-winner **Jack Lowden** (*Slow Horses*, *Dunkirk*) is joined by Emmy and BAFTA-winner **Martin Freeman** (*The Hobbit*, *The Responder*) in the 'raw, excruciating and often alarmingly funny' (★★★★★ *Daily Mail*) *The Fifth Step* by **David Ireland** (*Ulster American*). After years in Alcoholics Anonymous, James (Martin Freeman) becomes a sponsor to

newcomer Luka (Jack Lowden). As Luka nears step five, a confession threatens the fragile friendship between them. Directed by **Finn den Hertog**, and originally presented in Dundee, Edinburgh and Glasgow in 2024 by National Theatre of Scotland, the critically acclaimed new play was captured live from its sold-out London West End transfer in the intimate, in-the-round @sohoplace. It will release to cinemas from **27 November**, presented by **Neal Street Productions, Playful Productions** and **National Theatre of Scotland** in association with **Nica Burns**. Screenings available at thefifthstep.ntlive.com.

From **23 October**, cinema audiences can watch five-time Olivier Award winner **Imelda Staunton** (*The Crown, Hello, Dolly!*) join forces with her daughter **Bessie Carter** (*Outrageous, Bridgerton*) for the first time, playing mother and daughter in Bernard Shaw's incendiary moral classic, **Mrs. Warren's Profession**. Filmed live from the West End, this 'startingly fresh' (★★★★ *Time Out*) production presented by **Sonia Friedman Productions** reunites Staunton with director **Dominic Cooke** (*Follies, GOOD*), exploring the clash between morality and independence, traditions and progress. Screenings available at mrswarrensprofession.ntlive.com.

Looking ahead to 2026, **Hamlet** directed by National Theatre Deputy Artistic Director, **Robert Hastie** (*Standing at the Sky's Edge, Operation Mincemeat*) with Olivier Award-winner **Hiran Abeysekera** (*Life of Pi*) as Hamlet will release to cinemas from **26 January**. This fearless, contemporary take on Shakespeare's famous tragedy will be the first production from the National Theatre to broadcast in Indhu Rubasingham's new programme. Screenings available at hamlet.ntlive.com.

These three productions join the previously announced **Inter Alia** which will broadcast live from the Lyttelton Stage across the UK on **4 September**, with subsequent global screenings from **25 September**. Oscar-nominated **Rosamund Pike** (*Gone Girl, Saltburn*) is Jessica in this searing examination of modern motherhood and masculinity by writer **Suzie Miller** and director **Justin Martin**, the team behind global phenomenon *Prima Facie*. Screenings available at interalia.ntlive.com.

Indhu Rubasingham, Director and Co-CEO of the National Theatre, says: *"From the moment I began this role, I knew that expanding our digital reach would be key to my vision to bring the world to the National Theatre and the National Theatre to the world. NT Live is a powerful way to open not just our work, but the work of our incredible peers in the West End and beyond, to audiences globally. This season is a fantastic example of that vision in action: reimagined classics and bold new writing, just as you'll see on our stages in London. It's about accessibility, excellence, and expanding the joy of theatre far beyond our walls and city. It's about breaking down barriers and inviting everyone in."*

Sky Arts is the Headline Sponsor of National Theatre Live in the UK.

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Notes to Editors

For further information please contact Zara Jayant at National Theatre zjayant@nationaltheatre.org.uk

Images are available [here.](#)

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 Sky Arts

Sky Arts exists to bring more art to more people across the UK. In 2020, with the creative industries under serious threat, we threw open our doors to make the channel free for everyone to watch. We've redoubled our mission to increase access to the arts and we're committed to getting everyone involved as the industry recovers. The fact is, we need the arts now like never before, and Sky Arts brings them straight to your living room.

We have something for everyone, championing creative talent by showcasing the best in music, theatre, dance, literature, opera and visual art. From Glyndebourne to Grime and Cézanne to The Style Council, we've got your passions covered. Millions of viewers tune in to hit returning series such as Portrait Artist of the Year, Urban Myths and British cultural institution The South Bank Show, but our acclaimed new programmes might take you anywhere from Pinter's house with Danny Dyer to a Scottish road trip with Samuel Johnson.

Collaboration is at the heart of what we do. Sky Arts is the headline sponsor of National Theatre Live in the UK and we work with cultural partners across the country including the English National Opera, Royal Academy of Arts, Tate, Creative Industries Federation and Coventry City of Culture to name but a few.

You can watch Sky Arts for free on Freeview channel 11 and Freesat channel 147. If you've got Sky or a Now TV entertainment pass, you can also watch over 2,000 hours of shows exclusively on demand.

Neal Street Productions

Neal Street is one of the UK's most respected production companies, producing film, television and theatre. Founded 2003 by Sam Mendes, Pippa Harris and Caro Newling, it makes distinctive, popular award-winning projects on both sides of the Atlantic. The theatre slate is overseen by Newling together with producer Georgia Gatti.

TV includes Call the Midwife, The Franchise, Britannia, Penny Dreadful, The Hollow Crown.

Films include Mendes' Empire of Light, 1917 and Revolutionary Road. Upcoming; The Magic Faraway Tree, Hamnet, and currently in development; The Beatles project for Sony Pictures – four distinct theatrical feature films about the greatest band in history, conceived and directed by Sam Mendes.

Theatre originated by Neal Street includes *The Lehman Trilogy, The Motive and the Cue, The Hills of California, Hamnet, Local Hero, The Ferryman, Shrek the Musical, Charlie and the Chocolate Factory, The Bridge Project 2010 - 2012, Three Days of Rain, The Vertical Hour.*

West End transfers also include *Walking with Ghosts, The Moderate Soprano, This House, The Painkiller, Merrily We Roll Along, South Downs/The Browning Version, Red, Enron, Sunday in the Park with George, Mary Stuart.*

In 2015 Neal Street moved under the umbrella of parent company All3Media, which is owned by RedBird IMI.

www.nealstreetproductions.com

Playful Productions

Founded by Matthew Byam Shaw, Nia Janis and Nick Salmon in 2010, Playful Productions is one of the most eminent independent theatre producers and full-service general management companies in the West End.

As Producer productions include All My Sons (Wyndham's - November 2025); Born With Teeth (Wyndham's – August 2025); The Fifth Step (@SohoPlace); Buena Vista Social Club (Broadway); Macbeth (Harold Pinter); Dr. Strangelove (Noël Coward and Bord Gáis, Dublin); The Artist (Theatre Royal Plymouth); The Unfriend (Criterion and Wyndham's); The House of Bernarda Alba (as Producer – National Theatre); Accidental Death of an Anarchist (Sheffield, Lyric Hammersmith and Theatre Royal Haymarket); A Little Life (Richmond, Harold Pinter and Savoy); Charlie and the Chocolate Factory – The Musical (UK & Ireland Tour); Good (Harold Pinter) and Get Up Stand Up! The Bob Marley Musical (Lyric).

As General Manager productions include Wicked (Apollo Victoria, UK & Ireland Tours and International Tour); Moulin Rouge! The Musical (also Executive Producer - Piccadilly); MJ (also Executive Producer - Prince Edward); Wild Rose (also Executive Producer - Edinburgh Lyceum); Next To Normal (Wyndham's) and Come From Away (Abbey Theatre, Dublin and Phoenix).

www.playfuluk.com

The National Theatre of Scotland is dedicated to playing the great stages, arts centres, village halls, schools and site-specific locations of Scotland, the UK and internationally. As well as creating ground-breaking productions and working with the most talented theatre-makers, the National Theatre of Scotland produces significant community engagement projects, innovates digitally, and works constantly to develop new talent. Central to this is finding pioneering ways to reach current and new audiences and to encourage people's full participation in the Company's work. With no performance building of its own, the Company works with existing and new venues and companies to create and tour theatre of the highest quality. Founded in 2006, the Company, in its short life, has become a globally significant theatrical player, with an extensive repertoire of award-winning work. The National Theatre of Scotland is supported by the Scottish Government. www.nationaltheatrescotland.com

Sonia Friedman Productions (SFP) is an international production company responsible for some of the most successful theatre productions around the world. Since it was established

in 2002, SFP has developed, initiated and produced over 220 new productions and has won 63 Olivier Awards, 48 Tonys and 3 BAFTAs. Last year, Sonia Friedman CBE was featured in The Standard 100, a celebratory feature of the key power players shaping London in 2024. In 2019, Sonia was awarded 'Producer of the Year' at the Stage Awards for a record-breaking fourth time. In 2018, Friedman was also featured in TIME 100, a list of Time Magazine's 100 Most Influential People in the World.

Current productions include: *The Book of Mormon* (West End, UK and International tour 2024); *Harry Potter and the Cursed Child* (West End, Broadway, Hamburg, Tokyo and North American tour); *Stranger Things: The First Shadow*, a co-production with Netflix (West End, Broadway); *The Shark is Broken* (UK and Ireland tour); *Funny Girl* (US tour); *Mrs. Warren's Profession* (West End); *Stereophic* (West End); *Dead Outlaw* (Broadway).

Forthcoming productions include: *Paddington - The Musical* (West End); *Stereophonic* (US tour); *The Queen of Versailles* (Broadway); *42 Balloons* (Chicago Shakespeare Theatre); *Bust* (Goodman Theatre); *Millions* (Alliance Theatre).

soniafriedman.com