National Theatre

Visual Story



by Tim Price

Olivier Theatre

Supported using public funding by ARTS COUNCIL ENGLAND

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Production photography by Johan Persson

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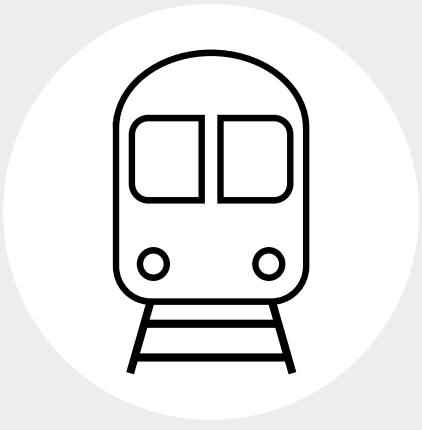
About the National Theatre

How to get here



The National Theatre is a large concrete building on the South Bank in London. It has three theatre spaces called the **Olivier**, **Lyttelton**, and **Dorfman**.

The address is:
Upper Ground, London, SE1 9PX.



The nearest **train** and **underground** stations are:

- **Waterloo**
- **London Blackfriars**
- **Embankment**



The **main entrance** to the National Theatre looks like this.



The National Theatre has an **underground car park**. There is **free parking available for Blue Badge holders**.

There are **lifts** in the car park to take you into the theatre.

More information about getting here is **on our website:**

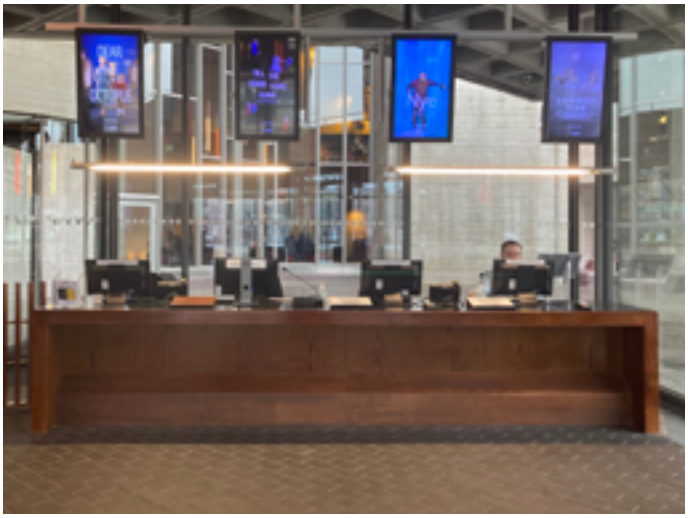
nationaltheatre.org.uk/your-visit/getting-here/

About the National Theatre

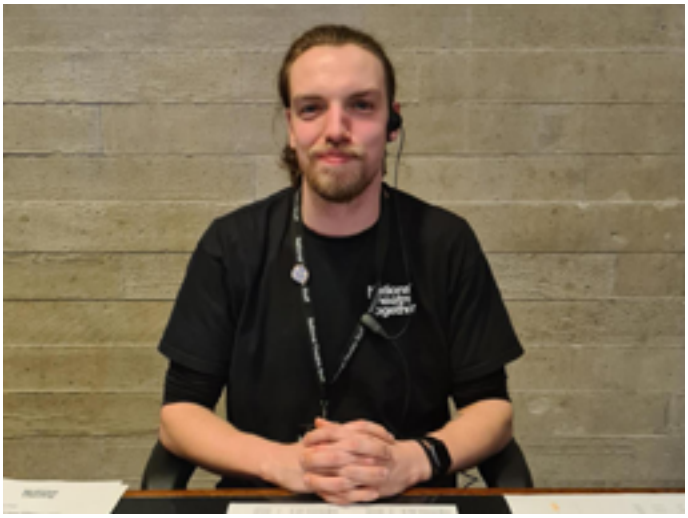
Who's who?



When you arrive through the main entrance, the **security team** will **check your bag**. You might need to queue for a short time. The security team will not touch you.



If you need help with your ticket, you can speak to the **box office team**. Their desk is near the entrance and looks like this.



There are lots of staff available in the building if you have questions or if you would like directions to your seats. **National Theatre staff** wear **black t-shirts** with **white writing**.

About the National Theatre

Olivier Theatre



This production of *Nye* will be performed in the **Olivier Theatre**. There are signs on the walls around the building to help guide you to the theatre.



The Olivier has two levels of audience seating:

- The **stalls** (lower level)
- The **circle** (upper level)



There are **foyer spaces** at the stalls level and circle level. These can be **busy and loud** before and after the performance.



The **access desk** is in the **Olivier stalls foyer**. There are hearing enhancement headsets, ear defenders, fidget items and large print cast lists available here.



There is **step-free access** around the National Theatre. There are **accessible toilets** on the ground floor, stalls and circle and levels.



Bathrooms in the areas near the Olivier Theatre will have **hand towels instead of hand dryers**.

The Production

Nye

Nye is a play by Tim Price.

Nye is about the life, memories and dreams of Aneurin Bevan, also known as ‘Nye’, the politician who created the NHS.

Dates

Nye will be performed in the Olivier Theatre until **Saturday 16 August**.

Length

Nye is **2 hours and 45 minutes** long.
This includes one **20-minute** interval.

Warning!

The following pages contain spoilers.

The Production
Content Guidance

Nye contains:



Screaming, shouting, and swearing



Heavy bass sounds



Bomb sound effects



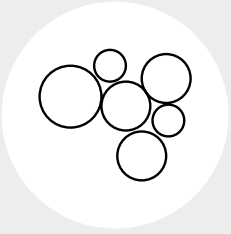
High pitched beeping



Wheezing and machine-assisted breathing sounds



Pulsing light and laser effects



References to cancer



References to loss of a parent



References to loss of a child



Depictions of illness and death

What Happens in the Play?

The set









Nye is set in a **hospital ward**.

All the scenes are created using **items from the hospital**.

Beds become **desks**, **doors**, and **tables**.

Curtains become walls and benches in the **House of Commons**.

Some scenes use **projections** to create the effect of large or **intense crowds**.

What Happens in the Play?

The characters

The actors in Nye sometimes play multiple different characters. Some of the actors play staff members in a hospital, who then become other characters from Nye's memory in different scenes.



Aneurin 'Nye' Bevan



Jennie Lee



Archie Lush



Doctor Dain/ Winston Churchill



David Bevan (Nye's father)



Matron/ Clement Attlee



Herbert Morrison MP



Arianwen/ Nurse Ellie



Neville Chamberlain

What Happens in the Play?
Synopsis

The play moves around different time periods, as Nye wakes up from surgery and remembers different moments in his life.

1960: Prologue

Nye is having surgery to remove a stomach ulcer. He screams out for Arianwen, his sister. Breathing lungs are projected onto the curtains.



Act 1

1960: Jennie (Nye's wife) and Archie (Nye's friend) wait for Nye to wake up. Jenny chooses not to tell Nye that he is dying.



1925: Arianwen tells Nye off for always coming home late from his legal work for the miners' union. She asks Nye to sit with their father, who is dying.

1908: Nye's primary school teacher, Mr Orchard, hits Nye for stuttering. The other schoolchildren try to protect Nye and fight back against the teacher.



1960: Jennie and Archie argue about if they should tell Nye that he is ill.

1908: Archie introduces Nye to the local library. Nye learns to find new words to replace the words that make him stutter. He finds books about socialism.



1921–29: Nye starts a book club for all the miners who have been blacklisted (stopped from working) by the Tredegar Iron and Coal Company who own all the mines. They all join councils and committees and get themselves elected to important boards. Nye becomes MP for Ebbw Vale.



1929: Jennie Lee, MP for North Lanarkshire, makes her first speech in parliament. Nye argues with Prime Minister Neville Chamberlain and causes chaos. Nye tries to flirt with Jennie in the House of Commons bar. Jennie turns Nye down at first, but then agrees to dinner and drinks.



1960: Jennie tells Archie about her marriage to Nye. They have not had a traditional life. Archie explains that Nye confides in him, instead of Jennie. Nye becomes more ill and is moved to a high dependency ward.

1940: Bombs fall on the House of Commons as Nye criticises the Conservative party. Winston Churchill becomes Prime Minister.

1925: Nye's father is dying. Nye sits with him, and promises that he is going to look after everyone.



Act 2

1907: Nye's father shows Nye how to find the seam in a coal mine.



1941: MPs listen in as Churchill argues with Nye. Nye agrees to support Churchill in a confidence vote.



1945: Prime Minister Clement Attlee offers Nye the role of Minister for Health and Housing. People from all over the country tell Nye about their experiences with healthcare and their fears of becoming ill.



1960: Nye is unconscious in hospital. Jennie tries to wake him up but Archie stops her. Nurse Ellie tells them both that they can only give Nye more time.



1946: Nye explains his plan for a national health service to Herbert Morrison, Deputy Prime Minister. Herbert does not support it, but other MPs vote for the plan to go ahead.



1946–47: Nye tries to negotiate with the BMA (British Medical Association – the doctors' union) but they all have different priorities and do not agree on forming the NHS. Attlee tells Nye to keep fighting. Churchill tells the doctors to keep disagreeing.

1948: Nye commits to launching his new national health service on 5 July.

1948: He makes some changes to the negotiations and the BMA agrees to support the NHS.



1960: Nye asks a doctor to check if everything is all right. The doctor appears to pull pieces of coal out of Nye's side. Nye realises that he is dying.

As Nye dies, the ensemble surrounds him. Nye's father appears and takes his hand.



After the cast leave the stage, information about the NHS is projected onto the curtains.

What Happens in the Play?
Sonic Story

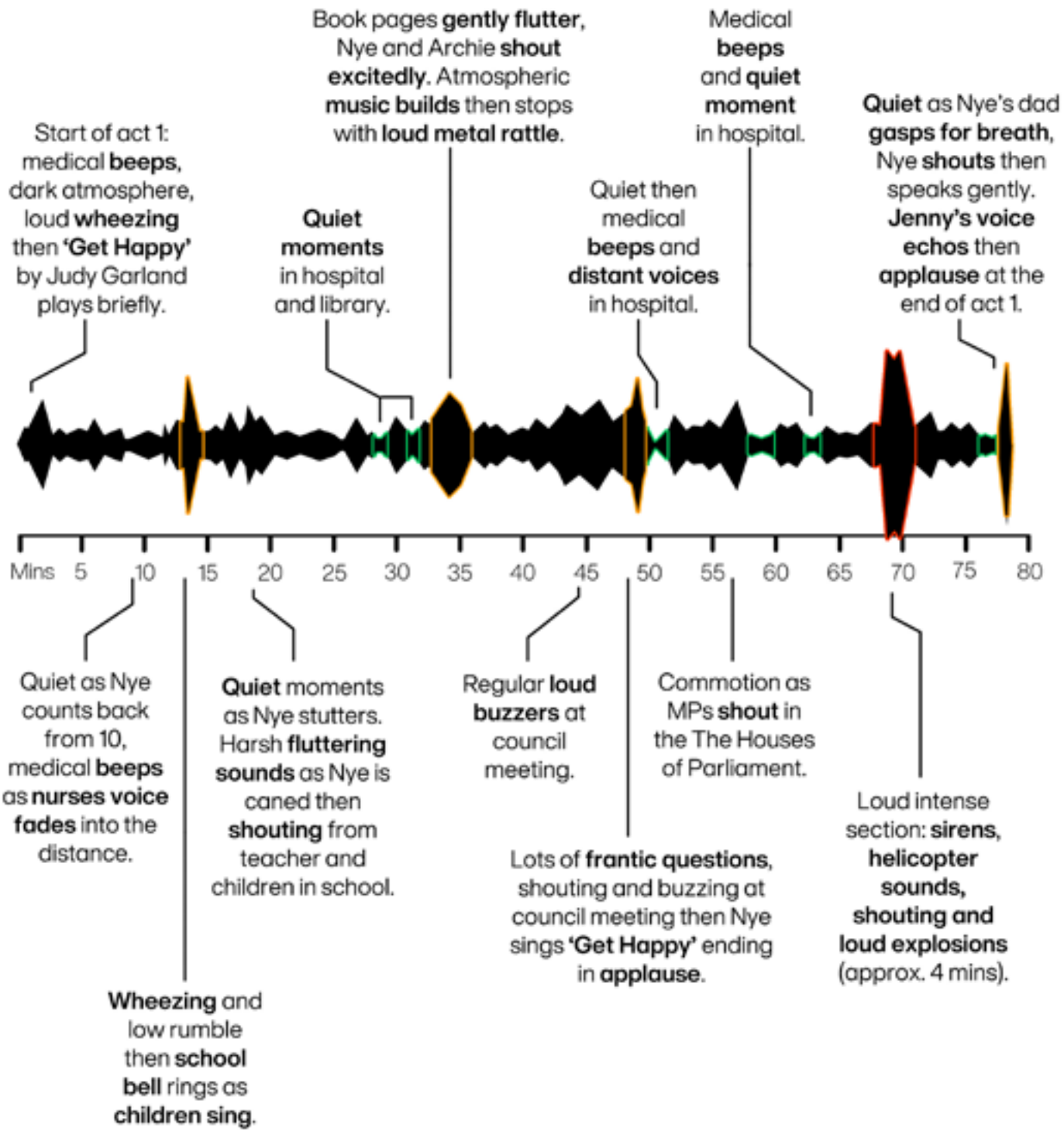
This graphic tells the sonic story of ***Nye***. It highlights any particularly loud or quiet moments, or any moments when there are sudden changes to the sound.

Sound summary

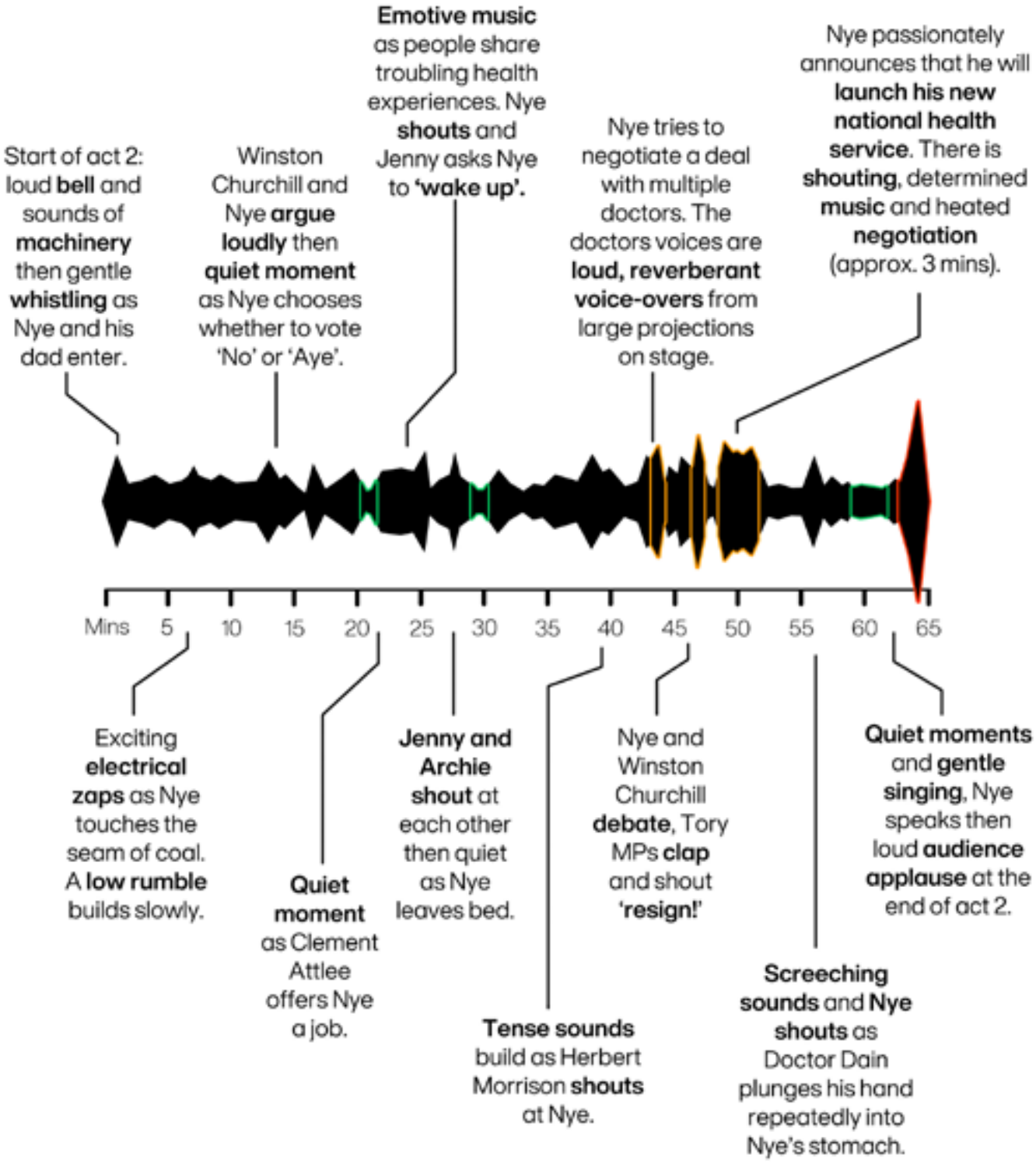
- *Nye* is a play with one song
- Characters often shout or talk over each other
- Lots of scenes include beeping, wheezing, medical alarms and hospital sound effects
- There are many deep bassy tones and buzzing sounds



Nye
Sonic Story – Act 1



Nye
Sonic Story – Act 2



Sonic story designed by Tourettesshero CIC, 2025

Relaxed Performance
Access information

There is a relaxed performance of ***Nye*** on **Monday 4 August** at **7:30pm**.

This performance will take place in a **relaxed environment**. This means:

- Some of the **lighting** and **sound effects** have been adjusted to be **less sudden or intense**
- The **auditorium lights** will remain on during the show at a **low level**
- You are welcome to **leave and re-enter** the auditorium if you need to
- You are welcome to **move around** or **make noise**
- We have **ear defenders** and **fidget toys** available to use. Just ask a member of staff who will direct you to the **access desk**
- There is a **quiet room** and **chill-out space** available, which staff can direct you to

Relaxed Performance

Upcoming performances

The Estate

Thursday 21 August at 7.30pm

Adeel Akhtar is Angad in this razor-sharp exploration of family, power and the lies we tell about ourselves. Daniel Raggett directs Shaan Sahota's remarkable debut play.

Inter Alia

Tuesday 2 September at 7.30pm

Suzie Miller and Justin Martin reunite following their smash-hit *Prima Facie* for this searing examination of motherhood and masculinity.

The Land of the Living

Monday 20 October at 7.30pm

Juliet Stevenson is Ruth in this remarkable and timely new play by David Lan exploring the shapeshifting nature of memory and morality. Directed by Stephen Daldry.

All the information about our future relaxed performances, and **how to book**, can be found on our website:
nationaltheatre.org.uk/whats-on/?accessibility=relaxed-performance