

# National Theatre

Monday 7 July 2025

FIRST LOOK: PRODUCTION IMAGES RELEASED FOR THE WEST END

TRANSFER OF BETH STEEL'S SMASH-HIT PLAY

*TILL THE STARS COME DOWN*

NOW PLAYING AT THE THEATRE ROYAL HAYMARKET UNTIL

27 SEPTEMBER



Link to production images [here](#) © Manuel Harlan

Production images have been released for the National Theatre's smash-hit show, *Till the Stars Come Down*. This highly anticipated West End transfer, written by the critically acclaimed playwright Beth Steel, is now playing at the Theatre Royal Haymarket until 27 September 2025 in a co-production with Eleanor Lloyd Productions, Fiery Angel, Short Street

Productions and Access Entertainment. Audience members are given the opportunity to sit up close and immerse themselves in this ‘wedding of the year’ (★★★★★ The Guardian), with on-stage seating available throughout the run. Tickets are available from £20.

Cast for this ‘excellent family drama’ (★★★★★ Daily Telegraph) includes **Dorothy Atkinson** (*Ludwig*, BBC; *Saltburn*, Warner Bros) as Auntie Carol, **Lucy Black** (*Top Girls*, National Theatre; *The Durrells*, ITV) as Hazel, **Adrian Bower** (*Gangs of London*, Sky; *Teachers*, BBC) as John, **Julian Kostov** (*The White Lotus*, HBO; *Shadow and Bone*, Netflix) as Marek, **Aisling Loftus** (*Girls and Boys*, Nottingham Playhouse; *Sherwood*, BBC) as Maggie, **Sinéad Matthews** (*The Antipodes*, National Theatre, *Hullraisers*, Channel 4) as Sylvia, **Ruby Thompson** (*Three Sisters*, Shakespeare’s Globe; *Aftersun*, Mubi) as Leanne, **Philip Whitchurch** (*Boys from the Blackstuff*, Royal Court Liverpool/National Theatre; *Peterloo*, Entertainment One) as Uncle Pete and **Alan Williams** (*Faith, Hope and Charity*, National Theatre; *Chernobyl*, Sky) as Tony. **Lillie Babb** (*Les Misérables*, UK Tour), **Elodie Blomfield** (*Ted Lasso*, Apple TV) and **Cadence Williams** (*Till the Stars Come Down*, National Theatre) also play the role of Sarah.

Completing the company are **Tony Bell** (*A Man For All Seasons*, Theatre Royal Haymarket) as Understudy Tony / Uncle Pete, **Rachel Marwood** (*Abigail’s Party*, Royal Exchange) as Understudy Auntie Carol / Hazel, **Lee Rufford** (*What it Feels Like For A Girl*, BBC) as Understudy John / Marek and **Holly Sumpton** (*Operation Mincemeat*, West End) as Understudy Maggie / Sylvia / Leanne.

***Till the Stars Come Down*** is a passionate, heartbreaking and hilarious portrayal of a larger-than-life family. Written by former National Theatre writer-in-residence, **Beth Steel**, this critically acclaimed production ‘fizzes with sharp comic observation’ (★★★★★ Financial Times) and is ‘laugh out loud funny’ (★★★★★ WhatsOnStage). Other credits include *The House of Shades* (Almeida Theatre), *Wonderland* (Hampstead Theatre) and *Ditch* (HighTide Festival and Old Vic Tunnels). She has also previously won the Evening Standard Theatre Award for Most Promising Playwright (2014).

*Till the Stars Come Down* is a 'beautifully observed and bruisingly hilarious' production by **Bijan Sheibani** (★★★★Time Out). This Olivier Award-winning director was previously Artistic Director of the Actors Touring Company and is a former associate director of the National Theatre. Other credits include *Barber Shop Chronicles*, *A Taste of Honey* (National Theatre) and *The Arrival* (Bush Theatre).

**It's Sylvia and Marek's wedding and you're all invited. Over the course of a hot summer's day, a family gathers to welcome a newcomer into their midst. But as the vodka flows and dances are shared, passions boil over and the limits of love are tested. What happens when the happiest day of your life opens the door to a new and uncertain future?**

**Sheibani** is joined by set and costume designer, **Samal Blak**; lighting designer, **Paule Constable**; choreographer and movement director, **Aline David**; sound designer, **Gareth Fry**; revival director, **Elin Schofield**; original casting director, **Alastair Coomer CDG**; casting director, **Juliet Horsley CDG**; dialect coach, **Charmian Hoare**; intimacy director, **Asha Jennings-Grant**; fight director, **Kev McCurdy**; associate fight director, **Sam Lyon-Behan** and resident director, **Alex Pritchett**.

*Till the Stars Come Down* was originally commissioned by the National Theatre and developed with the theatre's New Work department whilst **Steel** was writer-in-residence (2019-2021). It had its world premiere on 31 January 2024 in the Dorfman Theatre and was Steel's debut play at the National Theatre running until 16 March. Following a sold-out run, *Till the Stars Come Down* was nominated for 'Best New Play' at the 2024 Olivier Awards.

**ENDS**

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

**Notes to Editor**

## **FURTHER PRESS MATERIALS**

- Production images of the current cast by **Manuel Harlan** are available [here](#)
- Marketing Images available [here](#)
- Headshots available [here](#) and Bios [here](#)
- Official West End trailer [here](#)
- In conversation with Beth Steel [here](#)

## **LISTINGS INFORMATION**

**Dates:** Until Saturday 27 September 2025

**Opening Night:** Wednesday 9 July, 7pm

**Website:** [TillTheStarsComeDown.com](http://TillTheStarsComeDown.com)

**Address:** Theatre Royal Haymarket  
Haymarket  
London  
SW1Y 4HT

**Performance Schedule:** Mondays and Tuesdays at 7pm, Wednesdays through to Saturdays at 7:30pm with matinees on Thursdays and Saturdays at 2:30pm\*

\*schedule may differ during previews and holidays, please see website for details

**Assisted Performances:**

**Captioned Performance:** Wednesday 3 September, 7:30pm

**Audio Described Performance:** Wednesday 10 September, 7:30pm

**Tickets from:** £20

**Box Office:** [nationaltheatre.org.uk](http://nationaltheatre.org.uk) / 0203 989 5455

(lines open Monday to Friday 9:30am – 6pm, and Saturdays 10am – 6pm)

Or [trh.co.uk](http://trh.co.uk) / call 0207 930 8800 (lines open Tuesday to Saturday 10am – 7:45pm)

For Groups 8+ contact: [customerservices@trh.co.uk](mailto:customerservices@trh.co.uk) / call 0207 930 8800

**Age recommendation:** 14+

**Running Time:** 2 hrs 30mins including an interval

**Social platforms: Facebook, Instagram and X:** @tillthestarsldn

## **About the National Theatre**

The National Theatre makes theatre that entertains and inspires using its creativity, expertise and unique reach. We tell big stories in bold ways, offering the widest access to high quality theatre to millions of audience members across the UK and around the world – on our own stages, on tour, in schools, on cinema screens and streaming at home.

We bring the world to the National Theatre and take the National Theatre to the world through reimagined classic stories meeting fresh, contemporary voices. As part of our mission to celebrate and platform bold voices in British theatre, the National Theatre proudly hosts a dynamic group of Resident Companies, offering a platform for collaboration, growth, and innovation.

Through touring our work to local theatres, schools and through our nationwide education and community programmes, we are active in every local authority in the UK. We invest in talent and innovation on stage and off, taking seriously our role as the nation's theatre. We work with hundreds of schools and communities across the UK to fire imagination and inspire creativity. The National Theatre Skills Centre supports thousands of young people every year to develop skills and pathways for careers in theatre.

For more information, please visit [nationaltheatre.org.uk](https://nationaltheatre.org.uk)

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## **About Eleanor Lloyd Productions**

**Current and upcoming productions include:** Agatha Christie's *Witness for the Prosecution*, in its eighth year at London County Hall, and Mark Gatiss' adaptation of Charles Dickens' *A Christmas Carol*, returning to Alexandra Palace in 2025.

**Other productions include:** *Shifters* (Duke of York's); Deborah Frances-White's debut play, *Never Have I Ever* (Chichester Festival Theatre); Eddie Izzard's *Hamlet* (Riverside Studios) and *Great Expectations* (Garrick); *Prima Facie* on Broadway; the Olivier Award- nominated *Vardy v Rooney: The Wagatha Christie Trial* (Ambassadors and tour); *Best of Enemies* (Noël Coward); *The Collaboration* (Young Vic and Friedman Theater, Broadway); *Constellations* (Vaudeville – winner of two Olivier Awards); new play *Emilia* (Vaudeville – winner of three Olivier Awards). Further productions include West End transfers of *Nell Gwynn*, *My Night with Reg* and *Handbagged*, West End and Broadway seasons of *1984* by Duncan Macmillan and Rob Icke, and UK tours of *Dusty*, a new musical about Dusty Springfield by Jonathan Harvey.

Eleanor co-owns Tilted Sessions, a live podcast production company which is currently producing *Uncanny* and *Brown Girls Do It Too*.

Eleanor Lloyd was awarded an OBE in the 2025 New Year's Honours. She was President of the Society of London Theatre (SOLT) from 2020-2024 and now serves as Vice President. Eleanor sits on the Board of Theatre503 and Bretforton Grange and Theatrebarn.

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

### **About Fiery Angel**

Headed by Edward Snape and Marilyn Eardley, Fiery Angel is an award-winning international production company based in London's West End.

Recent productions in the West End include: *The 39 Steps*, *Kathy and Stella Solve A Murder!*, *The Duchess [of Malfi]*, *King Lear*, *Hairspray*, *Peppa Pig Live*, *Touching The Void*, *The Son*, *The Night of the Iguana*, *Fleabag*, *Home I'm Darling*, *Long Day's Journey into Night*, *Mary Stuart*, *Mel Brooks' Young Frankenstein*, *Kenneth Branagh Theatre Company*; *The Winter's Tale*, *All On Her Own/Harlequinade*, *Red Velvet*, *The Painkiller*, *Romeo and Juliet*, *The Entertainer*, *The Scottsboro Boys*, *The Ladykillers*, and *Ghost Stories*.

Recent UK and international tours include: *Pig Heart Boy*, *War Horse*, *Murder on the Orient Express*, *Rob Brydon: A Night of Songs and Laughter*, *The 39 Steps*, *The Boy at the Back of the Class*, *And Then There Were None*, *Kathy and Stella Solve A Murder!*, *The Smartest Giant in Town*, *Peppa Pig Live*, *Unexpected Twist*, *Animal Farm*, *The Good Life*, *Love From A Stranger*, and *To Kill a Mockingbird*.

Fiery Angel has acted as a co-producer alongside The National Theatre on its West End productions of *Nine Night*, *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time*, and *The Lehman Trilogy*.

[fiery-angel.com](http://fiery-angel.com)

### **About Short Street Productions Ltd**

Mark Rubinstein, Sarah Edwards and Dave McNeilly established Short Street Productions Ltd as an independent theatre production company in 2023, to continue the work of Mark Rubinstein Ltd, which since 2000, has produced and general managed over 90 shows and productions on the West End, on tour and internationally.

Current and recent projects include: *Giant* (Harold Pinter), *The Great Gatsby* (London Coliseum), *Tina – The Tina Turner Musical* (Aldwych and UK and Ireland Tour), *Waiting For Godot* (Theatre Royal, Haymarket), *Sing Street* (Lyric Hammersmith), *Military Wives* (York Theatre Royal), *Sinatra* (Birmingham Rep), *Rock Follies* (Chichester Minerva), *Murder on the Orient Express* (Chichester and Bath Theatre Royal), *Mandela* (Young Vic), *Beautiful – The Carole King Musical* (Aldwych and two UK Tours), *Be More Chill* (The Other Palace), *Sweat* (Gielgud), Stephen Sondheim's *Company* (Gielgud), *Roman Holiday* (London and Shanghai Reading), *La Soirée* (on a 10-year rolling International Tour – 2015 Olivier Award: Best Entertainment), *Billy Elliot: the Musical* (UK and Ireland Tour), *The Miser* (Garrick), *The Dresser* (Duke of York's), *Close to You: Bacharach Reimagined* (Criterion), *Jeeves and Wooster in Perfect Nonsense* (Duke of York's and UK and India Tours) and *Once the Musical* (Phoenix and Korea).

Mark Rubinstein was President of the Society of London Theatre from 2011 to 2014 and Vice President from 2014 to 2017.

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

### **Len Blavatnik and Danny Cohen for Access Entertainment**

Access Entertainment is a division of Len Blavatnik's Access Industries. Led by Danny Cohen, it invests in world-class content and creative ventures across theatre, film, television, gaming, the creator economy, and the visual arts. In addition to owning the Theatre Royal Haymarket, Access Entertainment invests in plays and musicals in the West End and on Broadway including *Hamilton*, *Moulin Rouge*, *Leopoldstadt*, *Good*, and *Cabaret*. In 2024, Access co-produced *A View From The Bridge* starring Dominic West, *Waiting For Godot* starring Ben Whishaw and Lucian Msamati and most recently *The Picture of Dorian Gray*, starring Sarah Snook, which is currently playing on Broadway and has been nominated for six Tony awards. Access-backed theatrical productions have won 25 Olivier Awards and 40 Tony Awards. In cinema, Access has backed films including the Oscar-winning *Conclave* and *The Zone of Interest*. Access is also the lead investor in Lightroom, home to the immersive productions *The Moonwalkers: A Journey with Tom Hanks*, *David Hockney: Bigger & Closer (not smaller & further away)* and *Vogue: Inventing the Runway*.