

# National Theatre

**CASTING NEWS:**

**FURTHER CASTING ANNOUNCED FOR THE HIGHLY ANTICIPATED NATIONAL  
TOUR OF JAMES GRAHAM'S OLIVIER AWARD-WINNING PLAY**

## ***DEAR ENGLAND***

**PERFORMANCES BEGIN 15 SEPTEMBER 2025  
AT THE THEATRE ROYAL PLYMOUTH, TOURING TO  
16 VENUES ACROSS ENGLAND UNTIL MARCH 2026**



As the country continues to celebrate the Lionesses' Euros victory, the National Theatre today reveals further casting for its highly anticipated national tour of **Dear England**.

As previously announced, heading the cast in 'the decade's biggest theatrical triumph' (★★★★ Daily Telegraph) will be **David Sturzaker** as England manager Gareth Southgate, with *EastEnders* and *Mount Pleasant* actress **Samantha Womack** playing the role of team psychologist Pippa Grange.

The cast also includes returning performers **Jass Beki** as Bukayo Saka, **Courtney George** as Alex Scott, **Miles Henderson** as Ensemble, and **Tom Lane** as Eric Dier. They will be joined by new cast members **Jake Ashton-Nelson** as Jordan Henderson, **Luke Azille** as Jadon Sancho, **Ian Bartholomew** as Greg Dyke, **Ashley Byam** as Raheem Sterling, **Steven Dykes** as Sam Allardyce, **Oscar Gough** as Harry Kane, **Jayden Hanley** as Marcus Rashford, **Connor Hawker** as Harry Maguire, **Ian Kirkby** as Gary Lineker, **Jack Maddison** as Jordan Pickford, **Liam Prince-Donnelly** as Dele Alli, and **George Rainsford** as Mike Webster.

Also joining the company are **Stuart Ash**, **Natalie Boakye**, **Sam Craig**, and **Jonathan Markwood**. The cast will also be playing additional roles as part of the ensemble.

Football and non-football fans alike will be brought to their feet for this inspiring, at times heartbreaking, and ultimately uplifting story of Gareth Southgate's revolutionary tenure as England manager.

The Olivier Award-winning Best New Play, which broke box office records during its West End run in 2023, 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.

**Dear England** is written by the multi-award-winning stage and screen writer, **James Graham** (*Punch*, West End; *Sherwood*, BBC One), directed by the Almeida Theatre's Artistic Director **Rupert Goold** (*Patriots, Ink*; Almeida Theatre/West End/Broadway) with set design by **Es Devlin** (Beyonce's *Renaissance*, World Tour; *The Lehman Trilogy*, National Theatre).

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.

***Dear England*** is 'gripping, moving and funny...as good as theatre gets' (★★★★ The Sunday Times). It will launch at **Theatre Royal Plymouth** (15 – 20 September), and 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), **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).

The wider creative team for ***Dear England*** includes 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**.

They are joined by tour revival director **Connie Treves**, revival movement director **Tom Herron**, casting director **Bryony Jarvis-Taylor** CDG, associate set designer **Alice Halifax**, associate lighting designer **Ben Jacobs**, associate video designer **Libby Ward**, associate sound designer **Johnny Edwards**, casting associate **Lilly Mackie**, and resident director **Dan Hutton**.

The National Theatre will run a year-long schools engagement programme inspired by Gareth Southgate's 'Dear England' open letter that he wrote to England fans in 2021. This programme, which will prompt young people across the UK to reflect on their own place in history, just as the footballers in Southgate's squad were encouraged to do, is in response to this year being the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Second World War. It will be delivered in schools across England with assemblies and workshops using spoken word and sound design to support students to share the hopes and aspirations they have for themselves, and other young people, 80 years from now. The resulting sound archive will form a unique 2025–2026 time-capsule. Students will also be invited to see performances of ***Dear England*** during the tour. This year-long schools engagement programme is expected to reach over 10,000 young people.

***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, and it won 'Best New Play' at the 2024 Olivier Awards later that year. ***Dear England*** returned to the National Theatre in spring 2025, updated to reflect the 2024 UEFA EURO tournament and Gareth Southgate's final chapter as England manager. The play had its regional premiere at the Lowry in Salford on 29 May, followed by a 4-week run.

This 2025/2026 national tour of ***Dear England*** is a co-production between National Theatre Productions and JAS Theatricals. It has been supported by 'Incentivising Touring: Repayable Grants for Theatre and Dance', a pilot scheme developed by Arts Council England to support larger-scale productions to tour to regional venues. ***Dear England***, was amongst the first to receive a share of over £2million as part of the first round of the scheme, which creates the opportunity for more people to see high-quality shows close to where they live.

Assisted performances are available throughout the run at each venue. Check individual venue websites for information and booking details.

Raymond James and Charles Stanley are proud to support the national tour of ***Dear England***.

**ENDS**

For further information, please contact **Martin Shippen** via [shippen.martin@gmail.com](mailto:shippen.martin@gmail.com) or **Clare McCormack** via [CMcCormack@nationaltheatre.org.uk](mailto:CMcCormack@nationaltheatre.org.uk)

### **FURTHER PRESS MATERIALS**

- Headshot images are available [here](#)
- Company in rehearsals image [here](#). Photo credit Justine Matthew
- Images from previous Spring 2025 production by Marc Brenner are available [here](#)
- Trailer featuring the 2025 National Theatre cast [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)

**Nottingham Theatre Royal** 23 – 27 September  
[trch.co.uk](http://trch.co.uk)

**Marlowe Theatre Canterbury** 7 – 18 October  
[marlowetheatre.com](http://marlowetheatre.com)

**Sheffield Lyceum** 21 – 25 October  
[sheffieldtheatres.co.uk/lyceum](http://sheffieldtheatres.co.uk/lyceum)

**Leeds Grand Theatre** 4 – 8 November  
[leedsheritagetheatres.com](http://leedsheritagetheatres.com)

**Newcastle Theatre Royal 11 – 15 November**  
**[theatroyal.co.uk](http://theatroyal.co.uk)**

**Chichester Festival Theatre 20 – 29 November**  
**[cft.org.uk](http://cft.org.uk)**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**[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](http://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.

### **About Arts Council England**

[Arts Council England](#) is the national development agency for creativity and culture. Our vision, set out in our strategy *Let's Create*, is that by 2030, we want England to be a country in which the creativity of each of us is valued and given the chance to flourish, and where every one of us has access to a remarkable range of high-quality cultural experiences. Between 2023 and 2026, we will have invested over £467 million of public money from Government, alongside an estimated £250 million each year from The National Lottery, to help ensure that people in every part of the country have access to culture and creativity in the places where they live. More information on Incentivising Touring: Repayable Grants for Theatre and Dance can be found [here](#).