National Theatre

18 August 2025

FIRST LOOK REHEARSAL IMAGES RELEASED FOR DAVID LAN'S NEW PLAY *THE LAND OF THE LIVING*



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The National Theatre today unveils a first look into the rehearsal room for ***The Land of the Living*** - a new play by former Artistic Director of the Young Vic, **David Lan**. Olivier Award-winner **Juliet Stevenson** (*The Doctor*) and **Tom Wlaschiha** (*Game of Thrones*) will play Ruth and Thomas in this timely new play that is immersed in the shapeshifting nature of memory and morality. Directed by **Stephen Daldry** (*The Inheritance*), *The Land of the Living* will run in the Dorfman theatre from 9 September to 1 November 2025 as part of former National Theatre Director Rufus Norris' final season.

The full cast includes **Atilla Akinci**, **Kate Duchêne**, **Michael Fox**, **Hubert Hanowicz**, **Caroline Loncq**, **Avital Lvova**, **Michael Marcus**, **Anastasia Martin**, **Marek Oravec**, **Cosima Shaw** and **Sasha Syzonenko**. Young performers **Darcy Tosun**, **Anton Vehring** and **Artie Wilkinson-Hunt** complete the cast.

Writer David Lan and director Stephen Daldry are joined on the creative team by set designer **Miriam Buether**, costume designer **Nicky Gillibrand**, lighting designer **James Farncombe**, sound designer **Gareth Fry**, composer **Paul Englishby**, movement director **Paul McGill**, fight and intimacy director **Maisie Carter**, casting director **Naomi Downham**, dialect and language coach **Victoria Woodward**, voice coach **Cathleen McCarron**, associate director **Jane Moriarty** and staff director **Júlia Levai**.

Germany, 1945. Thomas, one of thousands of children stolen by the Nazis from Eastern Europe during WWII, is under the care of Ruth, a UN relief worker. Should she try to find his parents or leave him with those he's grown up with? The choice she makes will shape his life. Years later, Thomas visits Ruth. As they untangle the past, the decisions Ruth made as a very young woman are called powerfully into question.

The Land of the Living will play in the Dorfman theatre from 9 September to 1 November, with a press night on Thursday 18 September.

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For images, click **here**.

Production	**Theatre**	**Dates**	**Press Night**	**Publicist**
The Land of the Living	Dorfman theatre	From 9 September to 1 November	Thursday 18 September, 7pm	Emily Ritchie and Anoushka Chakrapani

Assisted performances of *The Land of the Living* at the National Theatre:

Captioned Performances: Saturday 4 October – 2:30pm, Thursday 16 October – 6:30pm, Wednesday 29 October – 7:30pm

Audio Described (with touch tours taking place 90 minutes before the show): Saturday 11 October – 2:30pm, Thursday 30 October – 7:30pm

Relaxed performance: Monday 20 October – 7:30pm

With Thanks

This production is supported by the Huo Family Foundation.

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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.

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