

National Theatre

2 October 2025

FIRST LOOK AT HIRAN ABEYSEKERA AND CAST IN *HAMLET* AT THE NATIONAL THEATRE

ROBERT HASTIE'S FIRST SHOW AS DEPUTY ARTISTIC DIRECTOR



PHOTOGRAPHY BY (C) SAM TAYLOR CAN BE FOUND [HERE](#)

The National Theatre today offers a first look at Deputy Artistic Director **Robert Hastie's** (*Standing at the Sky's Edge*) sharp, stylish and darkly funny reimagining of *Hamlet*, which opens tonight in the Lyttelton theatre and runs until 22 November 2025. Olivier Award-winner **Hiran Abeysekera** (*Life of Pi*) makes his highly anticipated return to the National Theatre to play the eponymous role in this fearless, contemporary take on Shakespeare's famous tragedy. *Hamlet* will also be broadcast to cinemas through National Theatre Live from 22 January 2026.

The full cast includes **Joe Bolland** (Guildenstern), **Phil Cheadle** (Marcellus), **Ayesha Dharker** (Gertrude), **Ryan Ellsworth** (Ghost), **Tom Glenister** (Laertes), **Mary Higgins** (Osric), **Liz Jadav** (Nurse), **Kiren Kebaili-Dwyer** (Fortinbras), **Hari Mackinnon** (Rosencrantz), **Francesca Mills** (Ophelia), **Sophia Papadopoulos** (Cornelius), **Alistair Petrie** (Claudius), **Siobhán Redmond** (First Player), **Seb Slade** (Francisco), **Geoffrey Streatfeild** (Polonius), **Noel White** (Bernardo) and **Tessa Wong** (Horatio).

Director Robert Hastie is joined in the creative team by set and costume designer **Ben Stones**, lighting designer **Jessica Hung Han Yun**, sound designer **Alexandra Faye Braithwaite**, composer **Richard Taylor**, movement director **Ira Mandela Siobhan**, fight director **Kate Waters**, casting directors **Alastair Coomer CDG** and **Martin Poile CDG** and associate director **Georgie Staight**.

The play's the thing.

Something is rotten in the state of Denmark. Are you watching closely?

Trapped between duty and doubt, surrounded by power and privilege, young Prince Hamlet dares to ask the ultimate question – you know the one.

The production is supported by Bagri Foundation, whose trustee Dr Alka Bagri said: "We are incredibly proud to support this fresh and ambitious take on the classic Shakespeare tragedy, as part of Indhu Rubasingham's first season as Director of the National Theatre. Bagri Foundation exists to platform incredible Asian talent on a global stage, and we are so excited to see the award-winning Sri Lankan actor Hiran Abeysekera take on this legendary role."

Hamlet will play in the Lyttelton theatre from 25 September to 22 November, with a press night on Thursday 2 October. Audiences can find their nearest cinema screening at [hamlet.ntlive.com](https://www.hamlet.ntlive.com).

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For images, click [here](#).

Production	Theatre	Dates	Press Night	Publicist
<i>Hamlet</i>	Lyttelton theatre	From 25 September to 22 November 2025	Thursday 2 October, 7pm	Emily Ritchie

Assisted performances of *Hamlet* at the National Theatre:

Captioned Performances: Thursday 9 October – 7:15pm, Thursday 20 November – 7:15pm

Audio Described (with touch tours taking place 90 minutes before the show): Friday 17 October – 7:15pm, Saturday 15 November – 1:30pm

BSL Interpreted: Saturday 8 November – 1:30pm, Thursday 13 November – 6:30pm

Relaxed performance: Thursday 6 November – 7:15pm

With Thanks

This production is supported by James and Victoria Corcoran, Bagri Foundation, Marcia B. Whitaker, and The Polonsky Foundation.

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.

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