National Theatre

25 November 2025

FIRST LOOK PRODUCTION IMAGES FOR THE FESTIVE RETURN OF CELEBRATED FAMILY HIT *BALLET SHOES*



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The National Theatre today offers a first look at the festive return of **Kendall Feaver**'s acclaimed adaptation of **Noel Streatfeild**'s best-selling book ***Ballet Shoes*** ahead of Press Night tonight. *Ballet Shoes'* return forms part of Director and Co-CEO **Indhu Rubasingham**'s inaugural season and will run in the Olivier theatre until 21 February 2026.

Directed by **Katy Rudd**, this 'playful, graceful adaptation' (★★★★★ *Financial Times*) 'never puts a foot wrong' (★★★★★ *London Standard*). Delighting audiences both old and young, the production 'springs from page to stage with panache' (★★★★★ *WhatsonStage*).

The cast includes **Sienna Arif-Knights** as Petrova Fossil, **Julie Armstrong** in the Ensemble, **Raj Bajaj** as Jai, **Rosie Boore** in the Ensemble, **Eryck Brahmania** as Prince, **Chrissy Brooke** in the Ensemble, **Nina Cassells** as Pauline Fossil, **Luke Cinque-White** as Flyman, **Pandora Colin** as Dr Jakes, **Stephanie Elstob** as a Swing, **Sebastian Goffin** as a Swing, **Shailan Gohil** in the Ensemble, **Mark Hammersley** in the Ensemble, **Georges Hann** as Flyman, **Nadine Higgin** as Theo, **Gracie Hodson-Prior** as Winifred, **Anoushka Lucas** as Sylvia, **Scarlett Monahan** as Posy Fossil, **Kaitlyn Moore** in the Ensemble, **Lesley Nicol** as Nana, **Anu Ogunmefun** in the Ensemble, **Suzy Osadchyi** as a Swing, **Xolisweh Ana Richards** as Katerina Federovksy, **Gabriela Rodriguez** in the Ensemble, **Justin Salinger** as Great Uncle Matthew/Fidolia/Mr French/Mr Sholsky/Madame Manoff and **Katie Singh** in the Ensemble.

In a crumbling house full of dinosaur bones and fossils, three adopted sisters – Pauline, Petrova and Posy – are learning who they are and what they want to be. Under the watchful eyes and guidance of their guardian Sylvia, Nana, and some unlikely lodgers, they fight to pursue their individual passions. But in a world that wasn't built for women with big ambitions, can they forge a future, keep their family together, and even learn a dance or two along the way?

Directed by **Katy Rudd** with set designer **Frankie Bradshaw**, costume designer **Samuel Wyer**, choreographer **Ellen Kane**, composer **Asaf Zohar**, dance arrangements and orchestrations **Gavin Sutherland**, lighting designer **Paule Constable**, sound designer **Ian Dickinson for Autograph**, video designer **Ash J Woodward**, illusions **Chris Fisher**, casting directors **Bryony Jarvis-Taylor CDG** and **Martin Poile CDG,** classical coach **Cira Robinson**, fight director **Haruka Kuroda**, dialect coach **Penny Dyer**, voice coaches **Cathleen McCarron** and **Zoe Littleton**, associate choreographer **Luke Cinque-White**, associate lighting designer **Imogen Clarke**, associate sound designer **Jonas Roebuck**, associate video designer **Hayley Egan**, associate illusions **Sam Lupton** and staff director **Jasmine Teo**.

The National Theatre is delighted to once again be collaborating throughout the *Ballet Shoes* run with Coram, the UK's first and longest continuing children's charity who provide adoption services for families and children across the capital and beyond.

Ballet Shoes will play in the Olivier theatre until 21 February 2026, with a press night on Tuesday 25 November 2025. Recommended for ages 7 to 107!

Tickets available at **nationaltheatre.org.uk.**

ENDS

For images, click **here**.

Production	Theatre	Dates	Press Night	Publicist
Ballet Shoes	Olivier theatre	17 November 2025 – 21 February 2026	Tuesday 25 November	Emily Ritchie

Assisted performances for *Ballet Shoes*:

Captioned: Wednesday 3 December – 7pm, Saturday 3 January - 1:30pm, Friday 6 February – 7pm

Audio described: The Audio described performances have a touch tour 90 mins before the show. Saturday 13 December – 1:30pm, Thursday 29 January – 7pm

BSL Interpreted: Thursday 22 January – 7pm

Relaxed performance: Thursday 12 February - 7pm

With thanks:

The original production at the National Theatre was supported by Rosetrees Trust and The Laura Pels International Foundation for Theater. This is an Edgerton New Plays Commission. New Play Commissions are also supported by the Pritzker Pucker Family Foundation.

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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 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

About Coram

Coram is the UK's first and longest continuing children's charity, supporting children to have the best possible chance in life since 1739. They work as a group of specialist organisations helping hundreds of thousands of children, young people, families and professionals every year.

Coram supports children and young people from their earliest days to independence, creating a change that lasts a lifetime. They help build their confidence; they help them to develop skills; they uphold their rights, they support practitioners in the areas of fostering and adoption and they find loving adoptive families for the most vulnerable children.

They work in over 2,000 schools supporting more than half a million children, run London's largest Regional Adoption Agency and provide free legal advice for thousands of children and families who need it every year.