

National Theatre

Thursday 11 December 2025

FIRST LOOK AT NICOLA COUGHLAN, ÉANNA HARDWICKE
AND SIOBHÁN MCSWEENEY IN
THE PLAYBOY OF THE WESTERN WORLD
AT THE NATIONAL THEATRE



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The National Theatre today releases the first look at the cast, which includes **Nicola Coughlan** (*Bridgerton*), **Éanna Hardwicke** (*The Sixth Commandment*) and **Siobhán McSweeney** (*Derry Girls*), in [*The Playboy of the Western World*](#) ahead of the Press Night tonight. Irish playwright **John Millington Synge**'s story of youth and self-discovery is directed in a new production by

Caitríona McLaughlin (Artistic Director of the Abbey Theatre, the National Theatre of Ireland) and will play in the Lyttelton theatre until 28 February 2026.

Full casting includes **Marty Breen** as Sara Tansey, **Declan Conlon** as Old Mahon, **Nicola Coughlan** as Pegeen Mike, **Lorcan Cranitch** as Michael Flaherty, **Megan Cusack** as Susan Brady, **Naoise Dunbar** as Jimmy Farrell, **Matthew Forrest** as Philly Cullen, **Sallay Garnett** as Nelly, **Fionnuala Gyga** as Honor Blake, **Éanna Hardwicke** as Christy Mahon, **Erin Hennessey** as Fiddle Player, **Siobhán McSweeney** as Widow Quin and **Marty Rea** as Shawn Keogh, with **Susan Akintomide**, **Peter Mooney** and **Donncha O'Dea** as the ensemble.

Pegeen Flaherty's life is turned upside down when, on a normal day, a young man walks into her pub claiming that he's killed his father.

Instead of being shunned, the killer Christy Mahon becomes a local hero. The welcome murderer wins hearts and races as he beds himself into village life. That is until a second man unexpectedly arrives on the scene...

Director **Caitríona McLaughlin** is joined by set and costume designer **Katie Davenport**, lighting designer **James Farncombe**, movement director **Sue Mythen**, sound designer **Adrienne Quartly**, composer **Anna Mullarkey**, fight director **Kevin McCurdy**. casting by **Alastair Coomer CDG** and **Naomi Downham**, voice coach **Shereen Ibrahim**, dialect coach **Patricia Logue** and staff director **Neetu Singh**.

Playing in the Lyttelton theatre until 28 February 2026, with a press performance on Thursday 11 December 2025, 7pm.

Tickets are available from £20 and are on sale now via the National Theatre website. For further information, including details about assisted performances, please visit nationaltheatre.org.uk.

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Notes to Editors

Images can be accessed [here](#).

Show	Theatre	Dates	Press Night	Press Office Contact
<i>The Playboy of the</i>	Lyttelton theatre	4 December 2025 to 28 February 2026	Thursday 11 December 2025, 7pm	James Lever And

<i>Western World</i>				Camilla Dervan
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Assisted performances of *The Playboy of the Western World* at the National Theatre:

Captioned Performances: Thursday 18 December 2025 - 7.30pm, Saturday 24 January 2026 – 2.15pm, Friday 13 February 2026 – 7.30pm.

BSL Interpreted: Friday 16 January 2026 – 7.30pm, Thursday 26 February 2026 – 7.30pm.

Audio described (preceded by a Touch Tour 90 minutes before the performance start time): Saturday 20 December 2025 – 2.15pm, Friday 20 February 2026 – 7.30pm.

Relaxed Performance: Tuesday 20 January 2026 – 7.30pm

With Thanks

This production is supported by the National Theatre's Official Hotel Partner, Edwardian Hotels.

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 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

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