

# National Theatre

Friday 16 January 2026

**FULL CAST INCLUDING ALEX LAWATHER, DOON MACKICHAN, PAUL  
READY AND SOPHIE RUNDLE ANNOUNCED FOR *SUMMERFOLK* AT  
THE NATIONAL THEATRE**



**NEW VERSION OF MAXIM GORKY'S CLASSIC BY NINA RAINÉ AND MOSES RAINÉ**

The National Theatre today announces full casting for **Nina Raine** and **Moses Raine**'s new version of **Maxim Gorky's *Summerfolk***, a razor-sharp portrait of class, privilege and denial. Directed by Deputy Artistic Director **Robert Hastie**, this biting and satirical play will run in the Olivier theatre from **6 March to 29 April 2026**.

Full cast includes **Rebecca Banatvala** as Sasha, **Thomas Barrett** as Maxim Zimin, **Tamika Bennett** as Sonya, **Pip Carter** as Pavel Sergeyich Ryumin, **Peter Forbes** as Semyon Semyonich Dvoyetochiye, **Brandon Grace** as Nikolai Petrovich Zamislov, **Arthur Hughes** as Pyotr Ivanich Suslov, **Sam Jenkins-Shaw** as Kropilkin, **Gwyneth Keyworth** as Olga Alekseyevna, **Daniel Lapaine** as Yakov Petrovich Shalimov, **Alex Lawther** as Vlass Mikhailich, **Adelle Leonce** as Yulia Filipovna, **Doon Mackichan** as Kaleria, **Justine Mitchell** as Maria Lvovna, **Paul Ready** as Sergei Vassilich Bassov, **Sophie Rundle** as Varvara Mikhailovna, **Sid Sagar** as Kirill Akimovich Dudakov and **Richard Trinder** as Pustobaika, With **Ivan Ivashkin**, **Aisha-Mae McCormick**, **Roisin Rae**, **Ellie Turner** and **Joe Usher** making up the ensemble.

*It's a hot, beautiful summer in 1905, and Russia's elite retreat to the countryside to swim, sip champagne and start affairs. When they're having this much fun, why care about anything else? But Varvara just can't shake the feeling that their holiday idyll is built on borrowed time. As the party continues, how long can they ignore the storm on the horizon?*

Director **Robert Hastie** is joined by set and costume designer **Peter McKintosh**, lighting designer **Paul Pyant**, sound designer **Alexandra Faye Braithwaite**, composer **Nicola T. Chang**, movement director **Thomas Herron**, Music Director **Candida Caldicot**, casting director **Bryony Jarvis-Taylor CDG**, voice coaches **Shereen Ibrahim** and **Zoe Littleton**, associate set designer **Joseph Bisat Marshall**, and BSL and staff director **Lilac Yosiphon**.

Playing in the Olivier theatre from 6 March to 29 April 2026, press performance on Tuesday 17 March 2026, 7pm.

Tickets available at [nationaltheatre.org.uk](https://nationaltheatre.org.uk).

ENDS

For images, click [here](#).

Production	Theatre	Dates	Press Night	Publicist
<i>Summerfolk</i>	Olivier theatre	6 March – 29 April 2026	Tuesday 17 March	<a href="#">James Lever</a>

**Assisted performances for *Summerfolk*:**

**Captioned:** Saturday 28 March – 2pm, Wednesday 8 April – 7.30pm, Wednesday 22 April – 7.30pm

**Audio described (preceded by a Touch Tour 90 minutes before the performance start time):**

Saturday 4 April – 2pm, Monday 20 April – 7.30pm

**Integrated BSL:** Thursday 16 April – 7.30pm, Tuesday 28 April – 7.30pm

**Relaxed performance:** Tuesday 31 March – 7.30pm

**With thanks:**

This production is supported by James & Victoria Corcoran, Marcia B. Whitaker and Marc & Rachel Polonsky. The position of Deputy Artistic Director is supported by James and Victoria Corcoran.

**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.

For more information, please visit [nationaltheatre.org.uk](http://nationaltheatre.org.uk)