

National Theatre

Cate Blanchett, Nina Hoss, Lesley Manville, Francesca Mills, Sandra Oh, and Letitia Wright lead an incredible year of programming in 2026, as the National Theatre ramps up its local, national and global reach

- Multi-award winner **Sandra Oh** makes her National Theatre debut, alongside **Paul Chahidi**, in **Martin Crimp**'s refreshed adaptation of Molière's biting social satire ***The Misanthrope*** directed by **Indhu Rubasingham**.
- Two-time Oscar winner **Cate Blanchett**, **Nina Hoss** and **Ella Lily Hyland** star in **Benedict Andrews**' new production ***Electra / Persona***, fusing two iconic texts – Sophocles' ancient myth *Electra* and Ingmar Bergman's celebrated film *Persona* – into one theatrical event, with music by composer **Hildur Guðnadóttir**.
- **Letitia Wright** is joined by **Aliyah Odoffin**, **Wilf Scolding**, **Ashley Thomas** and **Lorraine Toussaint** in **Tracey Scott Wilson**'s newsroom thriller ***The Story***, directed by **Clint Dyer**.
- The global phenomenon ***War Horse***, based on **Michael Morpurgo**'s beloved novel and adapted by **Nick Stafford**, comes back home to the Olivier theatre after an acclaimed tour of the UK and Ireland and ahead of its 20th anniversary in 2027.
- The UK premiere of critically acclaimed Portuguese play ***Catarina and the Beauty of Killing Fascists*** from celebrated writer and director **Tiago Rodrigues**, will perform in the Dorfman for a limited, one-week run in September.
- A brand-new production of **Jim Cartwright**'s ***The Rise and Fall of Little Voice***, starring **Francesca Mills** and directed by **Robert Hastie**, marks the start of a new commitment to take work on tour directly following a mainstage run.
- The world premiere of ***Some Woman*** - an exciting new play from celebrated British playwright **Helen Edmundson**, her first original play since *Queen Anne* in 2015.
- As the National Theatre gears up to celebrate 60 years of activity on Broadway next year, two plays will be transferring to New York in 2026 – **Robert Hastie**'s ***Hamlet*** and **Alexander Zeldin**'s ***The Other Place***.

- An increased commitment to digital, with an ambition for every NT production to have a digital life beyond stages – on streaming platform **National Theatre at Home** or as a cinema release via **National Theatre Live**.
- In a continued ambition to reach every child in the UK before they leave school, the 2025 production of **Bacchae** is being adapted by **Nima Taleghani** to tour into school halls across England for nine weeks this autumn.
- Tickets for **The Misanthrope**, **War Horse** and **The Story** will be on general sale from 10am GMT on Thursday 12 February.

The **National Theatre** today announces its full slate of programming for 2026 featuring world-class talent in both reinterpreted classics and ambitious new work, alongside two international transfers, two national tours and an increased commitment to digital. The breadth and scale of work across 2026 furthers Co-Chief Executives **Indhu Rubasingham** and **Kate Varah**'s vision of theatre reaching the widest possible audience and attracting the best collaborators from across the world.

Indhu Rubasingham, Director and Co-Chief Executive of the National Theatre, says:

"I can't wait to dive into this year with an extraordinary group of emerging and world-renowned artists coming to the National Theatre, many for the first time. From bold new voices to international collaborators, this is a year that celebrates the full breadth of talent on our stages and behind the scenes. It's a privilege to stage work that theatrically explodes, surprises and challenges us to see the world anew. Bringing this range of exhilarating productions to audiences in the UK and around the globe is what the National Theatre is all about."

Kate Varah, Executive Director and Co-Chief Executive of the National Theatre, says:

"Our 2026 season is about sharing stories locally, nationally and globally. In a new commitment to take productions straight from our stages to partner theatres across the country, we will undertake a major nationwide tour of The Rise and Fall of Little Voice starring the captivating Francesca Mills. As we gear up to celebrate 60 years of working in the US next year, I'm thrilled we are transferring two vital and resonant pieces of theatre to New York – Robert Hastie's Hamlet and Alexander Zeldin's The Other Place, with more shows in the pipeline. We are so proud to be sharing with audiences in New York a range of impactful stories showcasing the best of British theatre. In this way, along with our growing digital footprint, we are opening doors in the UK and around the world like never before."

The 2026 season includes the exciting National Theatre debut of Golden Globe-winner **Sandra Oh** (*Killing Eve*) who will perform alongside **Paul Chahidi** (*The Night Manager*, Season 2) and **Abigail Cruttenden** (*Ragdoll*) in a refreshed adaptation of **Molière's The**

Misanthrope from **Martin Crimp** (*Cyrano de Bergerac*). Directed by **Indhu Rubasingham** (*Bacchae*), this cutting new version of Molière's dark comedy will be performed in the Lyttelton theatre from June. Written in contemporary verse, this biting adaptation will interrogate 21st century private relationships and public debate, with Molière's infamous character – the misanthropic Alceste – here reimagined.

In August, director and adapter **Benedict Andrews** (*A Streetcar Named Desire*) has assembled a stellar cast for his National Theatre debut including Academy Award-winner **Cate Blanchett** (*The Seagull*) and **Nina Hoss** (*Hedda*), who will reunite following their celebrated performances in the critically acclaimed film *Tár*, alongside rising talent **Ella Lily Hyland** (*Black Doves*) in the world premiere of **Electra / Persona**. Performed on the Lyttelton stage, with music from Oscar Award-winning composer **Hildur Guðnadóttir** (*Joker*), this new play is based on both **Sophocles'** story of *Electra* from Greek mythology and **Ingmar Bergman's** celebrated 1966 film *Persona* – exemplifying the National Theatre's commitment to re-examining classic stories in new forms. Creating a charged dialogue that spans over 2000 years between the ancient and the modern, this ambitious new production will interrogate the inner life of an actress and query how grief can make us strangers to ourselves.

Aliyah Odoffin (*All My Sons*), **Wilf Scolding** (*Andor*), **Ashley Thomas** (*Hostage*), and **Lorraine Toussaint** (*Orange is the New Black*) will join **Letitia Wright** (*Black Panther: Wakanda Forever*) in the previously announced revival of **Tracey Scott Wilson's** adrenaline-fuelled newsroom thriller **The Story**, directed by National Theatre Associate Artist **Clint Dyer**. Starting previews in August on the Olivier stage, the cast also includes **Tee Arnold** (*The Prince*), **Donna Augustin** (*St Marks*), **Antonia Bernath** (*Downton Abbey*), **Linseigh Green** (*The Drifter's Girl*), **Jay Simpson** (*Black Mirror*) and **Unique Spencer** (*Top Boy*). Further casting to be announced.

Following a recent acclaimed tour of UK and Ireland, and as it approaches its 20th anniversary next year, the global smash-hit production **War Horse**, based on **Michael Morpurgo's** beloved novel, will return to its original home on the Olivier stage from May to captivate a whole new generation. Adapted by **Nick Stafford**, and originally directed by **Marianne Elliott** (*Angels in America*) and **Tom Morris** (*Dr Semmelweis*), with set and costume design by **Rae Smith** (*The Importance of Being Earnest*) and featuring ground-breaking puppetry by South Africa's **Handspring Puppet Company**, **War Horse** has won more than 25 major awards including the Tony Award for 'Best Play' and has been seen by over 8.8 million people worldwide. This production is directed by **Tom Morris** alongside revival director **Katie Henry**. Casting to be announced.

In the Dorfman in 2026, a new production of ***The Rise and Fall of Little Voice***, a timeless and celebrated tale of small-town dreams from one of Britain's most eminent writers, **Jim Cartwright**, will return to the National Theatre for the first time since its premiere in the then Cottesloe theatre in 1992, before embarking on a nationwide tour. Playing from December 2026, with iconic music from the likes of Judy Garland, Billie Holiday, Shirley Bassey and more, this new production will reunite **Francesca Mills** as Little Voice and director **Robert Hastie** following *Hamlet* in the Lyttelton last year. Further casting to be announced.

Also in the Dorfman and for a limited, one-week run in September, famed Portuguese playwright and director of the Avignon Festival **Tiago Rodrigues** will make his National Theatre debut by bringing his compelling play ***Catarina and the Beauty of Killing Fascists*** for its UK premiere. Described as "an invitation to grapple with what humanity is capable of" by the *New York Times* in 2022, this bold, politically charged production will be performed in its native Portuguese with English surtitles.

Later this year, the Dorfman will also host the world premiere of *Some Woman* - the first new, original play from celebrated British playwright **Helen Edmundson** (*Coram Boy*) since *Queen Anne* in 2015. This play marks Edmundson's return to the National Theatre following her acclaimed adaptation of *Small Island*, which debuted in 2019.

Samira by **Carmen Nasr** (*Under the Shadow*) will mark Nasr's National Theatre debut in the Dorfman theatre, starting rehearsals in late 2026. Set at the height of the Arab Spring in 2011, a Middle Eastern Studies department in London is thrown into crisis when a young Syrian blogger vanishes without a trace. Inspired by true events, the show will be directed by **Emily Burns** (*Dear Octopus*) with casting to be announced.

As the National Theatre gears up to celebrate 60 years since taking its first production to the US next year, it transfers two major productions this year alongside the recent expansion of the **National Theatre Collection** – now available in classrooms across every US state. After a successful run on the South Bank and its ongoing cinema release via National Theatre Live, National Theatre Deputy Artistic Director **Robert Hastie's** ***Hamlet*** will transfer to **Brooklyn Academy of Art (BAM)** in April. **Alexander Zeldin's** critically acclaimed ***The Other Place*** will play at **The Shed** from 30 January to 1 March. Both transfers mark the start of multi-year partnerships between the National Theatre and these innovative New York theatres.

Championing the voices and talent of young people nationwide, for the first time the **Connections Festival** will take place at the Lowry in Salford from 25 to 28 June. The **New Views Festival** also returns to the National Theatre from 2 to 3 July, platforming exciting new writing from students across the UK.

In an exciting move to bring the main stage programme directly into schools, the 2025 production of ***Bacchae*** is being adapted by **Nima Taleghani** to tour secondary schools and colleges around the country in 2026, directed by **Hannah Hauer-King**. A modern retelling of Euripides' ancient Greek tragedy brought to life through rhythm, music and movement, the nine-week tour will reach over 10,000 students in schools across England, running in autumn 2026.

Other previously announced productions coming to the National Theatre in 2026 include **Terence Rattigan's *Man and Boy*** which is today confirmed for release on National Theatre at Home, **Nina Raine** and **Moses Raine's** new version of **Maxim Gorky's *Summerfolk***, **Winsome Pinnock's *The Authenticator*** which is today confirmed for release on National Theatre at Home, **Christopher Hampton's *Les Liaisons Dangereuses*** which will be released in cinemas via National Theatre Live, P&P Productions' ***PRIDE***, **Caryl Churchill's *Cloud 9***, and a new adaptation of ***The Jungle Book*** from **Anupama Chandrasekhar**. **Suzie Miller's *Inter Alia***, starring Rosamund Pike, is also transferring to Wyndham's Theatre in the West End, in a co-production with **Playful Productions**, from 19 March to 20 June 2026.

END

For images, click [here](#).

Production	Theatre	Dates	Press Night	Publicist
<i>Man and Boy</i>	Dorfman theatre	30 January – 14 March 2026	Tuesday 10 February 2026, 7pm	Anoushka Chakrapani
<i>The Other Place</i> (New York)	Griffin Theatre, The Shed	30 January – 1 March 2026	Thursday 05 February 2026	The Shed
<i>Summerfolk</i>	Olivier theatre	6 March – 29 April 2026	Tuesday 17 March 2026, 7pm	James Lever
<i>Inter Alia</i> (West End)	Wyndham's Theatre	19 March – 20 June 2026	Tuesday 7 April 2026, 7pm	Storyhouse PR Agency
<i>Les Liaisons Dangereuses</i>	Lytelton theatre	21 March – 6 June 2026	Wednesday 01 April 2026, 7pm	Emily Ritchie and Clare McCormack

<i>The Authenticator</i>	Dorfman theatre	26 March – 9 May 2026	Thursday 02 April 2026, 7pm	Anoushka Chakrapani
<i>Hamlet</i> (New York)	Harvey Theatre, Brooklyn Academy of Music	19 April – 17 May 2026	Thursday 23 April 2026	Sarah Garvey @ BAM
<i>War Horse</i>	Olivier theatre	16 May – 30 July 2026	Tuesday 02 June 2026, 7pm	Clare McCormack
<i>Pride</i>	Dorfman theatre	11 June – 12 September 2026	Thursday 25 June 2026, 7pm	James Lever
<i>The Misanthrope</i>	Lyttelton theatre	16 June – 1 August 2026	Tuesday 23 June 2026, 7pm	James Lever
<i>The Story</i>	Olivier theatre	27 August – 24 October 2026	Thursday 3 September 2026, 7pm	Clare McCormack and Anoushka Chakrapani
<i>Catarina and the Beauty of Killing Fascists</i>	Dorfman theatre	19 – 26 September 2026	TBA	Anoushka Chakrapani
<i>Electra / Persona</i>	Lyttelton theatre	TBA	TBA	James Lever
<i>The Rise and Fall of Little Voice</i>	Dorfman theatre	TBA	TBA	Clare McCormack
<i>Cloud 9</i>	Lyttelton theatre	TBA	TBA	Clare McCormack

<i>Some Woman</i>	Dorfman theatre	TBA	TBA	Anoushka Chakrapani
<i>The Jungle Book</i>	Olivier theatre	TBA	TBA	James Lever and Anoushka Chakrapani
<i>Samira</i>	Dorfman theatre	TBA	TBA	Anoushka Chakrapani
<i>Bacchae</i> schools tour	UK Tour	TBA	TBA	Rhian Bennett

With Thanks:

As part of the NT's partnership with **CHANEL Culture Fund, Tracey Scott Wilson** and **Anupama Chandrasekhar** undertake Artist Residencies at the National Theatre Studio which focus on global story telling. These long-term placements, provide the time, space and resources needed to develop ambitious, innovative work that shapes and engages with culture worldwide.

Man and Boy

This production is supported by the Huo Family Foundation.

Summerfolk

This production is supported by James & Victoria Corcoran, Marcia B. Whitaker, and Marc and Rachel Polonsky.

Inter Alia (West End)

This play is a recipient of an Edgerton Foundation New Plays Award. *Inter Alia* in the West End is supported by American Express, the National Theatre's Official Payment Partner.

Les Liaisons Dangereuses

This production is supported by Leila Maw Straus, Red Butterfly Foundation, and Daryl Roth.

The Authenticator

This is an Edgerton New Plays Commission. The commissioning of this work was also supported by the Sir Peter Shaffer Charitable Foundation.

Hamlet

This production is supported by Bruce Ratner & Linda Johnson and Lawton W Fitt & James I McLaren Foundation. The original production at the National Theatre was supported by James and Victoria Corcoran, Bagri Foundation, Mark Pigott KBE, KStJ, Marcia B. Whitaker, and The Polonsky Foundation.

The Misanthrope

This production is supported by Marcia B. Whitaker.

The Story

This production is supported by Marcia Grand.

The Rise and Fall of Little Voice

This production is supported by Rob and Victoria Corcoran.

The Jungle Book

This production is supported by Bagri Foundation.

Samira

This production is supported by Frances Hellman & Warren Breslau.

Nationwide Learning Support

The Mohn Westlake Foundation supports nationwide Learning programmes for young people. Nationwide Learning is also supported by Buffini Chao Foundation, the Hearn Foundation, Mitsubishi Estate London, Clore Duffield Foundation, The Ingram Trust, Tina Alexandrou, Crevan O'Grady & Jane McClenahan, The Constance Travis Charitable Trust, Delta Air Lines, The Alchemy Foundation, The Anthony and Elizabeth Mellows Charitable Settlement, and Tioc Foundation.

National Theatre Collection

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Connections

Connections is supported by The Mohn Westlake Foundation, Buffini Chao Foundation, Andrew Lloyd Webber Foundation, Delta Air Lines, The EBM Charitable Trust, Katie Bradford Arts Trust, Susan Miller & Byron Grote, Colwinston Charitable Trust, Mulberry Trust, and Tuixen Foundation.

New Views

New Views is supported by The Mohn Westlake Foundation, Buffini Chao Foundation, Old Possum's Practical Trust and Delta Air Lines.

***Bacchae* Secondary Schools Tour**

The original production at the National Theatre was supported by supported by Marcia B. Whitaker, Dasha A. Epstein, and the Areté Foundation/ Betsy & Ed Cohen.

The Next Chapter

Indhu Rubasingham's inaugural season at the National Theatre is supported by Daryl Roth.

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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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