

# National Theatre

Monday 1 June 2026

## FIRST LOOK AT SANDRA OH AND THE CAST OF *THE MISANTHROPE* IN REHEARSALS AT THE NATIONAL THEATRE



### INDHU RUBASINGHAM DIRECTS MARTIN CRIMP'S CONTEMPORARY NEW VERSION OF MOLIÈRE'S BITING SATIRE

IMAGES (c) BY MARC BRENNER CAN BE FOUND [HERE](#)

The National Theatre today releases the first look at rehearsals for **Martin Crimp's** (*Cyrano de Bergerac*) new adaptation of **Molière's** [The Misanthrope](#). Golden Globe winner **Sandra Oh** (*Killing Eve*) makes her National Theatre debut as Alice, reimagined from Molière's most infamous

character – the misanthropic Alceste. Written in contemporary verse, this biting satire interrogates 21st-century private relationships and public debate, in a production by National Theatre Director **Indhu Rubasingham**. *The Misanthrope* will run in the Lyttelton from 16 June to 1 August 2026.

Full casting for *The Misanthrope* includes **Paul Chahidi** as John, **Abigail Cruttenden** as Claire, **Imogen Elliott** as Esmée, **Rina Fatania** as Indira, **Freddie MacBruce** as Allen, **Tom Mison** as Stefan, **Sandra Oh** as Alice and **Jemima Rooper** as Elaine. Young performers include **Arthur Blanc** and **Teddy Holton-Frances** as Benjamin and **Francesca Fullilove** and **Poppy Townsend White** as Madeleine.

The understudy cast completing the company includes **Niamh James** as understudy Esmée/Allen, **Amira Matthews** as understudy Claire/Indira/Elaine, **Scott Sparrow** as understudy Stefan, **John Vernon** as understudy John and **Gabby Wong** as understudy Alice.

*Alice, a brilliant novelist, despises the hollow contemporary mantras of kindness and respect. But the bolder she becomes in speaking out, the more colleagues avoid her, and the more her personal relationships begin to fracture. As she challenges fashionable ideas and lends her voice to causes others are afraid to touch, she faces intense criticism and backlash. Alice will soon learn the price she must pay as an artist and as a woman for daring to speak her mind.*

Joining **Indhu Rubasingham** in the artistic team are set and costume designer **Robert Jones**, lighting designer **Tim Lutkin**, composer **Anna Meredith**, sound designer **Alexander Caplen**, movement director **Lucy Hind**, casting **Alastair Coomer CDG** and **Martin Poile CDG**, voice coach **Jeannette Nelson**, associate director **Gitika Buttoo** and associate set and costume designer **Ethan Cheek**.

*The Misanthrope* will run in the Lyttelton theatre from 16 June – 1 August 2026, with a press performance on Tuesday 23 June 2026, at 7pm.

On Saturday 20 June 2026 at 5.30pm the National Theatre will hold a special event in the Cottesloe room, **Martin Crimp: The Writer and the Work**. Martin will be in conversation with academic **Vicky**

**Angelaki**, of Mid Sweden University, and Arts Desk critic **Aleks Sierz**, writer of *Martin Crimp: The Writer and the Work* — published by Liverpool University Press to coincide with the year of Martin's seventieth birthday.

Tickets now on sale, [nationaltheatre.org.uk](http://nationaltheatre.org.uk)

**ENDS**

For images, click [here](#).

Production	Theatre	Dates	Press Night	Publicist
<i>The Misanthrope</i>	Lyttelton theatre	16 June – 01 August 2026	Tuesday 23 June 2026. 7pm	<a href="#">James Lever</a>

### **National Theatre Listings and Booking Information**

## ***The Misanthrope***

By **Martin Crimp**

After **Molière**

**Dates:** 16 June – 01 August 2026

**Venue:** Lyttelton theatre, National Theatre Upper Ground, South Bank, London SE1 9PX

### **Box Office:**

To book online visit [www.nationaltheatre.org.uk](http://www.nationaltheatre.org.uk)

To book tickets by phone, call **020 3989 5455** from 9.30am to 6pm Monday to Friday and 10am–6pm on Saturdays.

**Booking fee:** A £4 per order fee applies to phone and online bookings. Free for National Theatre members and other exemptions.

## **Group Bookings**

To book tickets for a group of 10 or more, call 020 7452 3010 from 11am–6pm, Monday to Saturday.

## **Access ticket booking**

To book Disabled concession tickets and for any additional support you may require, please call our Access line 020 7452 3961 from 11am–6pm, Monday to Saturday. Our [Access page](#) have more detailed information for users with specific access requirements.

## **Assisted performances for *The Misanthrope*:**

**Captioned:** Wednesday 1 July 2026 – 7.30pm, Saturday 25 July 2026 – 2.30pm

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

Saturday 11 July 2026 – 2.30pm, Friday 31 July 2026 – 7.30pm.

**BSL Interpreted:** Friday 17 July 2026 – 7.30pm, Tuesday 28 July 2026 – 6.30pm

**Relaxed performance:** Thursday 30 July 2026 – 7.30pm

## **With thanks:**

This production is supported by Marcia B. Whitaker, Daryl Roth and The Polonsky Foundation

## **About the National Theatre**

The National Theatre offers the widest access to high-quality theatre in the world. This year, we will produce 18 plays, following over a thousand shows that have shaped British theatre since 1963.

Our productions transfer from our home in London to the West End, Broadway and beyond, winning awards on both sides of the Atlantic. We champion bold storytelling that inspires, challenges and entertains, bringing the world to the National Theatre, and taking the best of British theatre to the world. Through our online streaming service *National Theatre at Home*; our education platform, the

*National Theatre Collection* in schools; and in cinemas with *National Theatre Live*, we reach audiences digitally in almost every country worldwide – 184 out of 195 and counting.

We operate as a registered charity with a deep social purpose and a nationwide footprint. We partner with regional theatres to tour our shows, are active in more than 90 per cent of state secondary schools, and our Skills Centre trains 5,000 people each year.

Our dedicated New Work Studio champions new writing, and we are central London's 'biggest factory' with workshops that craft every aspect of our productions. We host the world's most extensive theatre archive, and our Green Store houses more than 150,000 reusable props and costumes as part of our sustainability commitments.

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

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