

National Theatre

Wednesday 12 August 2026

FIRST LOOK AT CATE BLANCHETT AND NINA HOSS IN REHEARSALS FOR *ELECTRA/PERSONA* AT THE NATIONAL THEATRE



**THE PAIR WILL SWAP ROLES THROUGHOUT THE RUN IN THIS WORLD PREMIERE
WRITTEN AND DIRECTED BY BENEDICT ANDREWS**

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The National Theatre releases the first look at rehearsals of director and adapter **Benedict Andrews'** (*A Streetcar Named Desire*) new play [Electra/Persona](#), which will have its world premiere in the Lyttelton theatre this September. *Electra/Persona* fuses Sophocles' ancient myth

Electra with Ingmar Bergman's *Persona* in a powerful exploration of identity and the fragile line between who we are and who we play.

Academy Award-winner **Cate Blanchett** (*Blue Jasmine*) and **Nina Hoss** (*Tár*) will swap the roles of Electra/Elisabeth and Clytemnestra/Alma throughout the run. They are joined by rising talent **Ella Lily Hyland** (*Black Doves*) as Chrysothemis/Reader and **Patrick Robinson** (*War Horse*) as Aegisthus/Husband.

Completing the company are **Peter Eastland** as understudy Aegisthus/Husband, **Frankie Lipman** as understudy Chrysothemis/Reader, **Celia Nelson** as understudy Clytemnestra/Alma and **Natalie Thomas** as understudy Electra/Elisabeth.

Which role undid you in the end?

Electra. A daughter consumed by grief and rage, clinging to the idea of justice as her world comes apart.

Persona. During a performance of Electra, an actress suddenly falls silent. What follows is a rupture: two women drawn into an intense, unsettling encounter where speech breaks down and the boundaries between self and role give way.

Joining writer and director **Benedict Andrews** in the artistic team is set designer **Magda Willi**, costume designer **Merle Hensel**, composer **Hildur Guðnadóttir**, lighting designer **Jon Clark**, sound designer **Brendan Aanes**, video designer **Ash J Woodward**, fight and intimacy directors **Rachel Bown-Williams** and **Ruth Cooper-Brown** of Rc-Annie Ltd, casting by **Alastair Coomer** CDG, voice coach **Cathleen McCarron**, associate director **Danica Selem**, music associate **Deanna H. Choi**, associate lighting designer **Skylar Turnbull Hurd** and staff director **Oliver Hurst**.

Electra/Persona will run in the Lyttelton theatre from 19 August – 10 October 2026, with a press performance on Tuesday 1 September 2026, at 7pm.

Tickets now on sale, nationaltheatre.org.uk

ENDS

For images, click [here](#).

Production	Theatre	Dates	Press Night	Publicist
<i>Electra/Persona</i>	Lyttelton theatre	19 August – 10 October 2026	Tuesday 01 September 2026, 7pm.	James Lever

National Theatre Listings and Booking Information

Electra/Persona

A new play by **Benedict Andrews**

After **Sophocles & Ingmar Bergman**

Dates: 19 August – 10 October 2026

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

Box Office:

To book online visit 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 Electra/Persona

Captioned: Thursday 10 September 2026 – 7pm, Wednesday 30 September 2026 – 7pm

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

Saturday 12 September 2026 – 1pm, Thursday 08 October 2026 – 7pm.

BSL Interpreted: Friday 18 September 2026 – 7pm, Thursday 01 October 2026 – 7pm

Relaxed performance: Wednesday 07 October 2026 – 7pm

The interpreter for the BSL performance will be **Becky Barry**. The BSL Consultant is **Sophie Stone**.

The Audio describers will be **Miranda Yates** and **Jenny Stewart-Cosgrove**.

With thanks:

The production is supported by ME+EM and Laura Bickford & Stephen Graham.

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