

National Theatre

REHEARSAL IMAGES RELEASED FOR NATIONWIDE SCHOOLS TOUR OF *BACCHAE*



For rehearsal images click [here](#)

Thursday 24 September 2026

The National Theatre today releases rehearsal images for the nationwide schools tour of *Bacchae*. In partnership with local theatres, the production will be seen by 7,000 young people from over 60 schools and colleges on its eight-week tour to school halls across England.

Following *Bacchae*'s debut at the National Theatre as part of Indhu Rubasingham's inaugural season, writer **Nima Taleghani** joins director **Hannah Hauer-King** in creating an adapted version of the 2025 main stage play in a new production especially for schools. This

exciting new version of Euripides' ancient Greek tragedy comes to life through rhythm, movement and music.

The tour will visit secondary schools and colleges across the country, working with the following partners: **Marlowe Theatre** in Canterbury (28 Sep - 2 October), **Norwich Theatre** (5-9 October), **Birmingham Hippodrome** (12-14 October), **Wolverhampton Grand Theatre** (15-16, 19-21 October), **Belgrade Theatre, Coventry** (22-23 October), **Newcastle Theatre Royal** (2-6 November), **Theatre Royal, Nottingham** (9-11 November), **Leicester Curve** (12-13 November), **Lowry** in Salford (16-21 November) including public performances on 20-21 November and **Sheffield Theatres** (23-27 November).

The cast includes **Senam Akpokavi, Jessica Alade, Ross Foley, Daniel Forbes, Aminita Francis, Emma Manton, Lily Olufemi-Bywaters, Daniel Regan, Premi Tamang** and **Benjamin Wilson**.

Writer **Nima Taleghani** said, "*When I first started writing Bacchae, I wanted to make something that me and my friends from school would have enjoyed then and would enjoy now. Something that we would find challenging and tough and tricky then and that we would find challenging now, but in a totally different way. I never felt theatre needed to differentiate so heavily between work for young people and adults, low brow and high brow, accessible and elite. I always wanted to make something for community, that reflected reality, something grassroots and authentic: Bacchae Schools Tour is the play finally coming HOME*".

Director **Hannah Hauer-King** said, "*Bacchae is a piece that encourages audiences to be suspicious of polarities, to embrace those that may appear different to us, and to question those who impose power. Nima Taleghani's brilliant adaptation shines a contemporary light on these themes, giving particular focus to the desire of everyone, even a God, to feel like they belong. It feels like the perfect show to take into schools - not only speaking to issues that impact young people today, but also through a classic text that may otherwise seem inaccessible or 'not for them'. I can't wait to see it reach an audience that otherwise may not have access to the National Theatre, and that will hopefully encourage young people to believe that they have a future watching or making theatre, should they want it.*"

In addition to seeing the show in their school hall, students will take part in interactive workshops exploring stage design and theatre-making skills. Alumni from the NT's *Introduction to Stage Management* and *Young Technicians* initiatives will take on placements to support the tour, putting into practise the technical skills they have learnt through the programmes.

The artistic team also includes set and costume designer **Natalie Johnson**, lighting designer **Bethany Gupwell**, sound designer and composer **Annie May Fletcher**, movement director **Kendra Horsburgh**, dramaturg **Jeanie O'Hare**, associate director **Callum Berridge**, fight director **Claire Llewellyn for Rc Annie Ltd** and casting by **Martin Poile CDG**.

To book tickets for public performances of Bacchae at the Lowry in Salford on 20-21 November click [here](#).

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Notes to Editor

For rehearsal images click [here](#).

For further information and media requests please contact Orla Bentley on obentley@nationaltheatre.org.uk

Tour Schedule

Date	Partner Theatre
28 September–2 October	Marlowe Theatre, Canterbury
5–9 October	Norwich Theatre
12-14 October	Birmingham Hippodrome
15 – 16, 19-21 October	Wolverhampton Grand Theatre
22-23 October	Belgrade, Coventry
2-6 November	Newcastle Theatre Royal
9-11 November	Nottingham Theatre Royal
12-13 November	Leicester Curve
16-21 November	Lowry, Salford (including public performances)
23-27 November	Sheffield Theatres

With Thanks

The Mohn Westlake Foundation supports nationwide Learning programmes for young people.

Secondary Schools Touring is supported by The Mohn Westlake Foundation, The Constance Travis Charitable Trust, The Britford Bridge Trust, The Dow Clewer Foundation, Mike Staunton and Jonathan & Sonita Gale.

Nationwide learning is also supported by Buffini Chao Foundation, Clore Duffield Foundation, Crevan O'Grady & Jane McClenahan, The Alchemy Foundation, The Anthony and Elizabeth Mellows Charitable Settlement, Tioc Foundation, MFPA Trust Fund for the Training of Disabled Children in the Arts, and The Archie Sherman Charitable Trust.

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.

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