

National Theatre

Tuesday 29 September 2026

FIRST LOOK: REHEARSAL IMAGES RELEASED FOR

CARYL CHURCHILL'S LANDMARK PLAY

CLOUD 9

AT THE NATIONAL THEATRE FROM 2 NOVEMBER 2026 –

13 JANUARY 2027



IMAGES BY JOHAN PERSSON ARE AVAILABLE [HERE](#)

Rehearsal images have been released for ***Cloud 9***, **Caryl Churchill's** landmark play which will be staged at the National Theatre's Lyttelton theatre from **2 November 2026** until **13 January 2027**. **Dominic Cooke** (*Game of Thrones: The Mad King*) reunites with multi-award-winning Churchill to direct a bold new production that brings fresh urgency to this daring and satirical classic. First performed in 1979, ***Cloud 9***, with its audacious theatricality and razor-sharp wit, continues to challenge how we think about gender, power and the legacies of empire.

The cast includes **Rebecca Humphries** (*The Crown*, Netflix), as Ellen/Mrs Saunders/Lin, **Eloka Ivo** (*Black Superhero*, Royal Court) as Joshua/Gerry, **Tom Mothersdale** (*Bodies*, Netflix) as Harry Bagley/Martin, **Charlotte Ritchie** (*Ghosts*, BBC One) as Maud/Victoria, **Ellen Robertson** (*Vladimir*, Netflix) as Edward/Betty, **Stuart Thompson** (*Romans: A Novel*, Almeida Theatre) as Betty/Edward and **Sam Troughton** (*Chernobyl*, HBO) as Clive/Cathy.

They are joined by **Tom Brace-Jenkins** as understudy Betty/Edward, **Izaak Cainer** as understudy Clive/Cathy, **Dan Furlonger** as understudy Harry Bagley/Martin, **Skye Hallam** as understudy Maud/Victoria and Ellen/ Mrs S/Lin, **Meg Lewis** as understudy Edward/Betty and **Ola Teniola** as understudy Joshua/Gerry.

Dominic Cooke, director of **Cloud 9** said:

Caryl Churchill has been an inspiration to me for decades. Her ability to bring complex current ideas to life in groundbreaking theatrical forms is second to none. Of her early plays, Cloud Nine is one of my favourites: by turns hilarious, insightful and astute. Its formally playful exploration of gender and sexuality was decades ahead of its time and still feels as fresh and pertinent as ever. I can't wait to bring this brilliant cast onto the Lyttelton stage and share Caryl's unique vision with National Theatre audiences.

In Victorian Africa, where Clive is a colonial administrator and patriarch, his wife, son and servant struggle to be what's expected of them.

When the family turn up a hundred years later in 70s London, what can they make of themselves in a world where empire lingers and freedom calls?

Dominic Cooke is joined by set designer, **Miriam Buether**; costume designer, **Samuel Wyer**; lighting designer, **Jessica Hung Han Yun**; sound designer, **Donato Wharton**; composer **Andy Roberts**; music director, **Josh Sneesby**; casting director, **Naomi Downham**; dialect coach, **Penny Dyer**; voice coach, **Shereen Ibrahim**; associate set designer, **Luke Smith** and staff director **Max Harrison**.

Tickets available from nationaltheatre.org.uk.

END

For images click below:

[Marketing Image](#)

[Headshots](#)

[Rehearsal Images](#)

Production	Theatre	Dates	Press Night	Publicist
<i>Cloud 9</i>	Lyttelton theatre	2 November 2026 — 13 January 2027	Tuesday 10 November 2026, 7pm	Clare McCormack

Listings and Booking Information

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

Dates: 2 November – 13 January 2027

Performance Schedule: Monday to Saturday at *7.30pm with matinee performances on Wednesday and Saturday at 2.30pm

*Please note there is a 6.30pm start time on the following performances – Tuesday 24 November, Tuesday 1 December, Thursday 3 December and Thursday 10 December

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.

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:

Captioned Performances: Friday 11 December – 7.30pm, Monday 21 December – 7.30pm, Saturday 9 January – 2.30pm

BSL Interpreted: Friday 4 December – 7.30pm

Audio Described (with touch tours taking place 90 minutes before the show):

Saturday 28 November – 2.30pm, Tuesday 12 January 2027 – 7.30pm

Relaxed performance: Monday 14 December 7.30pm

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

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