

National Theatre

Wednesday 23 September 2026

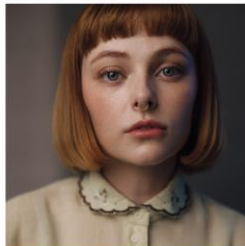
FULL CASTING ANNOUNCED FOR

JIM CARTWRIGHT'S MODERN CLASSIC

THE RISE AND FALL OF LITTLE VOICE

AT THE NATIONAL THEATRE THIS WINTER & THEN TOURING

EARLY 2027



HEADSHOTS ARE AVAILABLE [HERE](#)

The National Theatre today announces full casting for **Jim Cartwright's** modern classic ***The Rise and Fall of Little Voice***. Directed by Deputy Artistic Director, **Robert Hastie**, this new production will run in the Dorfman theatre from 2 December 2026 until 23 January 2027 before embarking on a tour across England supported by Arts Council England.

As previously announced, BAFTA Award-winning actor, **Paul Chuckle** (*The Madam Blanc Mysteries*, Channel 5) will play the role of Mr Boo, Olivier Award-winning actress, **Jill Halfpenny** (*The Long Shadow*, ITV) will play the role of Mari Hoff and Ian Charleson Award-winner **Francesca Mills** (*Silent Witness*, BBC) will play the title role of Little Voice.

They are joined by **Beverly Rudd** (*Trollied*, Sky/NOW) who will play the role of Sadie, **Daniel Ryan** (*The Bay*, ITV) who will play the role of Ray Say, **Adonis Siddique** (*Withnail and I*, Birmingham Rep) who will play the role of Billy and **Noel White** (*Hamlet*, National Theatre) who will play the role of Telephone Man and understudy Ray Say/Mr Boo.

Completing the company are, **Alice Croft** (ensemble and understudy Little Voice), **Kofi Dennis** (ensemble and understudy Billy/Telephone Man) and **Nicky Swift** (ensemble and understudy Mari Hoff/Sadie).

The Rise and Fall of Little Voice is a joyful, tender and bittersweet celebration of music, ambition and the courage it takes to be heard featuring iconic music from the likes of Judy Garland, Shirley Bassey and more.

Following its run at the National Theatre from 2 December 2026 until 23 January 2027, ***The Rise and Fall of Little Voice*** will open at **Newcastle Theatre Royal** (3-6 February 2027) before touring to **Lyceum Theatre, Sheffield** (9-13 February 2027), **Belgrade Theatre, Coventry** (16-20 February 2027), **Lowry, Salford** (23-27 February 2027), **The Marlowe, Canterbury** (2-6 March 2027), **Wolverhampton Grand Theatre** (9-13 March 2027) and **Plymouth Theatre Royal** (16-20 March 2027).

The hardest voice to find is your own.

Alone in the sanctuary of her small bedroom, Little Voice fills the air with pitch-perfect renditions of her deceased dad's prized record collection of the great divas, from Judy Garland to Billie Holiday.

But when her mother Mari's latest fling, local wheeler dealer Ray, hears her sing he's certain he's struck gold. Will Little Voice be pushed into a spotlight she never asked for?

Joining director **Robert Hastie** in the creative team is set and costume designer, **Janet Bird**; lighting designer, **Paul Pyant**; sound designer, **Mike Walker**; composer and music director,

David Shrubsole; movement director, **Ira Mandela Siobhan**; fight and intimacy director, **Bethan Clark**; casting by **Alastair Coomer CDG** and **Harry McDonald**; dialect coach, **Hazel Holder** and voice coach **Zoe Littleton**.

END

Notes to Editor

For further information please contact:

- Clare McCormack for the National Theatre run – [**cmccormack@nationaltheatre.org.uk**](mailto:cmccormack@nationaltheatre.org.uk)
- Martin Shippen for the Tour - [**shippen.martin@gmail.com**](mailto:shippen.martin@gmail.com)

Further Materials:

- Artwork images are available [**here**](#)
- Cast Headshots are available [**here**](#)

National Theatre Specific Listings Information:

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

Dates: 2 December 2026 – 23 January 2027

Press Performance: 10 December 2026

***Performance Schedule:** Monday to Saturday at *7.30pm with matinee performances on Wednesday and Saturday at 2pm

*Please note there is a 6.30pm start time on the following performances – Thursday 7 January, Tuesday 12 January, Thursday 14 January, Tuesday 19 January

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.

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: Friday 18 December at 7.30pm / Friday 15 January 2027 at 7.30pm

BSL Interpreted: Wednesday 6 January 2027 at 7.30pm

Audio Described: Saturday 16 January 2027 at 2pm, with a touch tour at 12.30pm / Friday 22 January 2027 at 7.30pm, with a touch tour at 6pm

Relaxed: Thursday 21 January 2027 at 7.30pm

Tour Listings Information:

Dates: Performances from 3 February 2027 – 20 March 2027 (full tour schedule below)

Press Performances: Each venue hosting a regional press performance on their first performance

Booking Information & Assisted Performances: Please check individual venue websites

Full schedule:

Venue	Tour dates
National Theatre nationaltheatre.org.uk	2 December 2026 - 23 January 2027
Newcastle Theatre Royal theatreroyal.co.uk	3-6 February 2027
Sheffield Theatres sheffieldtheatres.co.uk	9-13 February 2027
Belgrade Theatre, Coventry belgrade.co.uk	16-20 February 2027
Lowry, Salford	23-27 February 2027

<u>thelowry.com</u>	
Marlowe Theatre, Canterbury <u>marlowetheatre.com</u>	2- 6 March 2027
Wolverhampton Grand Theatre <u>grandtheatre.co.uk</u>	9-13 March 2027
Theatre Royal Plymouth <u>theatreroyal.com</u>	16-20 March 2027

With Thanks:

The Rise and Fall of Little Voice

This production is supported by James & Victoria Corcoran.

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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