PRESS RELEASE
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SYDNEY OPERA HOUSE AND THE NATIONAL THEATRE OF GREAT BRITAIN LAUNCH LANDMARK PARTNERSHIP TO TAKE AUSTRALIAN THEATRE TO GLOBAL AUDIENCES

New three-year initiative will bring Australian productions to cinema audiences across Australia through **National Theatre Live** and stream internationally on **National Theatre at Home**, beginning with **Suzie Miller**'s ***Strong is the New Pretty.***





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The **Sydney Opera House** and the **National Theatre of Great Britain** today announce a landmark new partnership that will create a new pathway for Australian theatre productions to reach audiences across Australia and around the world. The first-of-its-kind three-year collaboration will see two organisations jointly develop, finance and distribute a new slate of filmed Australian theatre productions, combining **Sydney Opera House**'s creative leadership

and production expertise with **National Theatre**'s internationally recognised experience in filmed theatre, cinema distribution and streaming.

Under the partnership, the **Sydney Opera House** will produce up to two filmed Australian stage productions each year for release in cinemas across Australia through **National Theatre Live,** before becoming available to audiences worldwide on **National Theatre at Home**, the National Theatre's global streaming service supported by **Bloomberg Philanthropies.** Australian cinema releases will be distributed by **Sharmill Films**, which has brought **National Theatre Live** to Australian audiences since its inception.

Matt Risley, Chief Digital Officer, National Theatre, said: *" This landmark partnership brings together two of the world's most iconic cultural organisations: the National Theatre of Great Britain and the Sydney Opera House. Combining the organisations' creative ambition, international reach and expertise in theatre capture and digital distribution, the collaboration will create new opportunities to share exceptional Australian theatre with audiences across Australia and around the world. Through National Theatre Live in cinemas and the National Theatre at Home streaming service, outstanding Australian productions, stories and creative talent will reach new audiences, while connecting the skills and expertise of teams in Sydney and London. Together, the two organisations will champion the power of theatre to cross borders and bring extraordinary stories to more people."*

Sydney Opera House Director, Programming Brenna Hobson, said: *"Representing a major investment in the future reach and accessibility of Australian theatre, this landmark partnership will further propel Australian productions into the international cultural conversation. The initiative will support skill-sharing between teams in Sydney and London and connect global audiences with some of Australia's most compelling stories, artists and creative talent."*

Suzie Miller, playwright of *Strong Is the New Pretty*, said: *"It is so exciting and a great honour to have my new play Strong is the New Pretty reach a global audience through the incredible National Theatre Live! That NT Live is announcing a new partnership with the Sydney Opera*

House means these two iconic theatres bodies continue to build work that can reach all corners of the globe. Bravo!!"

The initiative will be instrumental in amplifying the future reach and accessibility of Australian theatre, enabling outstanding productions to live beyond their original stage runs. Audiences across Australia will be able to experience exceptional Australian theatre, exquisitely captured for the screen and presented in cinemas alongside Hollywood blockbusters and acclaimed arthouse films, introducing Australian stories, artists and creative talent to new audiences.

These productions will subsequently be available to stream for worldwide audiences on **National Theatre at Home**, where they will sit alongside world-renowned productions from the National Theatre and its partners. Showcasing the exceptional casting, artistry and production values of Australian theatre on a global platform, the partnership will continue to propel Australian productions into an international cultural conversation.

The partnership has been designed not only to extend the reach of Australian theatre but also to promote collaboration and knowledge exchange between the two organisations. The initiative will support skill-sharing between teams in Sydney and London and help further develop expertise in theatre capture, post-production and digital distribution. Building on the National Theatre's longstanding relationship with Australian audiences through both **National Theatre Live** and **National Theatre at Home**, the collaboration creates an enduring platform to share exceptional Australian productions with audiences far beyond their original stages while connecting global audiences with some of Australia's most compelling stories, artists and creative talent.

The first production to be captured through the partnership will be ***Strong is the New Pretty***, the new play by celebrated Australian playwright **Suzie Miller** (*Prima Facie, Inter Alia*) who turns her extraordinary talents to the story of the AFLW, the women's professional Australian rules football league.

A co-production between **Brisbane Festival**, **Sydney Theatre Company** and **Trish Wadley Productions**, ***Strong is the New Pretty*** is inspired by the incredible story of how the women's league went from a pipe dream to a sensation the sports world could no longer ignore.

Filmed live at Sydney Opera House, multi-award-winner **Sarah Giles** (*No Pay? No Way!; The Importance of Being Earnest*) directs an all-female cast in this love letter to a game and a community. It's theatre written in mud, sweat and belief. It's not just about a sport. It's about a revolution.

The stage production plays at the Drama Theatre, **Sydney Opera House**, from 22 October to 12 December 2026 as part of resident company, **Sydney Theatre Company's** 2026 season. This production has been assisted by the Australian Government through Creative Australia, its principal arts investment and advisory body**.** Filmed live at **Sydney Opera House** for **National Theatre Live**, the production will premiere in **January 2027** before screening in cinemas across Australia **from 4 March 2027** and subsequently streaming internationally on **National Theatre at Home** later that year.

Audiences across Australia can find their nearest screening at NTLive.com. Tickets are on sale now, with screenings in New South Wales going on sale from 8 December 2026.

- **ENDS -**

Notes to Editors

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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 **NT at Home**; our education platform, the **NT Collection** in schools; and in cinemas with **NT 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% of state secondary schools, and our Skills Centre trains 5,000 people each year.

Our dedicated NT 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**

About National Theatre at Home

Launched in 2020, National Theatre at Home offers access to over 120 productions, with new titles added monthly. All titles include captions, over 90% are available with Audio Description, and a selection are available in British Sign Language (BSL).

National Theatre at Home reaches theatre lovers across the globe, streamed in over 184 countries, with the majority of audiences having never visited the National Theatre's South Bank home.

Research earlier this year showed that 99% of National Theatre at Home's audiences are outside the Capital. Over 60% said filmed theatre options support wider discoverability and increased overall experiences of theatre.

Recently, National Theatre at Home launched its first-ever seven-day trial giving new subscribers around the world unlimited access to the National Theatre at Home's catalogue of world-class theatre for free. After the trial period, subscriptions are available for £9.99 per month (AUD $19.22) or £99.99 per year (AUD $192.37).

For more information or to subscribe, visit **ntathome.com**.

National Theatre at Home is supported by **Bloomberg Philanthropies**.

About Sydney Opera House

The Sydney Opera House is the symbol of modern Australia. It is one of the world's busiest performing arts centres, the nation's premier tourism destination and an architectural masterpiece of the 20th century. A global beacon for creativity, it is inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage List and its social value has been estimated by Deloitte at $11.4 billion. Its broad and diverse programming attracts audiences in person and online, with more than 16 million people attending performances and tours over the past decade. In its ambition to be Everyone's House, the Opera House continues to evolve alongside the community it was built to serve.

About Sharmill Films

Founded in 1967 by Natalie Miller AO, Sharmill Films is Australia's longest-running arthouse distributor and a market leader in event cinema. Sharmill has distributed National Theatre Live in Australia since its inception, bringing landmark productions including *Fleabag*, *Prima Facie* and *Inter Alia* to cinema audiences nationwide.

Sharmill champions bold, auteur-driven cinema, including numerous Oscar- and Palme d'Or-winning films such as Ruben Östlund's *Triangle of Sadness* and Florian Zeller's *The Father*. Its forthcoming slate includes *Burgundy* by Michael Dweck and Gregory Kershaw and Östlund's *The Entertainment System Is Down*.

About Bloomberg Philanthropies

Bloomberg Philanthropies invests in 700 cities and 150 countries around the world to ensure better, longer lives for the greatest number of people. The organization focuses on creating lasting change in five key areas: the Arts, Education, Environment, Government Innovation, and Public Health. Bloomberg Philanthropies encompasses all of Michael R. Bloomberg's giving, including his foundation, corporate, and personal philanthropy as well as Bloomberg Associates, a philanthropic consultancy that advises cities around the world. For more information, please

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