

National Theatre

Monday 5 October

SIMON MINTY AND MELANIE RICHARDS TO JOIN THE NATIONAL THEATRE BOARD

Sir Damon Buffini, Chair of the Board of the National Theatre, announced today that **Simon Minty** and **Melanie Richards** are to join the NT Board.

Sir Damon Buffini said: “I am delighted to welcome both Simon and Melanie to the National Theatre Board. They both bring with them a wealth of experience and expertise, which will be invaluable at this time when the theatre industry continues to face ongoing challenges and also for many more years to come.

“Simon’s business experience and his passion for equality, will be instrumental to the National Theatre as we affirm our mission to make theatre for everyone. This is more important now than ever as we continue see many in our society facing inequality of opportunity. We are thrilled to welcome Simon to the National Theatre Board.”

“Melanie has forged a tremendous career in financial services where she has been an inspirational leader and a voice for equality in the workplace. As deputy chair of KPMG UK Melanie lead on work to improve diversity and inclusion and also ran the senior women’s network. Melanie will be a huge asset to the NT and I look forward to welcoming her to the Board in the new year.”

“We are also very sorry to be saying goodbye to **Alan Rusbridger**, who will be stepping down from the Board in November. Alan’s contribution over the last 5 years has been extraordinary and he has contributed immensely to our many achievements during his tenure. We offer Alan our sincere thanks; he will be greatly missed.”

We are currently in the process of seeking a third candidate to join the Board; a further announcement regarding their appointment will be made in due course.

Simon Minty

Simon Minty has delivered consultancy, training and public speaking in the field of diversity, specialising in disability, since early 2000s. Simon has worked to improve the portrayal of disabled people in media with clients including the BBC, Channel 4, Endemol Shine, All Three Media, Warner and Sky. He has produced numerous videos and co-produced and performed in the sell out Edinburgh Fringe comedy show *Abnormally Funny People* in 2005 returning again in 2015. He co-hosts two podcasts, BBC Ouch! and The Way We Roll.

Simon is a Non-executive director of Motability Operations. He is a trustee of Improbable Theatre and of StopGap Dance. He is an Ambassador to the Business Disability Forum and Business Disability International. He also helped establish the Disability Media Alliance Project in California. He won the Travel X Travel Writer of the Year 1999 Best Television Feature for his Channel 4 travel programme in China.

In 2016 GQ named him as one of the 100 best connected men in the UK. He has featured on the Power 100 List of disabled people for many years. He has personal experience of disability being of short stature and limited mobility. He uses a mobility scooter for distance.

Melanie Richards CBE

Until recently, Melanie was Deputy Chair of KPMG UK. Melanie advises business leaders and Boards, and is a strategic, collaborative and compassionate leader. She has extensive boardroom experience and has worked in both banking and professional services for nearly four decades.

Melanie has been tireless in her efforts to improve inclusivity in the workplace. Thanks to her influence, in 2014 KPMG was one of the first to publish detailed diversity workforce targets. In 2018 Melanie was given an award for her Outstanding Contribution to Social Mobility. She was named the #1 Financial Times Female Champion of Women in Business in 2017, is a member of the Hampton-Alexander review Steering Committee and is a founding member of the 30% Club Steering Committee. Melanie is the Chair of The Eve Appeal, a charity which raises awareness and funds research into the early detection of gynaecological cancers. In 2019, Melanie received a CBE for her contribution to business and the diversity and inclusion agenda.

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For more information and images contact Ruth Greenwood, Head of Press:
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Notes to Editors

Board members

Sir Damon Buffini (Chair)
Sabine Chalmers
Louise Charlton
Sir Lenny Henry
Vikki Heywood CBE
Vicki Mortimer
Elizabeth Offord
Dame Karen Pierce
Alan Rusbridger
Tim Score
Simon Warshaw

About the National Theatre

The National Theatre's mission is to make world class theatre that's entertaining, challenging and inspiring – and to make it for everyone. It aims to reach the widest possible audience and to be as inclusive, diverse and national as possible with a broad range of productions that play in London, on tour around the UK, on Broadway and across the globe. The National Theatre's extensive UK-wide learning and participation programme supports young people and schools through performance and writing programmes like Connections, New Views and Let's Play, while Public Acts creates ambitious new works of participatory theatre in sustained partnership with theatres and community organisations around the country. The National Theatre extends its reach through digital programmes including NT Live, which broadcasts some of the best of British theatre to over 2,500 venues in 65 countries, and the National Theatre Collection, which makes recordings of shows available to UK schools and the global education sector. The National Theatre invests in the future of theatre by developing talent, creating bold new work and building audiences, partnering with a range of UK theatres and theatre companies.

For more information, please visit nationaltheatre.org.uk.

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