

The National Theatre adds *The Deep Blue Sea* and *The Comedy of Errors* to National Theatre at Home

- *The Deep Blue Sea* is dedicated to the fond memory of Helen McCrory
- Both titles are now available on the National Theatre at Home platform to stream worldwide; *The Deep Blue Sea* is also available with audio-description



Friday 14 May 2021

The National Theatre has today announced *The Deep Blue Sea*, with **Helen McCrory** in the lead role as Hester Collyer, will be added to National Theatre at Home for audiences around the world to experience. The recording is dedicated in fond memory of Helen McCrory, who had a long and rich association with the National Theatre and who sadly passed away last month. *The Deep Blue Sea* was her most recent performance at the National Theatre in 2016. Two on-stage conversations with Helen McCrory have also been made available on National Theatre at Home: one on stage in 2014 with Genista McInosh as Helen discussed preparing to play *Medea* (also available on National Theatre at Home) and one from 2016 in conversation with Libby Purves about playing Hester in *The Deep Blue Sea*.

Carrie Cracknell, who directed Helen in *Medea* and *The Deep Blue Sea*, said: “Helen was undoubtedly one of the greatest actors of her generation. Incandescent, playful, fierce and wildly intelligent. Her craft and precision as an actor was awe-inspiring. On some afternoons, while Helen was rehearsing *The Deep Blue Sea* at the NT, the sun would pour through the windows, and it would feel for a moment that time had stopped. That the world had stopped revolving, as the entire cast and crew would stand, quietly enraptured by the humanity and aliveness and complexity of Helen’s work. As we moved the production into the auditorium, I

would marvel at how she held an audience of 900 people in the palm of her hand. She could change how we felt with the slightest glance, a flick of the wrist, a sultry pause, yet somehow she never lost the central truth of her character. I couldn't be prouder that we have this beautiful recording of our production to share.

Helen was anarchic, naughty and always full of outrageous stories. She would turn up to work in her pyjamas and crocs one day, then stilettos the next, and yet she was deeply serious about the things that she cared about. Her greatest pleasure was to slip away from rehearsals at the end of the day and get home to be with her beloved family. She was fierce, and kind, and properly brave, both in how she chose to live and how she faced up to her illness. A truly remarkable woman and a shattering loss."

The Comedy of Errors is also made available today on National Theatre at Home for audiences worldwide to stream on demand. Shakespeare's furiously paced comedy directed by **Dominic Cooke** (*Follies*, *The Hollow Crown*), sees **Lenny Henry** make his National Theatre debut, alongside **Lucian Msamati** (*Romeo & Juliet*, *Amadeus*) in the Olivier theatre in 2011.

New productions are added monthly to National Theatre at Home and there are now 21 productions to stream on the platform available at any time. These include *Angels in America Parts One and Two* with **Andrew Garfield**, **Nathan Lane** and **Russell Tovey**, *Medea* with **Helen McCrory** and **Michaela Coel**, *Mosquitoes* with **Olivia Colman** and **Olivia Williams**, *Phèdre* with **Helen Mirren** and **Dominic Cooper**, the Young Vic's *Yerma* with **Billie Piper** and *Othello* with **Adrian Lester** and **Rory Kinnear**.

All productions on National Theatre at Home are available with captions. *The Deep Blue Sea* will also be available with audio-description to support blind and partially-sighted audiences worldwide. Ten other National Theatre at Home titles are currently available with audio-description: *Angels in America Parts One and Two*, *Othello*, Donmar Warehouse's *Coriolanus*, the Bridge Theatre's *Julius Caesar*, *The Cherry Orchard*, *Amadeus*, *Julie*, *Phèdre* and the Young Vic's *Yerma* and *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof*.

National Theatre at Home is available at ntathome.com, with single titles available from £5.99 - £8.99, a monthly subscription for £9.99 or a yearly subscription for £99.99.

National Theatre at Home is supported by Bloomberg Philanthropies.

#NationalTheatreatHome

The Deep Blue Sea

When Hester Collyer is found by her neighbours in the aftermath of attempted suicide, the story of her tempestuous affair with a former RAF pilot and the breakdown of her marriage to a High Court judge begins to emerge. With it comes a portrait of need, loneliness and long-repressed passion.

Filmed for National Theatre Live in the Lyttelton theatre in 2016, **Carrie Cracknell's** critically acclaimed production of **Terence Rattigan's** devastating post-war masterpiece features **Helen McCrory** as Hester Collyer and **Tom Burke** as Freddie Page.

The cast also includes **Marion Bailey, Hubert Burton, Yolanda Kettle, Nick Fletcher and Adetomiwa Edun, James Alper, Katy Brittain, Elsie Fallon, Nick Figgs, Andrew Lewis and Sian Polhill-Thomas.**

Directed by **Carrie Cracknell** with designs by **Tom Scutt**, lighting design by **Guy Hoare**, music by **Stuart Earl**, movement direction by **Polly Bennett**, sound design by **Mike Walker** and fight direction by **Kate Waters.**

Available at least until 17 May 2022.

Two on-stage conversations with Helen McCrory are available to watch on National Theatre at Home from 2014 for *Medea* and from 2016 for *The Deep Blue Sea*.

The Comedy of Errors

Two sets of twins separated at birth collide in the same city without meeting for one crazy day, as multiple mistaken identities lead to confusion on a grand scale.

Filed for National Theatre Live in the Olivier theatre in 2012, **Dominic Cooke** directs **Lenny Henry, Michelle Terry** and **Lucian Msamati** in Shakespeare's furiously paced comedy, staged in a contemporary world.

The cast also includes **Ian Burfield, Joseph Mydell, Tom Anderson, Jude Owusu, Daniel Poyser, Claudie Blakley, Chris Jarman, Silas Carson, Amit Shah, Rene Zaggar, Adrian Hood, Grace Thurgood, Paul Bentall, Pamela Nomvete, Clare Cathcart, Marcus Adolphy, Yvonne Newman, Rhiannon Oliver, Simon Parrish** and **Everal A Walsh.**

Directed by **Dominic Cooke**, with design by **Bunny Christie**, lighting design by **Paule Constable**, music by **Gary Yershon**, movement direction by **Ann Yee**, sound design by **Christopher Shutt** and fight direction by **Kate Waters.**

Available at least until 17 May 2022.

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Notes to Editors

For high-resolution, captioned images of:

The Deep Blue Sea, please see [this folder](#).

The Comedy of Errors, please see [this folder](#).

For images of the National Theatre at Home platform on devices, please see [this folder](#).

For further information on National Theatre at Home, please contact Katie Marsh, Press Manager for the National Theatre, on kmarsh@nationaltheatre.org.uk

The *National Theatre Collection* is also available to libraries, schools and the education sector worldwide, providing access to high-quality recordings of 30 world-class productions in partnership with Bloomsbury Publishing and ProQuest. UK state schools and colleges can access the Collection for free via Bloomsbury Publishing's Drama Online platform, with newly

added learning resources including teaching guides exploring design and production, lesson plans and access to rehearsal diaries.

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, the National Theatre Collection, which makes recordings of shows available to UK schools and the global education sector, and now National Theatre at Home. 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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