

## Press Release

### National Theatre adapts programmes to support theatre in schools across the UK

7 September 2020



The National Theatre is delighted to announce that its adapted nationwide programmes for schools and young people will recommence this Autumn. Committed to providing opportunities for all young people to create and take part in theatre, content will be delivered digitally and flexibly throughout 2020/2021, with safety measures in place for all planned physical activity, and include:

- The annual youth theatre festival **Connections** will bring together talented young theatre-makers of tomorrow with some of the UK's most exciting contemporary writers to produce and stage ten new plays. This year, workshops and mentoring will take place digitally, with the aim to stage performances at 30 partner theatres across the UK in Spring 2021. Applications are open now and will close on 3<sup>rd</sup> October. For more information and to apply, click [here](#).
- Students can write their own play with support from professional playwrights on the **New Views** playwriting programme, the NT's annual playwriting programme and competition for 14-19-year olds. Shortlisted plays will be performed at the National Theatre in July 2021. Applications are open until early October and more information can be found [here](#).

- **Let's Play** aims to transform drama and theatre-making in primary schools, supporting teachers to embed creativity across the curriculum. The flexible programme provides teachers with a toolkit for pupils to create short performances that will be shared digitally. The cost of participating in Let's Play has been significantly reduced for this academic year and schools can sign up now [here](#).
- Free access at home for UK state school students and teachers to the **National Theatre Collection** has been extended for the next academic year in partnership with Bloomsbury Publishing, giving students access to 30 high-quality productions with supporting educational resources. For more information and to sign up for access visit the NT [website](#).

**Alice King-Farlow**, Director of Learning at the National Theatre said,

“As we begin to resume activity at the National Theatre, our commitment to creating opportunities for young people to make and participate in theatre remains at the forefront of our mission. We want to support schools and young people to return to active theatre making in a way that’s safe and manageable in a constantly changing context, and we will continue to consult closely with schools and with the theatres we partner with across the country. We want to provide access to cultural opportunities and ensure the voices of young people are heard as theatres begin to reopen. Our adapted learning programmes offer a space to create and make, to explore contemporary issues and shape debate, and we are excited to discover new ways to collaborate with young people and schools nationwide over the next few months.”

**ENDS**

For more information please contact Rhian Bennett on [rbennett@nationaltheatre.org.uk](mailto:rbennett@nationaltheatre.org.uk)

For images of National Theatre Connections 2019 click [here](#)

**Further information on National Theatre’s Learning Programmes:**

### **Let’s Play**

Following consultation with schools, a new toolkit of *Let’s Play* resources and online training has been developed for teachers to use during the Autumn term and beyond. Designed to work flexibly with a planned recovery curriculum, the toolkit supports teachers and pupils to create short performances to be shared digitally. The focus is on pupils’ wellbeing, social skills development and how to reconnect them with the whole school community.

### **National Theatre Collection**

During the school closure period, more than half of UK state secondary schools have remotely accessed the National Theatre Collection, in partnership with Bloomsbury Publishing via their *Drama Online* platform. Following its huge success and wide usage, state schools and further education colleges will continue to be able to access this digital collection of 30 high quality recordings of world-class productions and accompanying learning resources remotely during the next academic year, ensuring that pupils and teachers can continue to use these learning resources whether inside or outside of the classroom. Further resources being developed alongside the recordings, including in-depth information packs on technical and theatre craft, will be added over the next few weeks.

### **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.

### **Supporters**

The National Theatre's Partner for Learning is Bank of America.

Let's Play is supported by The Mohn Westlake Foundation, Paul Hamlyn Foundation, The Goldsmiths' Company Charity, Charlotte and Simon Warshaw, Susan Miller and Byron Grote, Mave Turner and David Dutton, The Derrill Allatt Foundation, The Michael Marks Charitable Trust.

Connections is supported by The Mohn Westlake Foundation, The Buffini Chao Foundation, The EBM Charitable Trust, Andrew Lloyd Webber Foundation, The Broughton Family Charitable Trust, The Peter Cundill Foundation, CHK Foundation, Delta Air Lines, Katie Bradford Arts Trust, Mactaggart Third Fund, Susan Miller and Byron Grote, and Sherling Charitable Trust.

New Views is supported by The Mohn Westlake Foundation, Old Possum's Practical Trust, Chapman Charitable Trust and The Golsoncott Foundation.

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