

## Press Release

### National Theatre partners with Audible to support next generation of young playwrights across UK

1 October 2020



*If Not Now, When?* by Isabel Hague, *New Views* 2019 winner, performed at the NT (Emma Hare)

The National Theatre is partnering with Audible as the Official Audio Partner for its *New Views* playwriting competition to support the next generation of writing talent across the UK.

Through this partnership the National Theatre and Audible plan to work with a young writer to adapt their script and publish it in audio. The participant will be supported throughout the process, gaining invaluable experience in audio development.

*New Views* is the National Theatre's annual playwriting programme and competition for 14 - 19-year olds which supports students to write their own play with mentoring from professional playwrights, online workshops and masterclasses alongside bespoke training for teachers. Each year one play is selected from hundreds of entries to be produced at the NT with a professional cast and crew, alongside rehearsed readings of eight shortlisted plays. Previous winning and shortlisted scripts will act as a catalogue of plays that may be adapted by the playwright for Audible.

Audible, the leading provider of audio storytelling, is also supporting the National Theatre with the digital delivery of the adapted programme in response to Coronavirus. Participants will be able to access playwriting masterclasses and Audible's expansive back-catalogue of audio content, in addition to online recordings of NT productions and digital workshops from the NT.

**Lisa Burger**, Joint Chief Executive of the National Theatre said, “Young writers and theatre-makers are the future of our theatre industry and we are committed to supporting the development of new talent by continuing to provide opportunities and platforms for young people right across the UK in these challenging times. New Views encourages participants to explore their creativity, engage in debate and develop their ideas with the support of fantastic contemporary writers. We are excited to begin our partnership with Audible to develop brilliant new scripts for their platform and ensure the talented voices of the next generation are heard far and wide”.

**Kevin Addley**, Country Manager at Audible said, “This exciting partnership with the National Theatre’s New Views programme allows us to help support the theatre at a difficult time for the arts. Discovering and supporting young talent has never been more vital, and we look forward to being able to celebrate new young talent in the coming months”.

Applications for schools to take part in New Views 2020-2021 are currently **open** until Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> October. To find out more and to sign up visit:

[www.nationaltheatre.org.uk/learning/schools/secondary-and-fe/new-views](http://www.nationaltheatre.org.uk/learning/schools/secondary-and-fe/new-views)

## **ENDS**

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

## **Supporters**

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

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

Audible is the Official Audio Partner of New Views.

## **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.

## **About Audible**

Audible is the leading provider of digital spoken word entertainment, offering people a new way to enhance and enrich their lives every day with more than 300,000 audio programmes from leading audiobook publishers, broadcasters and entertainers. Among the acclaimed performers who have narrated works of literature for Audible are Stephen Fry, Maggie Gyllenhaal, Lily Collins, Emma Thompson and Thandie Newton. Audible Studios has won a Grammy Award, for its production of

Janis Ian's memoir *Society's Child*, and has also been recognised with the Audie Award for Audiobook of the Year, for Colin Firth's performance of Graham Greene's *The End of the Affair*.

[www.audible.co.uk](http://www.audible.co.uk)