

# National Theatre

## First look at rehearsals for *Paradise* with writer Kae Tempest, director Ian Rickson and cast including Lesley Sharp

Images available to download [here](#)



Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> July 2021

The National Theatre has today released rehearsal images for *Paradise*, **Kae Tempest's** powerful new version of *Philoctetes*, the Greek legend by Sophocles. *Paradise* is directed by **Ian Rickson** (*Translations*, *Walden*, *Jerusalem*) and with an all-female cast including **Lesley Sharp** as Philoctetes.

Previously announced for June 2020, *Paradise* is confirmed to start on 4<sup>th</sup> August 2021 in the Olivier theatre and run until 11<sup>th</sup> September.



The cast is **Claire-Louise Cordwell** as Magdalena, **ESKA** as Aunty, **Amie Francis** as Zuleika, **Sutara Gayle** as Jelly, **Anastasia Hille** as Odysseus **Jennifer Joseph** as Shiloh, **Sarah Lam** as Tishani, **Penny Layden** as Nam, **Kayla Meikle** as Tayir, **Gloria Obianyo** as Neoptolemus, **Lesley Sharp** as Philoctetes and **Naomi Wirthner** as Yasmeen.

On a desolate island lives Philoctetes: once a wartime hero, now a wounded outcast. When a young soldier appears, his hope of escape comes with suspicion. And as an old enemy also emerges, he is faced with an even greater temptation: revenge.



Set and costume design by **Rae Smith**, lighting design by **Mark Henderson**, compositions by **Stephen Warbeck**, movement by **Coral Messam**, sound design by **Christopher Shutt**, and fight direction by **Terry King**.

*Paradise* is on from 4<sup>th</sup> August – 11<sup>th</sup> September 2021, tickets are available at [nationaltheatre.org.uk/shows/paradise](https://nationaltheatre.org.uk/shows/paradise)

## Notes to Editors

High-res captioned images are available to download [here](#).

For any queries, interview requests or further information on *Paradise* – please contact Katie Marsh on [kmarsh@nationaltheatre.org.uk](mailto:kmarsh@nationaltheatre.org.uk) and Louisa Terry on [lterry@nationaltheatre.org.uk](mailto:lterry@nationaltheatre.org.uk)

## **Paradise**

Olivier theatre

4<sup>th</sup> August – 11<sup>th</sup> September 2021

Press night: 11<sup>th</sup> August

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