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THE NATIONAL THEATRE'S 2019 RIVER STAGE LINE UP ANNOUNCED: THE GLORY, SHUBBAK FESTIVAL, NATIONAL PARK CITY FESTIVAL AND FRANTIC ASSEMBLY

The National Theatre today announces the creative partners for the 2019 River Stage Festival. The annual festival on London's South Bank runs throughout the summer with leading arts and performance companies celebrating the best of British and International culture, drag artists and London's green and blue spaces, including the River Thames. The line-up is as follows:

- **The Glory** (5-7 July)

East London's cabaret mecca and drag pub The Glory celebrate Pride at the NT with a tour-de-force weekend of back-to-back shows and parties, including the best of their sensational drag queen contest LIPSYNC1000, plus their drag king battle Man Up.

- **Shubbak Festival** (12-14 July)

Mixing family activities with bands, spoken word and DJ sets, Shubbak presented in partnership with Amal - a Saïd Foundation programme - brings the best of the Arab cultural scene to the River Stage.

- **National Park City Festival** (19-21 July)

A line-up dedicated to all things green and wild in celebration of London becoming the world's first National Park City.

- **Frantic Assembly** (26-28 July)

Celebrating their 25th Birthday Frantic Assembly kick off celebrations at the River Stage with DJ's, live music, movement workshops, performances and much more.

- **National Theatre takeover** (2-4 August).

A joyful party weekend to close the River Stage festival 2019. The National Theatre will throw open its doors and let the creativity spill out bringing you the very best in family theatre, dance, music and more.

Rufus Norris, Director of the National Theatre, says: *“River Stage has become synonymous with London’s summer festival scene: a month long celebration of the arts on the banks of the River Thames that welcomes revellers, the culturally curious and families to come and experience an abundance of talented performers and artists for free. This year, we are thrilled to once again partner with The Glory, partners new to River Stage Shubbak Festival, National Park City Festival and Frantic Assembly, as well as curating our own National Theatre take-over for the final weekend.”*

No festival would be complete without an exciting food and drinks offer, and River Stage will be no different. Set alongside the backdrop of the National Theatre will be: **Wine Box, Melt Ice Cream, The Cheese Iron, Campfire Pizza, The Otherstudy** and **Apothecary**.

The complete line-up of acts, artists and performers will be announced at a later date.

ENDS

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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’s creative education through performance and writing programmes like Connections, New Views and Let’s Play. Its major new initiative Public Acts creates extraordinary acts of theatre and community; the first Public Acts production was 2018’s Pericles. 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 free streaming service On Demand In Schools, used by nearly 60% of UK state secondary schools. 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 <https://www.nationaltheatre.org.uk/>.

About The Glory

We are a Queer and alternative East End pub, London nightlife spot and performance mecca. Plus we have a cabaret lounge bar and a basement nightclub. The Glory is one of London's leading gay venues, known for its wild parties, creative clientele and vast eclectic programming of special events and shows.

The Glory is home to a juggernaut of performers, partygoers and local creatives. We play host to a whole carousel of showbizness, clubbing events, screenings, performance art, cabaret, gogos, live music gigs, life drawing, talks, fashion shows – all sorts! Many of East London's most renowned performers and club kids began their careers here. It's the place to get seen – and more importantly to SEE STUFF!

The Glory flung open her doors in December 2014 and quickly redefined London's alternative scene offering a new gay experience and forward-thinking focal point for all, raising the bar quite literally – giving London's gay scene a bit of a kick.

About Shubbak Festival

Shubbak is the UK's premier festival of contemporary Arab culture, presenting outstanding Arab artists to audiences in London and across England. Shubbak's programme includes UK premieres and new commissions from over 150 artists based in the Arab region, in Europe and in the UK, with both cutting-edge and celebrated names, through a mix of visual arts, film, music, theatre, dance, literature and debates. Led by Eckhard Thiemann, artistic director, and Daniel Gorman, executive director, Shubbak 2019 is the 5th edition of this biennial festival. Shubbak 2019 principal partners are Arts Council England, A. M. Qattan Foundation, Bagri Foundation and British Council.

About National Park City Festival

The Mayor of London, Sadiq Khan is working with National Park City Foundation, other partners, and Londoners to make London the world's first National Park City. The National Park City Festival will run from 20 to 28 July 2019 and will celebrate London's great outdoor spaces. There'll be fun activities for all Londoners from culture and health and fitness to wildfire, the environment and more. Londoners will also be encouraged to discover new

spaces and find fresh ways to get in touch with nature. Find out more: www.london.gov.uk/national-park-city

About Frantic Assembly

Award winning theatre company **Frantic Assembly's** method of devising theatre has been impacting theatrical practice and unlocking the creative potential of future theatre-makers for up to 22 years. One of the most exciting theatre companies in the UK, Frantic Assembly is led by Artistic Director and co-founder **Scott Graham**, and has toured extensively across Great Britain, and worked in 40 countries internationally collaborating with some of today's most inspiring artists.

Frantic Assembly is currently studied as leading contemporary theatre practitioners on five British and international academic syllabuses. The success of the company's distinct approach has influenced contemporary theatre-making and foregrounded the use of movement directors and choreographers in new dramatic works. With a history of commissioning writers such as Anna Jordan, Mark Ravenhill, Abi Morgan, Simon Stephens and Bryony Lavery the company has been acclaimed for its collaborative approach. In 2016 the company started delivering practical modules on a new Collaborative Theatre-Making MA it has created with Coventry University (UK Modern University of the Year 2014, 2015, 2016 and UK University of the Year 2015). Frantic Assembly runs Ignition, a free national training programme for young men aged 16-20, increasing involvement in and access to the arts in places of low cultural engagement.

Frantic Assembly productions include *The Unreturning* (UK Tour) *Things I know to be True* (UK, Australia, State Theatre Company) *Othello, Beautiful Burnout* (UK, Australia, New Zealand and New York), *Lovesong*, (Stockholm, UK and Australia), *The Believers, Fatherland* (Manchester International Festival 2017 and Lyric Hammersmith 25 May-23 June 2018). They are also the Movement Directors on the award-winning National Theatre of Great Britain, production *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time* (West End, Broadway, UK & Ireland Tour). Television credits include Movement Direction on BAFTA winning British - American series *Humans* (AMC, Channel 4 & Kudos).

Frantic Assembly is supported by Arts Council England.