

National Theatre

National Theatre releases first-look image of Josh O'Connor and Jessie Buckley in *Romeo & Juliet* and announces full casting including Adrian Lester as the Prince

- Premiere dates are confirmed as Easter Sunday 4th April at 9pm on Sky Arts in the UK and Friday 23rd April at 9pm on PBS in the US.



Jessie Buckley (Juliet) and Josh O'Connor (Romeo) in *Romeo & Juliet* at the National Theatre.

Image available to download [here](#)

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A first-look image has today been released for the National Theatre's *Romeo & Juliet*, a feature film for broadcast on Sky Arts and PBS this April. The image features Romeo, played by **Josh O'Connor** (*The Crown*, *God's Own Country*) and Juliet, played by **Jessie Buckley** (*Chernobyl*, *Judy*), as they meet by moonlight at Juliet's balcony. The image was taken during filming at the National Theatre.

The NT also announces today that Olivier Award winner **Adrian Lester** (*Life*, *Undercover*) will play the Prince in the film. Also joining the cast is **Lloyd Hutchinson** as Lord Capulet, **Colin Tierney** as Lord Montague and **Ella Dacres** as Peta. As previously announced, the cast includes Fisayo Akinade as Mercutio, Deborah Findlay as the Nurse, Tamsin Greig as Lady Capulet, Lucian Msamati as the Friar, Shubham Saraf as Benvolio, David Judge as Tybalt, Alex Mugnaioni as Paris and Ellis Howard as Sampson.

Directed by **Simon Godwin** (*Twelfth Night*, *Antony and Cleopatra*), *Romeo & Juliet* has been reconceived for the screen and this new 90-minute version was filmed over three weeks in the NT's Lyttelton theatre. It was adapted for screen by **Emily Burns**.

Filming took place in December under the COVID-19 safe working filming guidance and code of practices.

The premiere is today confirmed as Easter Sunday 4th April at 9pm on Sky Arts in the UK and Friday 23rd April 9pm on PBS in the US. Sky Arts is free-to-air and available for everyone in the UK on Freeview channel 11.

Learning resources and digital content are also being produced by the NT for young people to explore the production of *Romeo & Juliet* and its creation, as well as an in-depth programme with schools across the UK as part of the NT's *Theatre Nation Partnerships* initiative. Further details to be announced. To find out more about the NT's digital learning resources, click [here](#).

Uniting key talent from both theatre and film, the Director of Photography is Tim Sidell (*I Hate Suzie*), with production and costume design by Soutra Gilmour, movement direction by Jonathan Goddard and Shelley Maxwell, fight direction by Kate Waters and composition by Michael Bruce.

Produced by David Sabel, who created the National Theatre Live programme at the NT, at Sabel Productions. Executive Producers are Rufus Norris, Director and Joint Chief Executive of the National Theatre; Dixie Linder, Cuba Pictures (*London Road, McMafia*); David Horn, Great Performances; Christine Schwarzman & Darren Johnston, No Guarantees; and Philip Edgar Jones, Sky Arts.

Romeo & Juliet is a 1 x 90' film, presented by Sky Arts, PBS and No Guarantees, produced by the National Theatre, in association with Sabel Productions and Cuba Pictures.

Filming of *Romeo & Juliet* in the Lyttelton theatre has been made possible thanks to the generosity of Graham and Joanna Barker, and Leila Maw Straus.

--ENDS--

Notes to Editors

For the first-look image in high resolution, please see [here](#) and for headshots of the cast, please see [here](#).

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

Adrian Lester is also in the National Theatre's 2013 production of *Othello*, which is currently available to watch on the **National Theatre at Home** streaming service - ntathome.com

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.

For more information, please visit nationaltheatre.org.uk

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About Sky Arts

Sky Arts exists to bring more art to more people across the UK. In 2020, with the creative industries under serious threat, we threw open our doors to make the channel free for everyone to watch. We've redoubled our mission to increase access to the arts and we're committed to getting everyone involved as the industry recovers. The fact is, we need the arts now like never before, and Sky Arts brings them straight to your living room.

We have something for everyone, championing creative talent by showcasing the best in music, theatre, dance, literature, opera and visual art. From Glyndebourne to Grime and Cézanne to The Style Council, we've got your passions covered. Millions of viewers tune in to hit returning series such as Portrait Artist of the Year, Urban Myths and British cultural institution The South Bank Show, but our acclaimed new programmes might take you anywhere from Pinter's house with Danny Dyer to a Scottish road trip with Samuel Johnson.

Collaboration is at the heart of what we do. Sky Arts is the headline sponsor of National Theatre Live in the UK and we work with cultural partners across the country including the English National Opera, Royal Academy of Arts, Tate, Creative Industries Federation and Coventry City of Culture to name but a few.

You can watch Sky Arts for free on Freeview channel 11 and Freesat channel 147. If you've got Sky or a Now TV entertainment pass, you can also watch over 2,000 hours of shows exclusively on demand.

About Great Performances

Throughout its more than 40-year history on PBS, Great Performances has provided an unparalleled showcase of the best in all genres of the performing arts, serving as America's most prestigious and enduring broadcaster of cultural programming. From new productions of timeless classics to innovative performances by emerging artists, Great Performances presents an international roster of renowned artists and performing art companies. To date, the series has been awarded 67 Emmy Awards and six Peabody Awards. The series is available for streaming simultaneously on all station-branded PBS platforms, including on pbs.org/gperf and the PBS Video app, which is available on iOS, Android, Roku, Apple TV, Amazon Fire TV, and Chromecast. PBS station members can view episodes via Passport (contact your local PBS station for details). Great Performances is produced by THIRTEEN Productions LLC for WNET.

About No Guarantees

NO GUARANTEES is an artist-driven theatrical production company, founded by Christine Schwarzman. In 2019, No Guarantees won the Tony Award for Best Musical for *Hadestown* and is nominated again this year for *Tina--The Tina Turner Musical*. Additional No Guarantees productions include *Ain't Too Proud: The Life and Times of the Temptations*, *Mean Girls*, *Beetlejuice*, *Gary: A Sequel to Titus Andronicus* with Nathan Lane, and *King Lear* with Glenda Jackson. Off-Broadway, No Guarantees is proud to have supported the New York premieres of David Henry Hwang & Jeanine Tesori's *Soft Power* (Public Theater), as well as Celine Song's *Endlings* (New York Theatre Workshop). Upcoming productions include *Company*, *The Lehman Trilogy*, and *Sing Street* on Broadway, *Cinderella* on the West End, and the new musical *Goddess*, conceived and

directed by Saheem Ali, book by Jocelyn Bioh, music and lyrics by Michael Thurber, making its world premiere at Berkeley Repertory Theatre.