

National Theatre

Thursday 22nd July 2021

The National Theatre's original film *Romeo & Juliet*, with Josh O'Connor and Jessie Buckley, to be screened in cinemas for one night only on 28 September

★★★★★

'National Theatre's first film is an ingenious triumph' (The Guardian)

★★★★★

'The paciest, raciest Romeo and Juliet in decades' (Daily Telegraph)

★★★★

'The National Theatre has created a thing of beauty' (Evening Standard)



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

The National Theatre today announces that its critically acclaimed original film *Romeo & Juliet* will be screened in cinemas for one night only on **Tuesday 28 September**. The film stars **Josh O'Connor** (*The Crown*, *God's Own Country*) as Romeo and **Jessie Buckley** (*Chernobyl*, *Judy*) as Juliet, and will be available to screen across the UK and Ireland.

Directed by **Simon Godwin** (*Twelfth Night, Antony and Cleopatra*), this new 90-minute version was filmed in 17 days in the NT's Lyttelton theatre in December while it was closed due the pandemic. It was adapted for screen by **Emily Burns**. The film premiered on television earlier this year on Sky Arts in the UK on 4 April and PBS in the US on 23 April. This is the first time the film will be available on the big screen.

Simon Godwin said: "When we came to make *Romeo & Juliet* as a film, we had always wanted it to succeed as well on screen as it ever would on stage. So it is the ultimate thrill for all the creatives involved that it is now having its chance to be seen on the big screen. Shakespeare, as Derek Jarman once said, would've loved cinema. I'm excited to imagine Shakespeare eating his popcorn watching his wonderful play lit up and brought to life on the big screen in such a dazzling way."

Romeo and Juliet risk everything to be together. In defiance of their feuding families, they chase a future of joy and passion as violence erupts around them.

This bold new film brings to life the remarkable backstage spaces of the National Theatre in which desire, dreams and destiny collide to make Shakespeare's romantic tragedy sing in an entirely new way.

The cast also includes **Ella Dacres** as Peta, **Fisayo Akinade** as Mercutio, **Deborah Findlay** as the Nurse, **Tamsin Greig** as Lady Capulet, **Ellis Howard** as Sampson, **Lloyd Hutchinson** as Lord Capulet, **David Judge** as Tybalt, **Adrian Lester** as the Prince, **Alex Mugnaioni** as Paris, **Lucian Msamati** as the Friar, **Shubham Saraf** as Benvolio and **Colin Tierney** as Lord Montague.

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 original score by **Michael Bruce**.

The *Romeo & Juliet* soundtrack will also be released digitally worldwide on Friday 6 August.

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 was made possible thanks to the generosity of Graham and Joanna Barker, and Leila Maw Straus. With additional support from Monica Gerard-Sharp and Ali Wambold, and Shawn M. Donnelley and Christopher M. Kelly.

Romeo & Juliet will be screened in select cinemas on Tuesday 28 September. For more information and to find your nearest venue, please visit ntlive.com

--ENDS--

Notes to Editors

For images from the film by Rob Youngson, please [see here](#).

For official trailer, please see here.

For further information, please contact Katie Marsh kmarsh@nationaltheatre.org.uk or Louisa Terry lterry@nationaltheatre.org.uk

For information on which cinemas are screening *Romeo & Juliet*, please visit www.ntlive.com

About the National Theatre

The National Theatre's mission is to make world-class theatre, for everyone. The NT creates and shares unforgettable stories with audiences across the UK and around the world. On its own stages, on tour, in schools, on cinema screens and streaming at home, it strives to be accessible, inclusive and sustainable.

The National Theatre empowers artists and craftspeople to make world-leading work, investing in talent and developing new productions with a wide range of theatre companies at its New Work Department.

Our nation thrives on fresh talent and new ideas, so the National Theatre works with young people and teachers right across the UK through performance, writing and technical programmes to ignite the creativity of the next generation.

Together with communities, the NT creates ambitious works of participatory theatre in deep partnerships that unite theatres and local organisations – showing that nothing brings us together like theatre.

The National Theatre needs your support to shape a bright, creative future.

For more information, please visit nationaltheatre.org.uk
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Sky Arts is Headline Sponsor of NT Live in the UK.

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 No Guarantees

No Guarantees won the 2019 Tony Award for Best Musical for *Hadestown* and is nominated again this year for *Tina--The Tina Turner Musical*. In 2021, No Guarantees executive produced the National Theatre's film adaptation of *Romeo and Juliet* (PBS/Sky), starring Josh O'Connor and Jessie Buckley, filmed entirely onstage at the National amidst the COVID-19 pandemic. Our next stage on film collaboration, *Death of England: Face to Face* by Clint Dyer and Roy Williams, will be broadcast on Sky Arts in Fall 2021. Additional No Guarantees productions include Andrew Lloyd Webber's *Cinderella* on the West End, *Ain't Too Proud: The Life and Times of the Temptations*, *Mean Girls*, and *Beetlejuice*. 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*, *Sing Street*, and *Gun & Powder* on Broadway, Whitney White's *Definition: An Installation Experience* at the Bushwick Starr, 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.