

# National Theatre

## Press Release

29 April 2019

Rehearsal images released for *Rutherford and Son*

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**Lyttelton Theatre**

***RUTHERFORD AND SON***

**by Githa Sowerby**

**Previews from 16 May, press night 28 May, performances until 3 August.**

In a Northern industrial town, John Rutherford rules both factory and family with an iron will. But even as the furnaces burn relentlessly at the Glassworks, at home his children begin to turn against him.

**Githa Sowerby's** astonishing play was inspired by her own experience of growing up in a family-run factory in Gateshead. Writing in 1912, when female voices were seldom heard on

British stages, she now claims her place alongside Ibsen and Shaw with this searing depiction of class, gender and generational warfare.

**Roger Allam** (*Les Miserables*, *The Thick of It*) returns to the National for the first time in a decade to play Rutherford in this new production directed by **Polly Findlay** (*Beginning*).

**Justine Mitchell** joins Roger Allam in the role of Janet Rutherford.

Further casting includes: **Joe Armstrong**, **Harry Hepple**, **Barbara Marten**, **Sally Rogers**, **Sam Troughton** and **Anjana Vasan**.

Set and costume design by **Lizzie Clachan**, lighting design by **Charles Balfour**, movement direction by **Polly Bennett**, sound design by **Paul Arditti**, and music by **Kerry Andrew**.

### Notes to editors

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### About the National Theatre

At the National Theatre, we make world-class theatre that is entertaining, challenging and inspiring. And we make it for everyone.

We aim to create work for the widest possible audiences with new plays, musicals, re-imagined classics and new work for young audiences. Our productions are seen in the West End, on tour throughout the UK, on Broadway, internationally, and in collaborations and co-productions with partners around the world. Through NT Live, we broadcast some of the best of British theatre to over 2,500 venues in 65 countries.

In 2017-2018, we opened 20 productions in our three theatres on London's South Bank. On top of that, we toured more work across the UK than at any other point in our history, with 10 productions visiting 52 venues in 44 towns and cities. Worldwide, 3.3 million people bought tickets to our award-winning productions, and a further 4.7 million people engaged with us through our free work, learning and participation activity, and in-depth digital content.

Our extensive learning and participation programme opens up theatre to adults, families and young people across the UK. We support drama and creative education in schools through our performance and writing programmes like Connections, New Views and Let's Play. Over 58% of UK state secondary schools have signed up to our free streaming service, *On Demand In Schools* since launching in 2015. Public Acts, our new initiative to create extraordinary acts of theatre and community, launched in 2017 in partnership with eight visionary community organisations and the Queen's Theatre Hornchurch.

The National Theatre is an Arts Council England National Portfolio Organisation.

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