

National Theatre

National Theatre expands its support for schools with new resource conceived by theatre director Katie Mitchell

- New pilot series '*Practitioners in Practice*' launches to support the teaching of leading contemporary artists, beginning with a new resource exploring the work of theatre practitioner and director Katie Mitchell
- Watched by 1 in 4 secondary school pupils across the UK last year, the National Theatre Collection expands today with ten new titles to watch for free in the classroom
- National Theatre launches The Learning Hub, a new free, online library of resources to support arts and creativity in education



Image of theatre director Katie Mitchell

For images, click [here](#)

Thursday 15 February 2024

Marking the first day of the National Theatre's annual *Drama Teacher Conference* which brings together hundreds of drama teachers from across the UK, the National Theatre announces new educational resources for schools. These aim to support teachers to access and teach a more diverse range of work, open up the practice of leading contemporary artists and inspire students to explore a broad range of theatre.

Conceived by theatre practitioner and director **Katie Mitchell** with the National Theatre in consultation with drama teachers nationwide, a new resource titled *Practitioners in Practice* launches today to help bring cutting edge theatre practice into the classroom. Made up of a film for students and a supporting education pack for teachers, the resource – first in a new series – explores Mitchell’s unique style and methodology, and the methods students can use to replicate her work in classroom settings with varying resources and budget.

Katie Mitchell will launch the resource at this year’s *Drama Teacher Conference* with the film available from today on the National Theatre’s new Learning Hub, a free and growing online library of over 50 resources, exploring Shakespeare to new writing as well as providing activities for primary schools.

Ten new titles are also added to the National Theatre Collection today on *Bloomsbury Publishing’s Drama Online* platform, making a total of 70 titles available to stream directly into classrooms across the UK for free. 88% of UK state secondary schools are signed up to use the platform, with new research commissioned from *Thinks Insight & Strategy* showing one in four secondary school children in the UK in the last academic year watched a National Theatre Collection production, reaching 1.3 million pupils nationwide.

New titles include **Zadie Smith’s** *Wife of Willesden* directed by NT Director Designate **Indhu Rubasingham**, **Dylan Thomas’** *Under Milk Wood* directed by **Lyndsey Turner**, *Othello* directed by **Clint Dyer**, and the 2022 National Theatre’s schools touring production of *Hamlet* directed by **Tinuke Craig** for 8–12-year-olds. The platform is free for all state schools and FE colleges in the UK with titles and additional learning resources suitable for both secondary and primary schools.

Theatre director **Katie Mitchell** said “*I conceived the Practitioners in Practice series to support the teaching of theatre making in secondary schools, especially at A Level. This first episode uses my own practice to pilot a written and film resource providing a model that can be applied in future series to a much more diverse group of practitioners. The series aims to help teachers and students to access a wider range of contemporary practitioners and bridge the gap between professional practice and drama in the classroom. It is also a response to the shocking fall off on A Level and GCSE take-up for drama over the past decade and hopes to help support schools to turn these figures round.*”

Alice King Farlow, Director of Learning and National Partnerships at the National Theatre, said “*By opening up access to the practice and plays of some of the most exciting artists in our industry today, we hope to support schools and students nationwide to discover the magic of theatre from their own classrooms. We’re delighted to expand our free educational resources with new titles on the National Theatre Collection and a brilliant new learning resource conceived by theatre practitioner Katie Mitchell, inspiring creativity in the next generation and increasing awareness of the many skills and roles involved in creating world-class theatre.*”

To find out more about the National Theatre Collection and to sign up, visit the National Theatre [website](#).

Visit the National Theatre's [Learning Hub](#) to discover an online library of educational resources including *Practitioners in Practice*.

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Notes to the Editor

For images, including a headshot of Katie Mitchell and production images of the ten new productions on the National Theatre Collection, click [here](#).

For press enquiries and more information, please contact Orla Bentley, at OBentley@nationaltheatre.org.uk

Titles being added to the National Theatre Collection on 15 February 2024

- *The Wife of Willesden* adapted by **Zadie Smith** and directed by **Indhu Rubasingham** at Kiln Theatre
- **Dylan Thomas'** *Under Milk Wood* directed by **Lyndsey Turner**, with cast including **Michael Sheen**
- National Theatre primary schools' touring production of *Hamlet* adapted by **Jude Christian** and directed by **Tinuke Craig**
- *Othello* directed by **Clint Dyer**, with cast including **Giles Terera** and **Rosy McEwan**
- *Romeo and Julie*, a modern love story by **Gary Owen** and directed by **Rachel O'Riordan**, with a cast which includes **Callum Scott Howells**
- New musical *Hex* based on 'Sleeping Beauty' directed by **Rufus Norris** with book by **Tanya Ronder**, music by **Jim Fortune** and lyrics by **Rufus Norris**
- *The Great Wave* by **Francis Turnly** and directed by **Indhu Rubasingham**
- Shakespeare's comedy of love and change *As You Like It* directed by **Polly Findlay**
- *Dixon and Daughters* by **Deborah Bruce** and directed by **Róisín McBrinn** in a coproduction with Clean Break
- *Trouble in Mind* by **Alice Childress** and directed by **Nancy Medina**

With Thanks

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The Mohn Westlake Foundation supports nationwide Learning programmes for young people.

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About the National Theatre

The National Theatre makes theatre that entertains and inspires using its creativity, expertise and unique reach. The National Theatre shares unforgettable stories with millions of audience members across the UK and around the world – on its own stages, on tour, in schools, on cinema screens and streaming at home.

World-leading artists make their best work at the National Theatre with the widest possible audience and impact. The National Theatre invests in talent and innovation on stage and off, taking seriously its role as the nation's theatre. Of the new productions developed each year with a wide range of theatre companies, a third of that research and development resource is dedicated to shows staged at theatres outside London.

Through touring our work to local theatres and schools and nationwide education and community programmes, we are active in 71 of the 109 levelling up priority areas in the UK. A registered charity with deeply embedded social purpose, the National Theatre works with hundreds of schools and communities across the UK to fire imagination and inspire creativity, and to develop skills and pathways for careers in theatre.

For more information, please visit nationaltheatre.org.uk

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