

National Theatre

Wednesday 26 June 2024

NATIONAL THEATRE ANNOUNCES CASTING

FOR FESTIVE SEASON SHOWS:

BALLET SHOES AND THE IMPORTANCE OF BEING EARNEST

The National Theatre today announces casting for its two new productions coming to the South Bank for the 2024 festive season – a new adaptation of the beloved family favourite ***Ballet Shoes*** and a revival of the classic comedy ***The Importance of Being Earnest***:

Ballet Shoes

Initial casting for **Kendall Feaver's** (*The Almighty Sometimes*) new adaptation of **Noel Streatfeild's** best-selling book ***Ballet Shoes*** will include **Melanie-Joyce Bermudez** (Petrova Fossil), **Eryck Brahmania** (Ensemble), **Cordelia Braithwaite** (Ensemble), **Michelle Cornelius** (Ensemble), **Sonya Cullingford** (Winifred), **Jenny Galloway** (Nana), **Courtney George** (Ensemble), **Georges Hann** (Ensemble), **Nadine Higgin** (Theo Dane), **Helena Lymbery** (Doctor Jakes), **Xolishweh Ana Richards** (Ballerina), **Sid Sagar** (Jayan Saravanan), **Grace Saif** (Pauline Fossil), **Justin Salinger** (GUM) and **Daisy Sequerra** (Posy Fossil).

In a crumbling house full of dinosaur bones and fossils, three adopted sisters – Pauline, Petrova and Posy – are learning who they are and what they want to be. Under the watchful eyes and guidance of their guardian Sylvia, Nana, and some unlikely lodgers, they fight to pursue their individual passions. Can they forge a future, keep their family together, and even learn a dance or two along the way?

Directed by **Katy Rudd** with set design by **Frankie Bradshaw**, costume design by **Samuel Wyer**, choreography by **Ellen Kane**, composition by **Asaf Zohar**, lighting design by **Paule Constable**, sound design by **Ian Dickinson for Autograph**, casting by **Bryony Jarvis-Taylor** and associate choreography by **Jonathan Goddard**.

Ballet Shoes will run in the Olivier theatre from 23 November 2024, with press performance on 5 December 2024. Recommended for ages 7+.

The Importance of Being Earnest

Joining the cast for **Max Webster's** (*Macbeth, Life of Pi*) reimagining of **Oscar Wilde's** classic comedy about identity **The Importance of Being Earnest** will be **Ronke Adékoluéjọ** (*Rain Dogs, Blues for an Alabama Sky*) as Gwendolen Fairfax and **Eliza Scanlen** (*Little Women, Sharp Objects*) as Cecily Cardew. They join the previously announced cast **Richard Cant** (*Stan & Ollie, Mary Queen of Scots*) as Reverend Canon Chasuble, **Sharon D Clarke** (*Ma Rainey's Black Bottom, Doctor Who*) as Lady Bracknell, **Ncuti Gatwa** (*Doctor Who, Sex Education*) as Algernon Moncrieff, **Amanda Lawrence** (*Star Wars: Episode – IX The Rise of Skywalker, Angels in America*) as Miss Prism and **Hugh Skinner** (*W1A, Mamma Mia! Here We Go Again*) as Jack Worthing.

Being sensible can be excessively boring. At least Jack thinks so. While assuming the role of dutiful guardian in the country, he lets loose in town under a false identity. Meanwhile, his friend Algy takes on a similar facade. Unfortunately, living a double life has its drawbacks, especially when it comes to love. Hoping to impress two eligible ladies, the gentlemen find themselves caught in a web of lies from which they must carefully navigate.

Directed by **Max Webster** with set and costume design by **Rae Smith**, lighting design by **Jon Clark**, sound design by **Nicola T. Chang**, composition by **DJ Walde**, movement direction by **Carrie-Anne Ingrouille** and casting by **Alastair Coomer CDG**.

The Importance of Being Earnest runs in the Lyttelton theatre from 20 November 2024 to 25 January 2025, with press performance on 28 November 2024.

Tickets for *Ballet Shoes* and *The Importance of Being Earnest* are on sale from

nationaltheatre.org.uk

ENDS

For images, click [here](#).

Production	Theatre	Dates	Press Night	Publicist
<i>The Importance of Being Earnest</i>	Lyttelton theatre	20 November 2024–25 January 2025	Thursday 28 November 2024	Emily Ritchie
<i>Ballet Shoes</i>	Olivier theatre	From 23 November 2024	Thursday 5 December 2024	James Lever

Assisted performances at the National Theatre:

***The Importance of Being Earnest* (Lyttelton theatre):**

Captioned Performances: Wednesday 18 December 2024 – 7.30pm, Saturday 25 January 2025 – 2.30pm.

BSL Interpreted: Thursday 16 January 2025 – 6.30pm

Audio described: Saturday 14 December 2024 – 2.30pm, Friday 10 January 2025 – 7.30pm

Dementia-friendly: Tuesday 14 January 2025 – 7.30pm

***Ballet Shoes* (Olivier theatre):**

Captioned Performances: Thursday 19 December 2024 – 7.00pm, Saturday 11 January 2025 – 1.30pm.

Audio described: Saturday 21 December 2024 – 1.30pm, Thursday 30 January 2025 – 7.00pm

Relaxed performance: Wednesday 15 January 2025 – 7.00pm

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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