

National Theatre

National Theatre Live announces *The Importance of Being Earnest* releasing to cinemas worldwide in 2025



IMMEDIATE RELEASE 4 SEPTEMBER 2024

National Theatre Live today announces the cinematic release of the National Theatre's forthcoming revival of *The Importance of Being Earnest*, bringing the new interpretation of the classic play to audiences worldwide in 2025.

Oscar Wilde's most celebrated comedy *The Importance of Being Earnest* directed by **Max Webster** (*Life of Pi*) will be released to cinemas on **20 February 2025**. Three-time Olivier Award-winner, **Sharon D Clarke** (*Ma Rainey's Black Bottom*; *Doctor Who*) is joined by **Ncuti Gatwa** (*Doctor Who*, *Sex Education*), **Ronke Adékoluéjò** (*Rain Dogs*, *Blues for an Alabama Sky*), **Eliza Scanlen** (*Little Women*, *Sharp Objects*), and **Hugh Skinner** (*Fleabag*, *Mamma Mia! Here We Go Again*) in this joyful reimagining.

While assuming the role of a dutiful guardian in the country, Jack (*Hugh Skinner*) lets loose in town under a false identity. Meanwhile, his friend Algy (*Ncuti Gatwa*) adopts a similar facade. Hoping to impress two eligible ladies, the gentlemen find themselves caught in a web of lies they must carefully navigate.

This production will be filmed live from the **National Theatre's Lyttelton stage** where it is playing from **20 November 2024 – 25 January 2025**.

The Importance of Being Earnest will be released exclusively in cinemas and audiences can find their nearest screening at theimportanceofbeingearnest.ntlive.com.

Sky Arts is the Headline Sponsor of National Theatre Live in the UK.

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Notes to Editors

For further information please contact Zara Jayant at National Theatre Live, zjayant@nationaltheatre.org.uk

Images [HERE](#).

Audiences can find their nearest screening at ntlive.com.

For access requirements and screenings, please visit the listing for your local cinema.

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

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.