

Did you know?

The Fifth Step was originally commissioned by the National Theatre of Scotland in 2024. It previewed at Dundee Rep Theatre in August, before sold-out runs at Royal Lyceum Theatre as part of Edinburgh International Festival, and then transferring to Glasgow's Pavilion Theatre. The role of James was performed by Sean Gilder (*Dear England*), with Jack Lowden in the role of Luka.

The West End version co-produced by Neal Street and Playful Productions, evolved once more - restaged and reimagined for the in-the-round intimacy of @sohoplace in the West End. Its 11-week run was sold out, firmly establishing *The Fifth Step* as one of the defining new plays of the year.

Enjoy the show

We hope you enjoy your National Theatre Live screening. We make every attempt to replicate the theatre experience as closely as possible for your enjoyment.

Please do let us know what you think through our channels listed below or approach the cinema manager to share your thoughts.

Connect with us

Explore

Go behind the scenes of *The Fifth Step* and learn more about how our broadcasts happen on our website.

 ntlive.com

Join in

Use **#TheFifthStep** and be a part of the conversation online.

 [Facebook: /ntlive](https://www.facebook.com/ntlive)
 [@ntlive
!\[\]\(f35e6978c00a4669a23800ac9bf47246_img.jpg\) \[@ntlive\]\(https://letterboxd.com/ntlive\)](https://twitter.com/ntlive)

Never miss out

Get the latest news from National Theatre Live straight to your inbox.

 ntlive.com/signup

Feedback

Share your thoughts in our short online survey to enter into a prize draw to win £100.

ntlive.com/feedback



National
Theatre
Live

Jack LOWDEN Martin FREEMAN **Step** **TheFifth**

Written by **DAVID IRELAND** Directed by **FINN DEN HERTOG**

A production from

NEAL STREET

Playful
PRODUCTIONS
CELEBRATING 15 YEARS

NATIONAL
THEATRE
OF SCOTLAND

Cast

Luka.....Jack Lowden
James.....Martin Freeman

Creative Team

Writer.....David Ireland
Director.....Finn den Hertog
Set and Costume Designer.....Milla Clarke
Lighting Designer.....Lizzie Powell
Sound Designer and Composer.....Mark Melville

Movement Director.....Jenny Ogilvie
Casting.....Stuart Burt CDG CDA
Fight Director.....Bret Yount

Broadcast Team

Screen Director.....Matthew Amos
Lighting Directors.....Gemma O'Sullivan
Marc Nicholson
Sound Supervisor.....Conrad Fletcher
Script Supervisor.....Constance Oak

Running time:

1 hour and 20 minutes. With no interval.

There's nowhere to hide

an excerpt from *The Fifth Step* programme.

There are certainly themes touched on in the show that might feel topical, especially the discussion around toxic masculinity, mental health, sexuality and male role models which has been turbocharged by the success of *Adolescence*. However, Lowden observes that *The Fifth Step* is a very difficult proposition to the Netflix drama, which was actually written later. ‘*Adolescence* has sparked an important conversation among a lot of people, and if audiences now choose to frame our play through the same prism that’s up to them and I think that’s wonderful. But I believe the interesting thing with David’s [Ireland] piece is that

everyone will connect with a particular part of it depending on their own life experiences. It’s up to them which bits to think most about or which idea to take home.’

Nevertheless, Freeman and Lowden each connected deeply to certain aspects of the show themselves and are confident that anyone who sees it will feel the same – not only those who have gone through the AA journey. ‘If you’ve just been alive for more than 10 minutes, there will be things in this that you relate to,’ says Freeman. ‘If you have relatives, or have ever loved someone, or has a hard time, or had a friend.’

Neal Street Productions

Run by Sam Mendes, Pippa Harris, Caro Newling, and Nicolas Brown, Neal Street is one of the UK’s most respected production companies. Set up in 2003, the company has successfully produced film, television and theatre for over 20 years.

nealstreetproductions.com
@nealstreetproductions

Playful Productions

Playful Productions is one of the most eminent theatre producers and full-service general management companies in the West End. By proudly combining artistry with business expertise, Playful strives to deliver the highest quality entertainment for audiences around the world.

playfuluk.com
@playfulprods

National Theatre of Scotland

We don’t have our own venue, instead, we’re able to bring theatre to you wherever you are. From the biggest stages to the smallest community halls, we showcase Scottish culture at home and around the world.

nationaltheatrescotland.com
@ntsonline

National Theatre Live

We bring the best of British theatre. With over 100 productions released to date, National Theatre Live is regularly screened in 2,500 venues across 74 countries, allowing millions of people to experience world-class theatre on the big screen.

ntlive.com
@ntlive

Coming soon

Hamlet

by William Shakespeare
directed by Robert Hastie

In cinemas from **22 January**

Olivier Award-winner Hiran Abeysekera (*Life of Pi*) is Hamlet in this fearless, contemporary take on Shakespeare’s famous tragedy.



‘Exactly the kind of Hamlet you would hope to see’
Broadway World

Visit our website at ntlive.com to find the next broadcast or screening near you



Funded by
UK Government



Supported using public funding by
**ARTS COUNCIL
ENGLAND**

Sponsor of NT Live in the UK
sky arts