

Did you know?

Hamlet opened the entire National Theatre project, at The Old Vic on 22 October 1963, in a production directed by Laurence Olivier with Peter O’Toole playing Hamlet.

Enjoy the show

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Hamlet

by William Shakespeare

A production from

National Theatre

Cast

Hamlet.....	Hiran Abeysekera	Horatio.....	Tessa Wong
Guil­den­stern.....	Joe Bolland		
Mar­cellus / Cap­tain.....	Phil Cheadle		
Get­rude.....	Ayesha Dharker		
Ghost / Player King / First Gravedigger.....	Ryan Ellsworth		
Laertes.....	Tom Glenister		
Osric / Voltemand.....	Mary Higgins		
Nurse / Priest.....	Liz Jadav		
Fortinbras.....	Kiren Kebaili-Dwyer		
Rosencrantz.....	Hari Mackinnon		
Ophelia.....	Francesca Mills		
Cornelius / English Ambassador / Second Gravedigger.....	Sophia Papadopoulos		
Claudius.....	Alistair Petrie		
First Player.....	Siobhán Redmond		
Francisco / Reynaldo.....	Seb Slade		
Polonius.....	Geoffrey Streatfeild		
Bernardo.....	Noel White		

Running time:
2 hours and 57 minutes including a 15 minute interval

Artistic Team

Director.....	Robert Hastie
Set and Costume Designer.....	Ben Stones
Lighting Designer.....	Jessica Hung Han Yun
Sound Designer.....	Alexandra Faye Braithwaite
Composer.....	Richard Taylor
Movement Director.....	Ira Mandela Siobhan
Fight Director.....	Kate Waters

Broadcast Team

Director for Screen.....	Christine Lalla
Lighting Director.....	David Bishop
Sound Supervisor.....	Conrad Fletcher
Script Supervisor.....	Stephanie Rose

Soliloquy in *Hamlet*

Dr Sophie Duncan on truth, lies and the power of direct address in *Hamlet*, an excerpt from the the National Theatre's programme for *Hamlet*.

The convention that characters speak truthfully in soliloquy is especially important in *Hamlet*, set at a court – Elsinore – which really can't cope with the truth. Is the court unable to see or unwilling to admit the circumstances of Claudius' leap to the throne? Even *Hamlet* cruelly denies authorship of his letters to Ophelia, while Polonius' tactic for monitoring Laertes' French sojourn is to send a servant to throw out lies about him to see if anyone bites: fake news as honeytrap.

As audience members, we rely on soliloquies to understand who Shakespeare's characters really

are, whether that's revealed in the vulnerability of distress, or the isolation of prayer. It can also feel dangerous to spend too long inside these characters' minds: when Claudius reveals his crimes, are we his confidants or his co-conspirators? Are we complicit in the play's bloodletting? Is there a temptation – even a responsibility – to stop the characters from going to their deaths? More frightening still, when *Hamlet* poses his questions of life and death, are we any more sure of the answers than he is? As a play, *Hamlet* is obsessed with the soliloquy, forcing characters unable to be open with each other to be honest with four centuries' worth of audiences.

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.

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National Theatre Live captures performances from the National Theatre's stages and beyond, working with a range of leading creatives to share extraordinary stories. From timeless classics to critically acclaimed new writing, National Theatre Live productions are filmed live in front of audiences to create an immersive experience.

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Coming soon

THE AUDIENCE

by Peter Morgan
directed by Stephen Daldry

In cinemas from **26 February**

Academy Award winner Helen Mirren plays Queen Elizabeth II in the much-anticipated return of the Olivier Award-winning hit production that inspired Netflix's *The Crown*.

★★★★★

'Wholly tremendous'
Daily Telegraph

ALL MY SONS

by Arthur Miller
directed by Ivo Van Hoë
designed by Jan Versweyveld

In cinemas from **16 April**

Bryan Cranston (*Breaking Bad*) and Marianne Jean-Baptiste (*Hard Truths*) feature in a five-star, triumphantly acclaimed new production of the American post-war classic.

★★★★★

'The stars of a dream cast align'
Guardian

THE PLAYBOY OF THE WESTERN WORLD

by John Millington Synge
directed by Caitríona McLaughlin

In cinemas from **28 May**

Nicola Coughlan (*Bridgerton*) joins Éanna Hardwicke (*The Sixth Commandment*) and Siobhán McSweeney (*Derry Girls*) in this riveting classic Irish play of youth and self-discovery.

'Two of Ireland's best-loved comic actors go head-to-head'
Independent

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