

National Theatre

Press Release

31 January 2019

Theatre Treasures: National Theatre Archive Unboxed

Free exhibition in the Lyttelton Lounge

From 8 February

Open Mon-Sat



Celebrating 25 years of the National Theatre Archive, this exhibition reveals some of the treasures of the collection. Theatre-makers, playwrights and researchers were invited to choose an object which inspires them from the Archive. Participants included theatre critic Michael Billington, directors Simon Godwin and Emily Lim, playwright and director Patrick Marber and actor Kobna Holdbrook-Smith. Their responses sit alongside the objects in the exhibition.

The National Theatre Archive is a treasure trove of material, encompassing all of the creative, technical and administrative records of the National Theatre. The collection covers the movement to found the National Theatre and the period from the start of the company in 1963 right up to the present day. It is a free resource which is open to everyone.

Director **Emily Lim** said: “I love that anyone can come to the archive and get their hands on such a huge range of productions and materials for free. I am always telling everyone about it, it’s the National’s best kept secret!”

Actor **Kobna Holdbrook-Smith** said: “All those thoughts and endeavours – boxed, ready and waiting, it’s as if even though its containers and corridors are inanimate they somehow jiggle with the histories that fill them.”

Playwright and director **Patrick Marber** said: “Our tradition is as old as the hills. Let’s celebrate that. And use knowledge of the past to innovate in the present.”

Related Talks and Events

[Exhibition Insight and Archive Tour: Unboxing the Archive](#), Sat 9 February, 11.30am

ENDS

For more information, contact Louisa Terry: lterry@nationaltheatre.org.uk

Images of some of the objects featured in the exhibition can be downloaded [here](#).

The National Theatre

The National Theatre’s mission is to make world class theatre that’s entertaining, challenging and inspiring – and to make it for everyone. It aims to reach the widest possible audience and to be as inclusive, diverse and national as possible with a broad range of productions that play in London, on tour around the UK, on Broadway and across the globe. The National Theatre's extensive UK-wide learning and participation programme supports young people’s creative education through performance and writing programmes like Connections, New Views and Let’s Play. Its major new initiative Public Acts creates extraordinary acts of theatre and community; the first Public Acts production was 2018’s *Pericles*. The National Theatre extends its reach through digital programmes including NT Live, which broadcasts some of the best of British theatre to over 2,500 venues in 65 countries, and the free streaming service On Demand In Schools, used by nearly 60% of UK state secondary schools. The National Theatre invests in the future of theatre by developing talent, creating bold new work and building audiences, partnering with a range of UK theatres and theatre companies.

For more information, please visit <https://www.nationaltheatre.org.uk/>

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