

6 February 2019

Louise Charlton, Vicki Mortimer and Dame Karen Pierce appointed to the Board of the National Theatre

Sir Damon Buffini, Chair of the Board of the National Theatre, announced today that **Louise Charlton, Vicki Mortimer** and **Dame Karen Pierce** have been appointed to the Board.

Sir Damon Buffini said: “I am delighted to welcome these three outstanding leaders in their fields to the National Theatre Board, each bringing with them a wealth of experience and expertise which will help us continue with our mission of making world-class theatre for everyone, in London, across the UK and internationally.

“Louise Charlton has an abundance of communications experience having co-founded Brunswick Group in 1987 and her insight in this area will be invaluable to the National Theatre. Louise has been a member of the corporate development board for the last year helping to develop relationships with a number of corporate sponsors and partners. We are thrilled that she will now join the Board of the National Theatre.”

“I am also pleased to be welcoming the award-winning designer Vicki Mortimer to our Board. Vicki’s work has been seen across all three stages at the National Theatre and as well as internationally. Her expertise in design and production will be a valuable addition to the NT Board.”

“We are honored to welcome Dame Karen Pierce, the first female UK ambassador to the UN to join the Board of the NT. Dame Karen has been a trailblazer for women in the Foreign Office, with an immensely successful and varied career reaching across a number of countries. Her international outlook will hugely benefit the NT as we look to further our links with the rest of the world.”

“We are also sorry to be saying goodbye to Kate Mosse, Deputy Chair, who retired from the Board at the end of January. Kate’s contribution over the last 8 years has been extraordinary

and she has added in so many ways to our success over the years, she will be greatly missed.”

Louise Charlton

Louise Charlton co-founded Brunswick in 1987 and is Vice-Chairman of the firm. In addition to her long-term retained clients, Louise has led teams in a number of Brunswick's most high profile projects, both contested bids and flotations. Louise, along with her co-founders, has been responsible for driving the international growth of the business through the opening of 24 offices in 13 countries, employing over 1000 employees.

In 2005 Louise was appointed to the Board of the Natural History Museum and she completed her second term as a Director and Trustee in 2014. She was also appointed as a member of the Remuneration and Nomination Committees at the NHM. In 2008 she was appointed Chair of the Public Engagement Committee for the Darwin Centre. Louise was also a non-Executive Director and member of the Remuneration and Nomination Committee at RPS plc from 2008 until 2017.

Vicki Mortimer

Vicki Mortimer studied at the Slade School of Fine Art and made her debut at the National Theatre in 1994 with *Rutherford and Son*.

Vicki has currently designed 34 productions for the National Theatre, including *Follies* (Critics' Circle Award for Design and Olivier Award for Best Costume Design 2018), *The Plough and the Stars*, *The Threepenny Opera*, *The Silver Tassie*, *Othello*, *Hamlet*, *The Seagull* and *The House of Bernarda Alba*. Previous designs also include work for the RSC, Kneehigh, Wise Children, Young Vic, Donmar, Almeida, Royal Court, in Japan, Sweden and on Broadway.

Vicki is on the steering committee for Birkbeck's director training and is an honorary fellow at the Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama.

Dame Karen Pierce

Karen Pierce took up the position of the United Kingdom's Permanent Representative to the United Nations in New York in March 2018. Prior to her appointment, Karen served as the Director General for Political Affairs and Chief Operating Officer of the Foreign and Commonwealth in London, from 2016.

Karen joined the FCO in 1981. Her first posting was in Tokyo between 1984 and 1978, after which she returned to the UK to work in the Security Policy Department. Karen then worked in Washington as the Private Secretary to the British Ambassador to the United States between 1992 and 1995. Between 1996 and 2006, Karen held several positions in London including Team Leader for Ukraine, Belarus and Moldova, Deputy Head of Eastern Adriatic (Balkans) Department, Head of Newsroom, Head of EU Department (Bilateral) and concurrently Head of Afghanistan Political Military Unit after 9/11 before returning to the Balkans as Balkans Coordinator from 2002 to 2006.

In 2006, Karen moved to New York for the first time to be the Deputy Permanent Representative and Ambassador at the UK Mission to the UN. In 2009, she moved back to London to become the Director of South Asia and Afghanistan Department and the UK's Special Representative for Afghanistan and Pakistan. In 2012, Karen started her second multilateral posting, this time in Geneva, where she was the Ambassador and Permanent Representative to the UK Mission to the UN, WTO and Other International Organisations until 2015. Between 2015 and 2016, Karen was the UK's Ambassador to Afghanistan.

The current NT Board members are:

Sir Damon Buffini (Chair)

Dame Ursula Brennan

DCB Sabine Chalmers

Vikki Heywood CBE

Sir Lenny Henry

Elizabeth Offord

Alan Rusbridger

Tim Score

Simon Warshaw

Ends

Notes to editors

Images available to download [here](#)

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About the National Theatre

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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