

National Theatre

Press Release

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Costume at the National Theatre A new book published 4 October



Costume at the National Theatre is a beautiful new book exploring what goes into designing and creating the unique costumes seen in NT productions. The perfect gift for the theatre-lover in your life, or a great complement to the NT's upcoming costume exhibition, in the Wolfson Gallery from October. Overflowing with stunning images, and with an introduction written by Dr Aoife Monks, it offers a privileged tour of the NT Costume department.

The costumes produced by the National Theatre are works of extraordinary detail and craftsmanship. As varied as the shows

themselves, over 10,000 costume elements are produced every year by the in-house team, transforming visual concepts into vibrant reality. *Costume at the National Theatre* invites readers inside that creative process, from interpreting designs and crafting costumes in the workrooms to their use once ready for the stage.

Vicki Mortimer, Designer: 'Walking in to the Costume department at the National Theatre, the level of craftsmanship you see is unbelievable.'

Tamara Lawrance, Actor: 'The detail in a costume can inform your performance. The lining, or the feel of the gloves is not anything the audience has to know about, but it can affect the way you move your hand or your leg or the way that you show off in front of other people. The costume becomes a different kind of skin.'

Bunny Christie, Designer: 'I think even within the theatre industry people don't really know how costume is done. It's a bit of a hidden art. I don't think they realise the hours and hours that it takes and the detail involved.'

***Costume at the National Theatre* is available from October nationwide, and at an exclusive price of £19.99 from the NT Bookshop. Go to shop.nationaltheatre.org.uk**

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For further press information contact Louisa Terry: lterry@nationaltheatre.org.uk / 020 7452 3236.

For an image of the book cover, [click here](#).

For some exclusive images of costumes and designs featured within the book, [click 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 and schools through performance and writing programmes like Connections, New Views and Let's Play, while Public Acts creates ambitious new works of participatory theatre in sustained partnership with theatres and community organisations around the country. 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 65% 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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Aoife Monks

Dr Aoife Monks is a Reader in Theatre and Performance Studies at Queen Mary University of London. Her work addresses the multitude of ways in which audiences look at actors in costume, and how actors themselves think about what they wear – and what wears them – on stage. She has also worked on the histories of fashion, virtuosity, and crossdressing at the theatre and also writes for newspapers and magazines such as *The Guardian*, *The Irish Times* and the *Times Higher Education*. She is the author of *The Actor in Costume* (2010) and co-author of *Readings in Costume* with the costume designer Ali Maclaurin. Aoife is currently writing a book on the relationship between virtuosity and Stage-Irishness in the work of Michael Flatley and Dion Boucicault. She is Co-Director of Research and Public Engagement at the Department of Drama at Queen Mary where she also founded and runs the Artist Research Fellowship scheme.