

Press Release

18 July 2018

***The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time* schools tour to visit 60 secondary schools across the UK**

A specially staged production of the National Theatre's award-winning play, *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time* will begin a 12-week tour to 60 schools across the UK in September 2018.

The production will visit five selected secondary schools each week across London and the UK, touring to the National Theatre's six Theatre Nation partner areas: Outer East London in partnership with the Queen's Theatre Hornchurch; Wakefield, in partnership with the Theatre Royal; Doncaster, in partnership with Cast; Sunderland in partnership with Sunderland Empire and Sunderland Culture; Wolverhampton, in partnership with the Grand Theatre; and the Greater Manchester area in partnership with The Lowry, Salford.

The schools tour is a 90-minute version of the play performed in the round and will be followed by a Q&A session for students with the company. The tour is accompanied by a learning programme which includes professional development for teachers led by the NT and *Curious Incident* movement directors Frantic Assembly, as well as curriculum-based resources and workshops.

The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time brings **Mark Haddon's** best-selling novel to life on stage, adapted by two-time Olivier Award-winning playwright **Simon Stephens** and directed by Olivier and Tony Award®-winning director **Marianne Elliott**. The novel has won more than 17 literary awards and is widely studied in schools. Simon Stephens' adaptation is a set text for GCSE English Literature.

The play tells the story of Christopher John Francis Boone, who is fifteen years old. He stands besides Mrs Shears' dead dog, Wellington, who has been speared with a garden

fork, it is seven minutes after midnight and Christopher is under suspicion. He records each fact in a book he is writing to solve the mystery of who killed Wellington. He has an extraordinary brain, and is exceptional at maths while ill-equipped to interpret everyday life. He has never ventured alone beyond the end of his road, he detests being touched and distrusts strangers. But his detective work, forbidden by his father, takes him on a frightening journey that upturns his world.

Speaking about the schools tour **Simon Stephens** said: “It means the world to me that *Curious Incident* will be touring schools around the country. I worked as a schoolteacher teaching kids in Dagenham in Essex 20 years ago. I loved it. I still think of myself as a teacher. I have seen first-hand how inspiring drama is to young people in schools. I believe the arts to be fundamental to our society. We can’t afford to lose them from our education system. I am delighted that our play will play its part in introducing young people to the theatre. I always hoped that *Curious Incident* was a play that could be performed anywhere, by anyone. The play is designed to provoke and inspire imagination and interpretation in its staging and inspiration in its audience. The tour will, I hope, provide the same kind of imagination and inspiration throughout the country.”

Alice King-Farlow, Director of Learning at the National Theatre said, “At the National Theatre we believe that all young people should have the opportunity to experience and participate in drama no matter where they are in the UK. We’re delighted to be touring this award-winning play to schools, and via our Theatre Nation Partnerships, we hope that bringing Simon Stephen’s brilliant *Curious Incident* to young audiences across the country will help to spark imaginations and encourage participation in theatre”.

The production is designed by Olivier and Tony Award-winner **Bunny Christie** and Tony Award-winning lighting designer **Paule Constable**. Movement is by **Scott Graham** and Olivier Award-winning **Steven Hoggett** for Frantic Assembly, music by **Adrian Sutton** (who also composed music for *War Horse*) and sound by **Ian Dickinson** for Autograph. The Associate Director is **Anna Marsland**. Casting to be announced.

The National Theatre's Partner for Learning is Bank of America Merrill Lynch.

Schools Touring is supported by: The Mohn Westlake Foundation, The Garfield Weston Foundation, The Ingram Trust, Archie Sherman Charitable Trust, Behrens Foundation, Cleopatra Trust, Jill and David Leuw, Mulberry Trust and The Royal Victoria Hall Foundation.

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Notes to Editors

About National Theatre

At the National Theatre, we make world-class theatre that is entertaining, challenging and inspiring. And we make it for everyone.

We aim to create work for the widest possible audiences with new plays, musicals, re-imagined classics and new work for young audiences. Our productions are seen in the West End, on tour throughout the UK, on Broadway, internationally, and in collaborations and co-productions with partners around the world. Through NT Live, we broadcast some of the best of British theatre to over 2,500 venues in 65 countries.

In 2017-2018, we opened 20 productions in our three theatres on London's South Bank. On top of that, we toured more work across the UK than at any other point in our history, with 10 productions visiting 52 venues in 44 towns and cities. Worldwide, 3.3 million people bought tickets to our award-winning productions, and a further 4.7 million people engaged with us through our free work, learning and participation activity, and in-depth digital content.

Our extensive learning and participation programme opens up theatre to adults, families and young people across the UK. We support drama and creative education in schools through our performance and writing programmes like Connections, New Views and Let's Play. Over 58% of UK secondary schools have signed up to our free streaming service, On Demand In Schools since launching in 2015. Public Acts, our new initiative to create extraordinary acts of theatre and community, launched in 2017 in partnership with eight visionary community organisations and the Queen's Theatre Hornchurch.

The National Theatre is an Arts Council England National Portfolio Organisation.

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About Theatre Nation Partnerships

The National Theatre is more widely available around the UK than at any other time in our history, through live touring, our nationwide learning programme, NT Live broadcasts, and streaming our productions into schools.

Theatre Nation Partnerships is a new collaborative project to support and grow engagement in theatre around the country and reach new audiences. The three-year project focusses aspects of the National Theatre's nationwide work into areas where there are challenges to arts engagement, working with local theatres to build a lasting audience – drawing on combined expertise and resources, and each partner's deep community links. In collaboration with our partners we are seeking to grow audiences through programming, working in schools, and shared marketing and audience development initiatives.

The schools tour of *The Curious Incident* will tour to the six Theatre Nation Partner areas: Doncaster, with Cast; the Greater Manchester area with The Lowry, Salford; Outer East London with Queen's Theatre Hornchurch; Sunderland with Sunderland Empire and Sunderland Culture; Wakefield with the Theatre Royal; Wolverhampton with the Grand Theatre.

Theatre Nation Partnerships is generously supported by Arts Council England's Strategic Touring Fund, Bloomberg Philanthropies, The Sackler Trust and Garfield Weston Foundation.