

## BENEDICT CUMBERBATCH'S *HAMLET* RETURNS TO CINEMAS THIS OCTOBER

*'Benedict Cumberbatch is a blazing five-star Hamlet.'*  
Dominic Cavendish, *Daily Telegraph*

*'This is a Hamlet for a world on the edge: a warning from history, and a plea for new ideas from a new generation.'*  
Matt Trueman, *Variety*

*'One of the most visually and atmospherically stunning productions I've ever seen, of anything, ever.'*  
Andrzej Lukowski, *Time Out*



- This production of *Hamlet* is currently the fastest-selling show in London theatre history and the most-watched National Theatre Live broadcast
- National Theatre Live currently screens to over 2500 cinemas in 60 countries

For images click [here](#) (go to the NT Live folder - password is pressdownload)

For the trailer, click [here](#)

**Benedict Cumberbatch** plays the title role in Shakespeare's *Hamlet*, which returns to cinemas around the UK on Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> October as part of [National Theatre Live](#).

Originally staged at the Barbican Theatre in August 2015 and broadcast to cinemas in October of that year, this critically-acclaimed production became the fastest selling show in London theatre history for its twelve week sold out run in London. It is currently the most-viewed National Theatre Live broadcast to date with a global audience of nearly 800,000 people.

As a country arms itself for war, a family tears itself apart. Forced to avenge his father's death but paralysed by the task ahead, Hamlet rages against the impossibility of his predicament, threatening both his sanity and the security of the state.

Directed by Olivier award-winner Lyndsey Turner (*Chimerica*, *Posh*) and produced by Sonia Friedman Productions, the cast also includes Leo Bill (*The White Queen*, *Taboo*), Siân Brooke (*Sherlock*), Anastasia Hille (*The Fear*, *The Missing*), Ciarán Hinds (*Game of Thrones*, *Tinker Tailor Soldier Spy*), Kobna Holdbrook-Smith (*Doctor Strange*) and Jim Norton (*Father Ted*, *Straw Dogs*).

Launched in 2009, **National Theatre Live** broadcasts have been seen by an audience of over 7 million people at 2500 venues in 60 countries. The first season began in June 2009 with the acclaimed production of *Phédre* starring Oscar winner Helen Mirren. Recent broadcasts include *Angels in America* with Andrew Garfield and Russell Tovey, *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?* with Imelda Staunton and Conleth Hill, *Rosencrantz and Guildenstern Are Dead* with Daniel Radcliffe, *Hedda Gabler* with Ruth Wilson and Sir Ian McKellen and Sir Patrick Stewart in *No Man's Land*, Sky Arts is the UK sponsor for National Theatre Live.

**Hamlet** returns to cinemas across The UK as part of National Theatre Live on Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> October. To find your nearest cinema go to <http://ntlive.nationaltheatre.org.uk/>

- Ends -

For more information on NT Live please contact Elaine Jones  
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**Notes to Editors:**

**About the National Theatre:**

At the National Theatre, we make world-class theatre that is entertaining, challenging and inspiring, and we make it for everyone. In 2016-2017, the NT staged 26 productions and gave 2,585 performances at our home on the South Bank. The NT's award-winning programme had a UK paying audience of 1.8 million, 400,000 of which were NT Live audiences.

The work the National Theatre produces appeals to the widest possible audiences with new plays, musicals, re-imagined classics and new work for young audiences. The NT's work is seen in the West End, on tour throughout the UK and internationally, and in collaborations and co-productions with partners across the country. Through NT Live, we broadcast some of the best of British theatre to over 2,000 venues in 60 countries around the world.

Our extensive Learning programme offers talks, events and workshops for people of all ages, and reaches nationwide through programmes such as Connections, our annual festival of new plays for schools and youth theatres. In 2016-2017 there were 196,826 participations through the NT Learning events programme. Over 3,000 schools have signed up to the free streaming service, On Demand In Schools, since its launch in September 2015.

[nationaltheatre.org.uk](http://nationaltheatre.org.uk)

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#### **About Sonia Friedman Productions:**

Sonia Friedman Productions (SFP) is a West End and Broadway production company responsible for some of the most successful theatre productions in London and New York.

Since 1990, SFP has developed, initiated and produced over 160 new productions and together they have won a staggering 44 Olivier Awards including a record-breaking 14 at the 2014 Awards. This year, SFP won 9 Olivier Awards for *Harry Potter and the Cursed Child*, the most awards ever received by a single production in Oliviers' history. The company has also won 18 Tonys and 2 BAFTAs.

This year, Sonia Friedman OBE was awarded 'Producer of the Year' at the Stage Awards for the third year in a row as well as taking the number one spot in 'The Stage 100', becoming the first number one in the history of the compilation not to own or operate West End theatres and the first solo woman for almost 20 years.

West End and Broadway productions include: the UK premiere of *The Book of Mormon*, *Harry Potter and the Cursed Child*, the UK premiere of *Dreamgirls*, *Hamlet* starring Andrew Scott, 1984 at the Hudson Theatre, New York, *Our Ladies of Perpetual Succour*, *The Ferryman* Royal Court and Gielgud, *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?*, *Travesties*, *The Glass Menagerie*, *Nice Fish*, *A Christmas Carol*, *Funny Girl* West End and UK tour, *Farinelli and the King*, *Hamlet* starring Benedict Cumberbatch, 1984, *Sunny Afternoon* West End and UK tour, *Bend It Like Beckham*, *The Nether*, *The River*, *Electra*, *King Charles III*, *Shakespeare in Love*, *Ghosts*, *Mojo*, *Chimerica*, *Merrily We Roll Along*, *Old Times*, *Twelfth Night* and *Richard III*, *A Chorus of Disapproval*, *The Sunshine Boys*, *Hay Fever*, *Absent Friends*, *Top Girls*, *Betrayal*, *Much Ado About Nothing*, *Clybourne Park*, *The Children's Hour*, *A Flea in Her Ear*, *La Bête*, *All My Sons*, *Private Lives*, *Jerusalem*, *A Little Night Music*, *Legally Blonde*, *Othello*, *Arcadia*, *The Mountaintop*, *The Norman Conquests*, *A View From the Bridge*, *Dancing at Lughnasa*, *Maria Friedman: Re-Arranged*, *La Cage aux Folles*, *No Man's Land*, *The Seagull*, *Under the Blue Sky*, *That Face*, *Dealer's Choice*, *Hergés Adventures of Tintin*, *In Celebration*, *Boeing-Boeing*, *The Dumb Waiter*, *Rock 'n' Roll*, *Love Song*, *Faith Healer*, *Bent*, *Eh Joe*, *Donkeys' Years*, *Otherwise Engaged*, *Celebration*, *Shoot the Crow*, *As You Like It*, *The Home Place*, *Whose Life Is It Anyway?*, *By the Bog of Cats*, *The Woman in White*, *Guantanamo: 'Honor Bound to Defend Freedom'*, *Endgame*, *Jumpers*, *See You Next Tuesday*, *Hitchcock Blonde*, *Absolutely! {Perhaps}*, *Sexual Perversity in Chicago*, *Ragtime*, *Macbeth*, *What the Night Is For*, *Afterplay*, *Up for Grabs*, *A Day in the Death of Joe Egg*, *Noises Off*, *On an Average Day*, *A Servant to Two Masters*, *Port Authority*, *Spoonface Steinberg* and *Speed-The-Plow*.

Forthcoming productions include: *Ink* at the Duke of York's Theatre, London, *Farinelli and the King* starring Mark Rylance at the Belasco Theater, New York, and *Harry Potter and the Cursed Child* at the Lyric Theatre, New York.

For a full list of SFP's theatre credits, please visit [soniafriedman.com](http://soniafriedman.com).

#### **About the Barbican**

A world-class arts and learning organisation, the [Barbican](http://barbican.org.uk) pushes the boundaries of all major art forms including dance, film, music, theatre and visual arts. Its creative learning programme further underpins everything it does. Over 1.1 million people attend events annually, hundreds of artists and performers are featured, and more than 300 [staff](#) work onsite. The architecturally renowned centre opened in 1982 and comprises the Barbican Hall, the Barbican Theatre, the Pit, Cinemas One, Two and Three, Barbican Art Gallery, a second gallery The Curve, foyers and public spaces, a library, Lakeside Terrace, [a glasshouse conservatory](#), conference facilities and three restaurants. The City of London Corporation is the founder and principal funder of the Barbican Centre.

The Barbican is home to Resident Orchestra, [London Symphony Orchestra](#); Associate Orchestra, [BBC Symphony Orchestra](#); Associate Ensembles the [Academy of Ancient Music](#) and [Britten Sinfonia](#), Associate Producer [Serious](#), and Artistic Partner [Create](#). Our Artistic Associates include [Boy Blue Entertainment](#), [Cheek by Jowl](#), Deborah Warner, [Drum Works](#) and [Michael Clark Company](#). International Associates are [Royal Concertgebouw Orchestra of Amsterdam](#), [New York Philharmonic](#), [Los Angeles Philharmonic](#), [Gewandhaus Orchestra Leipzig](#) and [Jazz at Lincoln Center](#).

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