

National Theatre

Press Release

Hansard rehearsal images released

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Lyttelton Theatre

Hansard

a new play by Simon Woods

previews from 22 August, press night on 3 September continuing in the repertoire until 25 November. Hansard will be broadcast live to cinemas in the UK and internationally on 7 November.

It's a summer's morning in 1988 and Tory politician Robin Hesketh has returned home to the idyllic Cotswold house he shares with his wife of 30 years, Diana. But all is not as blissful as it seems. Diana has a stinking hangover, a fox is destroying the garden, and secrets are being dug up all over the place. As the day draws on, what starts as gentle ribbing and the familiar rhythms of marital scrapping quickly turns to blood-sport.

Alex Jennings is cast as Robin Hesketh and Lindsay Duncan as his wife, Diana.

Simon Godwin (*Anthony & Cleopatra*) directs Simon Woods witty and devastating portrait of the governing class. Set and costume design by Hildegard Bechtler, lighting by Jackie Shemesh, movement by Shelley Maxwell, music by Michael Bruce and sound design by Christopher Shutt.

Notes to editors

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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.

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 state 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.

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