

Press Release

The National Theatre launches National Theatre Collection, a new digital service, in partnership with Bloomsbury and ProQuest making British theatre available to the global education sector

The National Theatre today launches the **National Theatre Collection**, with two new partnerships with **Bloomsbury Publishing** and **ProQuest**.

This new service draws on 10 years of NT Live broadcasts, alongside high quality archive recordings never previously seen outside of the NT's Archive. The National Theatre Collection will make the best of British theatre available to libraries, schools, universities and the education sector around the world.

The National Theatre Collection will be available through Bloomsbury's award-winning digital library **Drama Online** and renowned EdTech leader ProQuest. It will transform the current landscape of theatre studies and digital learning by connecting students, researchers and teachers across the globe to world-class productions, archive materials and learning resources. The National Theatre Collection will be available via two models: a one-time payment for the full collection, or via an annual subscription.

The National Theatre Collection will go live in September with 15 plays, growing to 30 titles by March 2020, and will feature a wide range of works regularly studied at secondary/high school and degree level. Unique in its scope, the collection will encompass:

- Greek classics such as *Medea* by **Euripides**, in a contemporary adaptation by **Ben Power**, directed by **Carrie Cracknell** with **Helen McCrory** in the title role
- Vibrant modern stagings of **Shakespeare**, such as *Twelfth Night*, directed by **Simon Godwin**, with **Tamsin Greig** in the role of 'Malvolia'
- 20th century classics such as **Lorraine Hansberry's** *Les Blancs* and the Young Vic's production of **Lorca's** *Yerma*, adapted and directed by **Simon Stone** with **Billie Piper** in the title role
- Literary adaptations, such as **Mary Shelley's** *Frankenstein* adapted by **Nick Dear** and directed by **Danny Boyle**, with **Benedict Cumberbatch** and **Jonny Lee Miller**
- Comedies such as *She Stoops to Conquer* by **Oliver Goldsmith**, directed by **Jamie Lloyd** with a cast including **Cush Jumbo** and **Katherine Kelly** and *One Man, Two Guvvners* by **Richard Bean**, directed by **Nicholas Hytner**, and featuring **James Corden's** Tony Award-winning performance
- Alongside many more

In addition, UK schools will now be able to access a greater range of productions through the National Theatre Schools Collection on Drama Online. The productions available as part of the Schools Collection will complement the curriculum and be free for UK state-funded schools to access, together with learning resources, ensuring access to the arts as part of a rich and broad education for young people.

Lisa Burger, Joint Chief Executive of the National Theatre said, “We are delighted to launch National Theatre Collection today in partnerships with Bloomsbury and ProQuest. This new service will provide a comprehensive insight into British theatre-making and aims to transform learning in schools, libraries and universities across the globe in today’s increasingly digital age. We believe that accessibility to theatre is of paramount importance and by expanding our offer internationally, we are able to maintain our free streaming service to state schools across the UK, ensuring that drama remains an integral part of a broad education. We would like to express our continued gratitude to the rightsholders of these materials who have made this new service possible and helped us to share a rich and broad collection across the globe”.

Jenny Ridout, Global Head of Academic Publishing, Bloomsbury Publishing PLC said, “It is exciting to be taking our longstanding publishing relationship with the National Theatre forward in this landmark digital collaboration. The National Theatre Collection on our educational platform Drama Online will give students and scholars the world over the opportunity to study and enjoy a wealth of theatre productions alongside the playtexts and works of scholarship in one expertly curated digital space. This new partnership will ensure that world-class theatre has a lasting impact, inspiring the theatre makers and performers of the future. We are also delighted to be working with the NT in delivering their wider educational mission, supporting The National Theatre Schools Collection, which will ensure all UK state school pupils have free access to the work of their national theatre”.

Katie Birch, Director of Product Management at ProQuest said, “ProQuest is thrilled to partner with the National Theatre to help scholars everywhere access an incomparable wealth of diverse content. Many students are simply not able to invest the time and funds into traveling to see the National Theatre’s world-class productions. This new collaboration creates unprecedented opportunities for research, teaching and learning in the performing arts, all with the power of streaming video and primary sources.”

The National Theatre Collection is supported by the Stavros Niarchos Foundation, Fondation Hoffmann, the Sidney E. Frank Foundation and The Attwood Education Foundation.

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Production images can be downloaded [here](#).

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Notes to Editors

About 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. 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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About Bloomsbury:

Bloomsbury Publishing Plc is an award-winning, innovative and global independent publisher of fiction, non-fiction, children's education, specialist trade and academic publishing. The group's overall mission is to publish works of excellence and originality in print and digital formats, serving our communities of authors, customers and readers with the highest possible quality content that will inspire, educate and entertain. Our award wins across the group are testament to this focus on quality, be it the latest Booker prize-winning novelist, awards for book design and layout, the highest quality academic scholarship or industry recognition for our digital innovation. We aim to generate a lasting legacy for our products and can demonstrate long term commitment to the authors and content partners we serve.

About Drama Online:

Developed in partnership by Bloomsbury Publishing and Faber & Faber, Drama Online was created as a response to the need for a high-quality online research tool for drama and literature students, professors and teachers. Drama Online is a fast growing study resource which now features over 2,500 playtexts from 800 playwrights, 400 audio plays, 260 hours of video, and 330 scholarly books from leading theatre publishers and companies, offering a complete multimedia experience of theatre. It is the only resource to combine exclusively available playtext content and scholarly publications with filmed live performances, film adaptations and audio plays. www.dramaonlinelibrary.com

About ProQuest (<http://www.proquest.com>)

ProQuest supports the important work in the world's research and learning communities. The company curates six centuries of content – the world's largest collection of journals, ebooks, primary sources, dissertations, news and video – and builds powerful workflow solutions to help libraries acquire and grow collections that inspire extraordinary outcomes. ProQuest products and services are used in academic, K-12, public, corporate and government libraries in 150 countries.

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