# National Theatre announces star-studded repertory slate including Paul Mescal and Stormzy collaboration



The National Theatre in London has announced an impressive slate of new productions for the coming years, highlighted by actor Paul Mescal's dual appearances in repertory. Mescal, known for his roles in "Normal People" and "Gladiator II," will make his National Theatre debut in 2027 starring in two 20th-century classics: Arthur Miller’s "Death of a Salesman" and Tom Murphy’s "A Whistle in the Dark." Both productions will be part of the Lyttelton Theatre's return to a repertory model, where multiple shows will run concurrently with overlapping casts.

Mescal is set to play Biff Loman in "Death of a Salesman," a character central to the play’s exploration of familial and societal expectations. The production has not yet revealed who will portray Willy Loman, Biff's father, the pivotal character around whom the story revolves. The National Theatre's new artistic director, Indhu Rubasingham, explained that although the two plays differ in setting and cultural context, they share critical themes of dysfunctional family dynamics and the pressures imposed by society.

Alongside Mescal's double feature, the National will feature a host of notable actors in various new shows. Monica Barbaro, recently Oscar-nominated for her portrayal of Joan Baez in the Bob Dylan biopic "A Complete Unknown," will make her National debut in a revival of "Les Liaisons Dangereuses" alongside Aidan Turner and Lesley Manville. Another notable production includes the Irish classic "The Playboy of the Western World," starring Siobhán McSweeney, Nicola Coughlan from "Bridgerton," and Éanna Hardwicke.

A significant announcement from the theatre also involves a collaboration with renowned rap artist Stormzy. Though details remain closely guarded, Rubasingham shared that she pursued the partnership over several months before Stormzy visited the National Theatre and agreed to take part. The project will incorporate Stormzy’s music and is intended to create a unique theatrical experience. Stormzy himself commented on the partnership, stating he has "always been drawn to theatre" and is excited about the creative journey ahead with Rubasingham.

Other upcoming productions include "The Story," featuring Letitia Wright from "Black Panther," which tells the tale of a determined black journalist pursuing a critical lead. The National will also stage "Pride," a new musical based on the 2014 BAFTA-winning film, which narrates the true story of LGBT activists supporting the 1984 miners’ strike. Additionally, Rubasingham will direct a new interpretation of "Bacchae" by Nima Taleghani, set to open in September with a fusion of lyricism, music, and movement.

Among the family-oriented projects announced are a puppet-based adaptation of Rudyard Kipling’s "The Jungle Book," scheduled for next Christmas, and a return of Kendall Feaver’s adaptation of Noel Streatfeild’s "Ballet Shoes" following a successful 2024 festive season run. The theatre will also revive Shakespeare’s "Hamlet" in September, starring Hiran Abeysekera from "Life of Pi."

Further plans include a new work celebrating the 25th anniversary of the immersive theatre company Punchdrunk and a fresh adaptation of "Man and Boy," honouring 50 years since the death of its playwright Terence Rattigan.

Indhu Rubasingham took over the artistic directorship from Rufus Norris in December 2023 after a decade of his leadership. Her vision for the National Theatre involves innovative repertory programming and exciting interdisciplinary collaborations, such as the one with Stormzy, signaling a dynamic future for one of London's leading cultural institutions. The BBC is reporting these developments as the theatre prepares for a varied and star-studded season ahead.

Source: [Noah Wire Services](https://www.noahwire.com)

## Bibliography

1. <https://www.nationaltheatre.org.uk/whats-on/end/> - This page provides information about 'End,' the concluding play in David Eldridge's trilogy, directed by Rachel O’Riordan, scheduled to run at the National Theatre's Dorfman Theatre from November 2025.
2. <https://www.nationaltheatre.org.uk/whats-on/inter-alia/> - Details about 'Inter Alia,' a new play by Suzie Miller, directed by Justin Martin, featuring Rosamund Pike as an eminent High Court Judge, set to premiere at the National Theatre's Lyttelton Theatre in Summer 2025.
3. <https://www.nationaltheatre.org.uk/whats-on/the-estate/> - Information on 'The Estate,' a debut play by Shaan Sahota, directed by Daniel Raggett, starring Adeel Akhtar as an ambitious politician, scheduled to run at the National Theatre's Dorfman Theatre from July 2025.
4. <https://www.nationaltheatre.org.uk/whats-on/the-land-of-the-living/> - This page provides details about 'The Land of the Living,' a new play by David Lan, directed by Stephen Daldry, featuring Juliet Stevenson, set to run at the National Theatre's Dorfman Theatre from September 2025.
5. <https://www.nationaltheatre.org.uk/whats-on/alterations/> - Information about 'Alterations,' a comedy by Michael Abbensetts, directed by Lynette Linton, featuring Arinzé Kene and Cherrelle Skeete, scheduled to run at the National Theatre's Lyttelton Theatre from February to April 2025.
6. <https://www.nationaltheatre.org.uk/whats-on/here-we-are/> - Details about 'Here We Are,' Stephen Sondheim's final musical with a book by David Ives, directed by Joe Mantello, set to premiere at the National Theatre's Lyttelton Theatre from April to June 2025.
7. <https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/creqlgp47plo> - Please view link - unable to able to access data