Jack McCracken: a man of principle in a corrupt world. But not for long. Moments after taking over his father-in-law’s business he’s approached by a private detective armed with some compromising information.

Running Time: 2hrs 45mins, including 20min interval

Alan Ayckbourn and A Small Family Business

Since writing his first play, The Square Cat, in 1959, Alan Ayckbourn has become England’s most prolific playwright, having written 78 full-length plays so far (William Shakespeare is believed to have written 38). His best known works include Bedroom Farce, A Chorus of Disapproval, The Norman Conquests, and Relatively Speaking.

From 1972 until 2009, Ayckbourn was the Artistic Director of the Stephen Joseph Theatre in Scarborough, Yorkshire, where nearly all his work has been first seen. He was also an Associate Director of the National Theatre from 1986-88, and many of his plays have been staged there.

In 1987 A Small Family Business had its premiere in the Olivier – on the same stage on which you will see it played tonight. It won the Evening Standard Award for Best Play that year, and was later seen on Broadway.

CAST

Characters, in order of speaking

Jack McCracken
Poppy McCracken, his wife
Ken Ayres, Poppy’s father
Tina Ruston
Samantha McCracken
Jack and Poppy’s daughters
Roy Ruston, Tina’s husband
Cliff McCracken, Jack’s brother
Anita McCracken, his wife
Harriet Ayres, his wife
Yvonne Doggett, Harriet’s sister
Benedict Hough, a private investigator
Uberto Rivetti
Giorgio Rivetti
Orlando Rivetti
Vincenzo Rivetti
Lotario Rivetti
Italian businessmen brothers

CREATIVE TEAM

Director
Philip Franks
Designer
Nicholas Farrell
Lighting Designer
Kate Farley
Music
Paul Mealor
Fight Director
Nicola Young
Sound Designer
Paul Rodgerson
Company Voice Work
Steven Round
Staff Director
Dorothy Macfarlane
Production Manager
Jenny Gurr
Stage Manager
Emma Tallon
Deputy Stage Manager
Robert Cooper
Assistant Stage Managers
Monty Hildesley
Deputy Production Manager
Philip Franks
Project Draughting
Nicola Young
Digital Art
Kate Farley
Costume Supervisor
Nicola Young
Costume Show Buyer
Monty Hildesley
Wigs, Hair & Make-up Supervisor
Samantha McCracken
Prop Supervisor
Samantha McCracken
Prop Buyers
Samantha McCracken
Assistants to the Designer
Samantha McCracken
Production Photographer
Samantha McCracken

Please make sure all phones are switched off during the performance
Upcoming broadcasts

Broadcast live from the West End
17 July
Repeat screenings in selected venues

Bill Nighy and Carey Mulligan feature in the highly anticipated West End production of David Hare’s Skylight, directed by Stephen Daldry (The Audience), broadcast live from London’s West End.

On a bitterly cold London evening, schoolteacher Kyra Hollis (Carey Mulligan) receives an unexpected visit from her former lover, Tom Sergeant (Bill Nighy), a successful and charismatic restaurateur whose wife has recently died. As the evening progresses, the two attempt to rekindle their once passionate relationship only to find themselves locked in a dangerous battle of opposing ideologies and mutual desires.

Broadcast live from 4 September
Repeat screenings in selected venues

Terrible things breed in broken hearts.

Medea is a wife and a mother. For the sake of her husband, Jason, she’s left her home and borne two sons in exile. But when he abandons his family for a new life, Medea faces banishment and separation from her children. Cornered, she begs for one day’s grace.

It’s time enough. She exacts an appalling revenge and destroys everything she holds dear.

Helen McCrory (The Last of the Haussmans) takes the title role in Euripides’ powerful tragedy, in a new version by Ben Power, directed by Carrie Cracknell (A Doll’s House at the Young Vic and on Broadway), with music written by Will Gregory and Alison Goldfrapp.

National Theatre On Tour

Now on tour
★★★★★ ‘The funniest show on the planet’ Daily Mail

The National Theatre’s award-winning comedy One Man, Two Guvnors embarks on its biggest ever tour of the UK and Ireland from May 2014. With a cast including Gavin Spokes (One Man, Two Guvnors, London) in the lead role as Francis, Shaun Williamson (EastEnders and Extras) and Emma Barton (EastEnders), this acclaimed smash-hit is a glorious celebration of British comedy – a unique, laugh-out-loud mix of satire, songs, slapstick and glittering one-liners.

Visit onemantwoguvnors.com for a full list of tour venues.

On tour from December 2014
★★★★★ ‘Unmissable and astonishing’ Sunday Express

The National Theatre’s multi-award-winning production of The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time will begin a 31-city tour of the UK and Ireland in December 2014, opening at the Lowry in Salford. Meanwhile, the production will resume its West End run at the Gielgud Theatre on 24 June 2014.

Visit curiousonstage.com for a full list of tour venues and West End booking.