

King Lear

by William Shakespeare

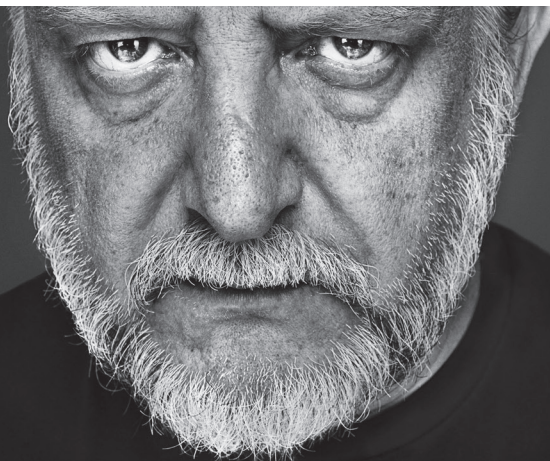


Photo (Simon Russell Beale) by Paul Stuart

An aged king decides to divide his kingdom between his three daughters, according to which of them is most eloquent in praising him. His favourite, Cordelia, says nothing. Lear's world descends into chaos.

Running Time: 3hrs 20mins, including 20min interval

CAST

Characters, in order of speaking

The Earl of Kent
The Earl of Gloucester
Edmund, *bastard son to Gloucester*
Lear, King of Britain
Goneril, *Lear's eldest daughter*
Regan, *Lear's second daughter*
Cordelia, *Lear's youngest daughter*
The Duke of Albany, *Goneril's husband*
The Duke of Cornwall, *Regan's husband*
King of France
The Duke of Burgundy, *suitor to Cordelia*
Edgar, *son to Gloucester*
Oswald, *Goneril's steward*
The Fool
An Officer
Curan
Cornwall's Servant
Old Man
Doctor
Nurse
Captain

STANLEY TOWNSEND
STEPHEN BOXER
SAM TROUGHTON
SIMON RUSSELL BEALE
KATE FLEETWOOD
ANNA MAXWELL MARTIN
OLIVIA VINALL
RICHARD CLOTHIER
MICHAEL NARDONE
ROSS WAITON
PAAPA ESSIEDU
TOM BROOKE
SIMON MANYONDA
ADRIAN SCARBOROUGH
GARY POWELL
DANIEL MILLAR
JONATHAN DRYDEN TAYLOR
COLIN HAIGH
HANNAH STOKELY
CASSIE BRADLEY
ROSS WAITON

Additional Company

SAIF AL-WARITH, JON ALAGOA, WAJ ALI, NATHAN AMPOFO, PAUL ANTHONY, JAMES S BARNES, MAT BETTERIDGE, NAVINDER BHATTI, JONATHAN BLAKELEY, KARL BROWN, SEBASTIAN CANGIGLIA, MATTHEW DARCY, AMIT DHUT, NOOR DILLAN-KNIGHT, DEXTER JERMAINE FLANDERS, MATT GARDNER, CAMERON HARRIS, JOHN HASTINGS, JAMES INKSON, KOJO KAMARA, OWEN LINDSAY, REBECCA MEYER, SHANE NOONE, JOSEPH OGELEKA, GARY PHOENIX, JAVIER RASERO, ANTHONY STEELE, ANDREW THOMPSON, MAXWELL TYLER and GRACE WILLIS

Director
Designer
Lighting Designer
Music
Projection Designer
Fight Director
Sound Designer
Company Voice Work
Staff Director
Production Manager
Casting
Stage Manager
Deputy Stage Manager
Assistant Stage Managers

Deputy Production Manager
Project Drafting
Digital Art
Costume Supervisor
Costume Show Buyer
Assistants to the Designer

Production Photographer

SAM MENDES
ANTHONY WARD
PAUL PYANT
PADDY CUNNEEN
JON DRISCOLL
TERRY KING
PAUL ARDITI
JEANNETTE NELSON
TIM HOARE
JIM LEAVER
WENDY SPON
DAVID MARSLAND
ANNA HILL
IAN FARMERY, POLLY ROWE, GARETH NEWCOMBE
(supported by the Dingemans Bursary)
MARTY MOORE
EMMA HENDRY, NICK MURRAY
DANIEL RADLEY BENNETT
YVONNE MILNES
SARAH HOLMES
DILARA MEDIN and ISABEL MUNOZ-NEWSOME
MARK DOUET

King Lear at the National Theatre

Thought to have been written between 1603 and 1606, *King Lear* is one of William Shakespeare's most renowned tragedies. The production you are about to watch, directed by Sam Mendes and featuring Simon Russell Beale in the title role, is the fourth in the National Theatre's history.

First, in the Olivier Theatre in 1986, David Hare directed Anthony Hopkins as King Lear, Douglas Hodge as Edmund, Bill Nighy as Edgar and Michael Bryant as Gloucester. A second production, in the Lyttelton Theatre, opened in 1990 – while the same company also appeared in *Richard III* in the same space. Deborah Warner directed Brian Cox as Lear, Ian McKellen as Kent (also playing Richard III), David Bradley as the Fool and Mark Strong as Burgundy.

The National Theatre's final *King Lear* of the twentieth century opened in the intimate Cottesloe Theatre in 1997. Directed by Richard Eyre, Ian Holm played Lear in a company which also included Timothy West as Gloucester, Anne-Marie Duff as Cordelia and Michael Bryant, who had featured in the 1986 production, returning to the play as Lear's Fool.

Sam Mendes first approached Simon Russell Beale about *King Lear* when he was playing Hamlet at the National Theatre in 2000, and this is the ninth time he has directed the actor on stage.

Coming up



Photo (Lila Treadwell) © Hugo Gaudin

The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time

based on the best-selling novel by Mark Haddon
adapted by Simon Stephens



'A beautiful, eloquent, dazzlingly inventive show.'
Evening Standard

Encore screenings from 22 May
Repeat screenings in selected venues



Original photo by Oliver Post

A Small Family Business

by Alan Ayckbourn



'A fast and furious farce.'
Daily Express

Broadcast live 12 June
Repeat screenings in selected venues



Photo (Helen McCrory) by Alison Bell

Medea

by Euripides
in a new version by Ben Power

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.

Broadcast live 4 September
Repeat screenings in selected venues

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Upcoming broadcasts

THE CURIOUS INCIDENT OF THE DOG IN THE NIGHT-TIME

BASED ON THE BEST-SELLING NOVEL BY
MARK HADDON
ADAPTED BY
SIMON STEPHENS



Photo: Julie Treadaway/© Hugo Claudon

The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time

based on the best-selling novel by Mark Haddon
adapted by Simon Stephens

Encore screenings from 22 May
Repeat screenings in selected venues

Following its smash-hit live broadcast in 2012, the National Theatre production of *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time* returns to cinemas. Winner of 7 Olivier Awards in 2013, including Best New Play.

Christopher, fifteen years old, has an extraordinary brain – exceptional at maths while ill-equipped to interpret everyday life. When he falls under suspicion of killing Mrs Shears' dog Wellington, he records each fact about the event in the book he is writing to solve the mystery of the murder. But his detective work, forbidden by his father, takes him on a frightening journey that upturns his world.

A Small Family Business

by Alan Ayckbourn

Broadcast live 12 June
Repeat screenings in selected venues

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. Jack's integrity fades away as he discovers his extended family to be thieves and adulterers, looting the business from their suburban homes. Rampant self-interest takes over and comic hysteria builds to a macabre climax.

Alan Ayckbourn's riotous exposure of entrepreneurial greed returns to the National Theatre where it had its premiere in 1987, winning the Evening Standard Theatre Award for Best Play.

A Small Family Business

by Alan Ayckbourn



Original photo by Oliver Post

Medea

by Euripides
in a new version by Ben Power

Broadcast live 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).

Medea

by Euripides
in a new version by Ben Power

Photo: Helen McCrory by Jason Ball