

Scene Changes

A series of lunchtime discussions looks at some of the developments and changes in theatre, both off and on stage, over the past 50 years.

1.05pm (50 mins), The Shed, £4/£3

Theatre Architecture: new builds and modern refurbishments

Tue 1 October

A panel examine how theatre architecture has changed over the last 50 years. With writer Gillian Darley (*Villages of Vision*); Theatre Consultant Richard Pilbrow, responsible for co-designing the Olivier Drum Revolve; and architects Steve Tompkins, who is currently working on NT Future, and Keith Williams, whose recent projects include the Marlowe and Unicorn Theatres.

Theatre Sound: from noises off to soundscapes

Wed 2 October

The role of the sound designer, how technology has advanced the industry, and how it adapts to other onstage developments. With Rob Barnard, who has worked at the National for many years including as Head of Sound; and sound designers Gareth Fry (*Waves*), Paul Groothuis (*Mary Poppins*) and Adrienne Quartly (*Fräulein Julie*).

Theatre Administration: marketing, ticketing, fundraising and access

Fri 4 October

How pricing and increased inclusivity has affected the audience experience. With now Deputy Director at the National Portrait Gallery, Pim Baxter; Tony Heaton Chief Executive of Shape, a disability-led arts organisation; the

General Manager of Sheffield Theatres, Sarah Nicholson; and Anne Torreggiani, CEO of Audiences London.

This Platform will have live speech-to-text transcription provided by STAGETEXT

Theatre Design: from stage flats to video walls

Mon 7 October

In a discussion on the development of theatre design and how technological advances will affect what's possible onstage, we hear from those who have experienced and adapted to the changes and those who have been influenced by them. With cinematographer and projection designer Jon Driscoll (*ENRON*), and designers William Dudley (*The Mysteries*), Jon Bausor (*Silence*), and Rae Smith (*War Horse*).

Theatre Lighting: illuminating technological developments

Tue 8 October

A panel look at the changing role of the Lighting Designer, and how technology has advanced theatre lighting and adapted to other onstage developments. Guests include lighting designers Paule Constable (*War Horse*), Richard Pilbrow (*Three Sisters*) and Paul Pyant (*The Wind in the Willows*).

Theatre and Gender: steps towards greater parity

Fri 11 October

Examining the achievements, developments and challenges that have faced women working in theatre over the past 50 years, focusing primarily on writers and directors. Guests include former Director of the Royal Court, Dominic Cooke; the literary agent Mel Kanyon and playwright Bryony Lavery (*Frozen*).

Theatre Venues: site specific, found spaces and outdoor

Mon 14 October

A panel look at how the use of venues for theatre has evolved over the past 50 years, drawing on their own experiences, and how future technology will affect where art happens. With Punchdrunk Artistic Director Felix Barrett; co-director of Forest Fringe, Andy Field; co-founder of ArtsAdmin, Judith Knight; and Jenny Sealey, co-Director of the Paralympic Opening Ceremony and Artistic Director of Graae Theatre Company

Theatre and Education: from TIE to lifelong learning

Tue 15 October

An exploration of the birth of TIE companies and Education departments in theatres, and the Connections festival. With Kevin Cahill (CEO of Comic Relief); Helen Nicholson (Professor of Drama and Theatre, Royal Holloway); director Lyndsey Turner (*Chimerica*); and playwright Roy Williams (*Clubland*).

Theatre Criticism: from broadsheet to blog

Fri 18 October

The changing role of the critic in theatre in the last 50 years, print versus internet, and the use of social media. With Michael Billington of the *Guardian*; the Arts Editor of the *East Anglian Daily Times*, Andrew Clarke; blogger and arts journalist Catherine Love; and Mark Sherrington of *The Sunday Express* and *The Stage*.

Theatre Music: from background music to composition

Mon 21 October

Looking at music in theatre in the last 50 years, the use of technology, and the composer as sound designer. Guests include Matthew Scott, composer (*Private Lives*) and Head of Music at NT; and composers Isobel Waller-Bridge (*Neville's Island*), and Stephen Warbeck (*This House*).

A special series of talks and debates celebrating 50 years of theatre

National Theatre

50

Platforms

Adrian Lester Alan Bennett Alex Jennings Anna Carteret Brenda Blethyn Charles Kay Clio Rowe
David Bradley David Hare Edward Petherbridge Flora Shaw Frances de la Tour Dawn Gwanger
Imelda Staunton Jim Carter Joan Plowright Julie Walters Juliet Stevenson Kenneth Cranham
Lesley Manville Monique Elie Nancy Carroll Nicholas Hyman Patricia Hodge Penelope Wilton
Richard Eyre Rory Kinnear Sara Kestelman Simon Russell Beale Trevor Nunn Zoë Wanamaker

Programme details are published in good faith but changes may occasionally be necessary and artists appear subject to availability.

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nationaltheatre.org.uk

Waterloo, Southwark, Embankment
national.theatre.london nationaltheatre



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nationaltheatre.org.uk/50

Platforms

This autumn we mark our half-century with a short season of events celebrating the remarkable people and plays that have made the NT one of the most cherished and creative British institutions. Our Platforms programme explores the sweeping changes that have taken place across the theatre sector in the last 50 years, and also looks forward to the next 50 years.

National Histories

Ten simple questions, 50 years' worth of possible answers. We ask key NT figures the who, what, when, where and why of their recollections of the National.

1 – 25 October, £4/£3



Nancy Carroll and Alex Jennings
Tue 1 October, 6pm, The Shed

David Bradley and Juliet Stevenson
Wed 2 October, 6pm, The Shed



Jim Carter and Imelda Staunton
Fri 4 October, 6pm, The Shed

Anna Carteret and Edward Petherbridge
Mon 7 October, 6pm, The Shed



Sara Kestelman and Adrian Lester
Tue 8 October, 6pm, The Shed

Marianne Elliott and Clive Rowe
Fri 11 October, 6pm, The Shed



Patricia Hodge and Trevor Nunn
Mon 14 October, 6pm, Olivier

David Hare and Penelope Wilton
Tue 15 October, 6pm, Olivier



Gawn Grainger and Zoë Wanamaker
Wed 16 October, 6pm, Olivier

Nicholas Hytner and Rory Kinnear
Fri 18 October, 6pm, Olivier



Kenneth Cranham and Lesley Manville
Mon 21 October, 3pm, The Shed

Charles Kay and Fiona Shaw
Mon 21 October, 6pm, Olivier



Joan Plowright
Tue 22 October, 6pm, Olivier



Alan Bennett and Frances de la Tour
Wed 23 October, 6pm, Olivier



Richard Eyre and Julie Walters
Thu 24 October, 6pm, Lyttelton

Brenda Blethyn and Simon Russell Beale
Fri 25 October, 6pm, Lyttelton

Future Questions

Looking ahead to the challenges facing theatre over the next 50 years.
5.45pm (1hr), Lyttelton, £4/£3

Writing

Wed 30 October

Will theatre continue to inspire writers to produce work for the stage in an increasingly digital age? Will the plays on our stages now be performed in 50 years time? What tone will be set by the next generation of writers?

Funding

Mon 4 November

Will public funding for the theatre become a thing of the past? Will an increased reliance on philanthropy have an effect on the work?

Regional Theatre

Tue 5 November

What is the future for regional theatre in the UK? How will regional theatres have to work to ensure their survival?

Check the website for guest updates:
nationaltheatre.org.uk/50

Photos

Ross Fergusson, Andrew Ogilvy, Mark Keates, Sheila Burnell, Dore Petherbridge, Sarah Fitzgerald, Joseph Strick, Simon Annand, John Haynes, Catherine Ashmore, Hilarley Brown, Sophie Baker, Sheila Rock, Johan Persson, Catherine Ashmore, Nick Eggs, Carole Lutimer, John McKay, Chris Arthur, Catherine Ashmore, Sven Andersson, Andy Goble, Charles Carter