

# UP NEXT

## **NATIONAL THEATRE UP NEXT GALA RAISES £1.7 MILLION TO SUPPORT NATIONAL THEATRE TOGETHER CAMPAIGN**

- **National Theatre Director, Rufus Norris, hosted a fundraising gala last night in the Lyttelton theatre with stars from stage and screen**
- **Proceeds raised go towards the National Theatre Together Campaign raising vital funds for the NT and celebrating the brilliant work that we create together: with theatre-makers and communities, for young people and audiences everywhere**
- **The evening featured a specially commissioned performance by Rufus Norris and Clint Dyer, Deputy Artistic Director of the National Theatre, showcasing the talent of the theatre-making community with an exciting display of the skills of the National Theatre's Technical Department**
- **Auction lots sold on the night included Afternoon Tea with Lord Anthony Bridgerton and members of the cast, an exclusive Tour of the Van Gogh Museum and a round of golf at Beaverbrook with Damian Lewis**

Last night the National Theatre Up Next Gala returned to the NT for the first time since 2019, celebrating the extraordinary talent of our theatre-makers and showcasing the impact that these brilliant craftspeople have every day on the lives of people across the UK and around the world. All funds raised at the Gala will go directly into supporting the work of the National Theatre Together Campaign.

**Rufus Norris, Director of the National Theatre**, said: "After the challenging and tumultuous last two years, it is more important than ever that we recognise the impact theatre can have on everyone. This year the Up Next Gala showcased the talent of those hit hardest during the pandemic, the theatre-makers and freelancers, without whom the brilliance and magic of theatre would not be possible. Fundraising has been more vital to the NT than ever due to the impact of

the pandemic, and the National Theatre Together campaign supports all the work we deliver, including our current Schools Tours – reaching over 15,000 pupils across the country - and our productions on the South Bank, in the West End and on tour in partner theatres right across the UK. We are delighted to have raised £1.7 million enabling us to continue in our work to ensure a bright and creative future.”

The evening began with a Nyetimber drinks reception, after which Social Pantry Catering served a bespoke dinner paired with wine provided by award-winning fine wine specialists, Berry Bros & Rudd on the stage of the Lyttelton theatre.

The evening featured performances specially commissioned for the Up Next Gala, including a scene devised by and performed by Rufus Norris and Clint Dyer. Other performers included Michaela Coel, Rosalie Craig, Kat Ronney, George Ikediashi, Alex Jennings, Stephen Mangan and Lesley Manville.

Once-in-a-lifetime experiences were purchased in an auction hosted by UK Chairman at Sotheby's Lord Harry Dalmeny. Auction lots included Lunch with Lord Bridgerton & members of the cast, a round of Golf with Damien Lewis at Beaverbrook, a Dinner with the Queen & Carson (Imelda Staunton and Jim Carter), a wellness retreat in Sardinia at the 5-star Palazzo Fiuggi, an exclusive visit of the PACCAR Foundation Conservation Studio and tour of the Van Gogh Museum, tutored tasting and lunch for 8 at the Nyetimber Vineyard, and a once-in-a-lifetime trip to the Hendrick's Gin Palace.

**ENDS**

Images can be downloaded [here](#)

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**With thanks to:** Mark Pigott Family, Palazzo Fiuggi and Forte Village, The Conservatorium Hotel Amsterdam, William Grant & Sons, Nyetimber, Berry Bros & Rudd and Fortnum & Mason

### **About the National Theatre**

The National Theatre's mission is to make world-class theatre, for everyone.

The NT creates and shares unforgettable stories with audiences across the UK and around the world. On its own stages, on tour, in schools, on cinema screens and streaming at home, it strives to be accessible, inclusive and sustainable.

The National Theatre empowers artists and craftspeople to make world-leading work, investing in talent and developing new productions with a wide range of theatre companies at its New Work Department.

Our nation thrives on fresh talent and new ideas, so the National Theatre works with young people and teachers right across the UK through performance, writing and technical programmes to ignite the creativity of the next generation.

Together with communities, the NT creates ambitious works of participatory theatre in deep partnerships that unite theatres and local organisations – showing that nothing brings us together like theatre.

The National Theatre needs your support to shape a bright, creative future.

For more information, please visit [nationaltheatre.org.uk](https://nationaltheatre.org.uk)

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