National Theatre to stage a new play by Jack Thorne, *The Motive and the Cue*, directed by Sam Mendes in Spring 2023, a co-production with Neal Street Productions

A new play by Jack Thorne, *The Motive and the Cue*, directed by Sam Mendes will open in the Lyttelton theatre in Spring 2023. The production is a co-production with Neal Street Productions following the ongoing success of *The Lehman Trilogy* which Mendes also directed.

Originally commissioned by Neal Street, this fierce and funny new play is set during rehearsals for the acclaimed 1964 Broadway production of *Hamlet*, with Sir John Gielgud directing Richard Burton, newly married to Elizabeth Taylor, as Hamlet. Based on the memoirs of two members of the cast (William Redfield and Richard L Sterne), it explores the politics of a rehearsal room, the relevance of theatre in a world from which it can sometimes seem removed, and the relationship – and tension – between art and celebrity as two titans of British theatre grapple with a classic play.

Set Design by Es Devlin, Costume Design by Katrina Lindsay, Lighting Design by Jon Clark, Sound Design by Paul Arditti, with composition by Benjamin Kwasi Burrell.

Casting and dates to be announced.

**Ends**

For more information and images contact Ruth Greenwood, Head of Press: rgreenwood@nationaltheatre.org.uk
The Motive and the Cue is a recipient of an Edgerton Foundation New Plays Award.

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.

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About Neal Street Productions
Founded 2003, Neal Street produces film, television and theatre under the leadership of Sam Mendes, Pippa Harris, Caro Newling and Nicolas Brown.

Film: 1917, Away We Go, Revolutionary Road, Jarhead, Things We Lost in the Fire, Starter for Ten, Stuart a Life Backwards, Blood, currently in production Empire of Light.

Television: Call the Midwife, Britannia, Penny Dreadful, Penny Dreadful City of Angels, Informer, The Hollow Crown.


Theatre West End: currently, The Lehman Trilogy and Walking with Ghosts. Formerly, premieres by Ben Power, David Hare, James Graham, Lucy Prebble, David Greig, David Lindsay-Abaire, Richard Greenberg, Samuel Adamson, Sean Foley; revivals Merrily We Roll Along, Sunday in the Park with George.

Also, The Bridge Project 2010 - 2012 presenting Shakespeare and Chekhov in fifteen worldwide cities, made in collaboration with Brooklyn Academy & the Old Vic.

Mendes and Newling established the Donmar Warehouse producing 70 productions 1992 - 2002. Newling oversees Neal Street theatre slate and was awarded an OBE in the Queen's Birthday Honours List 2018 for Services to Drama.

Of multiple awards garnered for productions made since its inception, Neal Street has been specifically recognised with three Tony Awards, two Olivier Awards and two BAFTA’s.

In 2015 Neal Street moved under the umbrella of parent company All3Media, owned jointly between Discovery Communications and Liberty Global.