

National Theatre

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National Theatre announces a new, free exhibition in collaboration with It's Nice That *The Reset: three hours, three photographers, three theatres*



Link to the images is available [here](#)

The National Theatre and **It's Nice That**, a leading global platform for the creative community, have collaborated to bring a new photography exhibition *The Reset: three hours, three photographers, three theatres* to the Lyttelton Lounge from June 2024.

Backstage crews and stagehands are rarely in the spotlight, but that's all about to change in a new photography exhibition – *The Reset: three hours, three photographers, three theatres*. The exhibition will feature photos taken by three photographers – **Laura McCluskey**, **Max Miechowski** and **Callum Su** – of what is called the 'reset', or the hours from 4.30pm leading up to a performance when the backstage teams prepare the stage.

In the hours before the audience arrives in the theatre, the stage is a hive of activity. Microphones are turned on and tested. Sound is run through each speaker and every light checked to ensure

that it is working and in the correct position. Any automated scenery is checked. Costumes are set on their rails and props tables are checked. The stage is swept and mopped. For technical teams, this time is crucial to ensure everything is ready for a smooth show.

The photographers captured the resets for *Underdog: The Other Other Brontë* in the Dorfman theatre, *Nye* in the Olivier theatre and *London Tide* in the Lyttelton theatre. The images exhibited will spotlight the people working behind the scenes and the vital skills needed to deliver the shows to a consistently high standard every night. The different approaches the photographers bring to capturing the pace and energy of the reset will provide a fascinating insight into this rarely explored time in the theatre.

Kate Varah, Executive Director and Co-Chief Executive at the National Theatre, said '*We are thrilled to be working with It's Nice That and these photographers to spotlight our backstage and off-stage teams. There are so many hidden highly skilled roles within theatre that deserve the spotlight. We hope this collaboration will inspire the next generation of talent to find out more about the world behind the stage.*'

Ends

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For images, click [here](#)

Laura McCluskey

Laura McCluskey is a London-based photographer, director and visual artist working between fashion, portrait and documentary projects. Often capturing real-life and emotion as it happens, she finds inspiration in the beauty of the everyday and in human connection.

Her first book *Blue Above* was published by Guest Editions in 2019. The project features improvised dance to explore emotional turbulence. Since then, she has released a number of printed zines and films, and she regularly collaborates with performers.

Laura McCluskey's work has been exhibited in shows at Tate Modern, Palm Photo Prize and Portrait of Britain.

Max Miechowski

Max Miechowski is a British photographer based in London. With a focus on long-form projects, his practice centres on themes of connection and community. Often rooted in portraiture, his work explores the intricate, at times conflicting, relationships between people and place.

His work has been exhibited widely, within both group and solo exhibitions. These include the National Portrait Gallery, London (2019, 2022); Copeland Gallery, London (2019); Gallerie Joseph at Paris Photo, Paris (2019); Have a Butchers Gallery, London (2023); Les Champs Libres, Rennes (2024).

Callum Su

Callum Su is a British-Chinese photographer born in Manchester. He graduated with First-Class Honours Degree in photography at Nottingham Trent University. Since then has taught darkroom and photography in New York, exhibited in shows across the UK and assisted fashion and commercial photographers in the industry. Callum currently lives and work in London.

Callum has a sensitive approach in exploring landscapes, details and portraiture. He uses photography as a way to document his voyage outwards into a new experience and inwards into a new consciousness, often suggesting a narrative behind his subjects.

It's Nice That

It's Nice That is a global media company inspiring the creative community. With over 17 years at the heart of art and design, It's Nice That has grown to reach over 8.3 million people every month. They share stories, offer insights and bring people together to help them make the most of their creativity.

Visit itsnicethat.com for more information.

About the National Theatre

The National Theatre makes theatre that entertains and inspires using its creativity, expertise and unique reach. The National Theatre shares unforgettable stories with millions of audience members across the UK and around the world – on its own stages, on tour, in schools, on cinema screens and streaming at home.

World-leading artists make their best work at the National Theatre with the widest possible audience and impact. The National Theatre invests in talent and innovation on stage and off, taking seriously its role as the nation's theatre. Of the new productions developed each year with a wide range of theatre companies, a third of that research and development resource is dedicated to shows staged at theatres outside London.

Through touring our work to local theatres and schools and nationwide education and community programmes, we are active in 71 of the 109 levelling up priority areas in the UK. A registered charity with deeply embedded social purpose, the National Theatre works with hundreds of schools and communities across the UK to fire imagination and inspire creativity, and to develop skills and pathways for careers in theatre.

For more information, please visit nationaltheatre.org.uk

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