

## Press Release

The National Theatre of Great Britain's  
Olivier and Tony Award®-Winning production

# WAR HORSE

to tour Australia in 2020

**War Horse**, the unforgettable theatrical event from the National Theatre of Great Britain, based on **Michael Morpurgo's** beloved novel, will return to Australia in 2020. With seasons at Regent Theatre, Melbourne from 10 January; Lyric Theatre, Sydney from 15 February; and Crown Theatre, Perth from 24 March, Australians on both sides of the country get the chance to experience this breathtaking production.

The winner of more than 25 international awards, including the Tony Award® for Best Play on Broadway, **War Horse** is directed by **Marianne Elliott** and **Tom Morris**. **Nick Stafford's** adaptation of **Michael Morpurgo's** remarkable story of courage, loyalty and friendship tells the story of a young boy called Albert and his horse Joey, set against the backdrop of the First World War. This powerfully moving and imaginative drama is a show of phenomenal inventiveness, filled with stirring music and songs, featuring ground-breaking puppetry work by South Africa's **Handspring Puppet Company**, which brings breathing, galloping horses to life on stage.

**War Horse**, which has now been seen by over eight million people worldwide, received its world premiere on 9 October 2007 at the National Theatre where it played for two seasons before opening at the New London Theatre in March 2009. Since then, **War Horse** has been seen in 97 cities in 11 countries, including productions on Broadway, in Toronto and Berlin, with touring productions in the UK and Ireland, North America, the Netherlands, Belgium and China.

At the outbreak of World War One, Joey, young Albert's beloved horse, is sold to the Cavalry and shipped to France. He's soon caught up in enemy fire, and fate takes him on an extraordinary journey, serving on both sides before finding himself alone in no man's land. Albert, who remained on his parents' Devon farm, cannot forget Joey. Though still not old enough to enlist he embarks on a treacherous mission to find him and bring him home.

**Michael Morpurgo** said: "**War Horse** is galloping back to Australia. **War Horse** is not my story. It is a story of the horses and men who went from all over the world to the First World War. It happens to be set in Devon in England, because that is where I live, where some 40 years ago I met an old man in the pub in my village who had been a young cavalry soldier in that terrible war.

"Stories know no barriers. Distance does not matter. History does matter. This is a story of us, of all of us. This is why I am so so pleased that the National Theatre's uniquely wonderful play of **War Horse** is soon to be seen again in Australia. Joey belongs with you, as much as he does to us. He's that horse, that one horse, that came home."

**War Horse** is directed by **Marianne Elliott** and **Tom Morris**, designed by **Rae Smith**, with puppet direction, design and fabrication by **Basil Jones** and **Adrian Kohler** for Handspring Puppet Company, lighting by **Paule Constable**, and movement and horse choreography by **Toby Sedgwick**, with video design by **Leo Warner** and **Mark Grimmer** for 59 Productions, songmaker **John Tams**, music by **Adrian Sutton** and sound by **Christopher Shutt**.

**Katie Henry** is the UK & International Tour Director and **Craig Leo** is the Associate Puppetry Director. **Charlotte Peters** is the Associate Director and **Matthew Forbes** is the Associate Puppetry Director. They are joined by Resident Director, **Charlie Kenber** and Resident Puppetry Director, **Gareth Aled**.

The production has a 34 strong cast: **Kofi Aidoo-Appiah** (Tophorn head), **Rianna Ash** (Joey head), **Huw Blainey** (Geordie), **Matthew Booth** (Allan/Brandt/Manfred), **Jo Castleton** (Rose Narracott), **Jonathan Cobb** (Goose/Schnabel), **Colin Connor** (Ted), **Ben Cutler** (Nicholls), **Khalid Daley** (David/Baby Joey), **Zoe Halliday** (Tophorn hind), **Danny Hendrix** (Billy/Heine/Klebb), **Alex Hooper** (Joey heart), **Lewis Howard** (Joey/Tophorn heart), **William Ilkley** (Arthur), **Michael Jean-Marain** (Tophorn heart), **Andrew Keay** (Joey/Tophorn hind), **Clive Keene** (Greig/ Sergeant Fine), **Natalie Kimmerling** (Emilie), **Kiran Landa** (Paulette/Baby Joey), **Mark Matthews** (Joey hind), **Scott Miller** (Albert Narracott), **Katharine Moraz** (Annie Gilbert), **Ben Murray** (Songman), **Christopher Naylor** (Friedrich/Priest), **Samuel Parker** (Joey/Tophorn hind), **Tom Quinn** (Joey/Tophorn head), **Gareth Radcliffe** (Carter/Strauss), **Domonic Ramsden** (Joey/Tophorn heart), **Jack Simpson** (Klausen), **Tom Stacy** (Joey/Tophorn head), **Elizabeth Stretton** (Matron Callaghan/Baby Joey), **Kenton Thomas** (Bone/Schweyk/Vet Martin), **Charlie Tighe** (Stewart/Heine/Ludwig) and **Matthew Trevannion** (Sergeant Thunder).

**War Horse** is presented in Australia by Lunchbox Theatrical Productions and the National Theatre.

## ENDS

For further information about *War Horse*, contact:

TS Publicity

Tatia Sloley | [tatia@tspublicity.com.au](mailto:tatia@tspublicity.com.au) | +61 403 305 395

Mary Thompson | [mary@tspublicity.com.au](mailto:mary@tspublicity.com.au) | +61 415 745 910

## Ticketing Information

Regent Theatre, Melbourne from 10 January 2020

Lyric Theatre, Sydney from 15 February 2020

Crown Theatre, Perth from 24 March 2020

Tickets on sale Friday 28 June at 4pm for Melbourne and Sydney at [warhorseonstage.com.au](http://warhorseonstage.com.au)

Join the waitlist for Perth at [warhorseonstage.com.au](http://warhorseonstage.com.au)

## [Production images and vision are available here](#)

- **About the National Theatre of Great Britain**

The National Theatre's mission is to make world class theatre that's entertaining, challenging and inspiring – and to make it for everyone. It aims to reach the widest possible audience and to be as inclusive, diverse and national as possible with a broad range of productions that play in London, on tour around the UK, on Broadway and across the globe. The National Theatre's extensive UK-wide learning and participation programme supports young people's creative education through performance and writing programmes like Connections, New Views and Let's Play. Its major new initiative Public Acts creates extraordinary acts of theatre and community; the first Public Acts production was 2018's *Pericles*. The National Theatre extends its reach through digital programmes including NT Live, which broadcasts some of the best of British theatre to over 2,500 venues in 65 countries, and the free streaming service On Demand In Schools, used by nearly 60% of UK state secondary schools. The National Theatre invests in the future of theatre by developing talent, creating bold new work and building audiences, partnering with a range of UK theatres and theatre companies.

For more information, please visit <https://www.nationaltheatre.org.uk/>

@nationaltheatre

@warhorseonstage