



PRESS RELEASE

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NT LIVE: NATION
**A live performance from the UK's National Theatre
broadcast to 330 cinemas worldwide including
The Historic Capitol Theatre
in the Cleveland Street District in Downtown Clearwater
on Sunday, February 14 at 2 pm**

Travelex supports NT Live internationally

*'The National's eagerly awaited new family show...
will enthrall adults and children alike'* - Daily Telegraph, UK

Tickets are on sale now

January 8, 2010, Clearwater, FL – The pilot season of *NT Live*, the new initiative by the UK's National Theatre to broadcast live performances of plays onto cinema screens around the world, continues with the screening of the spectacular family production of Terry Pratchett's *NATION*, which will be filmed live at the National Theatre in London on January 30. This exclusive debut screening will be at the historic Capitol Theatre in the Cleveland Street District in Downtown Clearwater on Sunday, February 14 at 2 pm. Tickets are on sale now at the Ruth Eckerd Hall Ticket Office.

Adapted by Mark Ravenhill and directed by Melly Still, *NATION* is an exhilarating adventure story of survival and self-discovery featuring live music, dance and extraordinary puppets, suitable for ages 10 and above. *NATION* follows the hugely successful broadcasts of *Phèdre* and *All's Well That Ends Well*.

NT Live performances are filmed live at the National Theatre in high definition and screened to more than 330 cinemas and performing arts centers worldwide. The performances at the National are nominated in advance to allow cameras greater freedom in the auditorium. *NT Live* screenings in international venues, including the USA, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, South Africa and Europe, are supported by Travelex, the world's foreign exchange and business payments specialist.

NATION is set in a parallel world in 1860. Two teenagers, Mau and Daphne, are thrown together by a tsunami that has destroyed Mau's village and left Daphne shipwrecked on his South Pacific island, thousands of miles from home. Mau wears next to nothing, Daphne a long white dress; neither speaks the other's language; somehow they must learn to survive.

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As starving refugees gather, Daphne delivers a baby, milks a pig, brews beer and does battle with a mutineer. Mau fights cannibal Raiders, discovers the world is round and questions the reality of his tribe's fiercely patriarchal gods. Together they come of age, overseen by a foul-mouthed parrot, as they discard old doctrine to forge a new Nation.

Terry Pratchett is one of the UK's best-selling authors, whose work includes the Discworld series of 36 novels. In total, his books have sold over 60 million copies in thirty-seven languages. Terry Pratchett has won numerous literary awards including the Carnegie Medal; he was knighted in the 2009 New Year's Honours List. *Nation* was published in 2008 and was longlisted for The Guardian Children's Fiction Prize for 2009.

The cast of *NATION* is led by Gary Carr (as Mau) and Emily Taafe (as Daphne), and also includes: Gaye Brown, Paul Chahidi, Elaine Claxton, Adrian Decosta, Mike Denman, Lorna Gayle, Howard Gossington, Tony Hasnath, Robert Hastie, Michelle Lukes, Nick Malinowski, Michael Mears, Itxaso Moreno, Al Nedjari, Bhasker Patel, Nicholas Rowe, Sirine Saba, Craig Stein, David Sterne, Jason Thorpe and Nancy Wei George.

The Olivier Theatre production is directed by Melly Still, who also designs the set with Mark Friend; with costumes by Dinah Collin, lighting by Paul Anderson, projections by Jon Driscoll, music by Adrian Sutton and sound by Paul Arditti.

General admission tickets priced at \$20.00 are available at the Ruth Eckerd Hall Ticket Office located at 1111 McMullen Booth Road in Clearwater, by calling 727.791.7400 or by logging onto www.rutheckerdhall.com. The Ruth Eckerd Hall Ticket Office is open Monday through Saturday from noon to 6 pm. Tickets will also be available at the Capitol Theatre Ticket Office one hour prior to show time. The historic Capitol Theatre is located at 405 Cleveland Street, Clearwater, FL 33767.

The National Theatre

The National Theatre, founded in 1963, and established on the South Bank of the River Thames in London in 1976, has three theatres – the Olivier, the Lyttelton and the Cottesloe. It presents an eclectic mix of new plays and classics, with seven or eight productions in repertory (sharing the stages) at any one time. The National aims constantly to re-energise the great traditions of the British stage and to expand the horizons of audiences and artists alike, and aspires to reflect in its repertoire the diversity of the nation's culture. With its extensive program of Platform performances, backstage tours, foyer music, exhibitions and free outdoor entertainment the National recognizes that the theatre doesn't begin and end with the rise and fall of the curtain. By touring – and now, *NT Live* - it shares its work with audiences in the UK and abroad. The first *NT Live* season aims to capture the diversity of the National's work: a classic tragedy, a Shakespeare, a family show (*Nation*) and a new play.

NT Live is funded in partnership with Arts Council England and NESTA, and supported internationally by Travelex. *NT Live Nation* is supported by The Michael Marks Charitable Trust. *NT Live* is supported by The Northern Rock Foundation. *NT Live* events are distributed outside the U.K. through New York-based BY Experience, Inc., the pioneer of global live "alternative content" digital cinema events. For more information, visit: www.byexperience.net.

For a full list of participating locations and ticket information visit www.ntlive.com For further information or photos about *NT Live* and *NATION*, please contact Mary Parker, National Theatre on 0044 (0)20 7452 3234 or mparker@nationaltheatre.org.uk.

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Notes for editors

TRAVELEX

*NT Live is supported internationally by **Travelex**. **Lloyd Dorfman, Chairman of Travelex**, says: "We're enormously proud to be part of NT Live – the result of a seven-year partnership with the National Theatre. Day-to-day, Travelex is committed to helping connect people and businesses across the globe. We really hope that this initiative makes world class theatre accessible on a truly worldwide scale."*

Travelex is the world's foreign exchange and business payments specialist. With operations spanning 35 countries, the business operates three divisions focusing on retail foreign exchange, crossborder business payments and outsourcing partnerships.

The company serves a customer every other second and, through an expansive network covering 115 airports, has a global annual audience of 1.8 billion people.

Ruth Eckerd Hall and the Ruth Eckerd Hall Foundation are 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organizations.

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