

HAMMER THEATRE CENTER PRESENTS
THE BEST OF WEST END THEATRE IN HD SCREENINGS OF
NATIONAL THEATRE LIVE
STARRING SALLY FIELD, JAMES MCAVOY, AND MORE
January-May 2020

SAN JOSE, CA (17 January 2019) – The **Hammer Theatre Center** in downtown San Jose continues to bring the best of **National Theatre Live** to the big screen in the South Bay. Starring internationally acclaimed actors including **James McAvoy, Sally Field, Bill Pullman, Lindsay Duncan**, and more, the spring 2020 line-up will include a thrilling selection of the West End’s hit plays from January through May. A cinematic experience for the ages, these National Theatre Live films will be screened in high definition, accompanied by state-of-the-art audio. Each broadcast was filmed in front of a live audience in London, with cameras carefully positioned to ensure that every viewer gets the “best seat in the house.” Please note: These are NOT live performances at the Hammer; they are high-definition films of the stage productions captured live in London’s West End. Screenings will be held at the **Hammer Theatre Center**, 101 Paseo De San Antonio, San Jose. For more information and tickets (\$19-\$23), the public may visit www.hammertheatre.com or call (408) 924-8501.

***All My Sons* (7pm, Thursday, January 30 & 2pm, Sunday, February 2)**

Academy Award-winner **Sally Field** and acclaimed film star and stage actor **Bill Pullman** star in Arthur Miller’s blistering drama ***All My Sons***. It’s America, 1947: Despite hard choices and even harder knocks, Joe and Kate Keller are a success story. They have built a home, raised two sons and established a thriving business. But nothing lasts forever and their contented lives, already shadowed by the loss of their eldest boy to war, are about to shatter. With the return of a figure from the past, long buried truths are forced to the surface and the price of their American dream is laid bare. The cast also features Jenna Coleman (*Victoria, Doctor Who*) and Colin Morgan (*Merlin*).

***A Midsummer Night's Dream* (7pm, Friday, February 14 & 2pm, Sunday, February 16)**

A dream world of flying fairies, fog, and moonlight abounds in Nicholas Hytner's fantastical take on Shakespeare's classic starring **Gwendoline Christie** (*Game of Thrones*), **Oliver Chris**, **David Moorst**, and **Hammed Animashaun**. A soundtrack featuring contemporary music, including Beyoncé and rap, accompanies this fantastical staging of the story about a feuding fairy King and Queen who cross paths with four runaway lovers and a troupe of actors trying to rehearse a play. As their dispute grows, the magical royal couple meddle with mortal lives leading to love triangles, mistaken identities and transformations with hilarious, but dark consequences.

***Present Laughter* (7pm, Thursday, February 20 & 2pm, Sunday, April 5)**

Andrew Scott (*Fleabag*'s "Hot Artist," *Sherlock*'s "Moriarty") stars as overdramatic actor Garry Essendine, whose colorful life is in danger of spiraling out of control. A giddy and surprisingly modern reflection on fame, design, and loneliness, Noel Coward's comedy was treated to a four-star production at the Old Vic.

***Hansard* (7pm, Friday, April 3)**

Two-time Olivier Award winners **Lindsay Duncan** (*Sherlock*, *Black Mirror*, *The Queen*) and **Alex Jennings** star in this witty and devastating portrait of the governing class. It's a summer morning in 1988 and Tory politician Robin Hesketh has returned home to the idyllic Cotswold house he shares with his wife of 30 years, Diana. But all is not as blissful as it seems. Diana has a stinking hangover, a fox is destroying the garden, and secrets are being dug up all over the place. As the day draws on, what starts as gentle ribbing and familiar marital scrapping quickly turns to blood-sport.

***Cyrano de Bergerac* (7pm, Thursday, May 28 & 2pm, Sunday, May 31)**

James McAvoy (*X-Men*, *Atonement*) returns to the stage in an inventive new adaptation of *Cyrano de Bergerac*. Fierce with a pen and notorious in combat, Cyrano almost has it all - if only he could win the heart of his true love Roxane. There's just one big problem: he has a nose as huge as his heart. Will a society engulfed by narcissism get the better of Cyrano - or can his mastery of language set Roxane's world alight? This classic play will be brought to life with

linguistic ingenuity to celebrate Cyrano's powerful and resonant resistance against overwhelming odds.

The **Hammer Theatre Center** is a distinctive, state-of-the-art performance venue in the heart of downtown San José. Owned by the City of San Jose and operated by San Jose State University (SJSU), the Hammer Theatre's mission is to serve the community through artistically and educationally excellent programming that is expressive of the unique characteristics and diverse cultures that comprise Silicon Valley. The broader vision of the Hammer includes arts, innovation, and technology programming on the Paseo de San Antonio, creating a vibrant pathway between SJSU and the Tech Museum and bridging the urban spaces from Saint James Park down to the South of First Avenue cultural district. The Hammer also aims to connect SJSU's more than 37,000 faculty, students, and staff with the downtown cultural and economic corridors.

For Calendar Editors

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WHERE: **Hammer Theatre Center**
101 Paseo De San Antonio, San José
(Between 2nd and 3rd Streets)

WHEN: *All My Sons* (7pm, Thursday, January 30 & 2pm, Sunday, February 2)
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Hansard (7pm, Friday, April 3)
Cyrano de Bergerac (7pm, Thursday, May 28 & 2pm, Sunday, May 31)

INFO: For tickets (\$30-\$45; senior and student discounts available) the public may visit www.hammertheatre.com or call (408) 924-8501.

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PRESS: Contact Steph Keay, Carla Befera & Co.
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PHOTOS: Media may download high-res photos at:
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