

**HAMMER THEATRE CENTER  
ANNOUNCES FINAL EXTENSION OF  
NATIONAL THEATRE AT HOME  
FEATURING FREE STREAMING OF WEST END THEATRE HITS  
STARRING GWENDOLINE CHRISTIE AND MORE  
June 18 – July 23, 2020**

SAN JOSE, CA (15 June 2020) – The premier venue for bringing world-class West End theatre to South Bay audiences, **Hammer Theatre Center** in downtown San Jose announces the final extension of *National Theatre At Home*. This exciting venture by Hammer’s longtime partner, **National Theatre Live**, offers audiences a chance to view free from home *National Theatre Live* comedies and dramas filmed onstage in London’s West End. *National Theatre At Home* will continue with screenings of *Small Island* **June 18-25**, *A Midsummer Night’s Dream* **June 25-July 2** starring **Gwendoline Christie** (*Game of Thrones*), *Les Blancs* **July 2-9**, *Deep Blue Sea* **July 9-16**, and *Amadeus* **July 16-23**. The titles are available to stream free for one week. For viewing instructions and more information the public may visit [www.hammertheatre.com](http://www.hammertheatre.com).

***Small Island* (Begins 11am PDT, June 18; available through June 25)**

This “epic and inspiring” (*Daily Telegraph*) stage adaptation of Andrea Levy’s Orange Prize-winning novel has been praised as “one of the most important plays of the year” by *The Guardian*. The play follows the intricately connected lives of Hortense, who yearns for a new life away from rural Jamaica; Gilbert, who dreams of becoming a lawyer; and Queenie, who longs to escape her Lincolnshire roots. Hope and humanity meet stubborn reality in this journey from the Second World War to 1948—the year the HMT Empire Windrush docked at Tilbury—as *Small Island* traces the tangled history between Jamaica and the UK.

***A Midsummer Night’s Dream* (Begins 11am PDT, June 25; available through July 2)**

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.

***Les Blancs* (Begins 11am PDT, July 2; available through July 9)**

An African country teeters on the edge of civil war. A society prepares to drive out its colonial present and claim an independent future. Racial tensions boil over. Tshembe, returned home from England for his father's funeral, finds himself in the eye of the storm. Written eleven years after "A Raisin in the Sun," Lorraine Hansberry's final drama is a brave, illuminating, and powerful play that confronts the hope and tragedy of revolution. Called "a searing portrait of the revolutionary spirit," by the *Evening Standard* and "humane and disturbingly beautiful" by the *Daily Telegraph*, ***Les Blancs*** also marks the National Theatre debut of multi-award-winning director Yaël Farber.

***Deep Blue Sea* (Begins 11am PDT, July 9; available through July 16)**

It's 1952, in West London. When Hester Collyer is found by her neighbors in the aftermath of a failed suicide attempt, the story of her tempestuous affair with a former RAF pilot and the breakdown of her marriage to a High Court judge begins to emerge—and with it comes a portrait of need, loneliness, and long-repressed passion. Carrie Cracknell's critically acclaimed production of Terence Rattigan's devastating masterpiece stars **Helen McCrory** (*Medea*, *Peaky Blinders*) in "one of the performances of the year" (*Evening Standard*), and **Tom Burke** (*War and Peace*, *The Musketeers*).

***Amadeus* (Begins 11am PDT, July 16; available through July 23)**

Music. Power. Jealousy. **Lucian Msamati** (*Luther*, *Game of Thrones*, *His Dark Materials*) plays court composer Antonio Salieri in Peter Shaffer's iconic play, filmed with live orchestral accompaniment by Southbank Sinfonia. **Adam Gillen** delivers "a most moving portrayal" (*Independent*) of Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, a rowdy young prodigy who arrives in Vienna, the

music capital of the world—determined to make a splash. Awestruck by his genius, Salieri has the power to promote his talent or destroy his name. Seized by obsessive jealousy, he begins a war with Mozart in music and, ultimately, with God. *Time Out* called Shaffer’s music-theater production “Epic. Wonderful. A stupendous revival!” After winning multiple Olivier and Tony Awards for its premiere at the National Theatre in 1979, *Amadeus* was adapted into an Academy Award-winning film.

*National Theatre At Home*, launched April 2nd, is an exciting initiative that allows Hammer to continue providing entertainment and opportunities to engage with theatre audiences while the community remains sheltered-in-place. “We look forward to our patrons returning to view screenings of *National Theatre Live* in our state-of-the-art theatre but hope our community will enjoy the opportunity to view these stellar productions in the comfort of their own homes in the meantime,” said Hammer Executive Director Chris Burrill.

The **Hammer Theatre Center** is a distinctive, state-of-the-art performance venue in the heart of downtown San Jose. 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:** ONLINE – Visit [www.hammertheatre.com](http://www.hammertheatre.com) for info and viewing instructions.

**WHEN:** *Small Island* (June 18-25)  
*A Midsummer Night's Dream* (June 25-July 2)  
*Les Blancs* (July 2-9)  
*Deep Blue Sea* (July 9-16)  
*Amadeus* (July 16-23)

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