

HAMMER THEATRE CENTER ANNOUNCES FREE STREAMING OF **THE MADNESS OF KING GEORGE III** AS PART OF NATIONAL THEATRE AT HOME PROGRAM June 11 – 18, 2020

SAN JOSE, CA (9 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 free streaming of *The Madness of King George III* as part of *National Theatre At Home*. An exciting venture by Hammer's longtime partner, *National Theatre Live*, the at-home streaming program offers audiences a chance to view free from home world-class comedies and dramas filmed in London's West End. *National Theatre At Home* will present *The Madness of King George III* beginning 11am PDT, June 11-18. An announcement with viewing instructions will be sent out by email on Thursdays, and can also be found at www.hammertheatre.com.

Written by one of Britain's best-loved playwrights **Alan Bennett** (*The History Boys*, *The Lady in the Van*), *The Madness of King George III* was also adapted into a BAFTA Award-winning film following its premiere on stage in 1991. The cast of the epic *National Theatre Live* production includes Olivier Award winners **Mark Gatiss** (*Sherlock*, *Wolf Hall*, *NT Live Coriolanus*) in the title role, and **Adrian Scarborough** (*Gavin and Stacey*, *Upstairs Downstairs*, *After the Dance*). It's 1786 and King George III is the most powerful man in the world—but his behaviour is becoming increasingly erratic as he succumbs to fits of lunacy. With the King's mind unraveling at a dramatic pace, ambitious politicians and the scheming Prince of Wales threaten to undermine the power of the Crown, and expose the fine line between a King and a man.

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

WHAT: The premier venue for bringing world-class West End theatre to South Bay audiences, **Hammer Theatre Center** in downtown San Jose announces the free streaming of ***The Madness of King George III***. 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 in London’s West End. *National Theatre At Home* will present ***The Madness of King George III June 11-18***. The title will be available to stream free for one week. An announcement with viewing instructions will be sent out by email on Thursdays, and can also be found at www.hammertheatre.com.

WHERE: **ONLINE** – Visit www.hammertheatre.com for info and viewing instructions.

WHEN: ***The Madness of King George III (June 11-18)***

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PRESS: Contact Steph Keay, Carla Befera & Co.
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PHOTOS: Media may download high-res photos at:
<http://cbpr.co/press/ntah/>