

LONDON ARTS DISCOVERY

VIRTUAL THEATRE TOUR ITINERARY

*All events subject to change, owing to availability of online performances and guest speakers.
Guest speakers named below are examples only.
All times are Eastern Standard Time – please queue up on Zoom no less than 5 minutes before start time;
a link will be emailed to all participants in advance.*

SCHEDULE

Monday

- 1:30_{pm} **Welcome Meeting:** A chance to meet everyone participating in the online tour via Zoom. Tour Director Giles Ramsay will then introduce us to the week, the plays, and the guests.
- 2:15_{pm} **The State We Are In:** Giles Ramsay moderates a conversation with leading political journalist **Denis Staunton**, London Editor of the *Irish Times*. From Boris to Brexit, Meghan and Harry to China and Covid, we put the issues of the day under the microscope in a stimulating transatlantic discussion.
- 3:00_{pm} **Introduction to Play 1:** Giles speaks about Noel Coward's **PRIVATE LIVES** which you will view in your own time.
- 3:15_{pm} Close

Tuesday

- 1:30_{pm} **Discussion Session - Play 1.** A chance to talk with members of the group about the Chichester Festival production of **PRIVATE LIVES**. Compare opinions and sharpen your critical skills in a friendly and stimulating atmosphere.
- 2:15_{pm} **Introduction to Play 2:** Giles speaks about William Shakespeare's **KING LEAR** which you will view in your own time.
- 2:30_{pm} **Guest Speaker:** We meet with **Kwame Kwei-Armah**, Artistic Director of London's Young Vic Theatre, about theatre life under Covid 19 and his vision of the future for the performing arts.
- 3:15_{pm} Close

Wednesday

- 1:30_{pm} **Discussion Session - Play 2.** A chance to talk with members of the group about the RSC production of **KING LEAR**.
- 2:15_{pm} **Introduction to Play 3:** Giles speaks about Jonathan Harvey's **BEAUTIFUL THING** which you will view in your own time.
- 2:30_{pm} **Guest Speaker:** We meet with **Gregory Doran**, Artistic Director of the Royal Shakespeare Company and the director of **KING LEAR**.
- 3:15_{pm} Close

Thursday

- 1:30_{pm} **Discussion Session - Play 3.** A chance to talk with members of the group about the 20th Anniversary revival of **BEAUTIFUL THING**.
- 2:15_{pm} **Critical Roundup:** We meet with leading theatre critic **Matt Wolf** to discuss the three productions we have seen, the role of the arts (and the critic!) in general and the future of the theatre in particular.
- 3:15_{pm} Close

PRODUCTIONS

All participants are responsible for taking a 1-month subscription to Digital Theatre at www.digitaltheatre.com/consumer and watching the productions prior to our discussion.

Play 1

The 2013 Chichester Festival Production of Noel Coward's **PRIVATE LIVES** as performed at the Gielgud Theatre on London's West End, directed by Jonathan Kent and starring Toby Stephens and Anna Chancellor. This modern comedy of manners sees a romance revisited between Elyot and Amanda after they unexpectedly meet each other while both on honeymoon with their respective spouses. (1 hour 36 minutes)

"This is a gloriously entertaining evening, opulently designed by Anthony Ward, and offering two hours of comic bliss." – *The Daily Telegraph*

Play 2

The Royal Shakespeare Company's 2016 Production of William Shakespeare's **KING LEAR** directed by Gregory Doran and starring Olivier Award winner Sir Antony Sher (*Shakespeare In Love*). Considered one of his finest tragedies, Shakespeare's tale of family, aging and madness is brought to life in this critically acclaimed production by the RSC which travelled to New York's Brooklyn Academy of Music. (3 hours 1 minute)

"Sher himself is as monumental as the role... there's no doubt you are in the hands of one of this generation's great Shakespearean actors, and he's never less than mesmerizing to watch."
– *WhatsOnstage*

Play 3

The 20th Anniversary Production of Jonathan Harvey's **BEAUTIFUL THING** as performed at the Arts Theatre on London's West End in 2013, directed by Nikolai Foster. Harvey's play about two working class boys falling in love on a south east London council estate debuted at London's Bush Theatre in 1993, has played around the world, and was made into a celebrated film. (1 hour 54 minutes)

"Nikolai Foster's beautifully acted revival is totally attuned to the play's swirling mix of emotion and hilarity. This generous, optimistic play remains a beautiful little thing."
– *The Guardian*

SUMMARY

DATES	Monday - Friday
PERFORMANCES (3)	The Chichester Festival production of PRIVATE LIVES The RSC production of KING LEAR The 20 th Anniversary production of BEAUTIFUL THING
DISCUSSIONS (7)	The State We Are In: Journalist Denis Staunton 3 Group Discussions 2 Meetings with theatre artists & practitioners Critical Round-Up with Matt Wolf
OTHER EVENTS (4)	3 Introductions to the plays by Giles Ramsay

ABOUT DIGITAL THEATRE

*Digital Theatre is the world's leading digital platform for the arts. It is a subscription based platform that works in partnership with leading theatre & performing arts companies to capture live performances onscreen giving consumers unlimited access to them. Partner companies include the Royal Shakespeare Company, Almeida Theatre, the Royal Court Theatre, the English Touring Theatre, Royal Opera House, English National Ballet, Opera North, L.A. Theatre Works, Frantic Assembly, Lyric Theatre (Hammersmith), the Young Vic, the Old Vic & the Open Air Theatre, Regent's Park. Participants in **London Theatre Live Tours** should take out a \$13.00 monthly subscription to Digital Theatre which will allow them unlimited access to all the shows on the platform for four weeks as well as the three plays especially selected for discussion.*

www.digitaltheatre.com/consumer/productions

ABOUT YOUR TOUR DIRECTOR

*Your professional tour guide will be **Giles Ramsay**. A former director of London Arts Discovery Tours, Giles runs independent cultural tours for North American non-profit theatres and for the U.S.-based Elderhostel/Road Scholar. He is the Founding Director of Developing Artists which specializes in creating new work with artists in developing countries ranging from Kosovo to Zimbabwe. A former Fellow of St. Chad's College, Durham University, Giles is Course Leader in Theatre at The Victoria and Albert Museum in London.*

www.gilesramsay.co.uk

EDUCATION PROGRAM

London Theatre Live Tours can also provide a series of in-depth lectures analysing the history and practice of the theatre from the Greeks to the present day. For more information on educational content please go to:

www.gilesramsay.co.uk/lecturing