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Over  
**11.5**  
million people

have watched a National Theatre Live screening since 2009



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We hope you enjoy your National Theatre Live screening. We make every attempt to replicate the theatre experience as closely as possible for your enjoyment.

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Go behind the scenes of *Life of Pi* and learn more about how our broadcasts happen on our website.



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# National Theatre Live

A production from  
**Simon Friend**  
ENTERTAINMENT

# LIFE OF PI

by Yann Martel  
adapted by Lolita Chakrabarti

## Cast (in alphabetical order)

Pi.....Hiran Abeysekera  
Amma.....Mina Anwar  
Father Martin  
/Commander Grant-Jones.....Tom Espiner  
Lulu Chen.....Kirsten Foster  
Mamaji/Pandit-Ji.....Raj Ghatak  
Pi's Father.....Nicholas Khan  
Mrs Biology Kumar  
/Zaida Khan.....Syreeta Kumar  
Rani.....Payal Mistry  
Cook/Voice of  
Richard Parker.....Habib Nasib Nader  
Mr Okamoto.....David K.S. Tse  
Ensemble .....Alex Chang  
.....Omar Khan  
.....Deevya Meir  
.....Nuwan Hugh Perera  
Tiger Head.....Fred Davis  
Tiger Head.....Tom Larkin  
Tiger Hind.....Daisy Franks  
Tiger Hind.....Chris Milford

Tiger Hind.....Tom Stacy  
Tiger Heart.....Romina Hytten  
Tiger Heart.....Scarlet Wilderink

## Production Team

Director.....Max Webster  
Set and Costume Designer.....Tim Hatley  
Puppet and  
Movement Director.....Finn Caldwell  
Puppetry Designers.....Nick Barnes  
.....Finn Caldwell  
Video Designer.....Andrzej Goulding  
Lighting Designer.....Tim Lutkin  
Sound Design.....Carolyn Downing  
Composer.....Andrew T. Mackay

## Broadcast Team

Director for Screen.....Tim Van Someren  
Technical Producer.....Christopher C. Bretnall  
Lighting Director.....Gemma O'Sullivan  
Sound Supervisor.....Conrad Fletcher  
Script Supervisor.....Emily Aldous



Running time: 2 hours and 25 minutes,  
including a 20-minute interval.

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ENGLAND

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**In Conversation:** An extract from a conversation between *Life of Pi* adaptor Lolita Chakrabarti and Rosemary Waugh, originally published in the *Life of Pi* West End programme.

Along with the simple magic of a talking tiger, a boy named after a French swimming pool and the dreamlike charm of having a dad who owns a zoo, *Life of Pi* is essentially a story of great loss. It's also one of miraculous survival, but a version of survival that is hard fought and comes about only because Pi learns to be ruthless in his fight to live.

Soon after *Life of Pi* made its triumphant premiere at the Sheffield Crucible in 2019, *The New York Times* ran an article asking – and answering – the question ‘How can you put *Life of Pi* onstage?’ It was a fair question. For although Martel’s book had already found success as a film (adapted by David Magee and directed by Ang Lee in 2012), the peculiarities of its setting and characters don’t immediately seem easy to translate into theatre. Did Chakrabarti ever have doubts, I ask, when tasked with adapting this non-traditional story into a play? ‘Absolutely – but not until the first preview!’ she laughs. ‘I leapt at this opportunity, I felt I knew how to do it.’

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## National Theatre Live

National Theatre Live distributes world-class theatre straight from stages across the United Kingdom to cinema screens around the world.

Working with the best of British theatre companies and producers, we simultaneously broadcast live theatre to cinemas in the UK, Europe and sometimes North America, as well as capturing the live performance for encore screenings in other territories.

Our live broadcasts and screenings have been seen by over 11.5 million people in 2,500 cinemas in 65 countries since we launched in 2009.

I write as an actor, instinctively. I can’t always find the correct words, but I feel my way through the stories I write. So with *Pi*, I thought: I know what this is, I can feel it.’

Feeling free to adapt the story as she pleased was something Chakrabarti also got from talking to Martel about his book. The Canadian author, who Chakrabarti describes as ‘absolutely brilliant’, was entirely trusting of the playwright to turn his novel into a play. Along with reading major drafts of the script, he had one big pointer that was delivered less as a stipulation and more as a piece of helpful advice. ‘He said that the animals have to be dangerous,’ she explains. This meant that despite the urges many of us have to see wild animals as great big cuddly toys, or to anthropomorphise them as lovable friends, the creatures in *Life of Pi* need to retain their real-world elements of danger. Chakrabarti recalls: ‘He told us, if an orangutang gets loose on a boat – everyone is in serious trouble!’

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## Simon Friend Entertainment

Simon Friend Entertainment Limited is an independent theatre and film production company. Producing all of their own productions, SFE have won Academy Awards, BAFTAs, and Olivier Awards including five Olivier Awards for *Life of Pi*.

*Life of Pi* premiered in June 2019 at the Crucible Theatre, Sheffield before transferring to the Wyndham’s Theatre in London’s West End in November 2021. Following a successful West End run, *Life of Pi* crossed the Atlantic with a Northern American premiere at Boston’s ART Theatre in November 2022 and opens at Broadway’s Schoenfeld Theatre in March 2023.

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## Coming soon

# GOOD

by C.P. Taylor  
directed by Dominic Cooke  
from Fictionhouse and Playful Productions

**In cinemas 20 April**

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# BEST OF ENEMIES

by James Graham  
directed by Jeremy Herrin  
inspired by the documentary by  
Morgan Neville and Robert Gordon

**In cinemas 18 May**

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★★★★★

**‘David Tennant is riveting, witty and intensely human’**

*Financial Times*

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**‘The most satisfying play of the year’**

*Sunday Times*