

26 May 2009

PRESS RELEASE

Phèdre

6.30 pm (curtain up 7pm), 25 June 2009

Run time 2 hours



On Thursday 25th June the performance of *Phèdre* will be filmed live and in high definition at the National Theatre and broadcast via satellite to the Aberystwyth Arts Centre Cinema.

NT Live is an exciting new initiative to broadcast live performances of plays onto cinema screens worldwide. The four show pilot season will launch with *Phèdre*, with Helen Mirren, Margaret Tyzack and Dominic Cooper. Director Nicholas Hytner says "I grew up in Manchester in the 60s. If I had been able to see Olivier's National Theatre at my local cinema, I would have gone all of the time."

Helen Mirren takes the title role in this savage play by Jean Racine, translated into muscular free verse by the late Poet Laureate, Ted Hughes. Consumed by an uncontrollable passion for her young stepson and believing Theseus, her absent husband, to be dead, *Phèdre* confesses her darkest desires and enters the world of nightmare. When Theseus returns alive and well, *Phèdre*, fearing exposure, accuses her stepson of rape. The result is carnage.

The remaining three shows in the National Theatres pilot season have yet to be announced but will feature a range of the National's diverse repertoire. Broadcasts will also feature behind-the-scenes footage and interviews with artists. The aim is to open the walls of the National Theatre and invite cinema audiences around the country and the world to share in the work they create.

Tickets for this production are £10 and can be booked by contacting the Arts Centre ticket office on 01970 62 32 32 or online at www.aber.ac.uk/artscentre

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Notes to editors:

Further information is available from Rachel Taylor on 01970 622889 email rst@aber.ac.uk

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