



# Live cinema update

broadened access to our work through the cinema broadcasts. Most importantly, we feel we also achieved an artistic success, honouring the integrity of our artists' work and successfully transferring the work to the screen. Whilst not the same experience, we are confident that we have pioneered a way of successfully capturing theatre on camera and creating a valuable proposition for audiences everywhere. In this way, we are offering the best of British theatre and can be a truly national theatre.

On the launch of the second season of broadcast plays, Nicholas Hytner, Director of the National Theatre, commented "We couldn't have foreseen that the experimental National Theatre Live season would be such a hit with audiences around the world, who are hungry to see our work in their local cinema. We're delighted that we can confidently build on its success with a second season of broadcasts, and warmly welcome our partnerships with Complicite and the Donmar Warehouse."

The second season, broadcast live in HD to 300 cinemas worldwide (75 in the UK), started on 23rd. September with an encore screening of the play that launched this whole new initiative - Hytner's highly acclaimed production of *Phèdre* starring Helen Mirren and Dominic Cooper. This was followed on 14th. October by the National Theatre Live's first venture beyond London, *A Disappearing Number*, from the internationally acclaimed theatre company Complicite, broadcast from the Theatre Royal, Plymouth. Still to come in this second season is Danny Boyle's new production of *Frankenstein*, on 17th. March 2011; and finally Zoe Wanamaker in *The Cherry Orchard* on 30th June 2011.

Not far away in London's Covent Garden, The Royal Opera House continues to break new ground as a leader in digital distribution of the arts. It announced in the summer that it will be the first opera house to film and distribute full length productions in 3D for a mass audience. In a partnership with 3D cinema technology provider, RealD, the Royal Opera House will bring operas and ballets exclusively to RealD equipped cinemas.

Bizet's *Carmen*, the world's most popular opera and a firm favourite with Covent Garden audiences was filmed by RealD over the summer for later release in cinemas. Other titles to be filmed and shown in RealD 3D will be announced shortly. In a break with previous practice *Carmen* in 3D is being distributed by RealD and not Opus Arte, the Opera house's own distribution company. Rick Heineman at Real D confirms that *Carmen* in 3D is in post-production and Real D will make an announcement about distribution to RealD 3D equipped locations in the very near future. As a sign of the digital times it is interesting to note that The Royal Opera House recently became the first arts organisation in Europe and the third in the world to launch its own iTunes site.

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