

National Theatre Live

THE AUDIENCE

A production from

Matther Byam Shaw, Robert Fox and Andy Harries

Playful
PRODUCTIONS

Cast

The Queen.....Helen Mirren
Anthony Eden.....Michael Elwyn
Margaret Thatcher.....Hayd Gwynne
Harold Wilson.....Richard McCabe
Gordon Brown.....Nathaniel Parker
John Major.....Paul Ritter
David Cameron.....Rufus Wright
Winston Churchill.....Edward Fox
**James Callaghan/
Private Secretary**.....David Pearl
Equerry.....Geoffrey Beevers
Young Elizabeth.....Nell Williams
**Bobo MacDonald/
Private Secretary**.....Charlotte Moore
**Junior Equerries/
Footmen**.....Harry Feltham,
Matt Plumb

**The Queen's Dresser/
PA**.....Spencer Kitchen
The Queen's Dresser..Elaine Solomon

Running time:

2 hours and 28 mins.

Including a 15-minute interval.

Cecil Beaton/ Detective

.....Jonathan Coote

Detective/ Policeman.....Jan Houghton

Creative Team

Writer.....Peter Morgan

Director.....Stephen Daldry

Designer.....Bob Crowley

Lighting Designer.....Rick Fisher

Sound Designer.....Paul Arditti

Video Designer..Jan Willoan Galloway

Composer.....Paul Englishby

Hair and Make-up

Designer.....Ivana Primorac

Casting Director.....Nina Gold

Children's

Casting Director.....Jessica Ronane

Production Team

Director for Screen.....Robin Lough

Technical

Producer.....Christopher C. Bretnall

Script Supervisor....Judy Chesterman

Lighting Directors.....Nigel Catmur
Bernie Davis

Sound Supervisor.....Conrad Fletcher

Rule Britannia

An excerpt from Vernon Bogdanor's piece on the delicate balance of power between Monarch and Prime Minister.

A modern constitutional monarch reigns but does not rule. She has influence rather than power. Her influence is exerted by means of three fundamental constitutional rights: the right to be consulted, the right to advise and the right to warn.

The Queen exercises these rights primarily through weekly meetings with her Prime Minister, meetings held every Wednesday when both are in London. It is these meetings that are dramatised in *The Audience*.

¹ Duff Hart-Davis, ed, *King's Counsellor: Abdication and War: The Diaries of Sir Alan Lascelles* (2006), p66 (Sir Alan was George VI's Private Secretary and the Queen's first Private Secretary)

It is not clear when audiences began. During the war, however, Winston Churchill was accustomed to regular lunches with George VI. In October 1942, worried about the situation in North Africa, Churchill excused himself to go to the telephone. 'His conversation evidently pleased him, for he walked back along the passage singing "Roll out the barrel" with gusto, but with little evidence of musical talent.'¹ But regular audiences probably did not begin until the reign of the present Queen

Playful Productions

Established in 2010 by Matthew Byam Shaw, Nia Janis and Nick Salmon, Playful is a leading independent producer, executive producer, and general manager at the heart of popular theatre, bringing passion, expertise and fun to plays and musicals across the West End, Broadway and internationally.

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Andy Harries

Andy Harries is the Executive Chair of Left Bank Pictures and the former CEO of the company which he founded in 2007. He has produced many television dramas in a career spanning four decades including *The Crown*, *The Royle Family*, *Prime Suspect* and *Cold Feet*.

Robert Fox Ltd

Robert Fox has produced or co-produced over 50 productions in the West End, Broadway and beyond since forming his own company in 1980. He is currently Executive Producer on Netflix's *The Crown*.

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Prime Ministers featured in the play

Winston Churchill, Conservative

In office 10 May 1940 – 26 July 1945
and 26 October 1951 – 7 April 1955

Anthony Eden, Conservative

In office 7 April 1955 – 10 January 1957

Harold Wilson, Labour

In office 16 October 1964 – 19 June 1970
and 4 March 1974 – 5 April 1976

James Callaghan, Labour

In office 5 April 1976 – 4 May 1979

Margaret Thatcher, Conservative

In office 4 May 1979 – 28 November 1990

John Major, Conservative

In office 28 November 1990 – 2 May 1997

Gordon Brown, Labour

In office 27 June 2007 – 11 May 2010

David Cameron, Conservative

In office 11 May 2010 – 13 July 2016

Enjoy the show

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