



Press Release: Monday 26 October 2016

**VANESSA REDGRAVE ANNOUNCED AS RECIPIENT OF THE GIELGUD AWARD
AT THE UK THEATRE AWARDS 2016**

Vanessa Redgrave is to receive this year's Gielgud Award for Excellence in the Dramatic Arts at the UK Theatre Awards 2016. The ceremony will take place on Sunday 9 October at London's historic Guildhall.

The UK Theatre Awards are the only nationwide honours that recognize creative excellence and outstanding achievement both on and off stage. Olivier Award-winning actor Lesley Manville will compère this year's luncheon festivities.

Cast members from Sheffield Theatre's *Flowers For Mrs Harris* and Chichester Festival Theatre and Cameron Mackintosh's co-production of *Half A Sixpence* will also perform at the ceremony. Both musicals are nominated for Best Musical Production, with Charlie Stemp (for *Half A Sixpence*) and Clare Burt (for *Flowers For Mrs Harris*) also nominated for Best Performance In a Musical.

Vanessa Redgrave has starred in more than 35 productions in London's West End and on Broadway. Rising to prominence in 1961 while playing Rosalind in *As You Like It* with the Royal Shakespeare Company, she has gone on to earn a rich trove of Olivier, Oscar, Emmy, Tony, BAFTA, Golden Globe, and Screen Actors Guild awards. On screen she has appeared in more than 80 films and is a six-time Oscar nominee. In 1977 she won the Academy Award for Best Supporting Actress for the title role in *Julia*. Her most recent stage triumph was in the role of Queen Margaret in Almeida Theatre's acclaimed production of *Richard III*.

The Gielgud Award for Excellence in the Dramatic Arts was established by The Shakespeare Guild in 1994. Previous recipients include F. Murray Abraham, Sir Kenneth Branagh, Zoe Caldwell, Dame Judi Dench, Sir Derek Jacobi, Michael Kahn, Kevin Kline, Christopher Plummer, Lynn Redgrave OBE, Sir Donald Sinden, and Sir Patrick Stewart. Last year's honour was bestowed on Dame Eileen Atkins. Sir Ian McKellen, who received the inaugural Gielgud trophy in 1996, will be honoured with this year's UK Theatre award for Outstanding Contribution to British Theatre.

Further details about the **UK Theatre Awards 2016**, including the full list of nominations, can be found at bit.ly/2cQdufP

The 12 regional and national winners of UK's Most Welcoming Theatre, an honour presented in association with Smooth Radio, will be announced on Thursday 29 September. The overall winner will be lauded at this year's UK Theatre Awards luncheon on 9 October.

- ENDS -

Notes to Editors

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- UK Theatre is the UK's leading theatre and performing arts membership organisation – promoting excellence, professional development, and campaigning to improve resilience and increase audiences across the sector.
- Since 1991 UK Theatre's annual UK Theatre Awards have celebrated the creative excellence and outstanding work seen in UK theatres each year. The UK Theatre Awards are the only nationwide awards to honour creative excellence and the outstanding achievement seen on and off stage throughout England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland.