

Broadcast coverage

BBC London News, 26th April 2022



A report on the dedication of Sir John Gielgud's memorial stone in south transept was broadcast live during the main BBC London evening news bulletin on BBC One at 6.30pm on 26th April.

The report included footage from the Abbey alongside a pre-recorded interview with letter cutter Wayne Hart working on the ledger stone at his studio in Hertfordshire.

The report is [available to watch on the BBC iPlayer](#) until the evening of Wednesday 27th April (starting at 18 minutes 30 into the programme)

Print and online coverage

The Times, 27th April 2022

Gielgud's genius is set in stone

David Sanderson Arts Correspondent

In his lifetime Sir John Gielgud suggested that the only reason he would be remembered would be "as the first queer actor to be knighted".

Last night a memorial stone unveiled in Westminster Abbey — beneath a statue of William Shakespeare and next to the ashes of Laurence Olivier — gave material proof of his greatness.

The ceremony to memorialise the actor, who died in 2000 aged 96, lured the greats of British theatre to Poets' Corner. Dame Judi Dench said that he had been an "unbelievable friend" who even "beat me at a sense of humour". She said that on her last visit to the abbey, a frail Gielgud had taken his seat, looked up at the ceiling and said: "Don't you think those are terribly unsuitable lights for a place like this?"

To Richard Eyre, the former

National Theatre director, Gielgud was the leading classical actor of the 20th century. He said his acting and immersion in Shakespeare's biggest parts had done more than anything else to "create the circumstances that led to the foundation of the Royal Shakespeare Company and the National Theatre".

He said that Gielgud was "engagingly self-deprecating" and could be "caustic but unmalicious". He added, to appreciative nods, that he was a "marvellously droll raconteur".

Sir David Hare said that one of the myths about Gielgud "held by stupid people" was that he was old-fashioned. On the contrary, Hare said, Gielgud performed in many new plays and between 1968 and 1977 created seven original leading roles. He asked: "How many living actors come close either in commitment or modernity?"



Daily Mail, 26th April 2022

'His acting cast a spell that lasts a lifetime': Judi Dench and Ian McKellen pay tribute to John Gielgud as a memorial stone honouring the actor is unveiled at Westminster Abbey

By BETHAN EDWARDS FOR MAILONLINE
PUBLISHED: 23:01, 26 April 2022 | UPDATED: 23:18, 26 April 2022



Judi Dench and Ian McKellen paid tribute to veteran actor John Gielgud as a memorial stone was unveiled at Westminster Abbey honouring the star on Tuesday.

The Oscar-award winning British actor and director, who was a master of Shakespearean roles, died aged 96 in May 2000.

A memorial stone honouring his life and work was unveiled by Judi, 87, as she pulled the cover off the incredible tribute.

Judi read Shakespeare's Sonnet 29 as a tribute to John at the Abbey's Poets' Corner.

The famous actress looked glamorous wearing a black suit and a silk patterned scarf.

The actor looked dapper in a black suit, a bright blue shirt and a patterned tie as he read an extract at the unveiling.

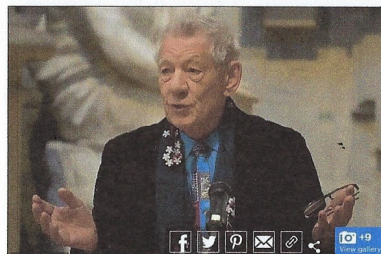
Before reading an extract, Ian said: 'All I know of him is a witty tongue and a keen eye, but also a generosity.'

Recalling his first meeting with John, the Lord of the Rings actor added: 'When I die the only reason I'll be remembered is because I'm the first queer actor to be knighted.'

'Isn't that sad. He was a victim of cruel laws.'

English film and theatre director Richard Eyre described John's acting as 'casting a spell that's lasted a lifetime'.

Reflecting on the stars career, which spanned seven decades, Richard, 79, said: 'It seems odd to say it now, but he convinced West End audiences of the joys of Shakespeare.'



Smart: The Lord of the Rings actor looked dapper in a black suit, a bright blue shirt and a patterned tie as he read an extract at the unveiling



Unveiling: The Oscar-award winning British actor and director, who was a master of Shakespearean roles, died aged 96 in May 2000

'He consistently took risks and accepted challenges.'

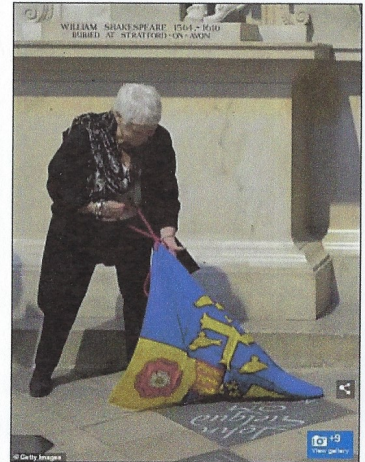
English playwright and director David Hare also paid tribute to Sir John, saying: 'John Gielgud was loved by audiences as much for his character, for who he was, as for his brilliant acting.'

Sir John won the best supporting actor Academy Award in 1982 for playing Dudley Moore's valet in Arthur.

Sir John was knighted in 1953 and was appointed to the Order of Merit in 1996.



The service: Judi read Shakespeare's Sonnet 29 as a tribute to Sir John at the Abbey's Poets' Corner



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Westminster Abbey Sir John Gielgud memorial



Evening Standard, 26th April 2022

Stars honour Sir John Gielgud at Westminster Abbey memorial service

A memorial stone for the late actor has been laid in Westminster Abbey's south transept.



Dame Judi Dench and Sir Ian McKellen have paid tribute to Sir John Gielgud, with Dame Judi describing him as a 'brilliant actor and brilliant friend'.

The Oscar-award winning British actor and director, who was a master of Shakespearean roles, died aged 96 in May 2000.

A memorial stone honouring his life and work was unveiled at Westminster Abbey on Monday, with a memorial service taking place on Tuesday.



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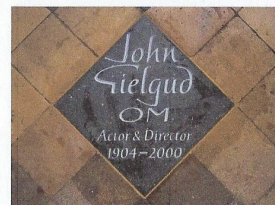
Sir Ian, 82, also paid tribute to Sir John who starred in more than 60 feature films and TV productions, including Julius Caesar with Marlon Brando, Gandhi, Chariots Of Fire and Gulliver's Travels.

Before reading an extract from Shakespeare's play Sir Thomas More, Sir Ian said: 'All I know of him is a witty tongue and a keen eye, but also a generosity.'

Sir Ian also recalled his first meeting with Sir John, during which the late actor said: 'When I die the only reason I'll be remembered is because I'm the first queer actor to be knighted.'

Sir Ian added: 'Isn't that sad. He was a victim of cruel laws.'

English film and theatre director Sir Richard Eyre described Sir John's acting as 'casting a spell that's lasted a lifetime'.



A memorial stone to actor Sir John Gielgud has been installed in the floor of Westminster Abbey (Jonathan Brady/PA) / PA Wire

Reflecting on Sir John's career, which spanned seven decades, Sir Richard, 79, added: 'It seems odd to say it now, but he convinced West End audiences of the joys of Shakespeare.'

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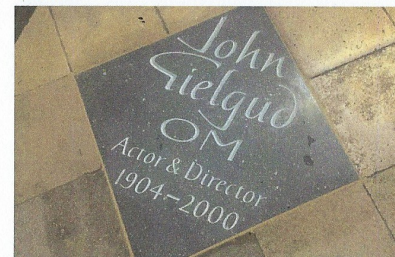
English playwright and director David Hare also paid tribute to Sir John, saying: 'John Gielgud was loved by audiences as much for his character, for who he was, as for his brilliant acting.'

Sir John won the best supporting actor Academy Award in 1982 for playing Dudley Moore's valet in Arthur.

The Stage, 26th April 2022

Memorial stone honouring John Gielgud unveiled at Westminster Abbey

NEWS APR 25, 2022 BY MATTHEW HEMLEY



A memorial stone has been laid in Westminster Abbey honouring actor John Gielgud.

The ledger stone has been unveiled as part of Poets' Corner in the abbey, where more than 100 writers, musicians and actors are buried or have memorials.

Gielgud is being honoured because of his 'tireless determination to interpret and perform'.

The ledger stone has been dedicated by the Dean of Westminster David Hoyle, who said: 'I belong to a generation who grew up with Gielgud's voice and Gielgud's perception. In his tireless determination to interpret and perform, he taught us to take stock and think about the words we use. Numbering him among the names and lives that we remember in the Abbey, we remind ourselves that the task of interrogation and the responsibility to perform truth never stops.'

Among those honoured at Poets' Corner include William Shakespeare, Jane Austen, the Brontë sisters and Charles Dickens.

The first poet to be buried there, in 1400, was Geoffrey Chaucer, author of The Canterbury Tales.

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Daily Telegraph, 25th April 2022

Gielgud honoured in Poets' Corner of Westminster Abbey

By Daniel Capurro SENIOR REPORTER

A MEMORIAL stone honouring the late Sir John Gielgud has been unveiled at Westminster Abbey.

It is the first time in 17 years that an actor has been commemorated in the Abbey's south transept, with Dame Peggy Ashcroft the last in 2005.

Sir John, an Oscar award-winning British actor and director, who was a master of Shakespearean roles, died aged 96 in May 2000.

The stone is in the Abbey's south transept, joining the memorials of other greats from the world of acting including Sir Laurence Olivier and Dame Sybil Thordike. A section of the transept has become known informally as Poets' Corner, due to the dozens of poets and playwrights commemorated or buried there, including William Shakespeare and Charles Dickens.

Gielgud was knighted in 1953 and appointed to the Order of Merit in 1996.



Acting great Sir John Gielgud died in 2000 and was a master of Shakespearean roles



Staff install a memorial stone to Oscar award-winning actor Sir John Gielgud in the floor of the south transept of Westminster Abbey

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i newspaper, 25th April 2022



A worker carries out pointing on the Gielgud memorial at Westminster Abbey
JONATHAN BRADY/PA

PEOPLE

Gielgud gets memorial at Westminster Abbey

By Elle Iorizzo

A memorial stone honouring the late Sir John Gielgud has been unveiled at Westminster Abbey.

The Oscar-winning British actor and director, who was a master of Shakespearean roles, died aged 96 in May 2000.

The stone is in the Abbey's south transept, joining the memorials of other acting greats including Sir Laurence Olivier, Dame

Peggy Ashcroft and Dame

Sybil Thordike. (inset)

Sir John (inset) starred in more than 60 feature films and TV productions, including *Julius Caesar* with Marlon Brando, *Gandhi*, *Chariots Of Fire* and *Gulliver's Travels*.

He was acclaimed in the West End and on Broadway for classic and avant-garde roles, and won



the best supporting actor Academy Award in 1982 for playing Dudley Moore's valet in *Arthur*.

He was knighted in 1953 and appointed to the Order of Merit in 1996.

The memorial, created by the letter carver sculptor Wayne Hart, is made from a block of highly polished Purbeck blue marble.

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