

Nicholas Hytner

Director

Nicholas Hytner's first book, [BALANCING ACTS: BEHIND THE SCENES AT THE NATIONAL THEATRE](#), was published by Jonathan Cape in May 2017.

Praise for [BALANCING ACTS \(2017\)](#):



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Publications

Non-Fiction

Publication Details	Notes
BALANCING ACTS 2017 Jonathan Cape	<p>You start with a vision, and you deliver a compromise. You want a play to be challenging, ambitious, nuanced and complicated. You also want it to sell tickets. You want to make art, and you know you're in show business. These are some of the balancing acts that the National Theatre, and this book, is about.</p> <p>This is the inside story of twelve years at the helm of Britain's greatest theatre. It is a story of lunatic failures and spectacular successes such as <i>The History Boys</i>, <i>War Horse</i> and <i>One Man, Two Guvnors</i>; of opening the doors of the National Theatre to a broader audience than ever before, and changing the public's perception of what theatre is for. It is about probing Shakespeare from every angle and reinventing the classics. About fostering new talent and directing some of the most celebrated actors of our times. Its cast includes the likes of Alan Bennett, Maggie Smith, Mike Leigh, Daniel Day-Lewis, Michael Gambon and Helen Mirren.</p> <p>Intimate, candid and insightful, <i>Balancing Acts</i> is a passionate exploration of the art and alchemy of making theatre.</p>