

chichester festival theatre

25 March 2026

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Full cast announced to join
Sarah Parish and **Rupert Penry-Jones** in the
world premiere of

ECLIPSE

Written and directed by **John Morton**
8 May – 6 June, Minerva Theatre
Press night: Thursday 14 May



Eclipse, written and directed by **John Morton** (*W1A*, *Twenty Twenty Six*) receives its world premiere at Chichester's Minerva Theatre from 8 May – 6 June, with a press night on 14 May. Joining the previously announced **Sarah Parish** and **Rupert Penry-Jones** in the company are **Katharine Bennett-Fox**, **Selina Cadell**, **Mariam Haque**, **Brendan Hooper**, **Lizzie Hopley**, **Julian Protheroe**, **Maanuv Thiara** and **Paul Thornley**.

In the kitchen of an old Devon rectory, the daughter who stayed and the son who moved away make conversation with their current and former partners, the milkman, the postman, the care workers. They talk about the weather, the roads, the toaster, the bins. About anything except the simmering tensions between them, as their father lies mortally ill in the next room. Until the unspoken emotions and conflicts of years boil over.

Eclipse is a painfully funny, acute and delicate play about our struggle to communicate, in the face of life and of death. And our infinite capacity for drinking tea.

Writer and director **John Morton**'s award-winning TV series include *People Like Us*, *Twenty Twelve*, *W1A* and the forthcoming *Twenty Twenty Six* in the run-up to the World Cup; this is his first stage play.

The company is led by **Sarah Parish**, whose recent TV credits include *W1A*, *Piglets*, *Industry* and *Bancroft* and who last appeared at CFT in *Way Upstream*; and **Rupert Penry-**

Jones, returning to the stage after many screen series including *Spooks*, *Silk*, *Whitechapel*, *The Strain* and *The Feud*.

Selina Cadell's distinguished career includes TV's long-running *Doc Martin* and recently, on stage, *The Deep Blue Sea* and *The Tempest* (West End). **Paul Thornley's** theatre credits include *Harry Potter and the Cursed Child* in London and New York, *Dear England* and *London Road* at the National Theatre.

Eclipse will be designed by **Simon Higlett**, with lighting design by **Emma Chapman**, sound design by **Ed Clarke**, and movement by **Mike Ashcroft**; the casting director is **Matilda James CDG**, and the associate director is **Fiona Dunn**.

Eclipse was originally commissioned and developed by ROYO, in association with Wessex Grove.

ENDS

BOOKING INFORMATION

cft.org.uk Box Office **01243 781312**

Prologue: £5 tickets for 16 – 30s

£5 tickets are available for 16 to 30 year-olds; sign up for free at **cft.org.uk/prologue**.

Images can be downloaded from cft.org.uk/pressimages, password: festivalpress

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