

Laurence Olivier Awards to be streamed live for the first time in 2010

LAURENCE
OLIVIER
AWARDS

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- **Members of the public to have live access to this exclusive event**
- **Anthony Head announced as host of the 2010 awards**
- **Voting still open for new Audience Award for most popular show**

The Society of London Theatre announced today, Friday 26 February, that this year's Laurence Olivier Awards will be shown live via www.olivierawards.co.uk.

It is the first time the awards have been shown as and when they happen. Theatre, dance and opera lovers will have the opportunity to be part of the ceremony and to watch the winners take the stage at the awards, which will be held at the Grosvenor House Hotel on Sunday 21 March.

The live streaming will start at 6.30pm via a player on the Laurence Olivier Awards website. As well as the winners, viewers can enjoy performances from London's best productions including some of the 2010 nominated shows plus a showcase from photographer Simon Annand's exhibition *The Half*.

Philippa Salvoni, Head of Publishing at The Society of London Theatre, comments: "This is a very exciting development for both the Laurence Olivier Awards and The Society of London Theatre. We are delighted that visitors to our website will be able to enjoy the atmosphere and glamour of this prestigious event."

The Society of London Theatre also confirmed today the host of the 34th Laurence Olivier Awards as actor Anthony Head. Currently appearing in *Six Degrees of Separation* at the Old Vic, Anthony is also well-known for his roles in TV series *Merlin*, *Little Britain* and *Buffy the Vampire Slayer*.

Online voting is now in the final stages for the Audience Award for Most Popular Show, a new award for 2010. It is the only category voted for entirely by the public and the five shows on the shortlist are: *Billy Elliot The Musical*, *The Phantom of the Opera*, *War Horse*, *We Will Rock You* and *Wicked*. Audience members can vote for their favourite at www.olivierawards.co.uk, where up-to-the-minute news about the awards can also be found.

**For further information please contact:
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Notes to editors

- For interviews with representatives for the Laurence Olivier Awards, images or logos please contact Colman Getty
- The full list of nominations and press accreditation to the awards is also available via Colman Getty
- The Laurence Olivier Awards were created in 1976 as The Society of West End Theatre Awards to recognise excellence on the London stage, and became The Laurence Olivier Awards in 1984 when Lord Olivier agreed to have his name associated with them. Since then, winners have included a roll-call of legendary names and the awards event attracts high profile and extensive media coverage
- The awards include 25 categories, although they are not all given each year: 20 for theatre, two for opera, two for dance, one for productions presented by SOLT's (Society of London Theatre) affiliate members and the Laurence Olivier Audience Award
- For more information please go to www.OliverAwards.co.uk