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Mel Giedroyc announced as Special Guest Star of ENO's *HMS Pinafore*

4 Dec 2025 – 7 Feb 2026 at the London Coliseum (12 performances)



Headshot & Artwork: <https://englishnationalopera.smugmug.com/HMS-Pinafore-2025/Mel-Giedroyc>

Under 21s can get [free opera tickets](#) to all ENO performances at every level of the theatre, and 21-35 year olds can get discounted tickets. Tickets for everyone begin at £15.

English National Opera (ENO)'s sparkling production of Gilbert and Sullivan's nautical love triangle-themed opera *HMS Pinafore* returns to the London Coliseum this winter with a major guest star headlining the cast: comedian, actor and presenter **Mel Giedroyc**.

The former *Great British Bake Off* host and national treasure will make her ENO debut in a non-singing role in the production, which has its first revival since it premiered in autumn 2021. Giedroyc brings her trademark comic timing and warm wit to Gilbert and Sullivan's comedic classic, which is known for its rollicking humour and sharp social satire.

Mel Giedroyc said: 'I'm really excited to be making my debut with English National Opera at the London Coliseum in this hilarious production of Gilbert and Sullivan's *HMS Pinafore*. Lots of innuendo and plenty of operatic sailors... What more could you ask for? It's going to be fun!'

Directed by acclaimed comedy director **Cal McCrystal** and Set and Costumes Designed by **takis**, this playful production was nominated for an Olivier Awards following its premiere in 2021 for Set and Costume Design in the Outstanding Achievement in Opera category, with critics praising it as 'pure unadulterated fun' (Seen and Heard International), 'an endlessly mischievous staging... joyous' (The Times) and 'elegant, buoyant and witty' (The Guardian).

Taking up the baton and leading the Orchestra of the ENO and a host of operatic talent is conductor **Matthew Kofi Waldren**, former Mackerras Conducting Fellow, who previously

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conducted ENO's Olivier Award-nominated production of *Blue*.



ENDS

Notes to Editors

HMS Pinafore opens on Thursday 4 December for 12 performances at the London Coliseum: Dec 4, Jan 23, 24, 29, 31, Feb 4, 5 at 19.30. Dec 5, Jan 24, 31, Feb 7 at 15.00. Jan 29 at 14.00.

BSL Interpreted Performance: Saturday, 31 January, 15.00.

Relaxed Performance: Thursday 29 January 2026, 14.00

Performed in English, with surtitles projected above the stage.

Tickets start from £15 (including all fees).

Website: www.eno.org

For more information or interview requests please contact the ENO Press Office on mediaenquiries@eno.org.

#ENOPinafore

Biography:

Mel Giedroyc is a TV presenter, writer and actress. She is known for her work alongside Sue Perkins. Shows such as the multi Bafta-winning *Great British Bake Off* (BBC) and *Light Lunch* (Channel 4), which made them household names. Mel has been a regular presenter for BBC's *Children In Need* and *Eurovision*. Mel also hosts the comedy panel show *Unforgivable* for BBC Two and *Handmade: Britain's Best Woodworker* for Channel 4. Mel's first novel *The Best Things* was released in 2021.

Mel comes hot off the Bristol Old Vic stage where she's been appearing in the new musical *Starter for Ten*. She will publish her second novel *The Comeback* next year, and will also be appearing in series two of *Last One Laughing* (Amazon). She can be heard on the Magic Radio Sunday Request and on her podcast with Sue Perkins, *Mel & Sue: Should Know By Now* on Audible, and *Where There's A Will, There's A Wake* with Sony Music Entertainment.

About English National Opera (ENO)
English National Opera is the national opera company dedicated to creating extraordinary encounters with opera, on stage and beyond.

We create opera that feels different, theatrical, and creatively daring in a welcoming and inclusive environment, and have been doing this to an internationally recognised standard

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since being founded in 1931 as Sadler's Wells Opera. We believe that positive change for the industry comes from removing barriers to access. We sing in English to be accessible to the widest possible audience, as well as offering free tickets for Under 21s to every performance and at every level of the theatre. We have extended discounts for Under 35s, and tickets available from £15 for everyone else.

We take seriously our role in driving the future of the art form. From the world's first large-scale drive-in opera, TV broadcasts on the BBC and Sky, and creative projects with young people and communities through ENO Engage, our learning and participation programme, we strive to open up new possibilities for opera in people's lives. Since September 2020, we have partnered with Imperial College Healthcare NHS Trust to develop and run ENO Breathe, an award-winning social prescribing intervention that provides crucial support to people recovering from Covid-19. Now expanded into 84 NHS Partners nationally, the programme has to date helped more than 4,500 people with long Covid across England. Our free national music education programme *Finish This...* currently works with 14,000 school pupils annually, supporting high quality music making in classrooms across the country.

Showcasing the wealth of nationwide talent is fundamental to ENO's vision. Our talent development programmes continue to nurture the careers of singers (the ENO Harewood Artist programme), musicians (ENO Evolve), and directors (Director Observerships).

English National Opera, creating opera without limits.

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