

Trigger Warning

As much as we don't want to give away any 'spoilers', we recognise that this play can cause distress or trigger challenging emotions for some of our audience members.



Prima Facie discusses sensitive subject matter including references to sex, violence, and rape. You can use the QR code below to find more information on the places you can find support and information.

Enjoy the show

We hope you enjoy your National Theatre Live screening. We make every attempt to replicate the theatre experience as closely as possible for your enjoyment.

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Go behind the scenes of *Prima Facie* and learn more about how our broadcasts happen on our website.



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National Theatre Live

Presented by

empire
street
productions

Prima Facie

written by Suzie Miller

Cast

Tessa.....Jodie Comer

Production Team

Director.....Justin Martin

Set and Costume Designer.....Miriam Buether

Lighting Designer.....Natasha Chivers

Sound Designers.....Ben & Max Ringham

Composer.....Rebecca Lucy Taylor

Video.....Willie Williams
for Treatment Studio

Voice and Dialect Coach.....Kate Godfrey

Broadcast Team

Director for Screen.....Matthew Amos

Technical Producer.....Christopher C. Bretnall

Lighting Director.....Carol Sadler

Sound Supervisor.....Conrad Fletcher

Script Supervisor.....Emma Ramsey



Running time: 1 hour and 54 minutes. There is no interval.



Writer's Notes – Suzie Miller

Note from the playwright

Prima facie – (from Latin) a legal term meaning: on the face of it.

The protagonist of *Prima Facie*, Tessa Ensler, is a young blood criminal barrister addicted to the game of law, bursting with social justice and fighting what she believes is the good fight. She might not have gone to all the right schools, or come from the right socioeconomic family background, but she graduated top of her law school year with every major law firm in hot pursuit, all offering her the universe to come work for them. Yet Tessa chooses to fight in the trenches with the most challenging cases, always arguing for the defence, wary of the police and their tricks, and playing fairly and squarely within the rules of the law.

The system of law means you have to believe that the rules are sacrosanct and that your

own role is purely a role within a bigger game. What happens when you rise through the ranks, playing by those rules and you start to realise that some of the rules of the game are actually bendable, breakable? Not always fair?

Tessa is a star player now, but her careful treading within the discretionary parts of this world starts to feel dangerous, and she is caught between her life and her belief system. Suddenly thrust into a situation where she tests the system for herself, Tessa finds that the walls of this trusted watertight structure, start to crumble and there is nothing safe to cling to. Yet for Tessa, seeing the law for what it is, an imperfect human construct, constantly evolving within social changes, frees her to find her voice and call us all to action.

National Theatre Live

National Theatre Live films and distributes world-class theatre from stages across the United Kingdom to cinema screens around the world.

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Empire Street Productions

Empire Street Productions was set up by Olivier and Tony Award-winning producer James Bierman to develop and produce work across theatre, television and film. Recent projects, as well as the global sensation *Prima Facie*, includes the plays *Slave Play* by Jeremy O. Harris; *The Pillowman* by Martin McDonagh; and *Ballywalter*, a feature film starring Seána Kerslake and Patrick Kielty.

[empirestreetproductions.com](https://www.empirestreetproductions.com)
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Coming soon

The Importance of Being Earnest

by Oscar Wilde
directed by Max Webster
from National Theatre

In cinemas from 20 Feb 2025

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Olivier Award-winner Sharon D Clarke is joined by Ncuti Gatwa (*Doctor Who*, *Sex Education*) in this joyful reimagining of Oscar Wilde's most celebrated comedy.