



12 MAY 2026

## ***NELL! THE MUSICAL RECEIVES ARTS COUNCIL FUNDING***

Pudding Lane Productions has been awarded £2000 through Arts Council National Lottery Project Grants for *Nell! The Musical*.

*Nell!* is an original stage production, written and composed by a local musician and writer in collaboration with other writers from Somerset. It celebrates the remarkable life and times of Nell Gwyn – orange seller, comedic actress, and famed mistress to King Charles II. Nell grew up in a bawdy house, moved to the theatre to become an orange seller and from there caught the eye of theatre impresarios, diarist Samuel Pepys, Lord Buckhurst and King Charles II.

The story is presented not as a history lesson but as engaging entertainment set within a clear historical context. The cast will perform in period costume and the songs are designed to be powerful, memorable and accessible.

The premiere will take place on 26 and 27 June 2026 in the picturesque grounds of Charlton House, Charlton Mackrell, as part of the 300th anniversary celebrations of this historic venue.

Pudding Lane Productions aims, with this inaugural show, to involve as many people from the local and wider community as possible and to rekindle a strong sense of community in the villages and bring theatre, culture and fellowship to our rural community. The group intends this production to lay the foundation for future outdoor performances and other creative events in the area, offering ongoing opportunities for local amateur performers, creatives and volunteers.

National Lottery Project Grants is the Arts Council's open access programme for arts, museums and libraries projects. The fund supports thousands of individual artists, community and cultural organisations thanks to National Lottery investment.

National Lottery players raise over £30 million for good causes each week, funding arts, heritage, sports, voluntary and charity projects around the UK. Over £43 billion has been raised for Good Causes since the National Lottery began in 1994.

Dominic Sandford, Co-Director said: *"I can't wait for our show to come to fruition! A huge thanks to funding from the National Lottery through Arts Council England"*.

For more information, please see our website [www.nellthemusical.co.uk](http://www.nellthemusical.co.uk), or contact us on [info@puddinglaneproductions.co.uk](mailto:info@puddinglaneproductions.co.uk) or [info@nellthemusical.co.uk](mailto:info@nellthemusical.co.uk).

**Arts Council England** is the national development agency for creativity and culture. We have set out our strategic vision in [Let's Create](#) that by 2030 we want England to be a country in which the creativity of each of us is valued and given the chance to flourish and where everyone of us has access to a remarkable range of high quality cultural experiences. We invest public money from Government and The National Lottery to help support the sector and to deliver this vision. [www.artscouncil.org.uk](http://www.artscouncil.org.uk)

Following the Covid-19 crisis, the Arts Council developed a £160 million Emergency Response Package, with nearly 90% coming from the National Lottery, for organisations and individuals needing support. We are also one of the bodies administering the Government's unprecedented £1.96 billion Culture Recovery Funds. Find out more at [www.artscouncil.org.uk/covid19](http://www.artscouncil.org.uk/covid19).

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