

## NEWS

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**New Vic gets a taste of the Old Bailey!**

The New Vic Theatre presents

**A Voyage Round My Father****By John Mortimer**

Fri 23 Jan - Sat 14 Feb

A taste of the Old Bailey comes to the New Vic this month as the inspiration for TV classic *Rumpole of the Bailey* takes to the stage. **A Voyage Round My Father** is Sir John Mortimer's hugely popular auto-biographical play on life with his eccentric barrister father, a character famously immortalised as the much-loved Horace Rumpole in the hit TV series.

The witty and moving memoir by barrister, author and playwright Mortimer, 85, is being adapted for the round courtesy of Artistic Director Theresa Heskins, whose fast-paced productions such as *Jamaica Inn* and *Great Expectations* have won plaudits from critics and audiences alike.

*A Voyage Round My Father* describes Mortimer's upper middle-class childhood and young adult life between the wars. He grows up in the shadow of his father, a brilliant, eccentric and completely impossible barrister, who goes blind in middle age but insists on continuing with life as though he hasn't.

Despite sailing off to boarding school and to war-work in a film studio, despite love and marriage and the first glimmerings of a writing career, it is to the charismatic, curmudgeonly father that the son always returns - with exasperation, frustration and, above all, with deep, hard-won love.

Called to the Bar in 1948, Sir John Mortimer QC CBE developed his career as a playwright by rising early to write before attending court. His output includes over 50 books, plays, and scripts including the hugely successful adaptation of *Brideshead Revisited* for ITV in 1981. That same year *A Voyage Round My Father* was re-made for Thames Television with Laurence Olivier in the role of his father.

Famous for taking on impossible cases, his formidable wife Hilda ("she who must be obeyed"), and his fondness for "cooking claret", *Rumpole of the Bailey* continues to be Mortimer's most popular creation with a series of radio programmes, TV series and books spanning four decades. Mortimer is currently working on his latest *Rumpole* novel, *Rumpole and the Brave New World*.

Tickets for *A Voyage Round My Father*, which cost £8.50 – £17.50, can be booked by calling the New Vic's Box Office on 01782 717962, or online at [www.newvictheatre.org.uk](http://www.newvictheatre.org.uk)

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