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## STAR CASTING ANNOUNCED FOR THE WORLD PREMIERE & MAJOR UK TOUR OF PETER JAMES' 'PICTURE YOU DEAD'



**BASED ON THE BESTSELLING DSI ROY GRACE SERIES BY PETER JAMES**

**[TICKETS ON SALE NOW FROM PETERJAMES.COM](https://peterjames.com)**

A multi star cast has been announced for the World Premiere of the brand new stage production, **Picture You Dead** - adapted from the bestselling novel of the UK's number one crime writer Peter James'— which opens on **6 February 2025** at **High Wycombe's Swan Theatre** before embarking on a major UK Tour.

2024 National Television Award winning actor, **Peter Ash**, will return to the stage, following his acclaimed and unforgettably emotional exit from *Coronation Street* in September. Peter's other numerous credits include *Footballers' Wives* and the lead role in the National Theatre's *War Horse*. Joining Peter is **Fiona Wade** who, following 11 years in *Emmerdale*, took to the stage earlier this year in the hit *2:22 A Ghost Story* and she will soon be seen in the highly anticipated Fox comedy series, *Going Dutch*. West End favourite **Jodie Steele** (*Bonnie & Clyde*, *Wicked*, *Heathers*, *SIX*) will star as Roberta Kilgore and one of the nation's favourite TV doctors, **George Rainsford**, (*Casualty*, *Call the Midwife* and *All's Well That Ends Well* at the National Theatre), will return to reprise the role of Peter James' famous literary detective, DSI Roy Grace, which he played in the 2023 hit production of *Wish You Were Dead*. George will also reunite with Fiona, who he starred alongside in *2:22 A Ghost Story*. And from 20 May 2025, the week after Peter Ash ends his run, actor, presenter and *Strictly Come Dancing* champion, **Ore Oduba** (*Pretty Woman* and *Rocky Horror Show*), will join the cast in the role of Stuart Piper.

The World Premiere of **Picture You Dead** is the seventh Peter James book to be adapted for the stage by award-winning writer **Shaun McKenna** and is directed by **Jonathan O'Boyle** who

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has previously directed two Peter James stage adaptations, *Wish You Were Dead* (2023) and *Looking Good Dead* (2021-2022).

Peter James said: *“It is truly incredible for me to see the seventh stage adaptation of my books coming to theatres in 2025. I am so grateful to the hundreds of thousands of people around the country who have come to their local theatre and enjoyed the plays over the last 10 years, and I am thrilled to tell you all that personally, I think this brand new play, is the best one so far! On top of that, I could not be more delighted by the fantastic cast that we have assembled to star in the World Premiere production of Picture You Dead – they are all brilliant actors and it’s going to be a great and thrilling night at the theatre!”*

The story of *Picture You Dead* was inspired by Peter’s meeting with real life art forger and now acclaimed copyist, David Henty: set in Brighton, DSI Grace investigates a cold case that leads him to the rarified air of fine art, but beneath the respectable veneer lurks a dark underworld of greed, deception and murder. When an unsuspecting couple unwittingly buy a potentially long-lost masterpiece in a car boot sale, they discover that their dream find is about to turn into their worst nightmare and only Grace can stop them from paying the ultimate price.

Roy Grace is a crime fiction phenomenon - the books have sold over 23 million copies worldwide, been previously adapted for six hugely successful stage productions, and transformed into ITV’s critically acclaimed primetime drama about the Brighton-based detective, GRACE. Season four of the crime series was another ratings smash-hit, with season five currently in production. And earlier this year, GRACE was declared by Her Majesty Queen Camilla herself, as her favourite literary detective!

Peter James has 20 Sunday Times number one bestselling crime novels to his name. The world premiere tour of *Picture You Dead* marks the latest and seventh thrilling theatre adaptation of his books and is once again produced by Joshua Andrews and Peter James cementing the adaptations of James’ Grace books, as the most successful modern-day crime franchise on stage, since Agatha Christie.

### ‘PICTURE YOU DEAD’ UK TOUR 2025

6 – 8 February	High Wycombe, Swan Theatre
10 – 16 February	Swindon, Wyvern Theatre
18 – 22 February	Woking, New Victoria Theatre
27 February – 1 March	Southampton, Mayflower Theatre
4 – 8 March	Brighton, Theatre Royal
11 – 15 March	Nottingham, Theatre Royal
18 – 22 March	Richmond Theatre
25 – 29 March	Malvern, Festival Theatre
1 – 5 April	Norwich, Theatre Royal
16 – 19 April	Salford, The Lowry
29 April – 3 May	Shrewsbury, Theatre Severn
6 – 10 May	Milton Keynes Theatre



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13 – 17 May	Newcastle, Theatre Royal
20 – 24 May	New Brighton, Floral Pavilion
27 - 31 May	Cheltenham, Everyman Theatre
3 – 7 June	Sheffield, Lyceum Theatre
10 – 14 June	Glasgow, Theatre Royal
17 – 21 June	Bath, Theatre Royal
24 – 28 June	Birmingham, Alexandra Theatre
1 – 5 July	Truro, Hall for Cornwall
8 – 12 July	Bradford, Alhambra Theatre
22 – 26 July	Southend, Palace Theatre

Please note, Peter Ash's final scheduled performance is 17 May. Ore Oduba's first scheduled performance is 20 May.

**For further information, please contact:**

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