

National Theatre Archive Recordings Quality Guide

October 2022

Types of recordings

- Theatre Museum (1992-2004)
- VHS archive recordings (1995-2006)
- Digital archive recordings (2006-)
- NT Live recordings (2009-)
- NT at Home recordings (2021-)
- Enhanced archive recordings (2021-)



ROYAL NATIONAL
THEATRE ARCHIVE



1997 - VHS archive recording - 'low quality' RNT/SO/

VHS archive recording - 'low quality' RNT/SO/

- Digitised from VHS
- Recorded by the National Theatre Sound Department
- Filmed using one static camera
- Some have the Royal National Theatre Archive text all the way through
Reference numbers begin with RNT/SO/



1997 - Theatre Museum recording - 'medium quality' TM/

Theatre Museum recording - 'medium quality' TM/

- Medium quality digital video recorded for the National Video Archive of Performance formerly the Theatre Museum at the V&A
- Multiple cameras
- Reference numbers begin with TM/



2009 - Digital archive recording - 'good quality' RNT/AE/



2016 - Digital archive recording - 'good quality' RNT/AE/

Digital archive recording - 'good quality' RNT/AE/

- NT Archive Department digital video recordings started in 2009
- Three cameras
- We hold the three camera edit as well as a fixed camera wide shot, which researchers find useful for understanding the full set design, scene changes and exits and entrances
- Both versions are catalogued and researchers can select which is more suited to their work
- Reference numbers begin with RNT/AE/



2017 - NT Live recording - 'excellent high definition quality' RNT/D

NT Live recording - 'excellent high definition quality' RNT/D/

- NT Live Broadcast Recordings filmed for screening in cinemas
- Multiple cameras, fixed and roving
- Reference numbers begin with RNT/D/



2021 - NT at Home recording - 'excellent high definition quality'
RNT/AE or RNT/D

NT at Home recording - 'excellent high definition quality' RNT/AE/ or RNT/D/

- NT at Home is our worldwide streaming platform and these recordings are not as high budget as NT Live but are still excellent high definition quality
- Reference numbers are also RNT/AE/ or RNT/D/



2021 - Enhanced archive recording - 'excellent high definition quality' RNT/AE

Enhanced archive recording - 'excellent high definition quality' RNT/AE/

- Enhanced archive recordings have almost entirely replaced the traditional archive recordings
- Actors are radio mic'd for the recording
- 5 cameras are used as opposed to the traditional three
- These will be filmed for productions that will not feature on NT at Home or NT Collection, usually because of rights issues
- Reference numbers are also RNT/AE/