

Protecting theatres for **everyone**



Our Ref.: RA/3119

9 March 2017

Jane Hamilton
Development Planning
City of Westminster
PO Box 732
Redhill, RH1 9FL

Dear Ms Hamilton,

Institute of Contemporary Art

Application Ref: 17/00746/FULL & 17/00747/LBC

I write regarding the above planning and listed building applications for new entrances and alterations to the Institute of Contemporary Art.

Remit: The Theatres Trust is the national advisory public body for theatres. We champion the past, present and future of live theatre, by protecting the buildings and what goes on inside. We were established through the Theatres Trust Act 1976 'to promote the better protection of theatres' and provide statutory planning advice on theatre buildings and theatre use in England through The Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (England) Order 2015 requiring the Trust to be consulted by local authorities on planning applications which include 'development involving any land on which there is a theatre'.

Comment: The Theatres Trust does not object to this application, however, we do have hesitations about the loss of the studio theatre space. We generally support the concept of reconfiguring the existing rooms within the podium to create a large, adaptable space at ground floor level which can be divided into smaller spaces as necessary, and recognise this flexibility will be beneficial to the ICA's current programme requirements.

However, while live theatre may not be a regular part of the current ICA programme, it may be once again in the future, and we would therefore recommend the existing dressing rooms/ back of house spaces are retained (or relocated) to continue to facilitate live theatre now and into the future. It is also unclear from the plans provided where and what the temporary room dividers are, where and how they are stored when not in use, or if they are of a suitable material for noise mitigation to allow for simulations events.

While we do not object, we do recommend further consideration be given to the above comments, particularly the retention of dressing room facilities to safeguard future theatre use.

Please contact us if we may be of further assistance.

Theatres Trust

22 Charing Cross Road, London WC2H 0QL

T 020 7836 8591

F 020 7836 3302

E info@theatrestrust.org.uk

W theatrestrust.org.uk

Chair Tim Eyles **Director** Jon Morgan

Trustees Nick Allott OBE, Richard Baldwin, Dara Ó Briain, Paddy Dillon, Ruth Eastwood, Oliver Goodwin, Prof Gavin Henderson CBE, Jerry Katzman, Dame Penelope Keith DL, Judith Mellor OBE, Peter Roberts, Simon Ruddick, Ann Skippers, Anna Stapleton

The National Advisory Public Body for Theatres

The Theatres Trust Charitable Fund co-operates with Theatres Trust, has the same Trustees and is registered as a charity under number 274697

Protecting theatres for **everyone**



Yours sincerely,

Ross Anthony
Planning Adviser

Theatres Trust

22 Charing Cross Road, London WC2H 0QL

T 020 7836 8591

F 020 7836 3302

E info@theatrestrust.org.uk

W theatrestrust.org.uk

Chair Tim Eyles **Director** Jon Morgan

Trustees Nick Allott OBE, Richard Baldwin, Dara Ó Briain, Paddy Dillon, Ruth Eastwood, Oliver Goodwin, Prof Gavin Henderson CBE, Jerry Katzman, Dame Penelope Keith DL, Judith Mellor OBE, Peter Roberts, Simon Ruddick, Ann Skippers, Anna Stapleton

The National Advisory Public Body for Theatres

The Theatres Trust Charitable Fund co-operates with Theatres Trust, has the same Trustees and is registered as a charity under number 274697