

## PRESS RELEASE 5 JULY 2017

### Theatres Trust announces Annual Conference in October 2017 exploring role theatres can play within placemaking

Theatres Trust **Conference 17: Theatres & Placemaking** will take place on **Tuesday 17 October** at the **Lyric Hammersmith, London**, discussing the role of theatres and wider cultural infrastructure within placemaking. The conference will examine and debate a number of issues around this vital topic, including the contribution theatre buildings can make towards the regeneration, economic growth, vibrancy and well-being of a community.

**Jon Morgan, Director of Theatres Trust** said:

“Placemaking is a well-established concept and an important principle guiding the work across both city and town planning and increasingly within the culture sector. **Conference 17** will look at how all the stakeholders including theatre operators, planners, developers, architects and local communities, can work together to embed the value of theatres in placemaking. We will explore how we can design and run our theatres as democratic, inclusive environments to foster a sense of ownership and civic pride. We will examine the role of local authorities in championing theatre buildings in their plans. And we will discuss ways to encourage and support local communities to value and protect their local theatre and to take an active role in cultural planning.”

The annual conference, now in its **eleventh** year, attracts a high number of key decision makers and influencers and in a break from the usual format delegates will be able to participate in a range of plenary and break-out sessions whilst listening to inspiring case studies to inform their discussion and debates.

**Jon Morgan** continues:

“Our Conference provides a useful platform to hear from voices across different sectors who might not necessarily engage with each other on a daily basis. We work with a diverse range of stakeholders throughout the year and we hope that the subject matter will encourage those with a shared interest in vibrant communities and a flourishing theatre sector to get involved.”

Conference 17: Theatres & Placemaking **contributors** confirmed to date include: Richard Blyth, Head of Policy, Royal Town Planning Institute; David Byrne, Artistic and Executive Director, New Diorama Theatre; Damian Cruden, Artistic Director, York Theatre Royal; Anna Devlet, Head of Community, British Land; Angus Morrogh-Ryan, Director, De Matos Ryan Architects.

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**Chair** Tim Eyles **Director** Jon Morgan

**Trustees** Richard Baldwin, Pam Bone, Paul Cartwright, Paddy Dillon, Ruth Eastwood, David Ian, Richard Johnston, Gary Kemp, Dara Ó Briain, Simon Ricketts, Peter Roberts, 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

The Conference is generously **sponsored** by a diverse group of organisations, consultancies and manufacturers including: ABTT, Aedas Arts Team, Allies and Morrison, Audio Light Systems, BuroHappold, Charcoalblue, Chauvet Professional, EM Acoustics, ETC, GDS, GoboPlus, Harlequin Floors, Haworth Tompkins, Hawthorn, LSI Magazine, Lyric Hammersmith, New Stages Ltd, Northern Light, Page\Park, Philips Entertainment Lighting, Plann, Really Useful Theatres Group, Stage Electrics, Theatre Projects, Triple E and Unusual.

For more information on **booking tickets** please visit:

[theatrust.org.uk/latest/events/232-theatres-trust-conference-17-theatres-placemaking](https://theatrust.org.uk/latest/events/232-theatres-trust-conference-17-theatres-placemaking)

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## IMAGES

**Lyric Hammersmith** credit Jim Stephenson; **Delegates at Conference 16** credit Alex Brenner

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## NOTES TO EDITORS

**Theatres Trust** is the UK national advisory public body for theatres. We believe that current and future generations should have access to good quality theatre buildings where they can be inspired by, and enjoy, live theatre. We champion the past, present and future of live theatre, by protecting the buildings and what goes on inside. We do this through providing advice on planning and development, supplying resources and advice to make theatres sustainable and offering financial assistance through grants. We help people discover more about theatres and campaign for theatres at risk.

All information correct at the time of going to press. More contributors and sponsors will be confirmed in due course. Please check [theatrust.org.uk](https://theatrust.org.uk) for updates.