

PRESS RELEASE 14 November 2017

5 London theatres awarded vital funding to secure their buildings for future use

Theatres Trust, the national advisory public body for theatres, have announced five small theatres in London to benefit from the third round of its **London Theatres Small Grants Scheme**. The awards have been made to theatres in need of immediate repairs, addressing accessibility issues and improving conditions for staff, performers and audiences. Recipients of the £5,000 grants include **Applecourt Arts, Bernie Grant Arts Centre, Chats Palace, Park Theatre** and **The Space**.

The scheme was launched in Summer 2015 by **Cameron Mackintosh's Mackintosh Foundation** in partnership with the **London Mayor's Office**, to help small theatres in the city with vital capital funding. In Spring 2016 **Fawn James** joined the **Mackintosh Foundation** as the second major donor to the **London Theatres Small Grants Scheme**.

The recipients in this round are:

- Applecourt Arts receives £5,000 towards a new venue heating system.
- Bernie Grant Arts Centre in Tottenham receives £5,000 towards urgent repairs to the get-in door of its main house theatre.
- Chats Palace receives £5,000 towards a new front door.
- Finsbury Park's Park Theatre receives £5,000 towards replacement of its alarm system.
- The Space receives £5,000 towards the installation of an LED house lighting system.

Director at Theatres Trust, Jon Morgan says: "London has a unique collection of theatres and its thriving culture relies on performance spaces of all sizes. The smaller theatres across London often operate on fragile business models and struggle for investment into their buildings. We see supporting theatres that are taking care of their buildings so they can continue to serve their communities as key to our mission. For these organisations a small grant makes a big difference."

Justine Simons OBE, Deputy Mayor for Culture and Creative Industries, Greater London Authority says "London's small theatres are absolutely central to performing arts in the capital. They are centres of community activity, allow both emerging stars and enthusiastic amateurs to showcase their talent, and are a training ground for jobs in theatre from lighting and sound to make-up and set design. Congratulations to the five theatres who have been awarded grants."

Theatres Trust

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Chair Tim Eyles **Director** Jon Morgan

Trustees Richard Baldwin, David Blyth, 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

Applications for Round 4 of the **London Theatres Small Grants Scheme** are now open. The application deadline is 25 January 2018. For more information on eligibility and to apply, visit: theatretrust.org.uk/how-we-help/grants-funding/london-small-theatres-grants-scheme

Theatres outside of London can apply for the UK Theatres Small Grants scheme which similarly offers grants of up to £5,000 but does not have the same capacity restrictions. The deadline for the next round of the UK Theatres Small Grants Scheme supported by the Andrew Lloyd Webber Foundation is the 7 January 2018.

ENDS

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NOTES TO EDITORS

Theatres Trust are 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.
theatretrust.org.uk

London Theatres Small Grants Scheme Awards 2017:

Applecourt Arts | Newham | £5,000 | Heating System

Applecourt Arts is a new theatre in Upton Park in the East End of London. Applecourt took over an arts centre in January this year, and have converted the community hall into a 108-seat theatre space. On opening the building the need for urgent boiler repairs was uncovered. The grant will go towards the costs of installing a more energy efficient heating solution.

Bernie Grant Arts Centre | Haringey | £5,000 | Get-in door repairs

The BGAC aims to be a nationally and internationally recognised centre for the development of diverse cultural and creative practitioners. Through use over the past 10 years it has become clear the brickwork around the get-in door is in need of reinforcement. This grant will support these works and will ensure that the area remains safe for technicians and performers.

Chats Palace | Hackney | £5,000 | New front door

This Hackney arts centre, based in a Carnegie former Library, presents an ambitious live programme showcasing new material while also providing creative and education opportunities to tackle inequalities. The current front door is a heavy set of security doors installed in the 1980s. The new doors will be designed to be in keeping with the Grade II listed building and more reflective of Chats Palace role as a welcoming space for community encounter and dialogue.

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Park Theatre | Islington | £5,000 | New alarm system

The Park Theatre presents a broad range of work, from classics to revivals, with a healthy dose of new writing, producing in-house as well as working in partnership with emerging and established producers from both the commercial and subsidised sectors. Following another recent serious break-in, the grant will allow the theatre to fast-track the installation of a new alarm system and ensure that Park Theatre remains a welcoming and secure venue for all.

The Space | Tower Hamlets | £5,000 | New house lighting system

The Space is a fringe theatre supporting emerging companies and its community in Tower Hamlets. The funding will support the modernisation of the house lighting system, improving energy efficiency and improving the theatre environment for audiences. The existing halogen lighting is no longer fit for purpose and is expensive to run, the new system offers increased flexibility and reduced costs for this theatre.

London Theatres Small Grants Scheme

First Round recipients (February 2016): Battersea Arts Centre (BAC), Wandsworth; Bush Theatre, Hammersmith & Fulham; Cockpit Theatre, Camden; New Diorama Theatre, Camden; SPID Theatre Company, Kensington and Chelsea.

Second round recipients (December 2016): Clapham Omnibus Lambeth; Soho Theatre, Westminster; Theatre Peckham, Southwark; Tricycle Theatre, Brent; Young Actor's Theatre, Islington.

Needs of London's Small Theatres

There are around 110 small theatres throughout London. Only around 25% receive any form of Arts Council England funding or public subsidy. Three quarters of small venues surveyed as part of the London Assembly's report into the needs of small theatres in London said they needed to significantly upgrade or repair their buildings but 93% had yet to raise the money to carry out the work. The state of theatre buildings affects the visitor experience, running costs, energy efficiency and the safety and accessibility of the venue. The type of work required varies between theatres: Addressing structural problems with the building such as plumbing, roofs or disabled access. Enhancing production facilities such as lighting and sound-proofing. Increasing energy efficiency, for instance by installing double-glazed windows or insulation. Improving the visitor experience through upgraded toilets. Offering new services, such as rehearsal space for theatre groups or a café for customers. There are an estimated 110 theatres that could be eligible for capital grants under the London Theatres Small Grants Scheme.

Fawn James, Director, Soho Estates Fawn is a Director of property company Soho Estates. Her grandfather was Paul Raymond, the entertainment impresario and property investor who staged revue and variety shows at countless Soho venues from the 1950s onwards. Fawn is a member of the Executive Committee of the Royal Variety Charity, and is one of the producers of the West End transfer of musical Mrs Henderson Presents, which opened in February 2016. Fawn is also managing the development of a new theatre in Soho, which will be called the Boulevard Theatre, in tribute to a venue which was on the same site in the 1980s, and helped launch the careers of many young comedians including The Comic Strip. Soho Estates began as a collection of historic buildings acquired from the 1970s to the 1990s by Paul Raymond. Today, the estate covers large parts of Soho's 87 acres, and its tenants reflect the vibrant mix found in Soho, including

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restaurants, bars and clubs, hotels, independent retailers, and offices. The company focuses its philanthropic activities on charities and projects in the local area, tackling issues affecting communities within Soho and the West End. This includes partnerships with Centrepont, Terrence Higgins Trust, the Soho Parish School and Soho Create, as well as funding for events, festivals and markets.

Mackintosh Foundation The Mackintosh Foundation was founded in 1988 by Cameron Mackintosh to promote and develop theatrical, musical and dramatic arts; relieve suffering from and promote research into the causes and treatment of AIDS/cancer; provide for medical research generally and relief of sickness; relief for the homeless and poverty stricken; promotion of the conservation, protection and enhancement in the UK of nature and the amenities of the countryside, including areas of natural beauty.