

Our Ref.: RA/2028

2 January 2018

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

Dear Sir/ Madam,

Wyndham's Theatre, Charing Cross Road, London

Application Ref.: 17/10677/LBC

Thank you for consulting the Theatres Trust on the proposed refurbishment of the ceiling and ceiling void at Wyndham's Theatre. Please see our comments below.

Remit: The Theatres Trust is the national advisory public body for theatres. 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 Trust actively encourages theatre owners and operators to invest and upgrade their buildings to ensure they meet current building and safety standards. We therefore support this application for alterations within the theatre ceiling void, and the strengthening and redecoration of the ceiling, in accordance with the Association of British Theatre Technicians *Guidance Note 20 Advice to theatre owners and managers regarding suspended fibrous plaster ceilings; surveys, certification record keeping etc.*, which establishes best practice for the maintenance and inspection of suspended fibrous plaster ceilings.

We support the removal of the existing walkway and other services that currently rest upon the ceiling and their replacement with a walkway and equipment that is suspended from the structural roof frame of the building. This will greatly improve access for ceiling inspections and will reduce the load and pressure placed on the plaster ceiling and rafters. The outlined methodology for strengthening the existing hessian wads with galvanised wire is generally consistent with the approach taken to secure suspended plaster ceilings at other theatres and is therefore considered suitable for Wyndham's. We also welcome the general repairs to plaster features throughout the theatre, and the redecoration of the ceiling to enhance the appearance of the auditorium as a whole.

Overall, we agree with the objectives of this proposal as the safety of the audience, performers and theatre staff is paramount and the Trust welcomes the precautionary approach taken to reinforce, refurbish, redecorate and extend the life of the Wyndham's Theatre's suspended

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

plaster ceiling. We recommend granting listed building consent.

Please contact us if we may be of further assistance.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ross Anthony', written over a horizontal line.

Ross Anthony
Planning Consultant