

## PRESS RELEASE 30 April 2018

### Theatres Trust announce ten theatres to be awarded grants from Theatres Protection Fund

Theatres Trust is pleased to announce that it is awarding up to £50,000 to ten theatres across the UK from its Theatres Protection Fund, set up to help theatres in need and at risk improve their buildings.

The **UK Small Grants Scheme** will award five small capital grants to a range of theatres across the country. Launched in April 2012, this scheme awards grants of up to £5,000 to theatres across the UK to address urgent building works and improvements, and receives support from the **Andrew Lloyd Webber Foundation** and **Charles Michael Holloway Charitable Trust**.

**£24,715** in grants from the UK Theatres Small Grants Scheme are awarded as follows:  
**Mechanic's Theatre Burnley, Purple Playhouse Brighton, Studio 1A Bangor, St George's Theatre Great Yarmouth, Tron Theatre, Glasgow**

In addition, the Theatres Trust have announced five small theatres in London to benefit from the fourth round of the **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.

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 of **Soho Estates** joined the Mackintosh Foundation as the second major donor to the London Small Theatres Grants Scheme.

**£24,870** in grants from the London Small Theatre Grants Scheme are awarded as follows:  
**Albany Theatre, Half Moon Theatre, Normansfield Theatre, Playground Theatre, Theatre503**

**Jon Morgan**, Director at the **Theatres Trust** said: "Theatres need support to repair and improve their buildings and we are delighted that our small grants schemes can help with that. The recipients are all rooted in their local communities and give a broad range of people access to the performing arts."

#### Applications are open now for three grants schemes with the following deadlines:

- UK Theatres Small Grants Scheme (up to £5k): 21 May 2018
- Theatre Improvement Scheme Improving Accessibility (up to £20k): 13 September 2018
- London Small Theatres Grants Scheme (up to £5k): 15 October 2018

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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



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## **IMAGES**

[www.dropbox.com/sh/7r7z3q3to3iu6p7/AABBeXCU8tMrWnHccaD1kh\\_pa?dl=0](https://www.dropbox.com/sh/7r7z3q3to3iu6p7/AABBeXCU8tMrWnHccaD1kh_pa?dl=0)

## **DONORS**

**The Theatres Protection Fund Small Grants Scheme is generously supported by the Andrew Lloyd Webber Foundation and Charles Michael Holloway Charitable Trust.**

**Andrew Lloyd Webber Foundation's** (the Foundation's) principle objectives are to promote the arts, culture and heritage for the public benefit. It was founded by Andrew Lloyd Webber in 1992. In April 2012 the Foundation awarded a grant of £125,000 over 5 years to the Theatres Trust to help launch its Theatres Protection Fund Small Grants Scheme providing grants of up to £5,000. The Foundation awarded a further 3 year grant of £90,000 in July 2017.

Since embarking on an active grant giving programme in 2010, the Foundation has now awarded grants of £19m to support high quality training and personal development as well as other projects that make a real difference to enrich the quality of life both for individuals and within local communities. As well as the Theatres Trust, other significant grants include £3.5m to Arts Educational Schools, London to create a state of the art professional theatre, £2.4m to the Music in Secondary Schools Trust, £1m to The Architectural Heritage Fund, \$1.3m to the American Theatre Wing and over £350,000 annually to fund 30 performing arts scholarships for talented students in financial need. [www.andrewlloydwebberfoundation.com](http://www.andrewlloydwebberfoundation.com)

**Charles Michael Holloway Charitable Trust** Charles Holloway, a Theatres Trust Friend, provides grant support for the Theatres Trust's UK Theatres Grants Scheme, via the Charles Michael Holloway Charitable Trust which provides grants to charities or voluntary bodies.

**The Theatres Protection Fund London Small Theatres Grants Scheme is generously supported by the Cameron Mackintosh Foundation and Soho Estates.**

**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.

**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 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 Centrepoin, Terrence Higgins Trust, the Soho Parish School and Soho Create, as well as funding for events, festivals and markets.

## GRANT RECIPIENTS

### **Burnley Mechanics Theatre | £5,000 | Get-in lift**

Burnley Mechanics Theatre is a receiving house converted from an historic mechanic's institute. It has an auditorium on the first floor which results in a challenging get in procedure requiring multiple hoists and manual handling. Our grant will fund a new lift which will remove the final step of that by allowing heavy set pieces to be brought up to stage level without physical effort. This project will help ensure the health and safety of theatre workers and improve the experience of visiting companies.

### **Tron Theatre | £5,000 | Dipped box office & bar**

The Category B listed Tron Theatre in Glasgow seats 230 in the Main Auditorium and 50 in the Changing House studio theatre. Originally a church dating from 1795, it was converted and reopened as a theatre in 1982. The theatre is undertaking a programme of refurbishment. Using funds from the Theatres Trust a new box office and bar counter will be installed with a dipped section to allow wheelchair users and other audience members who couldn't previously see over the counter to interact with the theatre's staff.

### **Purple Playhouse | £4,715 | Accessibility Improvements**

Purple Playhouse is a community theatre associated with the Grace Eyre Foundation. Currently achieving a Bronze level accessibility rating from Attitude is Everything, it is hoped that Silver level can be achieved following these accessibility improvements. The Theatres Trust grant will help fund primary works associated with the toilets, changing doors, switch heights and mirrors. The package of works also includes some urgent repairs to tackle damp and soundproofing issues which pose immediate risks to the theatre's operation.

### **Studio 1A, Bangor Drama Club | £5,000 | Connecting front & back of house**

Studio1A is an amateur theatre run by Bangor Drama Club. A grant from the Theatres Trust will fund minor works to complete the conversion of Bangor Drama Club's new dedicated theatre space. The works will connect the front and back of house and improve the stage size. This is the first grant that the Theatres Trust has given to a theatre in Northern Ireland.

## **St George's Theatre | £5,000 | Signage**

Based in an 18th century Grade I listed former chapel building, St George's Theatre in Great Yarmouth was previously considered a Theatre at Risk but was renovated and reopened in 2013. Since then audiences have returned, but growth has been hampered by a lack of signage identifying it as an active theatre. Theatres Trust grant funding will pay for bold and clear signage that publicises the theatre and neighbouring pavilion, while respecting the historic setting.

## **Albany Theatre | £5,000 | Door lobbies**

The Albany in Deptford is a hub for the creative industries with a theatre at its heart. This grant will improve the front of house spaces through the installation of lobbies on the front entrance by stopping drafts and improving the comfort of daytime users of the space. The Albany plan to secure match-funding for the grant with the aim of starting work in late 2018.

## **Half Moon Theatre | £5,000 | Get-in lift**

Half Moon is a specialist children's theatre in Limehouse, East London. As well as presenting their original productions, they also present a programme of other work suitable for young audiences between September and April each year. A grant from the Theatres Trust will support a scissor lift at the rear of the building; this external lift will predominantly be used for the movement of scenery, but will also serve as a means of escape for wheelchair users.

## **Normansfield Theatre | £5,000 | New assistive listening system**

Normansfield is an historic private theatre built in 1879 in the Langdon Down Centre. Originally designed to be used by the patients in the residential home on the site, the theatre is now open for public events. Many of the theatres' users are hearing impaired and a grant from the Theatres Trust will install a new system to improve their experience.

## **Playground Theatre | £5,000 | Widening fire escapes**

The Playground is a new theatre that opened in 2017, converted from a bus depot. The resident company have been operating for some time but this is their first permanent performance space. The project funded by a Theatres Trust grant will widen the fire escapes of the building and will allow for an increased audience capacity.

## **Theatre503 | £4,870 | Stage & dressing room improvements**

Theatre503 is a well-established space for new writing on the small scale. This pub theatre has developed a strong reputation as a home for emerging writing talent. This Theatres Trust funded project includes improvements to the stage and dressing room areas. This package of works that will make a big difference to performers and creatives at this small theatre.