

## PRESS RELEASE 6 August 2018

### From the oldest theatre to the newest – programme and speakers for Theatres Trust Conference 18: Adapt & Thrive announced

Theatres Trust **Conference 18: Adapt & Thrive** will take place on **Tuesday 16 October** at the **Lyric Hammersmith, London**, exploring how changing artistic, business and operating models in the theatre sector are impacting on how we build, adapt and run theatres.

Through a mixture of inspiring plenaries and lively breakout sessions, the conference will look at how we can ensure our theatres remain viable in challenging economic times and how we can continue to invest in renewal of our theatre infrastructure.

Joining **Michael Ellis MP, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Arts, Heritage and Tourism** and **Cameron Mackintosh, Producer and Theatre Owner** will be speakers from **Bristol Old Vic**, arguably the country's oldest continuously operating theatre and **Manchester's Factory**, probably the newest, discussing how they are adapting to new artistic and business models. **Emma Stenning, Chief Executive, Bristol Old Vic** and **Jack Tilbury, Director** at consultancy **Plann** will share their experiences of working together to increase the viability and revenue at **Bristol Old Vic**. **John McGrath, CEO & Artistic Director Manchester International Festival / Factory** will talk about creating the UK's most flexible performance venue at **Manchester's Factory**.

They will be joined by an impressive line-up of **contributors** from the worlds of theatre, architecture and design, politics, local government and the wider cultural sector including: **Gavin Barlow, CEO & Artistic Director, The Albany Deptford**; **Julien Boast, CEO & Creative Director, Hall for Cornwall**; **Paul Dobson, Director, Stockton-On-Tees Council**; **Helen Grassly, Consultant, Burrell Foley Fischer**; **Sam Hodges, Director, Nuffield Southampton Theatres**; **Judith Kilvington, Executive Director, Citizens Theatre**; **Paul Monaghan, Director, Allford Hall Monaghan Morris**; **Gillian Miller, Chief Executive, Liverpool's Royal Court**; **James Nelmes, Associate Director, Bennetts Associates**; **Sebastian Warrack, Executive Director, Wiltshire Creative**.

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

“Across the UK, theatres continue to be at the very heart of their communities. And despite a decade of austerity, very few theatre buildings have been forced to close.

But we cannot afford to be complacent. We need to ensure that theatres are doing all that they can to adapt and thrive in a challenging, ever-changing environment.

Conference 18 will bring together a broad spectrum of leaders and specialists, with the shared purpose of increasing theatres' resilience and securing the future of theatres for everyone.”

The annual conference, now in its twelfth year, attracts a high number of key decision makers and influencers, and provides an unparalleled opportunity for delegates to hear thought-provoking speakers, network and share experiences.

The Conference is generously **sponsored** and supported by a diverse group of theatre service companies and product manufacturers, consultancies and industry organisations including:

Platinum Sponsors Theatre Projects and Unusual, alongside fellow sponsors Allies and Morrison, Bennetts Associates, Haworth Tompkins, HQ Theatres & Hospitality, Stage Electrics, Charcoalblue, Northern Light, BuroHappold Engineering, EM Acoustics, GDS, J&C Joel, LW Theatres, Plann, Triple E, Audio Light Systems, Harlequin Floors, Chauvet Professional, ETC, Theatreplan, GoboPlus, LSI Magazine, The Stage, and Conference partners ABTT, ITC, UK Theatre and Lyric Hammersmith.

“We’re delighted to be a Gold Sponsor of the 2018 Theatres Trust Conference. The work they do has never been more important than it is in the current climate, which is why we are sponsoring for the first time. We welcome the opportunity to contribute to the conversation about new structures for the sector, models of operation and future resilience.”

**Julian Russell, CEO, HQ Theatres & Hospitality**

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

[theatrust.org.uk/latest/events/543-theatres-trust-conference-18-adapt-thrive](https://theatrust.org.uk/latest/events/543-theatres-trust-conference-18-adapt-thrive)

Follow the conversation on social media [#thrivingtheatres](https://twitter.com/thrivingtheatres)

## **CONTACTS**

Kate Carmichael, Theatres Trust, Communications Coordinator  
[kate.carmichael@theatrust.org.uk](mailto:kate.carmichael@theatrust.org.uk) 020 7836 8591

Justine Harvey, Theatres Trust, Marketing and Communications Manager  
[justine.harvey@theatrust.org.uk](mailto:justine.harvey@theatrust.org.uk) 020 7836 8591

Mary Rahman, MRPR, Press & PR Consultant  
[maryrahmanMRPR@gmail.com](mailto:maryrahmanMRPR@gmail.com) 07958 399740

Nicky Rowland, Conference 18 Sponsorship Consultant  
[nicky.rowland@theatrust.org.uk](mailto:nicky.rowland@theatrust.org.uk)

## **NOTES TO EDITORS**

Theatres Trust is the 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 performance.

We champion the future of live performance by protecting and supporting excellent theatre buildings which meet the needs of their communities.

We do this by providing advice on the design, planning, development and sustainability of theatres, campaigning on behalf of theatres old and new and offering financial assistance through grants.

*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.*