

PRESS RELEASE 22 August 2018

Theatres Trust announces next round of UK theatres to receive grants from the Theatres Protection Fund

Theatres Trust is pleased to announce that it is awarding £22,500 to five 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**.

£22,500 in grants from the UK Theatres Small Grants Scheme are awarded as follows: Alnwick Playhouse, Dundee Rep and Scottish Dance Theatre, Oswaldtwistle Civic Arts Centre and Theatre, Vivacity Key Theatre, Peterborough, Romsey Plaza

- Alnwick Playhouse | £5,000 | Auditorium improvements
- Dundee Rep and Scottish Dance Theatre | £5,000 | Air barriers
- Oswaldtwistle Civic Arts Centre and Theatre | £5,000 | Heating system
- Vivacity Key Theatre, Peterborough | £2,500 | Hearing loop
- Plaza Theatre, Romsey | £5,000 | Stair lift replacement

Jon Morgan, Director at the **Theatres Trust** said: “Theatres large and small need support to keep their buildings operational. Thanks to our funders we can help keep these theatres open, their audiences comfortable and the performances accessible.”

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IMAGES

Download [Theatres Trust Round 12 grant award photos](#)

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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

NOTES TO EDITORS

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

Founded by Andrew Lloyd Webber in 1992, the Foundation's principle objectives are to promote the arts, culture and heritage for the public benefit. 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 followed by 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. 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.

GRANT RECIPIENTS

Alnwick Playhouse | £5,000 | Auditorium improvements

Alnwick Playhouse was built in 1926 as an 800 seat cinema and music hall theatre. It closed in the late 1970s. In 1983, a group of local people raised money to convert the derelict balcony to an upstairs auditorium and Alnwick Playhouse re-opened. The theatre is currently undergoing a major capital project to secure its future. This grant will support auditorium improvements including the re-raking and re-seating of the theatre, and significant access upgrades to improve the safety and comfort of audiences.

Dundee Rep and Scottish Dance Theatre | £5,000 | Air barriers

Dundee Rep and Scottish Dance Theatre is one of Scotland's major producing and dance theatres. Much of the work created within this theatre goes on to tour Scotland and beyond. Thanks to the grant the installation of air barriers on the front doors of the theatre will generate energy savings of approximately £2,000 per year and also make the foyer spaces more pleasant for audiences.

Oswaldtwistle Civic Arts Centre and Theatre | £5,000 | Heating system

The building that is now the Civic Arts Centre and Theatre in Oswaldtwistle was built as a public hall in 1890 as a celebration of Queen Victoria's golden jubilee. Since 1974 the theatre has been the main resident of the building and it was taken on by an independent charity, Hyndburn Arts Limited, in 2015. This grant, along with support from Hyndburn Borough Council, will contribute to replacing the broken heating system and relieve some extra costs being created by the current temporary heater.

Vivacity Key Theatre, Peterborough | £2,500 | Hearing loop

The Vivacity Key Theatre in Peterborough, which opened in 1973, is a remarkably good example of a small playhouse of the period. It is one of East Anglia's leading live entertainment venues, presenting an eclectic programme for all ages and communities, and welcomed over 70,000 customers through its doors last year. This grant will fund the installation of a hearing loop for the studio theatre space making the theatre's programme even more accessible to the local community.

Plaza Theatre, Romsey | £5,000 | Stair lift replacement

The Plaza opened in 1931 as a cinema. In the 1970s cinema use ceased and it became a bingo hall, until finally closing in the early 1980s. The Romsey Amateur Operatic and Dramatic Society (RAODS) acquired the freehold of the Plaza in 1982 and began converting it to theatre. This grant will support the replacement of a broken stair lift which will make the auditorium accessible once again.