

## **PRESS RELEASE 20 September 2018**

### **How will we fund theatres for the future – and how much will it cost?**

These are the questions that will be debated in the final session of the **Theatres Trust's Conference 18 Adapt & Thrive** on **16 October** at the **Lyric Hammersmith**.

Conference attendees will be the first to see the key findings of the capital works sector survey that the **Theatres Trust** has carried out in partnership with **UK Theatre**, providing insight on the scale, type and value of work needed and identifying trends in building type and geography.

**Arts Council England Director of Strategic Partnerships, Paul Bristow**, will be trailing the findings of the Cultural Cities Enquiry into future models for investment in culture as well as discussing the Arts Council's draft 10 Year Strategy 2020-2030.

**Social entrepreneur, Lord Andrew Mawson** will offer his unique perspective on the balance of responsibility between the state, community and private sectors for investing in and shaping our communities.

The session will close with a panel discussion on the future capital needs of the theatre sector and what new models of investment we need to develop. The panel will include **Paul Bristow, Judith Kilvington from subsidised theatre Citizens Theatre, Glasgow and Julian Russell, CEO of commercial theatre operator HQ Theatres & Hospitality**, and they will be joined by a developer and local authority representative (names to be confirmed).

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

"Theatres are about more than beautiful buildings or a good night out – they make our towns and cities great places to live and they are one of the few remaining places that communities can come together. That's why it is vital that we continue to invest in theatre infrastructure so theatres can meet the changing needs of artists and communities.

But times are tough and theatres are having to look beyond the traditional models of funding. Conference 18 will provide a space for everyone with an interest in theatre buildings to explore new ideas and ways we can create a sustainable future."

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, Hawthorn, Chauvet Professional, ETC, Theatreplan, GoboPlus, LSI Magazine, The Stage, and

Conference partners ABTT, ITC, Society of London Theatre, UK Theatre and Lyric Hammersmith.

“We’ve always valued the Theatres Trust conference as one of the most important events in the calendar, bringing theatre people, designers and strategists together to discuss the future direction of our sector. We’re so pleased to have the opportunity to be a Gold Sponsor of the event this year, especially because the theme ‘Adapt and Thrive’ influences so much of the work we do with our theatre clients.”

**Simon Erridge, Director, Bennetts Associates**

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)

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## **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. Please check [theatrust.org.uk](https://theatrust.org.uk) for updates.*