

**PRESS RELEASE 4 October 2018**

## **Andrew Lloyd Webber adds his support as Theatres Trust launches new Patron Scheme**

Theatres Trust is delighted to announce that composer and producer **Andrew Lloyd Webber** has become a Theatres Trust Ambassador.

**Andrew Lloyd Webber** joins 24 other high profile Ambassadors who will work with the Theatres Trust to ensure the UK's theatres are protected and secured for future generations to enjoy. His first act as Ambassador was to provide the space for the launch of the **Theatres Trust's new Patron Scheme** last night at **The London Palladium**.

Part of a wider fundraising drive, the new Patron Scheme will enable supporters to deepen their relationship with the **Theatres Trust** and its work. The **Theatres Trust** is increasing its fundraising to support its ambitious plans, which include providing more grants to theatres to improve accessibility, viability and sustainability, increased support for community groups campaigning for local '**Theatres at Risk**' and providing expert advice services to more theatres.

Designed by legendary theatre architect Frank Matcham and home to the capital's variety performances for over a century, **The London Palladium** was the perfect setting for the theatre advisory body's event. **Theatres Trust** Trustee, presenter and comedian, **Dara Ó Briain** introduced the evening to an invited audience that included philanthropists, charitable trusts and foundations, and leading figures from the culture and heritage sectors, as well as Theatres Trust Ambassadors **Samira Ahmed**, **Jo Brand** and **Beverley Knight**.

**Beverley Knight** says, "My earliest memory of theatre is of Wolverhampton Grand. I had the opportunity to be on that stage from an early age because my ordinary comprehensive school understood the value of the arts and I have been lucky to play in some amazing theatres throughout my career. The thought of theatres being taken away is terrible - especially for the kids who depend on them - to work out their angst, find out who they are. They are the heart of any community. I believe in 'paying it forward' - it is my duty to save these spaces so kids from same background as me have the same chances I had - and I hope other people will get involved with the Theatres Trust and do the same."

The event also included the first screening of a film showcasing the Theatres Trust's work, featuring Ambassadors including **Samira Ahmed**, **Michael Ball**, **Pippa Bennett-Warner**, **Alexandra Burke**, **Jack Dee**, **David Hare**, **Lenny Henry**, **Kwame Kwei-Armah**, **David Morrissey** and **Siobhan Redmond**.

View the film here: <https://youtu.be/ETpOIGo4cWk>

[Photos can be downloaded here](#)

## **MEDIA CONTACTS**

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## **NOTES TO EDITORS**

### **Lord Andrew Lloyd Webber**

When *Sunset Boulevard* joined *School Of Rock*, *Cats* and *The Phantom Of The Opera* on Broadway last year, Andrew Lloyd Webber became the only person to equal the record set in 1953 by Rodgers and Hammerstein with four Broadway shows running concurrently. Other musicals he has composed include *Aspects of Love*, *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*, *Jesus Christ Superstar*, *Evita* and *Love Never Dies*.

His production of *School of Rock* is the first British musical to have world premiered on Broadway. He has co-produced his own shows including *Cats* and *The Phantom of The Opera* and as a solo producer he presented the groundbreaking *Bombay Dreams* which introduced the double Oscar winning Bollywood composer AR Rahman to the Western stage. Other productions include the Olivier Award Winning *Daisy Pulls It Off* and *La Bete*, the record breaking Palladium production of *The Sound of Music* and *The Wizard of Oz*.

He owns seven West End Theatres including the Theatre Royal Drury Lane, the Palladium and The Other Palace which provides a unique London home for new musicals in development.

He is passionate about the importance of music in education and the Andrew Lloyd Webber Foundation has become one of Britain's leading charities supporting the arts and music.

As a composer and producer, Lloyd Webber is one of an elite group of artists to have achieved EGOT status by receiving an Emmy, four Grammys including Best Contemporary Classical Composition for *Requiem*, his setting of the Latin Requiem mass, an Oscar and eight Tony Awards including the 2018 Special Tony for Lifetime Achievement in the Theatre. Additionally he has been honoured with seven Oliviers, a Golden Globe, the Praemium Imperiale, the Richard Rodgers Award for Excellence in Musical Theatre, a BASCA Fellowship, and the Kennedy Center Honor.

He was knighted in 1992 and created a life peer in 1997. To mark his 70<sup>th</sup> birthday, his bestselling autobiography *Unmasked* was published by HarperCollins in March 2018.

### **Theatres Trust**

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.

### **Fundraising drive – case for support**

There is more vital work needed to be done and we must respond to this demand.

- Theatres across the UK continue to close or be under threat of imminent closure or demolition.
- Our grants programmes are oversubscribed by 3 to 1 where theatres need urgent repairs and capital works.
- There are ever changing trends and key issues for theatres relating to planning, operational models and funding to name a few which Theatres Trust must be able to monitor, react and support theatres on.

Our fundraising, including the Patrons Scheme, will go towards:

- Strengthening and developing our work with the theatres on our Theatres at Risk register before these extraordinary buildings and all they do for their communities are lost.
- Responding to the demand of our oversubscribed grants programmes and increasing this vital fund for UK theatres' capital works and repairs.
- Dramatically improving our Research and Archive Programme so we can both respond to current trends within the theatre industry and make our collections and knowledge more available to the general public.

**Theatres Trust's Patron Scheme** has three levels of support, starting at £1,000. More information can be found at <http://www.theatrestrust.org.uk/support-us>

The full list of **Theatres Trust Ambassadors** is:

**Samira Ahmed, Gemma Arterton, Alan Ayckbourn, Michael Ball, Pippa Bennett-Warner, Matthew Bourne, Jo Brand, Alexandra Burke, Jack Dee, Mel Giedroyc, David Hare, Miranda Hart, Lenny Henry, Beverley Knight, Kwame Kwei-Armah, Jude Law, Andrew Lloyd Webber, Cameron Mackintosh, David Morrissey, Bill Nighy, Elaine Paige, Siobhan Redmond, Tim Rice, John Simm, Meera Syal.**