

Protecting theatres for everyone



Ref.: TC/555

05 March 2019

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Pending Applications
Development Planning
City of Westminster
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By e-mail: southplanningteam@westminster.gov.uk

Applications: 19/00729/LBC

Site: Victoria Palace Theatre 126 Victoria Street London SW1E 5LA

Proposal: Widening of legroom and increasing the back-to-back spacing between the rows by removing one row of seats.

Remit:

The Theatres Trust is the national advisory public body for theatres. We were established through the Theatres Trust Act 1976 'to promote the better protection of theatres' and provide statutory planning advice on theatre buildings and theatre use in England through The Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (England) Order 2015, requiring the Trust to be consulted by local authorities on planning applications which include 'development involving any land on which there is a theatre'.

Comment:

Thank you for consulting Theatres Trust on the above application for listed building consent at the Grade II* listed Victoria Palace Theatre which would result in alterations to the theatre's Grand Circle.

The Grand Circle (upper tier) currently does not provide optimum levels of audience comfort; the accompanying Design & Access Statement notes current row to row distances of 800mm are the narrowest of Delfont Mackintosh Theatre's venues. There has been significant investment and improvement in the theatre in recent years, to which these works would further contribute. The proposal seeks the removal of one row of seating and the spacing between the remaining nine rows to be increased. This would necessitate the rake profile to be adjusted and the Grand Circle tier-front to be raised.

The accompanying justification states there will be minimal disruption to the aesthetic character of the space, for which we would concur. The impact of the works will be mitigated by the re-

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Trustees Richard Baldwin, David Blyth, Pam Bone, Paul Cartwright, Paddy Dillon, Ruth Eastwood, David Ian, Richard Johnston, Gary Kemp, Dara Ó Briain, Simon Ricketts, Peter Roberts, Ann Skippers, Anna Stapleton

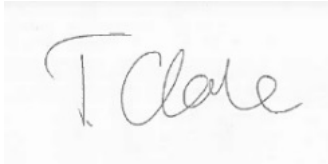
The National Advisory Public Body for Theatres

The Theatres Trust Charitable Fund co-operates with Theatres Trust, has the same Trustees and is registered as a charity under number 274697

introduction of a brass rail to the front of the Grand Circle which was removed during previous works. Additional brass handles will also be installed.

We welcome efforts by theatre owners and operators to invest in their buildings and to improve the experience of audiences. This proposal contributes to those objectives while causing minimal harm to the theatre's historic and architectural significance. We therefore **recommend the granting of listed building consent.**

Please contact the Trust if you wish to discuss this representation in more detail.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "T Clarke". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looped 'T' and a clear 'Clarke'.

Tom Clarke MRTPI
National Planning Adviser