

# Protecting theatres for **everyone**



Ref.: TC/680

11 March 2019

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**Application:** 19/00971/LBC

**Site:** The Gielgud Theatre, Shaftesbury Avenue, London, W1D 6AR

**Proposal:** Remodelling of current second floor office space to create a foyer and bar area for the theatre patron seated in the upper/Grand Circle tier of the theatre. The creation of a mezzanine level of accommodation within the volume of the existing stagehouse.

## **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 the Theatres Trust on the above application for listed building consent.

This proposal seeks to remodel two parts of the theatre, namely the current office space on its second floor and part of its stagehouse. This would create a new foyer and bar for the Grand Circle (upper tier) and an extension to existing backstage provision to facilitate a relocation of staff services displaced by the creation of the new foyer and bar.

The Gielgud is lacking in front of house space, therefore we welcome the conversion of back of house space to a new bar and foyer. In terms of heritage impacts, this would seem to be a positive intervention as it reinstates areas that were previously divided while maintaining the area's decorative features. It also opens up windows to the Rupert Street elevation that are currently boarded or painted over.

We also have no objections to the use of a vacant area of the stagehouse for replacement back

## **Theatres Trust**

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**Chair** Tim Eyles **Director** Jon Morgan

**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

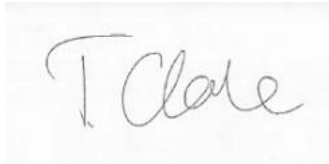
The National Advisory Public Body for Theatres

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

of house facilities. This has the benefit of creating a new link between front and back of house to the second floor. Our only reservation is that this area appears not to be accessible to staff requiring lift access and there are no accessible toilets whereas there is a lift to the existing staff area; there may be suitable provision elsewhere within the theatre but this is not shown or explained in the accompanying Design & Access Statement.

While we **recommend the granting of listed building consent**, we also recommend that a strategy is in place which ensures suitable provision for staff with disabilities is in place.

Please contact us if we may be of further assistance.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'T Clarke', is centered within a light gray rectangular box.

Tom Clarke MRTPI  
National Planning Adviser