

Protecting theatres for everyone



Ref.: TC/807

18 April 2019

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

Application: 19/02266/LBC

Site: Novello Theatre 5 Aldwych London WC2B 4LD

Proposal: Internal alterations including the addition of partitions within the Grand Circle and Dress Circle; alterations to the steps down to row A balcony and installation of a brass handrail.

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 application concerns three sets of proposed works within the Novello's auditorium; to address safety around row A of the balcony, to enclose two side boxes within the Grand Circle and to enhance the appearance and setting of the central door to the rear wall of the Dress Circle.

The applicant has stated that row A of the balcony currently contains a trip hazard, furthermore the steps to that level are steep and without handrail to one side. It is proposed that part of the floor would be over-boarded, which we consider to be an appropriate solution as the intervention is reversible and will retain the original tier underneath. This will also enable the addition of one additional seat which will help improve the theatre's income potential and support its sustainability and viability.

The two wrought iron and brass side boxes to the Grand Circle will be enclosed to screen the

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

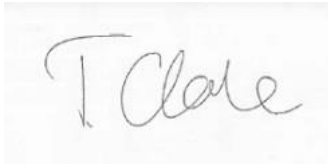
The Theatres Trust Charitable Fund co-operates with Theatres Trust, has the same Trustees and is registered as a charity under number 274697

WCs and sales point from the auditorium. Wall panel mouldings will match those already in place at the Balcony level above, therefore enhancing the overall appearance of the auditorium and improving the experience of audiences in those seats.

We are also supportive of the cosmetic improvements to the Dress Circle rear door, which will add embellishments matching those already in place.

We therefore **recommend the granting of listed building consent.**

Please contact us if we may be of further assistance.

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

Tom Clarke
National Planning Adviser