

Protecting theatres for everyone



Ref.: TC/206

14 November 2019

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

Applications: 19/07999/FULL & 19/08000/LBC

Site: Queens Theatre Ltd Shaftesbury Avenue London W1D 6BA

Proposal: Demolish part of canopy and increased the depth of it to match with the Gielgud Theatre, addition of a decorative metal bracket to either end of the Foyer window, installation of 5 of steel metal post at the roof terrace level with glass balustrade and decorative brackets. (Linked to 19/08000/LBC)

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:

This application for planning permission and listed building consent has been submitted alongside two others as part of the theatre's programme of works, and seeks to replace and alter the canopy around the theatre's front façade and foyer.

These works are proposed for the more modern part of the building which was constructed in the 1950s following war damage to the original façade and foyer area. This area forms part of the listing and the Twentieth Century Society consider it to be a high quality example of architecture of the time.

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, Ann Skippers, Anna Stapleton

The National Advisory Public Body for Theatres

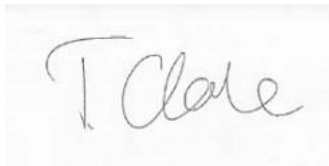
The Theatres Trust Charitable Fund co-operates with the Theatres Trust, has the same Trustees and is registered as a charity under number 274697

The Trust has no objection to adaptation of the canopy because in general these can be altered with different show signage which is part of theatrical character. However, it would seem contradictory to increase the depth on the basis of matching the neighbouring Gielgud Theatre. This is because the floor heights and level of the canopies of the two buildings differ. The present canopy is well-proportioned and corresponds fittingly with the overall design and appearance of the 50s re-build.

We would suggest a more sympathetic approach might be to embrace the 1950s architecture and its contrast, and in particular, omit the installation of Edwardian style decorative brackets.

We have no objections to the installation of metal flagposts at roof terrace level.

Please contact us if we may be of further assistance or should you wish to discuss these comments further.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "T Clarke". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Tom Clarke MRTPI
National Planning Adviser