

# Protecting theatres for **everyone**



Ref.: TC/725

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**Application:** 19/07428/LBC

**Site:** Duchess Theatre Catherine Street London WC2B 5LA

**Proposal:** Proposed new opening through balustrade and addition of three steps to provide access to box.

## **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 at Duchess Theatre. The theatre is a Grade II listed heritage asset; this proposal seeks to provide additional access to the stage right box by opening through a balustrade to the rear of the Dress Circle and removing two seats.

The opening through the balustrade will replicate the existing opening to the 'stage left' box opposite. It will make the box more accessible and reduce the demand on staff who currently have to lead ticketholders to their seats via the staircase behind through a staff area.

We would concur with the applicant's Heritage Statement which states the balustrade has no decorative or architectural significance. The new opening and removal of the seats will result in greater symmetry in appearance for the Dress Circle. Although two seats will be lost it will

## **Theatres Trust**

22 Charing Cross Road, London WC2H 0QL

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

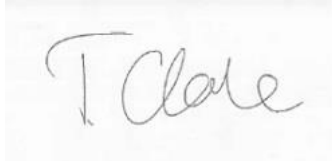
**Trustees** Richard Baldwin, David Blyth, Pam Bone, Paul Cartwright, Paddy Dillon, Ruth Eastwood, David Ian, Richard Johnston, Gary Kemp, Dara Ó Briain, Simon Ricketts, Ann Skippers, Anna Stapleton

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

improve the overall operational management of the theatre as the need for audience members to pass through back of house areas will be removed. Therefore we support this proposal and recommend the granting of **listed building consent**.

Please contact us if we may be of further assistance.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "T Clarke", on a light-colored rectangular background.

Tom Clarke MRTPI  
National Planning Adviser