

Protecting theatres for everyone



Ref.: TC/424

17 June 2020

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Application: 20/02620/LBC & 20/02758/ADV

Site: 2 Jermyn Street London SW1Y 4XA

Proposal: Repairs and alterations to structural steel framework and sign over canopy to stabilise listed canopy fabric; repairs and redecoration of canopy fabric and structure; upgrading of lighting with low energy LED and improved controls, replacement theatre signage; and alterations to front entrance to improve security and access;

Display of ten internally illuminated fascia signs measuring 1.1m x 6.65m, 0.46m x 1.6m, 0.56m x 1.68m, 0.56m x 1.9m, 1.37m x 0.95m, 0.4m x 2.49m and 0.46m x 1.6m 1 large high level curved show sign panel incorporating double row static chaser lights with new smaller curved back lit light box incorporating single row static chaser lights. 2 small hanging display panels with new side lit display panels of the same size; 6 small display panels with new side lit displays panels of the same size; 1 hanging illuminated name sign with a refurbished illuminated sign with new lights, same size and design;

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 Trust on this proposal for canopy alterations and repairs along with replacement signage and revised access and security arrangements at Criterion Theatre.

The Criterion is a Grade II* listed heritage asset; it is the first subterranean theatre in London and

Theatres Trust

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Chair Tim Eyles **Director** Jon Morgan

Trustees Richard Baldwin, David Blyth, Pam Bone, Paul Cartwright, Paddy Dillon, David Ian, Richard Johnston, Gary Kemp, Simon Ricketts, Truda Spruyt

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

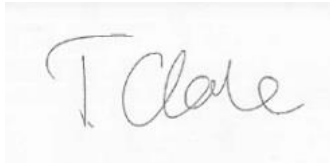
is considered one of the best preserved of the West End's pre-1890s theatres and one of the most important surviving mid-Victorian theatres in Britain. It is an important part of the West End's theatre offer. Paragraph 92 of the NPPF (2019) seeks planning decisions to plan positively for facilities such as this.

Specifically this proposal will repair and restore the theatre's canopy for example replacing missing or broken glass and leadwork as well as remove existing and signage support which will remove structural loading from the canopy and help ensure its conservation. We are therefore supportive of this work. As part of this work the theatre's existing signage will be replaced and upgraded with new structural frame inserted. This will improve the theatre's efficiency by utilising lower energy LED lighting. Again, this is to be welcomed and a number of other theatre's both within the West End and elsewhere across the UK have been undertaking similar upgrading. We consider the positioning and scale of the replacement signage to be sensitive to the building's façade and character.

Alongside this the theatre is taking the opportunity to install a ramp to the entrance in place of a single step creating level access and improving accessibility, and to install new metalwork security gates to match existing metalwork screens either side.

In conclusion we consider these works to be positive and therefore we support the granting of listed building consent and advertisement consent.

Please contact us if you wish to discuss these comments in further detail.



Tom Clarke MRTPI
National Planning Adviser

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