



Theatres Trust helps 20 theatres on the road to reopening with grants totalling over £81k

Theatres Trust, the national advisory body for theatres in the UK, is providing vital help for 20 theatres. These are the first 20 theatres that will be helped through the Trust's Theatre Reopening Fund. The grant scheme was established earlier this year in response to the Covid-19 pandemic to support theatres with the additional costs associated with reopening after a prolonged period of closure, and to meet current Covid-safe requirements.

The first round of successful theatres reflects the remarkable variety of theatres in the UK, ranging from historic Grade II* listed theatres **Theatre Royal Stratford East**, **Theatre Royal Wakefield** and **Wilton's Music Hall**, Category 2 listed **Alhambra Dunfermline** and internationally renowned performing arts venue **The Roundhouse**, to **Beaufort Theatre**, a volunteer-led community arts centre in Ebbw Vale, rural touring venue **Pound Arts** in Wiltshire and local authority-run venues **Middlesbrough Theatre** and **The Stag** in Sevenoaks.

Vital local theatres **Aberdeen Arts Centre**, **Corn Exchange Newbury**, **Hampton Hill Theatre** in Richmond, **Joseph Rowntree Theatre** in York, **Lichfield Garrick**, **Lowther Pavilion** in Lancashire, Lowestoft's **Marina Theatre**, **New Cut Arts** in Suffolk, **Oldbury Rep** in the West Midlands, **Seaford Musical Theatre** in East Sussex and **West Cliff Theatre** in Clacton will also receive and benefit from this essential funding.

Theatre projects supported will include building deep cleans, installation of hand sanitisers and Perspex screens, fitting automatic doors and improvements to ventilation systems. With this funding, theatres will be able to meet government guidelines, increase audience confidence, and be able to safely open their doors.

Theatres Trust Director Jon Morgan comments, *In these challenging times for the theatre sector, Theatres Trust is pleased to be able to help theatres across the country to prepare their buildings for*

audiences to return. These grants, alongside our free advice service and online seminars, will help theatres to move closer to reopening. We are grateful for the unprecedented support of our funders and hope to be able to assist more theatres with essential reopening projects with money raised through the #SaveOurTheatres Crowdfunder campaign.

The Theatre Reopening Fund has been made possible thanks to the generous support of funders: **Andrew Lloyd Webber Foundation, Charles Michael Holloway Charitable Trust, Judy Craymer CBE, Soho Estates, The Basil Samuel Charitable Trust, The Foyle Foundation, The Mackintosh Foundation, The Pilgrim Trust, The Swire Charitable Trust, Theatre Royal, Haymarket and Theatre Super Auction.**

Theatres Trust is currently raising additional money for this grant scheme through the #SaveOurTheatres campaign in partnership with Crowdfunder <https://www.crowdfunder.co.uk/save-our-theatres>.

Theatre Reopening Fund will continue to accept applications for grants of up to £5,000 until at least the end of 2020, with the possibility that the scheme will be extended into 2021 subject to demand. Details of the next round of recipients will be announced soon.

Notes to Editors

Title	Theatres Trust
Website	www.theatrestrust.org.uk
Twitter	@TheatresTrust
Photo	Wilton's Music Hall auditorium, 2013



The Pilgrim Trust

SWIRE
CHARITABLE
TRUST

Theatre Reopening Fund recipients

Aberdeen Arts Centre, £5,000

Housed in a Category A list church, the building was converted into an arts centre in 1963. Funding will go towards reorganising the auditorium into pods of six seats for social distancing, changing the building's entry/exit system to control the flow of people and installing screens in the box office and office areas.

Alhambra Dunfermline, £5,000

Built in 1922, the Alhambra is a Category B-listed building with an Egyptian, Classical and Art Deco interior that is unaltered from its glory days. It has been a theatre, cinema and bingo hall over its history but reopened as a theatre and live music venue in 2008. Theatres Trust is contributing £5,000 to make the theatre safe, which includes improved ventilation in toilets and dressing rooms, installation of Perspex screens and signage and purchase of antibacterial supplies.

Beaufort Theatre, Ebbw Vale, £3,370

Beaufort Theatres is a volunteer-led community arts centre in Ebbw Vale, South Wales, that provides opportunities for performance and participation through in its 338-seater theatre, ballroom, studio, meeting room and café. The project funded involves deep cleaning of the venue and installing hand sanitisers with associated signage.

Corn Exchange Newbury, £3,821

The Corn Exchange is a thriving arts centre, housed in a corn exchange building dating back to 1862, which reopened as professional 400-seat theatre in 1993. Funding will pay for a disinfecting fogging machine for sanitising the auditorium, screens and retractable barriers to assist with managing the flow of people.

Hampton Hill Theatre, London, £5,000

Hampton Hill Theatre is owned by amateur theatre company The Teddington Theatre Club and consists of a main auditorium seating up to 197 and a studio seating up to 50. The theatre is used extensively by the local community for activities including children's drama and dance workshops, comedy evenings, musical events, club and society events. The Theatre Reopening Fund grant will replace the ventilation system to improve the airflow in the auditorium.

Joseph Rowntree Theatre, York, £3,000

The Art Deco theatre was built in 1935 by the Rowntrees so their employees could see affordable entertainment. This funding will pay for a complete package of works including hand sanitisers, face masks and screens that will enable the volunteer-run community theatre to reopen safely.

Lichfield Garrick, £4,746

Lichfield Garrick is a purpose-built mid-scale receiving theatre that opened in 2003. This grant will allow the theatre to purchase hand sanitizing stations and screens for front and back-of-house, and fogging cleaning equipment.

The Lowther Pavilion, £3,500

Lowther Pavilion Theatre has a proud history of serving the Fylde Coast and surrounding areas as a cultural hub of community entertainment ever since its first opening in 1921. The 450 seated/900 standing capacity venue provides a wide and diverse range of events from tea dances to international live music, drama to headline comedy and children's shows to world class dance, ballet and musical theatre. The funded project is to fit a temperature screening camera in the foyer to build confidence with audiences. The Lowther has a single point of entry and therefore will be able to screen as people enter.

Marina Theatre, Lowestoft, £4,776

Starting as a roller rink, the Marina was converted into a theatre in 1878 by architect R. F. Brett. Now it is an important venue in a largely rural and culturally under-served area. The grant will contribute to a complete risk-assessed package of measures including fogging equipment and screens.

Middlesbrough Theatre, £4,949

Middlesbrough Theatre is a 486-seat local authority-run venue. While the theatre's autumn season including its popular pantomime has been postponed until 2021, the theatre is in the process of programming an alternative season, mainly of small-scale drama, compatible with the reduced capacity social distancing allows. The grant will be used to purchase sanitiser units, Perspex screens and other precautionary measures to provide protection for audiences and visiting companies against Covid-19.

New Cut Arts, Halesworth, £2,560

New Cut Arts is a 200-seat capacity receiving theatre with professional and amateur performances, based in a converted maltings. The organisation plans a phased reopening of its building, gradually building up activities. Theatres Trust funding will pay for protective Perspex screens for key locations within the building, sanitising pedal-operated stations and face shield visors for staff and volunteers and to deep clean all publicly used areas of the building.

Oldbury Rep, £912

Oldbury Rep in the West Midlands is a former Methodist chapel that was converted to theatre use in 1956. The building hosts an amateur programme and is also used as a base for community participatory activity and as a cinema. The Theatre Reopening Fund grant will be used to install hand sanitisers and signage.

Pound Arts, Corsham, £5,000

Pound Arts programmes a year-round mixed season of live performance at The Pound Arts Centre in rural Wiltshire, making use of the 104-seat auditorium as well as the smaller studio space. Theatres Trust's grant will fund a complete package of Covid-secure measures, which will put the theatre in a good position to reopen, including Perspex screens at the box office, hand sanitisers throughout the building and other items to support plans to create a one-way system through the building.

The Roundhouse, London, £4,400

The Roundhouse is a world renowned independent performing arts venue housed in a Grade II* listed converted railway turning garage. Funding from the Theatre Reopening Fund will buy a thermal imaging camera, which is emerging as best practice for venues of this size.

Seaford Musical Theatre, £5,000

Seaford Musical Theatre is an amateur group that operates The Barn Theatre in Seaford, East Sussex. The grant will be used to carry out urgent replacement of the building's fire alarm system, essential work that must be done before the theatre can safely reopen to the public.

The Stag Sevenoaks, £5,000

The Stag is a busy local authority-run theatre with a mixed programme. Officially opened on 22nd August 1936 as a cinema, it was refurbished as a theatre and the Stag Plaza Studio built in 1991. Theatres Trust funding will see the existing doors of The Stag Plaza Studio Theatre replaced with automatic sliding doors and manual swing doors. As well as being Covid-safe, this work will also improve access and increase security in the theatre.

Theatre Royal Stratford East, London, £5,000

Grade II* listed Theatre Royal Stratford East is a Frank Matcham-designed theatre with an influential producing programme. Theatres Trust will contribute £5,000 to its package of works to make the theatre Covid-safe.

Theatre Royal Wakefield, £5,000

Theatre Royal Wakefield is a Grade II* listed building and the smallest remaining of renowned theatre architect Frank Matcham's theatres. It is an important receiving house in its region as well as running innovative community programmes. The Theatre Reopening Fund grant will be used for the reinstatement and upgrade of the flying system, which has deteriorated during closure and is essential for the shows scheduled when the theatre reopens.

West Cliff Theatre, Clacton, £1,724

Built in 1928, this historic theatre operates a mid-scale receiving programme. The grant will cover a full package of measures including face shields for staff, temperature sensors, Perspex screens and signage to assist with social distancing.

Wilton's Music Hall, London , £3,700

Wilton's Music Hall, built in 1858, is a Grade II* listed building and the only operational grand music hall. John Wilton originally built the theatre in 1858. It was recently refurbished in 2015 by Tim Ronalds, winning four RIBA awards. The project is for a deep clean of the venue and the purchase of anti-bacterial supplies to allow it to reopen safely.

Theatres Trust

Theatres Trust is the national advisory public body for theatres. We believe that current and future generations should have access to good quality theatre buildings where they can be inspired by, and enjoy, live performance. We champion the future of live performance by protecting and supporting excellent theatre buildings which meet the needs of their communities. We do this by providing advice on the design, planning, development and sustainability of theatres, campaigning on behalf of theatres old and new and offering financial assistance through grants.

Theatres Trust's advice service offers free support to theatre owners, operators, local authorities and campaign groups trying to save their local theatre. Specialist advisers offer advice on issues including business planning, fundraising, essential business maintenance capital projects, viability and planning. During the pandemic Theatres Trust has supported theatres with advice on building maintenance, funding applications and business planning, as well as organising free webinars.

#SaveOurTheatres is the umbrella fundraising campaign, in partnership with Crowdfunder, which is enabling theatres to raise money to secure their futures. To date the campaign has raised more than £1 million to help 55 theatres <https://www.crowdfunder.co.uk/save-our-theatres>.

All enquiries, high res images and further information:

Chloé Nelkin Consulting

E: info@chloenelkinconsulting.com, T: 020 3627 2960

W: www.chloenelkinconsulting.com