



## Theatres Trust grants to help theatres reopen top £150k

A further 15 theatres in the UK have received vital support from the national public advisory body for theatres, bringing the total helped through its Theatre Reopening Fund to 35. Offering grants of up to £5,000, the fund supports not-for-profit theatres of all sizes and heritages across the country to meet the costs of reopening safely in light of Covid-19.

Five theatres – **Blackfriars Arts Centre**, **Greenwich Theatre**, **Lawrence Batley Theatre**, **New Vic Theatre** and **Theatre Royal Winchester** – will use the funding to improve their ventilation systems, which is emerging as an important consideration for providing Covid-safe environments.

Sneeze screens, hand sanitisers, digital thermometers and e-ticket scanners continue to be popular investments for theatres, as these simple safety measures are likely to be long-term requirements. **Alnwick Playhouse**, **Barn Theatre**, **Swindon Dance**, **Gorleston Pavilion** and **Tower Theatre** all receive funding for these costs. **Chapter Arts Centre**, **Hyde Festival Theatre**, **Theatre Peckham**, **Phoenix Theatre**, **Blyth** and **Swansea Grand** will carry out specific projects to make their buildings safe and viable.

Theatres Trust Director Jon Morgan comments, *While not all theatres are able to open right now, Theatres Trust is pleased to be able to help more theatres to prepare for a time when they can welcome audiences back into their buildings, safe in the knowledge they are providing Covid-safe spaces for people to enjoy the live entertainment that has been so missed in 2020.*

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.

## Notes to Editors

Title	Theatres Trust
Website	<a href="http://www.theatretrust.org.uk">www.theatretrust.org.uk</a>
Twitter	@TheatresTrust
Photo	Gorleston Pavilion



The Pilgrim Trust

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## Theatre Reopening Fund recipients

Alnwick Playhouse, £5,000

Built in 1926 as a cinema and music hall theatre, Alnwick Playhouse has recently undergone a major capital project. The Theatre Reopening Fund grant will help the theatre to implement a full risk assessed package of work including contactless ticketing, signage, barriers and seat covers.

Barn Theatre, Welwyn Garden City, £3,750

The Barn Theatre is a theatre in a Grade II listed barn which presents 10 amateur productions a year. This funding will support the costs of gloves, masks and barriers to help it reopen.

#### Blackfriars Arts Centre, Boston, £5,000

Blackfriars Arts Centre is a modern theatre within the shell of a medieval monastery. The grant will contribute to works to improve the airflow in the building with a new ventilation system.

#### Chapter Arts Centre, Cardiff, £5,000

A multi-arts venue with a bar gallery and cinema alongside its theatre programme, Chapter will be celebrating its 50<sup>th</sup> birthday in 2021. Funding will be used to make a range of physical adaptations to the theatre and backstage areas, to ensure it is a Covid-safe and welcoming environment for customers and staff. These changes will allow the space to be used for small performances as well as workshops and school visits when restrictions permit.

#### Court Theatre, Swindon, £3,987

Home of Swindon Dance since 1979, the Court Theatre is part of a Grade II listed Town Hall building. Funding will support a full risk-assessed package of works including contactless ticketing, signage, barriers and seat covers.

#### Gorleston Pavilion, near Great Yarmouth, £1,532

Opening in 1901, the Pavilion theatre is an original Edwardian building on the Norfolk coast near Great Yarmouth. The Theatre Reopening Fund grant will cover a full package of safety measures including hand sanitisers, digital thermometers, box office screens and protective masks for staff.

#### Greenwich Theatre, £3,873

Greenwich Theatre is an off-West End theatre with a reputation for supporting artists and presenting new work. These funds will help to improve the ventilation and protect audiences through e-ticketing and additional hand sanitiser stations.

#### Hyde Festival Theatre, £5,000

This 230-seat amateur theatre is currently the largest theatre in Tameside. The grant will fund the replacement of the building's fire alarm system, which is vital to allow it to reopen.

#### Lawrence Batley Theatre, Huddersfield, £4,860

Housed within a converted 1819 Methodist chapel, the Lawrence Batley Theatre is a key regional theatre, producing pantomime in house and has been active with an innovative digital programme throughout the pandemic. Funding will help vital repairs to the theatre's air handling system, as well as the purchase of Perspex screens and handheld temperature scanners.

#### New Vic Theatre, Newcastle-under-Lyme, £5,000

Opened in 1986, the New Vic is one of the few in-the-round producing theatres in the country and has an excellent national reputation for its work. The Theatre Reopening Fund grant will contribute towards a complete overhaul of the ventilation system.

Phoenix Theatre, Blyth, £3,274

Since opening in 1997 as a 300-seat new build theatre, the Phoenix Theatre has attracted audiences from a broad area including North Tyneside and rural Northumberland with its professional and amateur programme. The grant will support door openers, Perspex screens and a disinfecting fogger.

Swansea Grand, £4,880

Arts Wing is the 1999 extension to the Grand Theatre, the only surviving example of a William Hope-designed theatre. The project funded is to resurface the stairways of the Arts Wing space to allow for easier cleaning to be Covid-19 safe.

Theatre Peckham, £5,000

Built in 2016, Theatre Peckham is an award-winning cultural venue that creates work primarily for people under 25. Funding will contribute towards the installation of an automatic door as well as hand sanitisers.

Theatre Royal Winchester, £5,000

Theatre Royal Winchester is an innovative producing organisation, which puts on shows in its Grade II-listed theatre and beyond the building. The Theatre Reopening Fund grant will contribute to an overhaul of the theatre's air handling to include the cleaning and replacement of machinery ensuring efficient air filtration and to deliver a Covid-secure environment for audiences.

Tower Theatre, London, £3,439

Tower Theatre is an active amateur dramatics group based in a former Methodist chapel. Funding will cover a package of works including sneeze screens cut to fit the control desk and bar areas.

## **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](mailto:info@chloenelkinconsulting.com), T: 020 3627 2960

W: [www.chloenelkinconsulting.com](http://www.chloenelkinconsulting.com)