



Theatres Trust and The Linbury Trust help 14 theatres face the future post-pandemic with Small Grants Programme

Theatres Trust has awarded over £69,000 from its Small Grants Programme, supported by The Linbury Trust, to 14 theatres across the UK to support them post-pandemic. The theatres will use the grants, which are from the first round of funding, to carry out small capital works to improve their accessibility, sustainability and viability, allowing them to welcome back audiences old and new after the devastating period of closure.

Expanding their work following initiatives started during the pandemic, Lyric Theatre, Hammersmith, and Theatr Brycheiniog will purchase new technology to improve their digital infrastructure, allowing them to deliver a wider programme of work and reach new audiences.

A Changing Places toilet, which is best practice in accessibility standards, will be installed in Malvern Theatres' new studio extension for its creative learning programme, making its expanding programme accessible to even more of its audiences. From installing assistive technology to making changes to front and back of house, five other theatres will also make vital access improvements with their funding: Lawrence Batley Theatre, Pateley Playhouse, Stanley Arts, Tower Theatre Folkestone and Worcester Swan.

Taking an environmentally sustainable approach to support their long-term viability, Romiley Little Theatre and Trinity Theatre will use funding to upgrade to more efficient heating systems with lower running costs. Angles Theatre, Finborough Theatre, Stables Theatre and Theatro Technis will carry out essential repairs to their electrics, safety equipment and toilets respectively.

Jon Morgan, Director of Theatres Trust, comments, *There will be tough times ahead for theatres following the worst year in living memory for the sector, so we are pleased to be able to support these treasured theatres to make positive changes that will help them thrive.*

Stuart Holey, Director of The Linbury Trust, comments, *From support to improving accessibility, to helping redevelop digital infrastructure, these small grants are going to make a big difference to local theatres and the wide range of people who enjoy them.*

The Small Grants Programme has been made possible thanks to the generous support of The Linbury Trust, as well as donations from Judy Craymer CBE and Charles Michael Holloway Charitable Trust.

The second round of the Small Grants Programme is currently open for applications with grants of up to £5,000 available for not-for-profit theatres. The closing date is Monday 8th November 2021.

Notes to Editors

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| Title | Theatres Trust |
| Website | http://www.theatrust.org.uk/smallgrants |
| Twitter | @TheatresTrust |
| Photograph | Lawrence Batley Theatre |

Small Grants Programme recipients

Angles Theatre, Wisbech, £5,000

Grade II listed Georgian theatre built in 1790, and now the only working theatre in Fenland. Funding will go towards essential repairs to the male toilets that have not been renovated for 20 years.

Finborough Theatre, London, £5,000

Intimate London fringe theatre venue, presenting new writing and unique rediscoveries since 1980. Named London Pub Theatre of the Year 2020. Just before its closure due to the pandemic, a water leak and subsequent damp damaged the electrical distribution board at the theatre. Theatres Trust funding will cover the cost of replacement. An urgent safety issue, the replacement of the distribution boards will be a major step in making further planned electrical work front of house and backstage in advance of reopening.

Lawrence Batley Theatre, Huddersfield, £5,000

Significant producing theatre in a converted Victorian Methodist Mission Hall that opened as a theatre in 1994. The grant will help fund a package of small capital works to improve the accessibility, sustainability and viability of the space. The project will make the dressing room for the main stage more accessible, upgrade the house lighting system to LED, and create a new designated learning and participation space to allow further engagement and participatory activities for its diverse audiences.

Lyric Theatre, Hammersmith, London, £4,900

Nationally significant producing theatre with a leading outreach programme in a reconstructed Grade II listed Frank Matcham auditorium. Funding will go towards upgrading and modernising the digital infrastructure of the Lyric to allow it to deliver its new digital programming strand, which it began to develop as a result of the pandemic to support its audiences.

Malvern Theatres, Worcestershire, £5,000

Local receiving house across two theatres, part of an entertainment complex dating from 1883. The Small Grants Programme award will fund a Changing Places toilet in The Studio, an extension to the main theatre building that will house and expand its creative learning programme. Best practice in accessible facilities, the Changing Places toilet helps people who cannot use standard toilets and who require the assistance of a height adjustable changing bench and a hoist. The facility at Malvern Theatres will be the first of its kind in the district.

Pateley Playhouse, Harrogate, £5,000

Small community-run amateur theatre converted from a Primitive Methodist Chapel in 1859 that presents own work, including original plays by a writer in residence. Theatres Trust funding will help install a lift to the auditorium, the final element in a scheme of works to make the building fully accessible.

Romiley Little Theatre, Stockport, £4,540

Established as a performance venue in 2020 after years as a store and rehearsal space, this volunteer-run venue presents a mixed programme of in-house amateur and received productions. Funding will purchase air source heat pumps, an efficient form of heating with lower running costs.

Stables Theatre, Hastings, £5,000

Grade II listed Georgian stable block, converted into theatre use in 1959 and now a community amateur theatre. Theatres Trust funding will pay for a fire alarm replacement to satisfy an insurance renewal requirement – an urgent viability issue.

Stanley Arts, London, £5,000

A quirky example of Edwardian architecture built between 1903-11 to provide space for community and arts activities. Now reborn as a creation space for a range of resident companies with a growing performance programme, Stanley Arts has a particular focus on queer arts and artists of colour. Theatres Trust will fund the installation of hearing loops in its performance spaces, making its programme accessible to hearing aid users for the first time and improving the accessibility of this new arts space for South London.

Theatr Brycheiniog, Brecon, £5,000

A leading mid-scale venue and important community theatre built in 1997, Theatr Brycheiniog co-produces original productions alongside professional and community performances. A commissioned film performance was successfully piloted during its coronavirus closure, and funding from the Small Grants Programme will pay for the purchase of technology to allow it to record and stream its productions and community events.

Theatro Technis, London, £5,000

An independent community theatre with a focus on works by London's diverse artists, producing and presenting a programme for the London fringe. Theatres Trust funding will replace the theatre's dimmer racks that have become a critical issue – they have deteriorated beyond usability during the coronavirus closure period and are essential for the space.

Tower Theatre, Folkestone, £5,000

Purchased by Folkestone and Hythe Operatic and Dramatic Society (FHODS) and converted to theatre use in 2006/7, Tower Theatre stages amateur FHODS productions and hosts amateur and professional shows. The funded project includes resurfacing access paths and the car park, and the installation of a ramp to improve accessibility into the theatre.

Trinity Theatre Tunbridge Wells, £5,000

Trinity Theatre is a Grade II* listed church that was converted into a studio theatre in the 1980s. Currently presenting a busy professional programme, it is transitioning into producing its own amateur work. Theatres Trust funding will allow the venue to replace the boiler, with consideration given to ensuring maximum environmental benefit.

Worcester Swan, Worcester, £5,000

Purpose-built in 1965, Swan Theatre, Worcester, is a key local receiving theatre that also hosts the professional Worcester Rep Company and community events. The Small Grants Programme award will help with backstage renovations to a downstairs dressing room enabling the shower room and changing area to be accessible for disabled performers.

Theatres Trust

Theatres Trust is the national advisory public body for theatres. They believe that current and future generations should have access to good quality theatre buildings where they can be inspired by, and enjoy, live performance. They champion the future of live performance by protecting and supporting excellent theatre buildings which meet the needs of their communities. They 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.

During the pandemic Theatres Trust has supported theatres with advice on building maintenance, funding applications and business planning, as well as organising free webinars. Its previous grant scheme, the Theatre Reopening Fund, awarded more than £300k to 75 theatres to help prepare for reopening.

The Linbury Trust

The Linbury Trust is an independent grant-making Trust established by Lord Sainsbury and his wife Anya, Lady Sainsbury CBE. The Trust funds compelling projects in the areas of culture, environment, social and community welfare; the Trust also funds work benefiting young people, older people and overseas humanitarian aid. www.linburytrust.org.uk

All enquiries, high res images and further information:

Isobel Jaffray

E: isobel@chloenelkinconsulting.com, M: 07772 643 959

W: www.chloenelkinconsulting.com