

# Protecting theatres for everyone



Ref.: TC/680

24 November 2021

Matthew Pendleton  
Pending Applications  
Development Planning  
City of Westminster  
PO Box 732  
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By e-mail: [centralplanningteam@westminster.gov.uk](mailto:centralplanningteam@westminster.gov.uk)

**Application:** 21/07289/FULL & 21/07290/LBC

**Site:** 39 - 45 Shaftesbury Avenue London W1D 6LA

**Proposal:** Erection of a single storey infill to internal lightwell at second floor level, to create new foyer space.

## 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 Theatres Trust regarding these applications for planning permission and listed building consent for infill of a lightwell which will serve as additional space for both the Gielgud and Sondheim Theatres.

These works would create a new bar/function space which could be used by either theatre. There would be a glazed roof creating a conservatory effect letting in significant natural light. This would be attractive for private events/hires and upgrades which will provide the theatres with additional income potential. In turn this will support their ongoing sustainability and viability as cultural and heritage assets.

The location of this proposal is enclosed within the block between the two theatres and Mackintosh House. It is not visible from the street, therefore there is little impact on either theatre's character or significance as heritage assets and no impact on their wider setting. Neither does this area appear to contain any sensitive fabric.

## Theatres Trust

22 Charing Cross Road, London WC2H 0QL

T 020 7836 8591 E [info@theatrestrust.org.uk](mailto:info@theatrestrust.org.uk) W [theatrestrust.org.uk](http://theatrestrust.org.uk)

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

**Trustees** Richard Baldwin, Paul Cartwright, Paddy Dillon, Annie Hampson, Richard Johnston, Gary Kemp, Jane Spiers, Truda Spruyt, Katie Town

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

## Protecting theatres for **everyone**



We welcome investment into these theatres and are supportive of efforts to improve facilities. Therefore we support the granting of planning permission and listed building consent.

Please contact us if we may be of further assistance or should you wish to discuss these comments further.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "T Clarke". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Tom Clarke MRTPI  
National Planning Adviser

### **Theatres Trust**

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