

Protecting theatres
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Ref.: TC/1037

23 May 2023

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By e-mail: planning@lambeth.gov.uk

Application: 23/01273/LB

Site: 131 Waterloo Road SE1 8UR And The Old Vic 103 The Cut London SE1 8NB

Proposal: Removal of the projecting sign and display of 1x externally illuminated fascia sign, 1x internally illuminated fascia sign to 131 Waterloo Road and 5 banner signs to the Old Vic.

Remit:

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 on this application for listed building consent at the Old Vic, which seeks to remove and replace signage.

This proposal in part relates to the Old Vic's new annex at 131 The Cut which was formerly a pub and later a restaurant. A redundant 'Hello' sign for the restaurant will

Theatres Trust

22 Charing Cross Road, London WC2H 0QL

Telephone 020 7836 8591 **Email** info@theatrestrust.org.uk **Website** theatrestrust.org.uk **Twitter** @TheatresTrust

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Chair Dave Moutrey OBE

Director Jon Morgan

Trustees Paul Cartwright, James Dacre, Suba Das, Stephanie Hall, Annie Hampson, Richard Johnston, Gary Kemp, Lucy Osborne, 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

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be removed and there will be the addition of an illuminated 'The Old Vic' sign to its brise soleil and an illuminated projecting 'Backstage' sign to its projecting balcony. These proposals are consistent with the overall design and character of the annex development, and reflect the indicative drawings presented to us at pre-application stage and within the subsequent full application for which we wrote in support.

In addition, there would also be five fabric banners fixed along the theatre's Waterloo Road elevation with uplighters along alternating brick pilasters. We consider the design and scale of these is sensitive to the building's significance as a heritage asset, and is in line with similar schemes which have been brought forward at other theatres as well as historic buildings and visitor attractions more generally. Subject to these being appropriately fixed they constitute a reversible change; there may be merit in including as a condition of listed building consent a requirement to make good any damage should the banners be removed in future.

In conclusion we are supportive of the granting of listed building consent.

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

Tom Clarke MRTPI

National Planning Adviser

Theatres Trust

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