

# Protecting theatres for **everyone**



Ref.: TC/2009

2 June 2023

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Pending Applications  
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By e-mail: [centralplanningteam@westminster.gov.uk](mailto:centralplanningteam@westminster.gov.uk)

**Application:** 23/03093/LBC

**Site:** London Palladium, 7 - 8 Argyll Street, London, W1F 7TF

**Proposal:** Removal of brick pier at basement level.

## **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 consulting Theatres Trust on this application for listed building consent at the Palladium. It seeks to remove three masonry piers within part of its basement to open out space for more flexible use.

## **Theatres Trust**

22 Charing Cross Road, London WC2H 0QL

**Telephone** 020 7836 8591 **Email** [info@theatrestrust.org.uk](mailto:info@theatrestrust.org.uk) **Website** [theatrestrust.org.uk](http://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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The piers are constructed with red brick with arched openings above. These form part of the Palladium's original supporting structure. This area is used as bar/hospitality space, currently the piers separate the area and there is seating behind. Opening out will facilitate more flexible use and layout and generally improve circulation.

This will result in the loss of original fabric. Whilst not of theatrical significance or impacting features referenced within the Historic England listing description, this brickwork has character and is of historic interest relating to use of the site prior to construction of the Palladium. The first Earl of Aberdeen resided there in the earlier part of the 1800s. This property was demolished with land excavated to build 'Bonded Wine Cellars' above which the Palladium's predecessor the Corinthian Bazaar was built as a temporary structure followed by the Hengler's Grand Cirque in 1871. This application relates to the former cellars which survives construction of the current theatre and has been incorporated into it.

This history is not researched further or reflected within the Heritage Statement. We do not object to the removal of these piers (although advice from heritage consultees should be sought), but suggest that if permission for listed building consent is granted it should be accompanied by a condition requiring submission of a recording report prior to works commencing.

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

Tom Clarke MRTPI

National Planning Adviser

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