

PRESS RELEASE

Embargoed until Wednesday 23 April 2008

JOURNEY INTO THE WORLD OF 'EXPLORING THEATRES'

The Theatres Trust, The National Advisory Public Body for Theatres, is launching a new online Learning Resource, 'Exploring Theatres'. Go live takes place on Wednesday 23 April 2008.

Theatres are a remarkable source of inspiration and information for learners of all ages. To encourage greater understanding of the value of theatre buildings and make its information more accessible The Theatres Trust has created a series of new online learning resources.

'Exploring Theatres' comprises an introduction to theatre buildings explaining their use and how the design of theatres evolved. It offers a series of curriculum-linked Key Stage 2 resource sheets to download. It also provides a gateway into the Trust's new online Image Library and Theatres Database.

Mhora Samuel, Director of the Trust says, "Theatre buildings play an essential role in Britain's cultural life and their importance is reflected in the protection they are awarded. Visiting your local theatre can be a life changing experience. 'Exploring Theatres' gives everyone the chance to find out more about the history and role of theatres in their community and provides an exciting route into curriculum subjects for young learners. I'm pleased that 'Exploring Theatres' now makes the Trust's archives and records more widely available."

'Exploring Theatres' resource sheets are aimed at teachers of Key Stage 2 (aged 8-11) children, although they can easily be adapted for other ages. Six resource sheets provide background information and inspiration for teaching approaches using theatres. There are five subjects – art and design, citizenship, geography, history and literacy – and a separate resource sheet providing guidance for teachers planning a visit to a theatre.

The Trust's Resources Officer, Kate Carmichael says, "I am extremely thrilled with our new and improved online Learning Resource, and especially our KS2 downloads." She adds, "This is only the beginning. We hope to build more online resources and develop what we can offer to formal and informal learners. We also aim to work with education providers and learning initiatives across theatre, architecture and the built environment, and heritage."

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Notes to Editors:

1. Exploring Theatres, the new digital Image Library, and online Theatres Database open up the wealth of material from the Trust's archives and make them accessible to a wider audience. This has been made possible through The Theatres Trust's 'Information Access Project' supported by the Heritage Lottery Fund. All can be found in the new 'Resources' area of our website.

2. The launch of The Theatres Trust online Learning Resource, 'Exploring Theatres' will take place on Wednesday 23 April 2008, 5.00 - 6.30pm in the John Lyon Room at the Unicorn Theatre in London. To attend please contact Kate Carmichael at The Theatres Trust on 020 7836 8591
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3. Members of the press are invited to attend the launch of Exploring Theatres. Please contact Kate Carmichael by 21 April 2008 at The Theatres Trust on 020 7836 8591
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The Theatres Trust
Protecting Theatres for Everyone
National Advisory Public Body for Theatres

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Contact us on 020 7836 8591 for further details.