



For the attention of Sabah Halli

Mr G. Blake
Planning Division
London Borough of Merton
Civic Centre
London Road
Morden
Surrey SM4 5DX

5 June 2008

Dear Mr Blake,

**The New Wimbledon Theatre, 93 The Broadway, Wimbledon
Planning Application: 08/P0971**

Thank you for consulting The Theatres Trust on the above application for listed building consent to insert three rooflights to rear elevation, replace backstage door, install steel balustrade and install new backstage structure for new floor. The Theatres Trust **supports** the application in principle. Please see our detailed advice below. I would also be grateful if you would **update your database** to include our correct address as above.

Remit

The Theatres Trust is the National Advisory Public Body for theatres. The Town & Country Planning (General Development Procedure) Order 1995, Article 10, Para (v) requires the Trust to be consulted on planning applications which include '*development involving any land on which there is a theatre.*' It was established by The Theatres Trust Act 1976 '*to promote the better protection of theatres.*' This applies to all theatre buildings, old and new, in current use, in other uses, or disused. It also includes Ciné-variety buildings or structures that have been converted to theatre, circus buildings and performing art centres. Our main objective is to safeguard theatre use, or the potential for such use, but we also provide expert advice on design, conservation, property and planning matters to theatre operators, local authorities and official bodies.

Advice/comment

Specifically, we are pleased to see that some attention is to be given to improving back-of-house accommodation. These works will provide much needed and upgraded facilities including a new dressing room, a new chorus room dressing room, laundry, wig room, storeroom as well as other refurbished facilities. From our interpretation of the plans, it appears that much of the works will be to sections of the building that have no particular special interest, are in areas of little architectural significance or are lightweight and reversible in nature.

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Protecting theatres for everyone

Director Mhora Samuel **Chairman** Rupert Rhymes OBE
Trustees Jason Barnes, Simon Callow CBE, Marilyn Cutts, Venu Dhupa, Mark Foley, Baroness McIntosh of Hudnall,
Chris Shepley CBE, Sam Shrouder, Ronald Spinney CBE, Dr Phyllis Starkey MP, Pat Thomas OBE
Consultants John Earl, Jonathan Lane, Peter Longman

Therefore the works proposed will not adversely harm the special architectural interest or the character of the listed building. We would urge you to **grant listed building consent**.

I should be grateful if you would advise us of the Council's decision in due course and any attached conditions or further amendments. Please do not hesitate to contact us if we can be of further assistance.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'MJP', followed by a long horizontal flourish.

Mark J Price
Planning and Architecture Adviser