

The Theatres Trust
22 Charing Cross Road, London WC2H 0QL
T 020 7836 8591 F 020 7836 3302
info@theatrestrust.org.uk www.theatrestrust.org.uk

Our Ref.: VS/124
Please contact: Ms Bridget Pereira

26 February 2010

For the attention of Ms Renee Clarke

Mr John Walker
Operational Director Development Planning
Westminster City Council
Westminster City Hall
Victoria Street
London SW1E 6QP



Dear Mr Walker,

London Hippodrome, Cranbourn Street, London, WC2H 7JH
Application Ref.: 09/09933/FULL

Thank you for consulting The Theatres Trust on the above Planning Application for an extension to the existing canopy. The Trust **supports** the application. Please see our detailed advice below.

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. 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: The Trust supports the application in principle because the extension to the existing canopy will balance the symmetry of the entrance to the building whilst providing increased cover for pedestrians and patrons of the *Hippodrome Casino*. Although the extended canopy deviates from Matcham's original design in length, the outward appearance of the extension replicates that of the existing structure and is in keeping with the style, form and design of a Matcham theatre. As such, it will not adversely harm the special character of the listed building. Furthermore, the Trust is mindful that commercial theatres in London's West End need substantial improvement if they are to keep pace with public expectation and the needs of performers and producers. We are keen to help theatre owners do more to improve, adapt and sustain their building stock to attract new audiences. The works proposed will enhance the special architectural and historic interest of the listed building, the symmetry of the entrance as well as a providing increased shelter for pedestrians. We would therefore urge you to grant Planning Permission.

Yours sincerely,

Mark J Price MRTPI IHBC
Planning and Heritage Adviser

Protecting theatres for everyone

Director Mhora Samuel **Chairman** Rob Dickins CBE
Trustees Jason Barnes, Phil Clark, Marilyn Cutts, Venu Dhupa, Tim Foster, Penelope Keith CBE DL,
Dr Pauleen Lane CBE, Baroness McIntosh of Hudnall, Anne McReynolds, Matthew Rooke,
Chris Shepley CBE, Sam Shrouder, Ben Twist

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

