

THEATRE: *Scarborough Futurist*

Listed not listed

Address: Foreshore Road, Scarborough YO11 1NT

Local Authority: Scarborough Borough Council

Town Hall, St Nicholas Street, Scarborough YO11 2HG

Tel: 01723 232323 Email: planning.services@scarborough.gov.uk

Web: www.scarborough.gov.uk

Current Freehold Owner: Scarborough Borough Council

Current Leasehold Owner: Barrie Stead

Current Operator/Manager: Barrie Stead

Local Contact: Diana Tasker (Alternative Task Group)

Save the Futurist Theatre Scarborough [Facebook campaign](#)

The Theatres Trust Contact: Suzanne McDougall. Tel 020 7836 8591

Email: Suzanne.mcdougall@theatrust.org.uk

Original theatre architect (s): 1921: F A Tugwell, as cinema, 1957: Capt. Ritson, converted to theatre, 1968: Ritson, extended over the adjacent site to enlarge stage.

Building Description

Built in 1921 as a super cinema, the *Futurist* has an Italianate façade of faience tiling, currently concealed behind 1960s cladding. The auditorium is large, seating 2,155, with the circle supported on slender columns. Simple decoration, including three ornamental ventilation grilles in the ceiling. Works in 1968 include the addition of boxes either side of the proscenium (from which the stage is hidden). The stage is deep and wide, with fly tower and counterweight sets. Situated above the foyer, however, there is no opportunity for traps. This, too, limits the current space for foyer facilities.

Theatre Use

Built as a cinema, theatre use commenced in 1957 when a large stage was added. This was then extended in 1968. Scarborough Borough Council bought the building in 1985. Since Clear Channel Entertainment terminated their lease in 2002 the theatre has been held on a short lease by Barrie Stead, with continued success.

Building Location

The *Futurist* sits in a prime seafront location. In addition to the theatre, the site comprises an incorporated public house and gift shops, a number of flats and a car park. It is surrounded by commercial and residential accommodation. Scarborough Conservation Area runs along the eastern boundary of the site.

Risks

The building has been at risk of demolition for some time. Successive reports have been commissioned to explore future options for the building. The latest report is being undertaken by theatre consultants Lynne Burton Associates on behalf of Scarborough Borough Council. Their recommendations are due to be published in early Autumn 2010. If demolition were to be granted, Scarborough would lose an unrivalled performance venue (in terms of seating capacity and stage facilities). The Alternative Task Group are campaigning against its demolition and want to see the building retained as a theatre/cinema. They have applied to English Heritage to grant the building listed status.