

## PRESS RELEASE 7 August 2017

### Theatres Trust reveal additions to impressive contributor line up for Conference 17

Details of an impressive array of contributors for the **Theatres Trust Theatres & Placemaking** conference have started to emerge, as delegate bookings for this one-day conference rise. Taking place at **Lyric Hammersmith** on **Tuesday 17 October**, **Conference 17** will discuss why and how theatres can engage with the placemaking agenda.

**New contributors** include:

**Paul Callaghan, Chair of Live Theatre and Trustee of Sunderland Music, Arts and Culture Trust**, will explore the role of culture within regeneration as part of the **MACQ (Music, Arts and Cultural Quarter)** project in Sunderland, whose vision will see the restoration of an important area of Sunderland, re-establishing the area's previous importance as the Edwardian heart and soul of the city.

**Graham Lister, Project Director for Storyhouse Chester** and **Cllr Louise Gittins, Deputy Leader of Cheshire West and Cheshire Council** will **jointly discuss the recently opened Storyhouse in Chester** and the important role local authorities play in supporting theatre and placemaking.

**Daniel Rose, Executive Director, Mechanics' Institution Trust** will introduce the work of his organisation, a social enterprise and building preservation and development trust, and their motivation to bring the **Swindon Mechanics' Institution**, back to life and to nurture it as a community run organisation in a Grade II\* listed building ready for the 21st century.

**Hannah Garrow, Fundraising and Community Engagement Director, Leith Theatres Trust**, will talk about their success in the re-opening and animating of Leith Theatre in Edinburgh, and the inclusive role it is playing in providing a versatile space to encourage a vibrant creative hub as part of the regeneration of the Leith area and the community it serves.

These join already announced contributors: **Richard Blyth** from **Royal Town Planning Institute**, **David Byrne** from **New Diorama Theatre**, **Damian Cruden** from **York Theatre Royal**, **Anna Devlet** from **British Land** and **Angus Morrogh-Ryan** from **De Matos Ryan Architects**.

**Jon Morgan, Director of Theatres Trust** says: "We are delighted to have such an impressive line-up of contributors confirmed so soon. Each of our speakers will bring a different dimension to the debate during the day – with some excellent case study material as well as valuable insight into the placemaking agenda, and how the wider theatre industry can engage with it.

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**Chair** Tim Eyles **Director** Jon Morgan

**Trustees** Richard Baldwin, David Blyth, Pam Bone, Paul Cartwright, Paddy Dillon, Ruth Eastwood, David Ian, Richard Johnston, Gary Kemp, Dara Ó Briain, Simon Ricketts, Peter Roberts, Ann Skippers, Anna Stapleton

The National Advisory Public Body for Theatres

The Theatres Trust Charitable Fund co-operates with Theatres Trust, has the same Trustees and is registered as a charity under number 274697

“With a new structure to the day, involving plenary as well as parallel sessions, there will be ample opportunity for all the delegates to engage with the topic and debate the issues with the diverse group of contributors. The number of ticket sales already suggest that the topic is one of interest to many key decision makers and influencers in the theatre sector. We would encourage those interested in attending to book now to ensure they join the debate at the best rate possible.” **concludes Morgan.**

**Conference 17** is generously sponsored by theatre organisations, consultancies and manufacturers including: **ABTT, Aedas Arts Team, Allies and Morrison, Audio Light Systems, BuroHappold, Charcoalblue, Chauvet Professional, EM Acoustics, ETC, GDS, GoboPlus, Harlequin Floors, Haworth Tompkins, Hawthorn, J&C Joel, LSI Magazine, Lyric Hammersmith, New Stages Ltd, Northern Light, Page\Park, Philips Entertainment Lighting, Plann, Really Useful Theatres Group, Stage Electrics, The Stage, Theatre Projects, Triple E and Unusual.**

**Delegate bookings are now open, and there are generous early bird discounts for delegates booking before Monday 28 August.**

For more information on **booking tickets** please visit: [theatrust.org.uk/latest/events/232-theatres-trust-conference-17-theatres-placemaking](https://theatrust.org.uk/latest/events/232-theatres-trust-conference-17-theatres-placemaking)

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**ENDS**

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## **NOTES TO EDITORS**

**Theatres Trust** is the UK national advisory public body for theatres. We believe that current and future generations should have access to good quality theatre buildings where they can be inspired by, and enjoy, live theatre. We champion the past, present and future of live theatre, by protecting the buildings and what goes on inside. We do this through providing advice on planning and development, supplying resources and advice to make theatres sustainable and offering financial assistance through grants. We help people discover more about theatres and campaign for theatres at risk.

All information is correct at the time of going to press. More contributors and sponsors will be confirmed in due course. Please check [theatrust.org.uk](https://theatrust.org.uk) for updates.