

Theatres Trust 42nd Annual Report

Period ended 31 March 2019

Theatres Trust is the 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 performance.

We champion the future of live performance by protecting and supporting excellent theatre buildings which meet the needs of their communities. We do this by providing advice on the design, planning, development and sustainability of theatres, campaigning on behalf of theatres old and new and offering financial assistance through grants.

Chair & Director's report	3
Our purposes & activities	4
Our achievements & performance	5
Financial review	12
Our Ambassadors	14
Our Supporters	15
Our Trustees & staff	18
Our impact	20

Theatres Trust
The National Advisory Body for Theatres
Protecting theatres for everyone

Incorporating the Annual Report of The Theatres Trust Charitable Fund Registered Charity No: 274697

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Front cover: Alexandra Palace Theatre. Photo by Lloyd Winters. Our impact photos by Ian Grundy Design by Derek Man

Chair & Director's report

This year was the first year of the Theatres Trust's new three-year strategy for 2018-21. The primary aim of the strategy is to increase our impact in promoting and protecting all theatres across the UK. We will achieve this by delivering focused additional support to the sector, strengthening our advocacy through increased profile and engagement with key stakeholders, and raising additional funds to support new programmes and increased grant giving.

Much of the focus of the year has been on putting in place the resources and the team needed to deliver these ambitious goals, but we have also already seen some key indicators of improved performance.

Across the year over 5 million people attended theatres benefitting from the Theatres Trust's support; consultation by local authorities on theatre plans has increased by 54% and on local plans by 18%; Theatres Trust has delivered and contributed to a number of key thought leadership events and published important research on the future capital needs of theatres; we have also recruited 25 high profile Ambassadors from across the theatre sector to help promote our work, attracted increased press and online engagement and raised an additional £170,000 in awards and pledges to support new activity programmes in 2019/20.

We are extremely grateful to our many dedicated funders, donors, sponsors, Corporate Supporters and Friends, as well as new supporters this year, whose generosity enables us to achieve our ambition to deliver much-needed additional support to the sector, both through our advice service and through grant giving.

We would also like to thank our new Ambassadors. With their help, we made a film about our work, which was first screened at a fundraising event at the London Palladium in October. Our Ambassadors have also supported us by attending and speaking at Theatres Trust events, meeting our Patrons, donors and funders and amplifying our messages on social media.

We are grateful to the trustees who freely give up their valuable time to offer their expertise in support of the Trust's work and have also supported and donated to our fundraising. Finally, we would like to express our thanks and gratitude to the staff team who have worked incredibly hard to deliver the Trust's ambitious programme this year.

Communities, audiences and artists care about our nation's theatre buildings as much as those of us who own or manage them. Our ambition, working with the fantastic board and staff team at Theatres Trust and with our Ambassadors, volunteers, supporters and wider networks, is to further nurture and harness that passion to advocate for proper investment in and protection of our theatres, keeping theatre alive at the heart of communities.

Tim Eyles Chair Jon Morgan Director

Our purposes & activities

The purposes of The Theatres Trust Charitable Fund are:

'To promote the advancement and improvement of general education in relation to all aspects of the dramatic arts and the development of public appreciation of such arts, particularly by promoting the maintenance, use and better protection of theatres and places of entertainment for the benefit of the nation by all charitable means.'

The Theatres Trust Charitable Fund (Registered Charity No: 27469) was established in 1977 to support and deliver the work of the Theatres Trust, which was established in 1976 by Act of Parliament. The Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport appoints the 15 trustees of the Theatres Trust.

They provide the Trust with influence and are recognised as leaders in their fields. Trustees sit on the councils of both the Theatres Trust and The Theatres Trust Charitable Fund and are responsible for governance of both organisations. They meet quarterly and guide the strategic direction of the Trust's work, which is delivered through its staff team.

Review of 2018/19

We are reporting our work in 2018/19 against our three main aims, as follows:

Advice & Planning

We will provide the expert advice needed to enable theatres to be created, retained and adapted for live performance and to meet the changing needs of their communities.

Campaigning

As the nation's most powerful champion for the cause of theatres, we will campaign to secure the future of the UK's theatres and to save theatres that are at risk.

Grant giving

We will provide strategic capital funding to theatres to help them remain sustainable and adapt to future needs.

Our achievements & performance

Advice & Planning

We will provide expert advice on planning and development.

Advice

One-to-one expert advice

Over 2018/19, we provided advice to 120 different theatres (excluding those which were subject to planning applications). Many of those theatres were provided advice on an ongoing basis throughout the year.

This included advice to 25 theatres/theatre groups which were on the Theatres at Risk Register, and advice to 95 other theatres/theatre groups, mainly around viability (including fundraising) and capital works

Promoting our advice service

We have produced a new leaflet that outlines the services we offer to local authorities, theatre owners and operators, and campaign groups. Work began on producing a new series of advice notes, which aim to answer some of the most frequent questions we receive on capital projects, design, heritage, organisational set-up and planning.

Advisory Reviews

Advisory Reviews provide an opportunity for theatres undergoing capital projects to receive input at key points in the life of the project from a panel of expert practitioners brought together by the Theatres Trust. While no Advisory Reviews took place in this financial year, work began in early 2019 at the Theatre Royal Drury Lane based on the theatre's earlier Advisory Review.

Fibrous Plaster Ceiling Research

We continued our research partnership with Historic England to identify best practice guidance for the inspection, maintenance and repair of fibrous plaster ceilings. The report, which was finalised in February and has now been published (May 2019), provides a practical reference point for professionals involved in repairing historic buildings as well as theatre owners and operators of Victorian and Edwardian theatres and music halls.

ABTT Technical Standards for Places of Entertainment

Theatres Trust is part of the Standing Committee led by the ABTT that helps make improvements in building, maintaining, managing and operating places of entertainment, in recognition that self-regulation is most effective for the theatre industry. A new version of the technical standards publication, known commonly as 'the yellow book' was published in September with the Theatres Trust accredited as co-contributors.

Conference 18: Adapt & Thrive

Our conference in October at the Lyric
Hammersmith looked at how changing artistic,
business and operating models in the theatre sector
impact how we build, adapt and run theatres. It was
our most attended conference to date and included
a line-up of speakers from theatre operators, local
authorities and architects. Theatre case studies
included Bristol Old Vic, The Factory in Manchester,
Citizens Theatre and Stockton Globe. A conference
highlight was Cameron Mackintosh in conversation
with fellow Theatres Trust Ambassador Samira
Ahmed.





2Northdown venue

While trying to negotiate extended hours this 100-capacity venue in Kings Cross realised that its planning conditions and licencing hours were not aligned and it was operating in breach of its planning conditions. We were able to help 2Northdown understand the information and processes that were required to untangle the situation and to provide access to the detailed advice required relating to a noise impact assessment. The advice resulted in the venue being granted the required extension and the additional information obtained through us has enabled a new planning application, decision currently pending.



Planning

As a statutory consultee, the Theatres Trust's planning advice aims to safeguard theatre use and to ensure theatre buildings are fit for purpose.

We responded to 196 planning applications, 18 pre-applications and 5 appeals in 2018/19 – this is an increase of 77 on 2017/18. These included proposals for the refurbishment of Paisley Town Hall, seating alterations at Richmond's Georgian Theatre Royal, a replacement theatre for Harpenden, Edinburgh's new concert hall and studio, and amended plans for the new Sadler's Wells East theatre. We objected to proposals to demolish the fire-damaged ABC in Glasgow and to plans to convert Morley's New Pavilion into housing and a function room. We also responded to 120 listed building consultations.

Of the 354 planning, pre planning and listed building applications and appeals, 320 were from England, 18 from Scotland, 15 from Wales and 1 from Northern Ireland, and we achieved a 100% record of responses submitted within the agreed timeframes.

Reading Borough Council

Improvements were made to Reading Borough Council's new Local Plan in response to comments made by the Theatres Trust. Because of our written comments and representation at public examination the Local Plan now includes wording which more effectively ensures larger-scale theatre and live performance provision in Reading will continue into the future, whether at the existing Hexagon or an alternative site. It now also includes additional detail requiring applicants and the council to work with the Theatres Trust to ensure any replacement for the Hexagon is designed to meet the needs of audiences and performers. The amended plan is still subject to a final consultation, and we will make a further representation to ensure the protection of theatre provision in Reading.

Local Plans and Planning Policy

Theatres Trust received 442 local plan consultations between 1 April 2018 and 31 March 2019 and responded to 142 of these to encourage local authorities to include the protection and enhancement of cultural facilities in their planning policies. These include local plans, development management policies, area action plans, supplementary planning documents, and community infrastructure levy consultations. The Trust also responded to six neighbourhood plan consultations.

Neighbouring developments and Agent of Change

Responding to planning applications about adjacent developments that could impact upon neighbouring theatres is playing an increasingly important part of our planning work. Our concerns about a residential development next to the Lighthouse Centre in Poole resulted in the scheme being redesigned and our suggested conditions were incorporated into the permission for a residential until adjacent to the Grand Opera House in York.

We welcomed the formal adoption of Agent of Change as a development consideration in the revised National Planning Policy Framework. The Agent of Change principle places the burden of costs and mitigation on new development, rather than existing uses suffering restrictions or even closure following complaints from new neighbours. We supported the application by Oxford Playhouse for soundproofing works, paid for by the neighbouring pub in line with the Agent of Change principle.



Our achievements & performance

Campaigning

As the nation's most powerful champion for the cause of theatres, we will campaign to secure the future of the UK's theatres and to save theatres that are at risk.

Theatres at Risk

The Theatres at Risk Register lists theatre buildings across England, Scotland and Wales that are most at risk of being lost, but which the Theatres Trust believes have real potential for a sustainable future as a working performance space.

The 2019 Register consists of 31 theatres, including three new additions: Theatr Ardudwy, Tottenham Palace Theatre and The Intimate Theatre in Palmers Green. Seven theatres were removed from the list for a mixture of positive and negative reasons. Alexandra Palace and Cryer Theatre in Sutton are both returning to performance use, while Hulme Playhouse and Llandudno Grand were judged to no longer be at immediate risk as they are currently being used for sympathetic purposes. Sadly, the Secombe also in Sutton and the Workington Opera House look unlikely to be saved and the Coronet in Elephant & Castle will be demolished.

We launched the 2019 Register at an event in January at the newly reopened Alexandra Palace. Theatres Trust Ambassador Jack Dee spoke of his love for theatre, the Arts Minister Michael Ellis MP gave a speech about the value of the Theatres Trust and there was a panel discussion with four Theatres at Risk at various stages of their journeys.

The campaign called for more collaborative creative partnerships between local authorities, theatre owners and operators and community groups to protect the theatres on the list, along with more sustainable funding to prevent further theatres becoming 'at risk' in the future. Media coverage included television appearances by Jack Dee on London Live and Trustee Gary Kemp on Good Morning Britain, along with arts, national, regional and lifestyle press.

Beyond the launch event, we have supported Theatres at Risk throughout the year with advice and by raising the profile of their individual causes. In recognition of the challenges faced by many of these theatres in accessing funding for the early stage concept and viability works and for organisational support, we have been fundraising for a Capacity Building Programme. Thanks to support from Historic England, Swire Charitable Trust and Pilgrim Trust, we will be able to fund a pilot year of this programme in 2019.

Burnley Empire

With Theatres Trust advice and support, along with the National Trust and Theatresearch, Burnley Empire Limited, a company formed by the friends group Burnley Empire Theatre Trust, was able to buy Burnley Empire from the Duchy of Lancaster. With ownership in place, the group can now begin the restoration project, taking an incremental approach focusing on making the building wind and water-tight and working towards a longer-term ambition to restore and reopen the building for the benefit of the local community.



Theatres at Risk 2019 launch - Bruce Knight, Spilsby Theatre, Paul Dobson, Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council, Sophie Gibson, Burnley Empire, Jack Dee, Comedian and Theatres Trust Ambassador, Claire Appleby, Theatres Trust. Louise Stewart. Alexandra Palace and Jon Morgan. Theatres Trust.

Consultations

As part of our campaigning work on behalf of theatres we responded to national and regional consultations about culture and planning policy. These included national planning policy in England and Wales; Government consultations on the Civil Society Strategy; the House of Lords Seaside Towns Commission; EU Eco-design legislation proposals; culture strategies for Scotland, Greater London and Greater Manchester, and strategic consultations by Arts Council England and Historic England.

Alexandra Palace

Alexandra Palace Theatre had not been an active theatre for more than 80 years and when it was first added to the Theatres at Risk Register in 2006, the building fabric was deteriorating and it was unsafe to use. It has undergone a six-year renovation project, which Theatres Trust has supported from early stage advice on the viability study through to helping the fundraising campaign with various letters of support. The theatre officially reopened to the public on 1 December 2018 and is currently showing a mix of one-off events, comedy nights, music and theatre productions. In light of this positive development, we were pleased to remove Alexandra Palace from the 2019 Theatres at Risk Register.

Contribution to industry events

We remain committed to working with our partners and contributing to the wider debate on theatres, culture and placemaking:

Greater London Authority Cultural Infrastructure Plan launch

Trustee Ann Skippers talked about the vital role of planning for culture at the heart of placemaking.

Society of Theatre Research lecture

Architecture Adviser Claire Appleby gave a talk about this year's Theatres at Risk Register.

UK Theatre Business Resilience Conference

Director Jon Morgan presented the findings of our joint research with UK Theatre and SOLT about capital spending on theatres.

Westminster Media Forum

Theatres Adviser Tom Stickland talked about supporting grassroots theatres at an event about the future of the live entertainment sector.

Capital funding research

Theatres Trust in conjunction with UK Theatre and the Society of London Theatre, conducted a survey to look at the scale of capital investment needed across the sector. Nearly 150 theatres responded (about 13% of all active UK theatres) and the results showed that, across those surveyed alone, more than £550m is needed over the next five years for capital projects to upgrade and maintain theatres across the UK. These findings formed the basis of a press story in October and we have continued to use the headline figures and more detailed breakdowns in our lobbying and media work since. We will continue to survey the sector to identify trends in capital projects, funding and theatre buildings.

Our achievements & performance

Grant giving

We will provide strategic capital funding to theatres to help them remain sustainable and adapt to future needs. We awarded 23 grants totalling more than £178,000 across three schemes. Our grants fund projects that make an impact to improve accessibility, viability and environmental sustainability of theatres.

UK Theatres Small Grants Scheme

Thanks to the ongoing support of the Andrew Lloyd Webber Foundation and the Charles Michael Holloway Charitable Trust, we awarded grants totalling £51,500. Across two rounds, we supported 11 theatres through this scheme with projects including roof repairs, new boilers and heating systems, hearing loops and stair lifts:

Alnwick Playhouse, Chipping Norton Theatre, Dundee Rep and Scottish Dance Theatre, Lyth Arts Centre, Oswaldtwistle Civic Arts Centre and Theatre, Plaza Theatre, Romsey, Poole Lighthouse, Shoreditch Town Hall, The Royal Cornwall Polytechnic Society Falmouth, Theatr Gwaun and Vivacity Key Theatre, Peterborough.

Lyth Arts Centre

Lyth Arts Centre, a key cultural asset in Caithness, will be able to replace its old storage heaters and install an innovative air source heat pump, with £5,000 of Theatres Trust UK Small Grants funding. The installation of this renewable heating source will make the multi-use arts centre, housed in a Victorian school building, more energy efficient, ensuring the building's viability and benefiting visiting artists and local audiences across northern Scotland.





London Small Theatres Grants Scheme

Theatres Trust is grateful to the Cameron Mackintosh Foundation and Soho Estates for continuing to support the London Small Theatres Grants Scheme. Five London theatres each received a grant of £5,000, supporting the creation new performance spaces and various accessibility projects:

Omnibus Clapham, Queen's Hornchurch, Soho Theatre, The Big House and Tower Theatre in Hackney.

Shoreditch Town Hall

Grade II listed Shoreditch Town Hall, one of the grandest Vestry Halls in London, will complete urgent external and internal repairs to the North East Tower of its Assembly Hall, the largest performance area in the respected cultural space and theatre, thanks to our UK Small Grants award of £5,000. The works will prevent water ingress and further deterioration, helping protect the historic building and future theatre use.



Theatre Improvement Scheme

Following a successful pilot scheme, the Wolfson Foundation awarded the Theatres Trust £300,000 of funding over three years for this new scheme with a different theme each year. In 2018 the theme was 'Improving Disability Access' and we awarded seven grants (including one grant to a consortium of seven theatres) totalling £101,512:

Gulbenkian Theatre and Cinema, Oxford Playhouse, Pitlochry Festival Theatre, Stephen Joseph Theatre, The Old Vic, Tyne Theatre and Opera House, and a consortium of Greater Manchester theatres consisting; Bolton Octagon, Contact, HOME, Oldham Coliseum, Royal Exchange Theatre, The Lowry and Z-Arts.

The 2019 round opened in February, focusing on environmental sustainability.

Greater Manchester theatres consortium

We awarded our 100th ever grant to a consortium of Greater Manchester theatres, for an innovative collaborative project led by HOME. £20,000 was awarded from the Theatre Improvement Scheme to purchase captioning equipment that will be shared by HOME with six other theatres. This will allow D/deaf audiences across Greater Manchester to attend more captioned performances in a greater variety of theatre styles, and see shows at theatres that had not previously offered them.

Financial review

Income for the year across both The Theatres Trust and The Theatres Trust Charitable Fund (Registered charity No. 274697) was £97,737 higher for the year ended 31 March 2019 than in the previous year. This was largely due to increased income from the sale of Proprietary seats and other grants and donations.

Resources expended in the year were £27,513 higher than in 2018. Theatre Protection Grants given during the year were £22,361 lower than in the previous year.

The value of The Theatres Trust Charitable Fund's investment portfolio increased during the year such that the market value of the portfolio at 31 March 2019 was £940,190. The relative performance of the portfolio was closely aligned to the general market trend.

In line with our three year strategy for 2018-2021 we will both invest some of our unrestricted reserves and continue to fundraise to deliver new programmes

The Theatres Trust

The Theatres Trust	2019	2018
	£'000	£'000
Income		
Theatre Rents Receivable	433	433
Sale of Proprietary seats	134	119
Conferences and events	62	49
Interest Receivable	-	-
Total income	629	601
Less Expenditure		
Administrative expenses	138	123
Conferences and events	40	35
Other expenditure	6	25
Total expenditure	184	183
Surplus of income over expenditure	445	418
Less covenanted payment to The Theatres Trust Charitable Fund	(445)	(418)
Less Taxation	-	-
Net movement in funds	-	-
Funds brought forward	217	217
Total Funds	217	217
Funds		
Accumulated fund	67	67
Capital Provision fund	150	150
Total Funds	217	217

and to increase our overall impact. We have designated £210,000 to restructure the organisation including additional staffing to deliver improved advocacy, marketing and fundraising and to invest in key resources including CRM, Archive and Theatres Database. We have also allocated £125,000 of our own resources to match fund any grants we receive from Trusts and Foundations against an ambitious three-year fundraising target.

The financial statements for The Theatres Trust and The Theatres Trust Charitable Fund for the year ended 31 March 2019 are summarised here. Copies of the full audited accounts may be obtained free from the Theatres Trust. The auditors have given unqualified opinions on the accounts of both organisations.

The Theatres Trust Charitable Fund

	2019 £'000	2018 £'000
Income		
Covenanted payment from The Theatres Trust	445	418
Administration charge paid by The Theatres Trust	138	122
Historic England Grant	23	30
Other grants and donations received	319	240
Other income	105	108
Total income	1030	918
Less expenditure		
Direct Charitable Expenditure	756	767
Costs of generating funds	199	146
Total expenditure	955	913
		_
Surplus of income over expenditure	75	5
Net gains/(losses) from investments	48	(11)
Net movement in funds	123	(6)
Funds brought forward	1032	1038
Total Funds	1155	1032
Funds		
General Fund	220	338
Theatres Protection Fund	106	87
Other Restricted Funds	35	0
Organisational Development & Transition Fund	210	210
Match Funding Fund	125	100
Capital Provision Fund	459	297
Total Funds	1155	1032

Our Ambassadors

Theatres Trust is grateful to our Ambassadors for their support throughout 2018/19. Our Ambassadors are:

Samira Ahmed

Journalist, broadcaster and documentary maker

Gemma Arterton

Actress

Alan Avckbourn

Playwright and theatre director

Michael Ball

Musical theatre star, recording artist and radio and TV presenter

Pippa Bennett-Warner

Actress

Matthew Bourne

Choreographer and director

Jo Brand

Comedian

Alexandra Burke

Singer, songwriter and actress

Jack Dee

Comedian, actor and writer

Mel Giedroyc

Television presenter and actress

David Hard

Playwright and film-maker

Miranda Hart

Comedy writer and actress

Lenny Henry

Comedian, actor and writer

Beverley Knight

Actress and singer

Kwame Kwei-Armah

Actor, playwright, director and broadcaster

Jude Law

Actor

Cameron Mackintosh

Producer and theatre owner

David Morrissey

Actor and director

Bill Nighy

Actor

Elaine Paige

Actress, singer, producer and radio presenter

Siobhan Redmond

Actress

Tim Rice

Author and lyricist

John Simm

Actor, director and musician

Meera Syal

Actress and writer

Andrew Lloyd Webber

Composer, producer and theatre owner



Samira Ahmed and Cameron Mackintosh at Conference 18.



Trustee Dara Ó Briain, Ambassadors Beverley Knight, Jo Brand and Samira Ahmed, and Trustee Gary Kemp at fundraising event at The London Palladium

Our supporters

The many funders, donors, Corporate Supporters, Friends and Patrons of Theatres Trust are extremely important to our work, giving their time and valuable support. The Trust would like to take this opportunity to thank all those who have given their support during 2018/19.

Major donations & funders

Ambassadors Theatre Group
Andrew Lloyd Webber Foundation
Archives Revealed - The National
Archives Scoping Grant
Paul and Fiona Cartwright
Tim and Heide Eyles
Charitable Trust
Historic England

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The Pilgrim Trust
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RISE Robolights

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and Drama SeatPlan.com

Shaftesbury PLC Shanklin Theatre, Isle of Wight

Stage Electrics

The Society for Theatre Research Theatre Projects Consultants

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Theatre Royal Bath
Theatre Royal Newcastle

upon Tyne

Theatre Royal Plymouth
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University of Huddersfield, Drama Department Unusual Rigging

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We remember those Friends who have sadly passed away:

John C Fields R E Grover John D Standen Denis Vaughan Dame June Whitfield

Trustees



Tim Eyles Chair

Chair of The Jerwood Charitable Foundation and of the Royal Society of Arts, and former Managing Partner at Taylor Wessing

Richard Baldwin

Chartered quantity surveyor and currently Head of Development at Derwent London

David Blyth

Theatre and arts entertainment management professional and currently Chair of the Marina Theatre Trust in Lowestoft

Pam Bone

Independent adviser for the cultural industries

Dara Ó Briain

Comedian and television presenter

Paul Cartwright

Chartered accountant and private equity professional

Paddy Dillon

Theatre architect, conservationist, writer and broadcaster

Ruth Eastwood

Theatre management professional, currently CEO of Grand Theatre in Blackpool

David Ian

Leading producer of live large-scale theatrical entertainment

Richard Johnston

Theatre management professional, currently Chief Executive of Delfont Mackintosh Theatres

Gary Kemp

Musician and actor

Simon Ricketts

Planning solicitor and founding partner of planning law firm Town Legal LLP

Peter Roberts

Theatre industry professional. Peter stepped down as a Trustee in January 2019

Ann Skippers

Chartered town planner and currently a Visiting Professor at the Bartlett School of Planning, UCL

Anna Stapleton

Arts management professional

Special Advisers

John Earl

Jonathan Lane

Peter J Wilson

Jon Morgan Director

Claire Appleby Architecture Adviser

Kate Bierman Development Director

Kate Carmichael Communications Coordinator

Tom Clarke National Planning Adviser

Justine Harvey Marketing & Communications Manager

Marie Lane Resource Centre Manager

Alice Montgomery Administration Assistant

Ashish Shah Finance Manager

Tom Stickland Theatres Adviser

Sarah Walsh General Manager

Duty Managers

Georgina Evelyn

Janet Cantrill

Josh Harper

Muchwezi Wilkins

Consultants

Mark Price Heritage Consultant

Nicky Rowland Sponsorship and Advertising Consultant

Volunteers

Ian Grundy

Sally McGrath

Protecting theatres for **everyone**



In 2018/19

5 million

More than 5 million people attended theatres benefitting from the Theatres Trust's support

Advice

120

We provided specialist, tailored advice to 120 theatre organisations



Planning

354

We commented on 354 planning and listed building applications

Planning

142

We commented on 142 local planning documents



Grants

£178k

Our Theatres Protection Fund has awarded £178,012 to theatres across the UK