

PRESS RELEASE: 20 May 2020

Six 'Theatres at Risk' get a helping hand from Theatres Trust

A total of £67,500 worth of support awarded as part of the Theatres at Risk Capacity Building Programme

Theatres Trust, the national advisory body for theatre, has announced the six theatres that will receive support through the second year of its **Theatres at Risk Capacity Building Programme**:

- **Brighton Hippodrome**
- **Derby Hippodrome**
- **Granada, Walthamstow**
- **Groundlings Theatre, Portsmouth**
- **Leith Theatre**
- **Streatham Hill Theatre**

The programme is designed to support theatres on the Trust's **Theatres at Risk Register** to commission expert advice and acquire the skills and knowledge to push forward capital projects to help save their theatres. Alongside the grant, each theatre will receive support from the Theatres Trust's advice team.

This round of funding will support projects ranging from governance support to viability studies. The theatres are all on the Theatres at Risk Register 2020 as announced in January 2020 but are at various stages in their journey to restoration and revival.

Theatres Trust Architecture Advisor Claire Appleby says "We know how difficult it can be for theatres to raise funding for the early stage concept and viability works and for organisational support. These first stages of a project provide the vital foundations for both project and organisation, and we hope that with this support, these theatres will be able to make real progress."

Theatres at Risk Capacity Building Programme is supported by **Historic England, The Pilgrim Trust** and **Swire Charitable Trust**.

Duncan Wilson, Chief Executive of Historic England says "It's great news that three of the historic theatres on the Heritage at Risk Register - Brighton Hippodrome, Groundlings Theatre and Walthamstow Granada, all Grade II* listed - are being given a vital helping hand by being awarded a grant from this important new scheme. We are delighted to support this programme and to provide our advice and expertise. Historic theatres have such an important role as buildings of great significance to the community, as we all look forward to recovery from this period of isolation."

Sue Bowers of the Pilgrim Trust says: "The Pilgrim Trust recognises the importance of supporting theatres at risk to save their buildings and give them a viable and sustainable

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Chair Tim Eyles **Director** Jon Morgan

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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

future. This is not just because so many of the buildings are of outstanding significance, but also because a restored, vibrant and well visited theatre building can assist with the regeneration of the centres of our towns and cities. We are delighted to be funding this programme.”

Martha Allfrey Trustee of the Swire Charitable Trust says “The Swire Charitable Trust is delighted to be supporting the Theatres Trust’s Theatres at Risk Capacity Building Programme. We applaud its goal of removing vulnerable theatres from the Theatres at Risk Register, thus securing the future of these vital cultural, community and heritage assets. Theatres Trust’s unique and intense work with these theatres can lend support in so many ways, offering exciting opportunities to the community and campaign groups involved – we will follow the progress of each project with great interest.”

Funding for a second year of the scheme was secured following the success of the pilot year, which supported Burnley Empire, Morecambe Winter Gardens, Peterborough New Theatre, Salford Victoria, Spilsby Theatre and Swindon Mechanics’ Institute to make significant progress.

NOTES TO EDITORS

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Download images:

<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/fnlvgvewpbbmfzt/AABCax7R9ySx56py2emyQIZva?dl=0>

Full details of the grants awarded:

Brighton Hippodrome – Brighton Hippodrome CIC has been awarded a grant of £7,000 to support legal advice to formalise the development partnership and to support fundraising advice. Brighton Hippodrome is the UK’s most architecturally significant circus theatre – the finest surviving example of its type in the country. It is listed Grade II* and is on the Historic England Heritage at Risk Register.

Derby Hippodrome – Derby Hippodrome Restoration Trust has been awarded a grant of £15,000 to support a detailed study into the operational viability of the Derby Hippodrome. Derby Hippodrome is a large Grade II listed variety theatre built in 1914. It is a rare survival from an early stage in the crossover period when buildings were being constructed for both live theatre and cinema.

Granada, Walthamstow – Soho Theatre Company has been awarded a grant of £9,500 to support business and operations planning work for the Granada, Walthamstow. Also known as the EMD, it is a former ciné-variety theatre with a richly decorated and atmospheric auditorium, in the only London borough without a permanent theatre. The Granada is listed Grade II* and is on the Historic England Heritage at Risk Register.

Groundlings Theatre, Portsmouth – Groundlings Theatre Trust has been awarded a grant of £19,000 to support governance and business planning works for the organisation, and to undertake a new conditions survey for the building. The Groundlings is listed Grade II* and is on the Historic England Heritage at Risk Register.

Leith Theatre – Leith Theatre Trust has been awarded a grant of £11,000 to support mentoring consultancy works, accounts and leadership training, and fund a package of

consultancy expertise work covering financial, marketing / fundraising, audience development and community membership, and stakeholder engagement. Empty since 1988, and previously threatened by residential development, the Leith Theatre complex is currently being restored and reopened to provide spaces for a variety of performances, events and classes.

Streatham Hill Theatre – The Friends of Streatham Hill Theatre has been awarded a grant of £6,000 to support the proposed viability study and economic impact assessment for Streatham Hill Theatre. Built in 1929, this was the last theatre designed by theatre architect W. G. R. Sprague.

[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.

[Theatres at Risk Register](#) is published annually by the Theatres Trust to highlight and support the theatre buildings under threat across the UK. There are 30 theatres on the 2020 list, which was announced in January. Every theatre on the register has strong architectural merit or cultural heritage and, the potential to be returned to its original performance use and be a real asset to its community. Since 2006 Theatres Trust has helped save more than 80 theatres on the Theatres at Risk list.

[Historic England](#) is the public body that helps people care for, enjoy and celebrate England's spectacular historic environment, from beaches and battlefields to parks and pie shops. It protects, champions and saves the places that define who we are where we've come from as a nation. It cares passionately about the stories they tell, the ideas they represent and the people who live, work and play among them. Working with communities and specialists it shares its passion, knowledge and skills to inspire interest, care and conservation, so everyone can keep enjoying and looking after the history that surrounds us all.

[The Pilgrim Trust's](#) aim is to preserve and promote Britain's historical and intellectual assets and to provide assistance to vulnerable members of society. The Pilgrim Trust gives grants totalling approximately two million pounds each year to charities and other public bodies.

[Swire Charitable Trust](#) is an independent UK grant making trust. Since 1975 it has supported a wide range of charities that share its commitment to delivering positive and lasting change to UK society.



The Pilgrim Trust

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