

**The Theatres Trust**  
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Our Ref.: RA/2029

29 January 2015

For the attention of Mr Gideon Whittingham

London Borough of Camden  
Planning Services, Development Management  
Culture & Environment Directorate  
Town Hall  
Argyll Street  
London WC1H 8ND



Dear Sir

**Shaftesbury Theatre, 210 Shaftesbury Avenue, London, WC2H 8DP**  
Application Ref.: 2014/7868/P and 2015/0343/L

Thank you for consulting The Theatres Trust on the above planning and listed building applications for variations to the approved plans for the proposed replacement fly tower. The Theatres Trust supports the application. Please see our detailed comments below.

**Remit:** The Theatres Trust is The National Advisory Public Body for Theatres, safeguarding theatre use or the potential for such use; we provide expert advice on theatre buildings including, new design, heritage, property and planning. Established by The Theatres Trust Act 1976, the Trust delivers statutory planning advice on theatre buildings and theatre use in England through The Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (England) Order 2010 (DMPO), requiring the Trust to be consulted on planning applications 'involving any land on which there is a theatre'.

**Advice/comment:** The Trust supports the application because the Shaftesbury Theatre is in need of a new fly tower, grid system and additional back of house space to ensure the long term viability of the theatre by allowing it to efficiently and effectively attract and stage a greater range of productions. The Trust actively encourages theatre owners to upgrade their properties to meet current standards and expectations.

The Shaftesbury Theatre was designed in 1911 by Bertie Crewe and was the last of pre-War theatres built on Shaftesbury Avenue. Along the years, it has been the subject of a number of alterations which have been necessary to ensure its viability as a cultural building. The Theatres Trust welcomed the original 2012 proposal as it will better enable the Shaftesbury Theatre to meet the rising demands of staging more complex productions by ensuring additional space for staff and performers and by providing a new fly tower with additional weight capacity for flying sets to meet requirement of many modern day shows.

This altered scheme reduces the height of the overall proposed fly tower structure as a result of the decision to remove one of the three proposed levels of back of house accommodation. The footprint, design and finish remain unchanged and is therefore still considered sympathetic to the architectural significance and historic value of the heritage asset and is not detrimental to its original fabric, architectural style or setting.

We would therefore advise you to **grant** planning and listed building consent, attaching any conditions accordingly. Please do not hesitate to contact us if we may be of further assistance.

Yours sincerely,

Ross Anthony  
Planning Adviser

**Protecting theatres for everyone**

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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: 274582