



Our Ref: 3007-DS

Date: 27<sup>th</sup> March 2019

## **DESIGN & ACCESS STATEMENT**

recorded at

**Phoenix Theatre  
110 Charing Cross Road  
London  
WC2H 0JP**

on behalf of

**The Phoenix Theatre**

## **Proposed Followspot Box Window Alterations**

## **History**

The Phoenix Theatre opened on the 24th of September 1930 and was designed by Sir Giles Gilbert Scott, Bertie Crew, and Cecil Masey, with an auditorium designed by Theodore Komisarjevsky. The theatre was built by Bovis Ltd., on land which had previously been a factory and then became a music hall for a while, called the Alcazar.

The Phoenix Theatre's has two entrances on two different streets, one in Charing Cross Road and the second on Phoenix Street from which the Theatre takes its name.

The theatre is owned by the Ambassador Theatre Group.

## **Design Access Statement**

This design and access statement cover both the design principles and concepts that have been applied to the proposed development and how issues relating to access to the development have been dealt with and resolved.

## **The Design Component**

The proposed works involves increasing the size of the existing follow spot windows to the projector room. Currently there are two large outer windows and four smaller inner windows to the wall of projector room. The current sizes are too small and limit the stage lighting. The aim is to increase the overall size of the outer windows and create a new central window suitable for productions.

## **Initial Assessment**

The projector room wall was scanned to determine the steel structure within the brickwork. There is currently a steel truss within the brickwork which supports the main auditorium roof. The brickwork itself is non-structural and the proposed windows are to be fitted within the constraints imposed by the internal steel truss members. The original pulley's and shutters for fire protection would be made redundant and would need to be removed. These items have been safely stored within the venue.

## **Design**

The design of the windows allows the venue to provide better lighting onto stage. Although only a small increase in size to the two outer windows were achievable it has nevertheless made a huge difference. The new central window has also been hugely beneficial as the previous four small windows restricted operations. The new windows have been formed in timber frames and fire/sound proof glazing has been installed.

## **Evaluation**

In order for the venue to remain appealing to show producers the follow spot windows needed to be upgraded. In their existing state the windows were too small

and restricted the movement of the follow spot lighting, which impacted the stage performers. The new windows provide improved facilities with no detriment to the buildings listed building status.

## **Appendix**

### *Drawings included:*

3007-001C Existing Projector Room Wall Showing Structure to be Removed

3007-002A Existing Section

3007-003C Proposed Elevation on Projector Room Wall

3007-004 Location Plan

3007 Existing/Proposed Photos