

## PRESS RELEASE 12 SEPTEMBER 2016

### Theatres Trust releases 10<sup>th</sup> annual Theatre Buildings at Risk Register

**Today. Monday 12 September 2016, Theatres Trust reveals the 36 theatres at most risk across the UK, and Trustee Dara Ó Briain calls on everyone who cares about theatre to join the campaign to protect theatres at risk.**

Of the **36 theatres** on the 2016 Theatre Buildings at Risk Register there are **6 new** theatres: **3 in England**, and **3 in Scotland** – these include 3 theatres which have, sadly, returned to the Register.

There has been some fantastic progress for theatres still on the Register, and in this, our 40th year, we're celebrating those campaign groups who fight so hard to demonstrate their potential viability, and understand the role that those theatres can play in their communities.

Theatres Trust Trustee, Dara Ó Briain, has lent his support to raise awareness of our campaign by fronting a video introducing some of the excellent work done by community groups around the country, many of whom have submitted video reports highlighting their work protecting the theatres they love.

**Dara Ó Briain**, said: "As a touring standup comedian I have travelled up and down this country and worked in many of the theatres here and you have a unique and rich heritage of theatres that were built in the last 200 years. But we can't take that for granted. Local community support is vital in breathing new life into theatres. If a theatre in your community was in danger of being lost forever would you help fight for it? There are 36 theatres all over the country on our Register at the moment. Please join the campaign to save them or make a donation."

**Rebecca Morland, Interim Director of Theatres Trust**, said: "Each theatre on the Register has a rich heritage and an important place in its community. Our experience shows us that where campaign groups are in place, they can make a real difference to the future of these theatres. The progress that has been made with theatres in Brighton, Burnley and Kirkcaldy – to name but three – is a real testament to this."

The Trust's At Risk Register launch is generously supported by theatre insurance brokers Integro Ltd. **Andy Rudge**, Head of Theatre, said: "We have been a long standing supporter of the valuable work Theatres Trust undertake within the theatre industry – the Theatre Buildings at Risk Register is integral to their activities – identifying and providing much needed support to organisations when the sustainability and viability of their venue is threatened. It's vital this work continues to help maintain the cultural landscape of the UK."

#### New on the Register

New to the Register in 2016 is the **Peterborough Broadway**, currently under threat from redevelopment for residential use. It has one of the finest remaining interiors from the Odeon chain, having been converted to theatre use in 2001. In Scotland two Category B-listed theatres also feature. The **Dundee King's Theatre**, the only surviving large touring theatre in the Dundee

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**Chair** Tim Eyles **Interim Director** Rebecca Morland

**Trustees** Nick Allott OBE, Richard Baldwin, Dara Ó Briain, Paddy Dillon, Ruth Eastwood, Oliver Goodwin, Prof Gavin Henderson CBE, Jerry Katzman, Dame Penelope Keith DL, Judith Mellor OBE, Peter Roberts, Simon Ruddick, Ann Skippers, Anna Stapleton

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area, is at risk from significant water penetration. The 1904 **King's Kirkcaldy** has been dark for 11 years, with various unfulfilled proposals for redevelopment. Both now have campaign groups who see their potential and are working to secure their long term sustainable future.

## Re-entries

**Leith Theatre** in Scotland has been placed back on the Register, despite tremendous work by the community group in securing a lease on the premises, due to the amounts of funding still required to secure its future. The **Secombe** and the **Charles Cryer** in Sutton were removed from the Register only last year after reopening, but now make a re-entry as the operator has gone into administration, leaving the future of those theatres in doubt.

## Future secured

One theatre whose future has been secured however is the **Muni Arts Centre** in Pontypridd, a Grade II listed former Wesleyan Chapel. Last year its future was uncertain but thanks to a local consortium of private, public and charitable organisations, the New Muni is open with volunteer advisory panels informing its future artistic and cultural programming.

## Ensuring theatres' viability

Whilst we passionately believe in protecting theatre buildings for live performance use, their regeneration and future survival hinges on their viability. This year many groups have undertaken studies to show the value that their reopened theatre could bring to their local community.

The number one theatre on the At Risk Register for the last 4 years has been **Brighton Hippodrome**. In 2015, Theatres Trust paved the way for a viability study and the local community group have built on that to secure more funding and do more work, with the overall aim of returning this gloriously unique Grade II\* listed circus theatre to live performance use.

Another great example is **Burnley Empire**. Languishing without use for many years, its appearance on the 2015 Theatres at Risk Register led to the formation of an active community group. Their fundraising, together with support from the local Council and Theatres Trust, have led to a viability study which is currently underway, exploring potential uses for the theatre.

Other theatres on the Register actively considering their viability, working hard on business plans, or undertaking options appraisals, include the **Swindon Mechanics Institute**, a former social community and staff centre for the Great Western railway, **Doncaster Grand**, an ornate Grade II listed Victorian theatre, and **Dudley Hippodrome**, whose campaign group recently secured a 5 year lease for the venue,

## Videos

We asked theatre supporters groups to provide us with videos highlighting their work in campaigning for the theatres they are passionate about. Included in these reports are: Bradford Odeon, the Mechanics Institute in Swindon, the Theatre Royal in Hyde, Spilsby Theatre, Doncaster Grand, Tameside Hippodrome, the King's Theatre in Kirkcaldy, Burnley Empire, Brighton Hippodrome, the Futurist in Scarborough, Alexandra Palace in London, Plymouth Palace, Colwyn Bay Pier Pavilion, and Leith Theatre.

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## Further Information

### Theatre Buildings at Risk Register 2016

#### List Order

**Theatres at Risk in 2016: 36 (England: 29, Scotland: 3, Wales: 4)**

Theatres added to the Register in 2016: 6 (England: 3, Scotland 3) – of which 3 have previously been removed so are re-entries (England: 2, Scotland: 1)

Theatres with an increased risk rating: 3 (England: 2, Wales: 1)

Theatres with a decreased risk rating: 5 (England: 3, Wales: 2)

Theatres removed from the register in 2016: 1 (Wales: 1)

2016 Rank	2015	Theatre	2016 Risk	2015
<b>ENGLAND</b>				
1	1	Brighton Hippodrome	9	9
2	2	Plymouth Palace	9	9
3	3	Victoria Theatre	9	9
4	5	Coronet, London - Southwark	8	8
5	22	Burnley Empire Theatre	8	5
6	4	Hulme Hippodrome	8	8
7	7	Tameside Hippodrome	8	8
8	8	Victoria Pavilion / Winter Gardens, Morcambe	8	8
9	12	Derby Hippodrome	7	7
10	13	Futurist, Scarborough	7	7
11	14	Royal Victoria Hall, Southborough	7	7
12	20	Odeon / New Victoria, Bradford	7	6
13	9	Century Theatre	7	7
14	10	Mechanics, Swindon	7	7
15	11	Theatre Royal, Hyde	7	7
16	R	Charles Cryer, London - Sutton	7	R
17	R	Secombe, London - Sutton	7	R
18	-	Peterborough Broadway	7	-
19	6	Dudley Hippodrome	7	8
20	15	Granada, Walthamstow	7	7

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# Protecting theatres for everyone



21	16	Spilsby Theatre	7	7
22	17	Blackpool Winter Gardens	6	6
23	19	Doncaster Grand	6	6
24	21	Alexandra Palace Theatre	6	6
25	24	Opera House, Workington	5	5
26	23	Theatre Royal, Manchester	5	5
27	18	North Pier Theatre	5	6
28	26	Garston Empire	4	4
29	25	Hulme Playhouse	4	5
<b>SCOTLAND</b>				
S1	-	Kings Kirkcaldy	8	-
S2	-	Kings Dundee	7	-
<b>S3</b>	<b>R</b>	<b>Leith Theatre</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>WALES</b>				
W1	W5	Conwy Civic Hall (Cube)	7	6
W2	W1	Grand, Llandudno	7	7
W3	W2	Swansea Palace	6	7
W4	W4	Colwyn Bay Pier Pavilion	6	6
<b>REMOVED</b>				
R	W3	Muni Arts Centre	-	7

## TBAR Stats 2010 – 2016

TBAR Register 2016 – 36 (29 England; 4 Wales; 3 Scotland)  
 TBAR Register 2015 – 31 (26 England; 5 Wales; 0 Scotland)  
 TBAR Register 2014 – 33 (28 England; 0 Scotland; 5 Wales) \*list re-valued in 2014  
 TBAR Register 2013 – 48 (39 England; 2 Scotland; 7 Wales)  
 TBAR Register 2012 – 49 (38 England; 5 Scotland; 6 Wales)  
 TBAR Register 2011 – 56 (41 England; 7 Scotland; 8 Wales)  
 TBAR Register 2010 – 55 (43 England; 7 Scotland; 5 Wales)

## Press enquiries

Please send press enquiries to Kate Carmichael, [press@theatretrust.org.uk](mailto:press@theatretrust.org.uk), 020 7836 8591

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