

## PRESS RELEASE 12 MAY 2016

### EIGHTH ROUND OF SMALL GRANTS ANNOUNCED BY THEATRES TRUST

Theatres Trust is pleased to announce the recipients of the Theatres Protection Fund's Small Grants Scheme. Successful theatres in this round are: the Theatre Royal Winchester; Friargate Theatre in York; Tron Theatre in Glasgow; Bridgwater Arts Centre and the Marine Theatre in Lyme Regis.

In Round Eight, the Theatres Trust have awarded the following projects:

- **Theatre Royal Winchester** receives £5,000 towards its 'Tower Street elevation - urgent fabric and structural repairs' project, to restore the weather-damaged Tower Street façade of the theatre.
- **Friargate Theatre** receives £5,000 towards its 'flood damage - urgent repair and protection' project, to undertake immediate remedial work, and install flood prevention measures at the theatre.
- **Tron Theatre** receives £5,000 towards its 'water damage repair' project, to address water ingress affecting the backstage corridor and the office block.
- **Bridgwater Arts Centre** receives £2,980 towards its 'urgent backstage leak repair' project, to carry out urgent repair work to the backstage toilet and corridor, and prevent further damage to internal structural beams.
- **Marine Theatre** receives £5,000 towards its 'makeover' project to repair and restore the weather damaged front and side façades of the Marine Theatre to its original art deco glory.

Tim Eyles, Chair of the Theatres Trust said: "Our eighth round of small grants supports several small theatres that have been seriously affected by poor weather conditions. I'm proud that our Theatres Protection Fund is helping to ensure that these theatres can continue to operate safely and serve their communities."

The Small Grants Scheme supports theatres in need and at risk, to address urgent building repairs, improve their operational viability, introduce environmental improvements, and enhance physical accessibility.

Trustees of The Theatres Trust will meet in December 2016 to consider further Small Grants Scheme awards. Deadline for Round nine applications is Midday on Wednesday 26 October 2016.

For more information please contact [Kate Carmichael](mailto:Kate.Carmichael@theatrestrust.org.uk), Resources Adviser, 020 7836 8591 or visit us at [www.theatrestrust.org.uk/news/press-releases](http://www.theatrestrust.org.uk/news/press-releases).

#### Theatres Trust

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Chair Tim Eyles Director Mhora Samuel

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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

## Notes to Editors

### **Theatre Royal Winchester: £5,000**

Theatre Royal Winchester is a Grade II listed theatre and an excellent example of a small cinévariety theatre which has survived in remarkably complete condition. The theatre has one auditorium with a maximum of 250 seats at Stalls level and 150 at Circle level. The Theatre Royal has a significant footprint in the local community, as the only professional venue and arts organisation in the City of Winchester providing facilities to professional touring companies and local amateur groups to perform. The proposed works include repairing and decorating the Tower Street façade of the theatre and addressing the cause of water ingress.

@TRwinchester, [www.theatreroyalwinchester.co.uk](http://www.theatreroyalwinchester.co.uk)

### **Friargate Theatre, York: £5,000**

Friargate Theatre is a late 19th century building adapted to theatre use in 2000 and with a seating capacity of 100. The theatre operates as a professional venue and community resource, and is home to Riding Lights Theatre Company. Friargate Theatre was one of the casualties of the flooding in York in December 2015, with the lower end of the building flooded, immersing the lower ground floor. The project involves the creation of two access traps in the office floor, installation of smart air bricks so the building can be fully dried out, as well as the purchase and installation of a permanent sump and pump, which will help protect the interior of the building against future flooding.

@[ridinglights](http://ridinglights.org), [www.ridinglights.org](http://www.ridinglights.org)

### **Tron Theatre, Glasgow: £5,000**

The Category B listed Tron Theatre in Glasgow seats 230 in the Main Auditorium and 50 in the Changing House studio theatre. Originally a church dating from 1795, it was converted and reopened as a theatre in 1982. The Tron specialises in staging new and contemporary classic theatre, curating an eclectic programme of work throughout the year which responds to the cultural interests and needs of the city's diverse community and beyond. The proposed works address serious leaks affecting the backstage corridor and two offices in the administration area of the building, which require urgent action.

@TronTheatre, [www.tron.co.uk](http://www.tron.co.uk)

### **Bridgwater Arts Centre: £2,980**

Bridgwater Arts Centre is a three-storey former Georgian merchant's house. The Grade I listed building has one auditorium with a capacity of 175, and was the first Arts Centre to be funded by the Arts Council in 1946. In 2011 Sedgemoor District Council leased the building to Bridgwater Arts Centre for 125 years. The Centre is currently celebrating its 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. The project addresses urgent roof repairs that have rendered the separate backstage toilet out

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of order, and would prevent further structural issues to the roof beams.

[www.bridgwaterartscentre.co.uk](http://www.bridgwaterartscentre.co.uk)

**Marine Theatre, Lyme Regis: £5,000**

The 200-seat Marine Theatre was built in 1894 and lies at the heart of the cultural and historic centre of Lyme Regis. The theatre is located in a conservation area and has recently received coastal revival funding from the Government to repair its roof. A grant from the Small Grants Scheme will provide further funding to restore the weather damaged 1940s exterior, and help secure the future viability of this much loved coastal theatre.

@[marinetheatre](https://twitter.com/marinetheatre), [www.marinetheatre.com/](http://www.marinetheatre.com/)

**Theatres Trust** is The National Advisory Body for theatres. The Trust was established by the Theatres Trust Act 1976, 'to promote the better protection of theatres'. It is a statutory consultee on theatre buildings in the planning system, provides expert advice on the sustainable development of theatre buildings and helps promote awareness and solutions for theatres at risk. It champions all theatres, historic, contemporary and new in theatre use, in other uses or disused. The Theatres Trust's central London Theatreland-based Resource Centre provides access to a specialist theatre buildings Reference Library, including books and architectural plans.

**The Theatres Protection Fund Small Grants Scheme** is run by Theatres Trust and was set up in 2012. It is extremely grateful for the generous support of the Andrew Lloyd Webber Foundation and Judy Craymer MBE.

**Andrew Lloyd Webber Foundation (ALWF)** The Andrew Lloyd Webber Foundation's principle objectives are to promote the arts, culture and heritage for public benefit. It was founded by Andrew Lloyd Webber in 1992. In April 2012, The Andrew Lloyd Webber Foundation awarded a grant of £125,000 to Theatres Trust to help launch its Theatres Protection Fund Small Grants Scheme providing grants of up to £5,000. The Foundation hopes its donation, which is paid over 5 years, will encourage other organisations and individuals to give to the scheme, which will help protect theatres across the country that have significant value within their communities. [www.andrewlloydwebberfoundation.com](http://www.andrewlloydwebberfoundation.com)

Contact: Truda Spruyt, Four Colman Getty, [truda.spruyt@fourcolmangetty.com](mailto:truda.spruyt@fourcolmangetty.com), 020 3697 4248

**Judy Craymer MBE** Judy Craymer is the creator and global producer of MAMMA MIA!, the smash-hit musical based on the songs of ABBA. In September 2012 Judy Craymer matched the ALWF with her own personal donation of £125,000 over five years. "MAMMA MIA!" has already been seen by more than 54 million people in over 400 cities across North America, Australia, Europe and Asia. There have been 39 productions in 14 languages. In 2008, Judy produced the movie adaptation of the musical, which became the highest grossing musical film ever worldwide, with the DVD becoming the biggest selling DVD ever in the UK. MAMMA

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MIA! is now showing at the Novello Theatre. Further information: [mamma-mia.com](http://mamma-mia.com),  
[@MammaMiaMusical](https://www.facebook.com/mammamiamusical), [facebook.com/mammamiamusical](https://www.facebook.com/mammamiamusical).

Contact: Dee McCourt [dee@borkowski.do](mailto:dee@borkowski.do), 020 3176 2700, [borkowski.do/arts-and-entertainment](http://borkowski.do/arts-and-entertainment)

### Previous grant recipients

**First round:** The Royal Court, Liverpool; Soho Theatre, London; Sleaford Playhouse; Wilton's Music Hall, London; Oldham Coliseum; and the Half Moon Young People's Theatre, London.

**Second round:** Wyeside Arts Centre, Builth Wells, Wales; Bush Theatre, London; Robin Hood Theatre, Averham; Hackney Empire, London; Citadel, St Helens; and the Royal Court Theatre, Bacup.

**Third round:** Mill Theatre, Thurso; Nottingham Malt Cross Music Hall; Wakefield Theatre Royal; Playhouse Preston; and the Tom Thumb Theatre, Margate.

**Fourth round:** Alnwick Playhouse; Beccles Public Hall and Theatre; Hoxton Hall, London; Tara Arts, London; and the Yvonne Arnaud, Guildford.

**Fifth round:** Shanklin Theatre, Isle of Wight; Theatre Royal Stratford East, London; Players Theatre, Thame; Trinity Theatre, Tunbridge Wells; and the Blackpool Grand Theatre.

**Sixth round:** Little Angel Theatre, London; Actors Workshop, Halifax; Dunoon Burgh Hall, Scotland; People's Theatre, Newcastle; and the Polka Theatre, London.

**Seventh round:** Upfront Arts Theatre Penrith; Bristol Wardrobe Theatre; Pendle Hippodrome, Colne; Theatre Royal Dumfries, Horse and Bamboo Theatre Rossendale.

**The Theatres Protection Fund Small Grants Scheme is generously supported by the Andrew Lloyd Webber Foundation and Judy Craymer MBE.**



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