

## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **SIXTH ROUND OF SMALL GRANTS ANNOUNCED BY THE THEATRES TRUST**

**4 February 2015, London, UK**

The Theatres Trust is pleased to announce its sixth round of small capital grants to theatres.

Successful theatres in this round include the Category B-listed Burgh Hall in Dunoon in Scotland, the Little Angel Puppet Theatre in London, and local community theatre, the People's Theatre in Newcastle.

Grants from the Trust's Theatres Protection Fund Small Grants Scheme are awarded to:

Little Angel Theatre, London receives £3,700 towards its 'Exterior Repair and Restoration' project to undertake urgent repairs to its flat roof.

Actors Workshop Halifax receives £4,020 towards its 'Urgent Roof Repairs' project to repair and replace weather-damaged roof tiles and guttering.

Dunoon Burgh Hall in Scotland receives £5,000 towards its 'Stage Lift' project to install a low rise platform lift to allow fully disabled access to the stage.

People's Theatre Newcastle receives £5,000 towards its 'People's Theatre Redevelopment' project to improve its building services infrastructure in preparation for a redevelopment of the theatre.

Polka Theatre, London receives £5,000 towards its 'Ventilation Upgrade' project to replace air conditioning and heating units in its main theatre with more energy efficient models.

Mhora Samuel, Director of The Theatres Trust said: "This round marks the third year of our Small Grants Scheme with funds from our Theatres Protection Fund. Through the Scheme, The Theatres Trust has been able to financially assist 32 theatres with their capital projects including these five exceptional venues. We would not be able to do this without the generous donations of the Andrew Lloyd Webber Foundation and Judy Craymer MBE to the Theatres Protection Fund and we continue to be grateful for their support."

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

We recommend that all applicants discuss any potential application with the Trust before submission. Trustees of The Theatres Trust will meet in June 2015 to consider further Small Grants Scheme awards. Deadline for Round 7 applications is 5pm Wednesday 27 May 2015.

The Theatres Trust  
Protecting theatres for everyone  
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## **Protecting theatres for everyone**

**Director** Mhora Samuel **Chair** Tim Eyles

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

## Notes to Editors

For more details or images please contact [Kate Carmichael](mailto:Kate.Carmichael)

### **Little Angel Theatre: £3,700**

Little Angel Theatre opened in 1961 in a former temperance hall in Islington, London and presents puppetry for children and adults. The theatre seats 100 and is one of only three purpose-built puppet theatres in England. In its adjacent workshop facilities new productions and puppets are developed and constructed. It also works with schools, youth and community groups and runs participation activities and has recently opened a new creative learning centre, Little Angel Studios, in a disused community centre. The Little Angel Theatre participated in the Ecovenue Project 2009–2012.

Funding from the Small Grants Scheme will help repair and replace the flat roof over the administrative office and backstage section of the theatre, protecting the fabric of the building.

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### **Actors Workshop, Halifax £4,020**

The Actors Workshop in Halifax, home to the Actors Youth Theatre since 2002, is a 95-seat black box theatre in a Grade II listed Georgian townhouse and is an important centre for young people and a community hub. It produces five productions a year, teaches acting and theatre skills, and is hired out for incoming shows, events and workshops.

Funding from the Small Grants Scheme will help repair roof tiles and gutters of the theatre, protecting the fabric of the building and addressing long-term water ingress which has resulted in the building being affected by damp and mould in dressing rooms, the props department and green room.

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### **Dunoon Burgh Hall: £5,000**

The Category B-listed Burgh Hall in Dunoon was built in 1874 by the local people of the town to provide municipal offices and a hall. The main hall seats 150 and it has a gallery with a capacity of 70. In 2009 it was rescued from demolition by the John McAslan Family Trust with the aim of creating a multi-functional arts facility and arts hub for the benefit of the community. A £1.7m capital redevelopment scheme of the Burgh Hall is now underway.

Funding from the Small Grants Scheme will help install a low rise lifting platform to provide access to the stage, ensuring this facility is fully accessible for wheelchairs and those with mobility needs.

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### **People's Theatre, Newcastle: £5,000**

The People's Theatre is an amateur theatre in Heaton, Newcastle-upon-Tyne. The building opened as a theatre in 1962. The People's Theatre Arts Group manages the building, which includes a 500-seat auditorium, a 90-seat studio, and a commercial art gallery. It is planning a £1.5m redevelopment of the front of the theatre, and the creation of a fully accessible studio theatre at ground level, enabling full mobility access, zoned lighting, upgraded heating and ventilation systems and an improved foyer and exterior.

Funding from the Small Grants Scheme will help the People's Theatre to undertake essential building services work and asbestos removal required before redevelopment can commence.

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### **Polka Theatre, London: £5,000**

Polka Theatre opened as a theatre in 1979 in a former church hall in Wimbledon. Polka Theatre produces theatre for children. The venue includes a 300-seat main theatre and a 70-seat adventure theatre. Other facilities include a garden, an outdoor playground, indoor play area, exhibition spaces and a cafe. The Polka Theatre participated in the Trust's Ecovenue project 2009-2012.

Funding from the Small Grants Scheme will go towards repositioning and replacing faulty air conditioning and heating units which will improve energy efficiency and reduce maintenance costs. As a Catalyst Arts Award recipient, Polka Theatre will receive match funding from Arts Council England of 66p for every £1 of its £5,000 grant from The Theatres Trust.

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**The Theatres Trust** is The National Advisory Public 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. [theatrestrust.org.uk](http://theatrestrust.org.uk)

**The Theatres Protection Fund Small Grants Scheme** is run by The Theatres Trust and was set up in 2012. It is extremely grateful for the generous support of £125,000 from the Andrew Lloyd Webber Foundation (over five years) and £125,000 from Judy Craymer MBE (over five years).

**First round grant recipients:** 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 recipients:** Wyese 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 grants recipients:** Mill Theatre, Thurso; Nottingham Malt Cross Music Hall; Wakefield Theatre Royal; Playhouse Preston; and the Tom Thumb Theatre, Margate.

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

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

### **Andrew Lloyd Webber Foundation**

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 The 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. [andrewlloydwebberfoundation.com](http://andrewlloydwebberfoundation.com)

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### **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 £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 MIA! is 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).

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



Andrew Lloyd Webber  
Foundation