



# THEATRE CONFERENCE 2024

The **Theatre Conference** is the UK's premier event created for the industry, by the industry. It is an opportunity for Society of London Theatre (SOLT) and UK Theatre members to come together face-to-face to shape the future of theatre.

**9.30am – 11am**      **Registration, breakfast & networking sponsored by Theatre Tokens**



**9.45am – 10.30am** Optional **Speed Networking**

Location: Purcell Room

**10am – 11am** Optional drop-in: **SOLT & UK Theatre's Audience & Commercial Team** with Megan Ross (Head Of Marketing) & Ruth Plaxton (Marketing & Communications Lead)

Location: Member Lounge

**11am – 11.10am**      **Welcome**

Claire Walker & Hannah Essex (Co-CEOs, SOLT & UK Theatre)

Location: Queen Elizabeth Hall

**11.10am – 11.40am** **Opening Keynote: A New Act: The Social Purpose of Theatre in a New Era**  
**Lewis Iwu (Founder & CEO, Purpose Union)**

Location: Queen Elizabeth Hall

**11.50am – 12.40pm** Sessions 1 & 2 plus the informal networking all run concurrently with you being able to choose which to attend on the day:

## Session 1

Location: Queen Elizabeth Hall

### **Influencing stakeholders in a general election year**

How can we advocate for and articulate the value of theatre in the lead up to a new government?

**Chair:** Patrick Gracey (Independent Producer and Chair of SOLT & UK Theatre's Policy, Research and Advocacy Committee)

**Speakers:** Henny Finch (Executive Director, Donmar Warehouse), Carolyn ML Forsyth (Executive Director & Joint CEO, Talawa Theatre Company), Fiona Gibson (CEO, Capital Theatres)

## Session 2

Location: Purcell Room

### **Practical ways to tackle technical skills shortages sponsored by TickX**

This session will showcase member case studies in addressing skills shortages and recruitment challenges in technical roles.

**Chair:** Mark Dakin (TAIT UK Principal, TAIT)

**Speakers:** Liz Botros (The Mackintosh Foundation), Morag Small (Project Director, Theatre Artists Fund)

Location: Member Lounge

### Informal Networking

**12.40pm – 1.40pm Lunch & Networking, sponsored by Charcoal Blue**



**12.40pm – 1.40pm** Optional drop-in: **SOLT & UK Theatre Membership Team**

with Michelle Major-Butler (Head of Employment Relations & Human Resources Services), Juliet Hayes (Risk & Sustainability Manager), Becci Hurst (Member Engagement Manager) & Livvy Perrett (Member Governance Associate)

Location: Member Lounge

**12.40pm – 1.40pm** Optional drop-in: **Continue the conversation: discuss sessions 1 and 2**

Location: Member Lounge

**1.40pm – 2.30pm** Sessions 3 & 4 plus the informal networking all run concurrently with you being able to choose which to attend on the day:

#### Session 3

Location: Queen Elizabeth Hall

#### **Balancing the demands of theatre with workforce wellbeing sponsored by Spektrix**

Challenging traditional ways of working in theatre: ideas and inspiration in cultivating organisations where people can thrive.

**Chair:** Michelle Major-Butler (Head of ER & HR Services, SOLT & UK Theatre)

**Speakers:** James Lewis (Human Sustainability Leader, Deloitte), Peta Swindall and Samantha Lane (Executive Director and Artistic Director, Little Angel Theatre), Claire Campbell (Chief Executive, Timewise)

#### Session 4

Location: Purcell Room

#### **Sustainability as a commercial imperative**

Exploring the data which proves why being sustainable can be a winner for both the environment and your bottom line.

**Chair:** Juliet Hayes (Risk & Sustainability Manager, SOLT & UK Theatre)

**Speakers:** Katy Raines (CEO, Indigo), Jill Robertshaw (Deputy Production Manager, Nottingham Playhouse), Talie Smith (Sustainability Officer, Nottingham Playhouse)

Location: Member Lounge

### Informal Networking

**2.40 – 3.30pm**

Sessions 5 & 6 plus the informal networking and optional drop-in all run concurrently with you being able to choose which to attend on the day:

**Session 5**

Location: Queen Elizabeth Hall

**Collaborating on commercial touring  
sponsored by Tessitura**

How can venues and producers work together on audience development and retention for mid-scale commercial touring theatre?

**Facilitator:** Stephanie Sirr MBE (Chief Executive, Nottingham Playhouse & Joint President, UK Theatre)

**Session 6**

Location: Purcell Room

**Dealing effectively with unwanted  
behaviour in the cultural sector  
sponsored by Tysers Live in association  
with Ecclesiastical**

A chance for the industry to meet and learn more from the Creative Industries Independent Standards Authority (CIISA) ahead of its launch. The session will cover what CIISA will do above in-house HR and its wider value to the sector.

**Chair:** Phill Brown (Director of Membership, SOLT & UK Theatre)

**Speakers:** Jen Smith (CEO, Creative Industries Independent Standards Authority), Andrew Medlock (COO, Creative Industries Independent Standards Authority)

Location: Member Lounge

**Informal Networking**

**2.40pm – 3.30pm** Optional drop-in: **Continue the conversation: discuss sessions 3 and 4**

Location: Member Lounge

**3.30pm – 4pm**

**Break & Networking**

**3.30pm – 4pm** Optional drop-in: **SOLT & UK Theatre Policy, Advocacy & Research Team** with Şenay Camgöz (Policy & Research Manager) & Becky Gregg (Research and Insight Manager)

Location: Member Lounge

**3.30pm – 4pm** Optional drop-in: **Continue the conversation: discuss sessions 5 and 6**

Location: Member Lounge

**4pm – 4.50pm**

Sessions 7 & 8 plus the informal networking all run concurrently with you being able to choose which to attend on the day:

### **Session 7**

Location: Purcell Room

#### **Understanding new rules on Theatre Tax Relief and how to make a successful claim sponsored by Hays Macintyre**

This session will upskill and inform members on the new TTR rules and good claims practice.

**Chair:** Şenay Camgöz (Policy & Research Manager, SOLT & UK Theatre)

**Speakers:** Anthony Pins (Managing Partner, Nyman Libson Paul), Anna Ganjolla (Founder, AG Theatrical Accounting)

### **Session 8**

Location: Queen Elizabeth Hall

#### **All In: a new UK-wide access scheme for audiences**

Hear from senior theatre executives about the benefits of improving access, find out more about the UK's first accessibility standards for creativity and culture and the national roll-out of the All In scheme.

**Speakers:** Andrew Miller MBE (UK Arts Access Champion, Arts Council of Wales), Nica Burns (Chief Executive, Nimax Theatres), Liam Evans Ford (CEO & Executive Director, Theatr Clwyd), Phil Lofthouse (Technical Lead, All In, Arts Council England), Tim Wheeler (Senior Project Manager, Arts Council England),

Location: Member Lounge

#### **Informal Networking**

**5pm – 5.30pm**

#### **Closing Keynote: A sustainable journey continues: Launch of the Theatre Green Book Version 2**

Paddy Dillon (Theatre Green Book), Kathy Bourne (Executive Director, Chichester Festival Theatre), Lisa Burger (Theatre Green Book)

Location: Queen Elizabeth Hall

**5.30pm – 5.40pm**

#### **Closing Comments & Thanks**

**5.40pm – 7.30pm**

#### **Networking Drinks**

**5.40pm – 7.30pm** Optional drop-in: **Continue the conversation: discuss sessions 7 and 8**

Location: Member Lounge