



Oral Evidence session 1 of the Theatre All Party Parliamentary Group

Subject: How theatre Works – in 2020

Date, time and location: 10.00am-12.00pm on Wednesday 4 March, Committee Room G, House of Lords

Format

- Horseshoe set up
- Facilitating the discussion will be APPG Chair, Giles Watling MP
- Following speakers, open discussions and questions will take place.

Agenda

9.30	Speakers / UKT / SOLT arrive
10.00	Welcome & Introductions Giles Watling
10.10	EGM Formal business of electing two new officers
10.20	Overview of Theatre in 2020 Julian Bird, CEO, UK Theatre and Society of London Theatre
10.30	International Stella Kanu, Executive Director, LIFT
10.40	International Robert Noble, Deputy Managing Director, Cameron Mackintosh
10.50	Commercial Eleanor Lloyd, Eleanor Lloyd Productions
11.00	Commercial Nick Salmon, Director, Playful Productions
11.10	Subsidised Stephanie Sirr, CEO Nottingham Playhouse
11.20	SME theatre company / emerging trends Joanna Crowley, 1927
11.20-12.00	Questions & discussion <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • From the Officers and public • What steps could be taken by APPG Officers / Members / other parliamentarians to better support the sector? • Is there any legislation that affects these issues that needs thinking about?
12.00	Close

Speakers were asked to cover

- What do you want to tell parliamentarians about theatre / what should they know that they might not?
- How your 'part' of the sector works
- What are its biggest successes?
- What are the issues?

Questions that helped speakers frame their talks:

- What challenges and opportunities come from the new government?
- How do we best make the case for the importance of theatre when there are so many competing demands?
- How do we better promote British theatre overseas?
- What more can the Government do to help promote British theatre domestically and internationally



Background

This is the first of four evidence sessions the Theatre APPG will have in its first year (2020). We'd like these sessions to give parliamentarians a more detailed understanding of how theatre works: from who makes theatre; to the things theatres can achieve.

Over the summer of 2020 we will collate all the evidence into one report. This will act as a steppingstone for further conversations about supporting the sector.

Theatres are part of the Creative Industries, which contribute £111.7bn GVA to the UK economy, which is greater than automotive, aerospace, life sciences and oil and gas industries combined.

Theatres are part of making a more attractive to live and work. Theatres work in partnership with community groups, businesses and educational institutions. We want to ensure theatre is celebrated and enjoyed by all.

Yet, the industry faces a number of issues. We want to ensure the sector can continue to inspire current and future theatregoers and workers and to ensure it remains part of local growth, tourism, innovation and employ and attract diverse talent. **The APPG's Statement of Purpose is to:**

- Support the resilience and relevance of theatre in the UK for audiences, society and the industry
- Identify and debate potential opportunities and issues for theatre in the UK
- Support parliamentarians' understanding of theatre and the performing arts industry at a national and local level