



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, refreshments & networking

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)

Session 2

Location: Purcell Room

Practical ways to tackle technical skills shortages

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 (Cameron Mackintosh Ltd)

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

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)

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 (Indigo), Jill Robertshaw & Talie Smith (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 midscale commercial touring theatre

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

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** 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: Queen Elizabeth Hall

Understanding new rules on Theatre Tax Relief and how to make a successful claim

This session will upskill and inform members on the new TTR rules and good claims practice. Hear directly from HMRC and ask any questions about your submissions.

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

Speakers: Anthony Pins (Managing Partner, Nyman Libson Paul), Anna Ganjolla (Founder, AG Theatrical Accounting), Stephanie Martinez (Policy and Technical Adviser – Creative Industry Tax Reliefs, HMRC), Alice Williams (HMRC)

Session 8

Location: Purcell Room

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)

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