



THEATRE CONFERENCE

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) & UK Theatre members to come together face-to-face to shape the future of theatre.

9.30am – 11am

Registration, breakfast & networking | sponsored by ConcepTonic

10am – 10.45am

UK Theatre AGM (UK Theatre members only)

📍 Purcell Room

11am – 11.10am

Welcome

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

📍 Queen Elizabeth Hall

11.10am – 11.40am

Opening Keynote

Jack Thorne (Writer for stage & screen)

Post speech Q&A with **Kash Bennett** (SOLT President & Executive Producer, National Theatre Productions)

📍 Queen Elizabeth Hall

11.50am – 12.35pm

Sessions 1 & 2 plus Informal Networking in the Foyer all run concurrently with you being able to choose which to attend on the day:

Session 1

📍 Queen Elizabeth Hall

New work: what are the barriers to producing and presenting new work, and how do we overcome them?

Chair: Kathy Bourne (President of UK Theatre & Executive Director, Chichester Festival Theatre)

Panel: Emily Vaughan-Barratt (Producer, Wessex Grove), Chinonyerem Odimba (Artistic Director & Chief Executive, tiata fahodzi), Jess Bolger (Head of Producing and Programming, Liverpool's Royal Court)

Session 2

📍 Purcell Room

Technical skills gaps: what are the collaborative solutions for technical theatre recruitment and retention?

Chair: Josette Bushell-Mingo OBE (Principal, Royal Central School of Speech & Drama)

Panel: Lucy Kerbel (Director, Tonic Theatre), Conor Hunt (Senior Creative Learning Manager, ATG Entertainment), Richard Coopey (Global Creatures)



12.35pm – 1.35pm

Lunch & Networking | sponsored by Charcoal Blue

📍 Foyer

1.35pm – 2.20pm

Sessions 3 & 4 plus Informal Networking in the Foyer all run concurrently with you being able to choose which to attend on the day:

Session 3

📍 Queen Elizabeth Hall

AI: what lessons can we learn from other industries using AI to enhance business performance?

Chair: Anthony Lilley (Director, Scenario Two)

Panel: Paul Jackson, (Lecturer, Oxford Brookes University), Matthias Rolf (Oxford Brookes University), more panellists to be announced.

Session 4

📍 Purcell Room

Audience development: how can we identify and reach young and diverse audiences?

Chair: To be announced

Panel: Jade Franks (Outreach Consultant), Esther Richardson (Artistic Director & Joint Chief Executive, Pilot Theatre), Natalie Omari (Audience Development Consultant, Jamie Wilson Productions)

2.30pm – 3.15pm

Sessions 5 & 6 plus Informal Networking in the Foyer all run concurrently with you being able to choose which to attend on the day:

Session 5

📍 Queen Elizabeth Hall

Ticket Pricing: how can producers and venues work together to balance accessibility and viability?

Chair: Robin Cantrill-Fenwick (Chief Executive, Baker Richards)

Panel: Tom de Keyser (Co-Founder & Chief Executive, ROYO), more panellists to be announced.

Session 6

📍 Purcell Room

Sustainability: what is the business case for environmental responsibility?

Chair: Lilli Geissendorfer (Director, Theatre Green Book)

Speakers: Sean Foley (Sustainable Entertainment), Sara Turnbull (Director, Work Wild), ATG Entertainment

3.15pm – 3.45pm

Break & Networking



3.45pm – 4.30pm

Sessions 7 & 8 plus Informal Networking in the Foyer all run concurrently with you being able to choose which to attend on the day:

Session 7

📍 Queen Elizabeth Hall

Turning data into revenue: how can we maximise income through smart insights?

Chair: Jill Robinson, CEO, TRG Arts

Panel: Claire Ward (Executive Director, Curve), more panellists to be announced.

Session 8

📍 Purcell Room

Building a better workplace: what are the keys to retention and performance?

Chair: Maria Pattinson (Trainer & Facilitator, Outis Company)

Panel: Beth Watling (Managing Director, Playful Productions), Kate Mackonochie (Executive Director, Marlowe Theatre)

4.40pm – 4.55pm

Closing Comments & Thanks

Kash Bennett (SOLT President & Executive Producer, National Theatre Productions)

Kathy Bourne (UK Theatre President & Executive Director, Chichester Festival Theatre)

📍 Queen Elizabeth Hall

5.00pm – 8.00pm

Networking Drinks | sponsored by ROYO

📍 Foyer

