



Brighton Hippodrome CIC

COMMUNITY

ENGAGEMENT

DRAFT

BRIGHTON HIPPODROME CIC

Community engagement

March 2020

Version 1.1

Inevitably for a project that originated in a popular (sometimes vociferous and visible) campaign to ensure that the Hippodrome would be restored as a theatre rather than be converted into a multi-screen cinema, there has always been a great deal of engagement with the community.

Indeed, the project began in the community and was built on that foundation. The project is being developed by a community interest company and the longer-term intention is that the Hippodrome will be community-owned and, as explained in the business plan, will operate as a community 'hub'—one of the city's focal points where people gather, occasionally or regularly, to share not only the common experience of entertainment but, just as important, a place for their own activities.

Origin

A standing-room-only public meeting arranged by Professor Gavin Henderson at the Friends Meeting

Campaigners and supporters gathered outside the Hippodrome on one of several such occasions

House on an exceedingly wet Sunday 20 October 2013 heard about the proposed cinema scheme and the theatre alternative. It only hinted at the extent of interest in the future of the Hippodrome.

The first meetings of what became Our Brighton Hippodrome (OBH) were held on 13 and 15 February 2014 and immediately led to a public awareness campaign.

Despite that, a second group, Save Our Hippodrome (SOH), started in order to promote a more aggressive campaign. The two did eventually coalesce around a common goal.

The community interest company (CIC) was set up from within OBH and incorporated on 14 April 2015. Initially with five OBH trustees as the directors, Gavin Henderson was invited to chair the company and accepted.

Petitions

An e-petition urging theatre restoration posted on the Brighton & Hove City Council (BHCC) website on 8 November 2013, augmented by paper petitions signed by residents in the streets, received 1,199 signatures.

A 38 Degrees petition posted on 14 March 2014, asking BHCC to protect and preserve the Hippodrome as a live theatre, and a second similar petition achieved 11,594 and 4,771 signatures respectively. Although closed, these are still occasionally signed, presumably by people searching for information about Brighton Hippodrome.

A further petition requesting the Secretary of State to call in the planning application for a cinema was signed by 2,872 people.

All told, the campaign's petitions accumulated over 20,000 signatures. Although there will have been a fair degree of overlap, we believe this shows the overwhelming degree of support for theatre restoration within the city.

Our Brighton Hippodrome and the CIC

The imminent planning application that threatened the loss of the Hippodrome as a theatre in 2013 had caused the Our Brighton Hippodrome (OBH) campaign to get under way. OBH formed Brighton Hippodrome CIC (community interest company) to develop and manage strategies for raising the funding for restoration and as the basis for partnerships and/or future possible ownership and/or management of the Hippodrome property. Brighton Hippodrome CIC has developed the restoration project and will be the vehicle for carrying out financial and management plans.

Talks

David Fisher has given variations on a heavily illustrated talk about the history of the Hippodrome and its potential for restoration. As well as twice to sell-out audiences during the Heritage Open Days 2018—with a walking tour of the outside of the site also sold out—he has spoken by invitation to numerous community and amenity groups, including the Clifton, Montpelier & Powis and North Laine community associations, U3A, the Regency Society, Friends of St George's and Hove Rotary Club.





The largest event of the campaign was a rally in New Road, organised by the Save Our Hippodrome (SOH) group. This was attended by up to 500 people and filled the street between the Theatre Royal and the statue of Max Miller, Brighton's own iconic star of the Hippodrome, who played there for a record 59 weeks between 1928 and 1960. The crowd heard the argument for full theatre restoration from, among others, Paul Zenon and the then prospective Conservative parliamentary candidate, Clarence Mitchell. The message: 'When it's gone, it's gone.'



Video

A video by local production company Made Better Media and presented by TV and stage conjuror Paul Zenon, a founder of Save Our Hippodrome, was launched on 5 February 2015 and to date has been seen 62,000 times.

A three-minute video summarising the history and project was made for the Theatres Trust's 2018 Theatres at Risk presentations. This has been seen 2,200 times.

Both of these are available on YouTube, as are most of the television reports by ITV and Latest TV.

Far right: the campaign stall was in New Road on many Saturdays

Response to the campaign

OBH's campaign significantly changed perceptions of the Hippodrome, despite the granting of planning approval for a cinema/retail scheme in November 2014 (which expired at the end of November 2017). The submission to BHCC of petitions of more than 16,500 signatures in favour of theatre restoration were one of the outcomes of that campaign. This has positive implications, for example, for future fundraising options, such as a community share issue.



The campaign activity has also had the effect of alerting developers, not necessarily sympathetic to the theatre proposal, to the potential of the site as well as boosting the strength of feeling locally and nationally.

The objective is that the restored Hippodrome will inevitably be one of the cornerstones of the

Brighton and Hove cultural and entertainment infrastructure.

The campaign has shown not only the overwhelming degree of support the project enjoys but the enthusiasm to bring the building back into use to continue its century-old tradition for top-class entertainment into the modern era.

Right: one of the numerous public meetings to explain the Hippodrome's potential as a theatre



OUR BRIGHTON HIPPODROME



The Brighton Hippodrome Exhibition 2016
Past / Present / Future
 Unitarian Church
 New Road Brighton
 Bank Holiday Monday
 30th May 10am-5pm
 Tuesday 31st May 10am-5pm

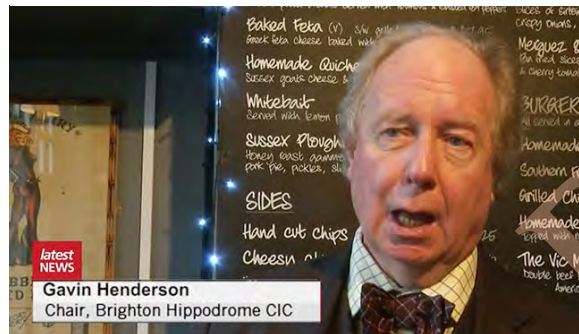
The bank holiday crowd came into the Unitarian Chapel in New Road in May 2016 to find out about the Hippodrome, to see the many posters, programmes and photographs that have been collected, and to enjoy (and join in) the specially arranged flamboyant dance performance





Norman Cook (Fat Boy Slim) interviewed for Latest TV after visiting the Hippodrome with the CIC. He was also interviewed on BBC and ITV news programmes and spoke enthusiastically about the magnificence of the building and its potential for restoration

Hippodrome talking heads have appeared at each stage of the campaign across all local media channels



The press and media response

Veteran columnist Adam Trimmingham wrote in *The Argus* (28 November 2018) : ‘The odds are against the Hippodrome surviving. . . . But now the city council has given new hope to them by adding a vital clause to its conservation plan for central Brighton. It will insist that any future development must not prejudice future plans to save and restore the building. Whether this clause will have much effect remains to be seen. But at least it is a sign that the local authority cares about the Hippodrome.’

‘Supporters of Save Our Hippodrome and Brighton Hippodrome CIC are doing their best to ensure that this lovely old venue can be revived. Their battle is particularly important this time for if the Hippodrome is demolished, there will be no other building in Brighton capable of staging the largest shows.’

An editorial in *The Argus* (29 November 2018) stated: ‘The Brighton Hippodrome is loved by so many of us. The idea of the Hippodrome offering premier entertainment is a great one and one we hope will become reality in the future.’

Media coverage

The first radio interview on the subject was on BBC Sussex’s *Breakfast Show* on 29 January 2014. This was followed over the next few months by several more radio and television reports (BBC, ITV, Latest TV, Radio Reverb, Radio Free Brighton, etc).

Requests from broadcasters for interviews about the current owner’s plans have been declined until a clearer picture emerges.

Press coverage has been extensive. Nine press releases have been issued to date. Local journalists who have followed the project make contact periodically to check on progress.

A comprehensive list of references to media reports is on the ourhippodrome.org.uk website and a selected list on page 10.

Celebrity support

During the course of the campaign messages of support were received from a number of major figures in the theatre and the arts.

One of the earliest was from Dame Judi Dench: 'We have lost so many regional theatres that it would be wonderful to hear that this particular one is being restored rather than destroyed.'

The late Ken Dodd, who appeared at the Hippodrome early in his career in April 1956 and returned in each of the following three years (rising up the bill), wrote:

'Thank you for your efforts to save the Brighton Hippodrome, a magnificent Grade II* listed building. There are few enough of them left and, as you probably know, Blackpool Grand is one of them. We saved that in the 70s.

'I wish you every success and hope that you get a lot of support locally and nationally for this very important campaign.'

Sir Alan Ayckbourn wrote from Scarborough: 'Living in a town myself which has already seen the demise of two fine theatres due to the "reasonable" but shortsighted thinking of the local council, I hope the same will not be said of Brighton and Hove City Council.'

In the appropriate setting of a garden party for the Max Miller Appreciation Society in the Pavilion Gardens in 2015, comedian and music hall expert Roy Hudd recited some entertaining doggerel he had written about the Hippodrome, to the delight of the fans.

A selected list of supporters and signatories is given on page 11.

Below left: Roy Hudd reads his verse about the Hippodrome at the Max Miller Appreciation Society garden party.

Below centre: Brighton musician and OBH supporter Mike Mountford meets Ken Dodd.

Below right: Michael Aspel with Mike Mountford and then OBH chair Jo Jameson.



Public reaction

Those who signed the petitions on 38 Degrees were able to give their reasons for signing, and many hundreds did.

Several posts about the Hippodrome have appeared on the prolific Brighton-Past page recently (November 2019). These have attracted several hundred comments and memories, universally wanting the theatre to be restored.

A few respondents recalled appearing at the Hippodrome. Rather more, being local, had family members who had worked front-of-house or back-stage at the Hippodrome in various capacities.

Such memories augment the growing detailed history of the theatre and its roots in the community.

But by far the majority remembered the shows and the stars they had seen on stage—often evoking a further response of ‘I saw that too’.

The loss of a nationally important heritage asset has been a recurrent theme. Quite a number of comments have been critical of Brighton & Hove City Council for allowing the deterioration and vacancy of the venue, many incorrectly assuming that, as with most theatres in other large regional centres, the Hippodrome was owned by the local authority.

Some public comments

The numerous happy memories of seeing shows at the Hippodrome are more than mere nostalgia. They are testimony to the long-term social return on investment (SROI), the sense of belonging to place, that can come from a cultural venue.

The Hippodrome is an intrinsic part of Brighton's cultural heritage, part of the architecture (in more ways than one) that attracts people to the city. It is a building of great design, entertainment, ascetic, arts and cultural value to the people of Brighton and beyond. Do not waste the city's assets. If this were the Palladium or the Coliseum in London there would be a national outcry. It is one of Frank Matcham's most important architectural works. It can be upgraded to provide a magnificent setting for live performance, which Brighton currently lacks. We don't need any more cinemas or restaurants. We need to preserve our cultural heritage and keep Brighton on the theatre map.

We must preserve our heritage and our theatres, so that we artists have somewhere to perform. One cannot be expected to give one's best in the foyer of a confounded shopping centre!

I, as a born and bred Brightonian, along with many others, appear to have no say in the selling off or wanton change of use of our heritage and this HAS to stop. This would not be allowed to happen in other cities—Bath for example. If saved and refurbished as a theatrical venue for live entertainment, I am sure it would be greatly appreciated by the city's people and students alike.

Live theatre needs to continue. It is so much a part of a community.

BHCC has a poor track record in managing its historic buildings. This is a chance to turn this around and conserve something of real national importance.

Brighton and Hove council have, over the years, allowed so much destruction of Brighton's architectural heritage. Brighton Hippodrome must be saved.

Brighton needs a really big venue like the Hippodrome for live performances—especially at Festival time. It could be used for cinema shows too—without spoiling the lovely interior!

Brighton is renowned for its creativity. This is (and should remain) a venue for live performances.

Brighton is a cultural beacon, but it needs venues.

We need more engagement in experiencing ‘live’ so anywhere that can generate live acts, music and theatre. This is a special place of historical importance, people should be aware of the delightful heritage on their doorstep and keep it.

When I lived in Brighton it was evident that, good though the Theatre Royal was, a larger venue was also needed, capable of hosting the largest musicals and other shows. The Hippodrome would be able to do this.

It is not ours, it is the country's and for all the children who have not been inside this building because it has been closed for so long. Restore it, otherwise when it's gone it's gone.

FOR THE FUTURE COMMUNITY

Something for everyone and all welcome

The Hippodrome will have a significant community presence and impact.

We will work to complement and collaborate with other performance venues in the city. For all the examples given below this would be an integral part of the strategy.

A key component of the management strategy will be to maintain an extensive programme of non-theatre uses, especially during the daytime, not only to generate income but also to keep the building and the surrounding area lively.

We will work to engage the constituency within the city that sees itself as disengaged from cultural activity.

The programme will inevitably include a significant range of events that reach out to the widest range of folk. There is much that will take place in the Hippodrome—opera and ballet being the obvious examples—that will be regarded as ‘high-level’ activity (‘not for the likes of us’). This can be mitigated by branding the Hippodrome as a community venue, as it literally would be with an established community share scheme in the funding mix.

A scheme to offer a limited number of tickets to young people on the day is proposed, similar to the Prologue scheme at Chichester.¹

Local arts and performance groups

Brighton and Hove has a vibrant arts and performance culture that needs more space for expansion and an aspirational goal.

A strategic ambition will be to identify and develop a critical mass of talent and opportunities for performance in the city.

The round of workshops held in 2017-18 to inform the discussions about a new cultural framework for the city has shown the extent of grassroots activity in the arts and culture. To coalesce this latent potential into a dynamic trend the process needs catalysts that are in themselves dynamic, visible and unavoidable—like opening a new theatre.

We will work with local groups and individuals to foster creative enterprise of a high standard across the broad spectrum of the arts, engendering upward mobility that is currently difficult and thus too rare.

We will encourage such innovation in production and presentation. Subject to space constraints within the building we hope to provide a base, a hub for local arts groups at affordable rates. It is assumed that such groups will be able to hire the theatre at a community-discount daily rate.

Community and education

Brighton and Hove has a shortage of purpose-made spaces for semi-professional and amateur performance, community theatre, choirs, political rallies, weddings and other celebrations.

School and college productions attract large audiences of parents and friends. We believe the opportunity to perform, even if for only one show, in a magnificent professional theatre, would have an inspirational, even magical effect throughout the city, and an enduring impact on the standards and aspirations of the city’s youth. Importantly this would also introduce potential future audience members to the magic of the venue.

Brighton and Hove Music & Arts, an initiative of Brighton Dome, uses college and school halls around the city for drama and orchestra rehearsals.

We wish to establish partnerships with the city’s academic community. This would not only apply to drama and music production *per se* but to research and teaching across a number of academic disciplines, such as

- monitoring the effects of the Hippodrome’s revival on urban regeneration, increased cultural activity and the visitor economy (aspects not sufficiently monitored in previous such projects elsewhere);
- the study of historical and emerging staging techniques—our historic building is ideally suited to this;
- the relationships between performers and audiences—research of a kind already undertaken at the University of Sussex in collaboration with The Globe Theatre;
- the history and evolution of popular entertainment—experiencing what it would have been like to present music hall and variety);
- the practicalities of modern-day theatre operations and management through placements.

Whilst these initiatives will need staff and resources, it is anticipated that they will attract charitable funding and could become self-financing.

Meanwhile, during restoration, we will hold regular events at other venues (and at the Hippodrome whenever possible) to keep the community informed and involved, and to raise funds.

Hippodrome Youth Theatre Project

Grant funding and sponsorship will be raised to operate an annual scheme—modelled on the scheme at the King’s Theatre Portsmouth—to engage young people (perhaps in three or four age bands) in learning performance skills. Some local

¹ See cft.org.uk/your-visit/booking-information/prologue

schools have developed performance arts but with pressure on the curriculum and finance, provision is patchy and difficult to sustain. This will be part of the project to develop a critical mass of performance arts within the city.

Training in specialisms such as stand-up comedy, magic and circus skills including clowning, will be investigated. There are practitioners in the city who have expressed an interest in this idea.

A corresponding scheme will be considered for musical performance, similar to the annual week-long Rock Shop project formerly run by Herbie Flowers at the Corn Exchange.

Such important tasks of developing young people's skills are long-term propositions. Adopting the stated aims of becoming a 'centre of excellence for culture and wellbeing' and a 'pay it forward' city, creating a virtuous circle of cultural investment, restoration of the Hippodrome along the lines proposed in this business plan would be one of the surest and fastest routes to a significant leap forward. (It could be said that for over 60 years the Hippodrome did 'pay it forward' as a key component of the city's economy.)

Organisations to work with

Historically, the Hippodrome was home for many years to productions by such groups as the Brighton and Hove Operatic Society (now City Theatre Company). Both New Opera Sussex and

the annual Brighton Early Music Festival (BREMf)—which has a significant schools outreach programme in venues that are not ideal—have indicated that they would welcome the opportunity to produce at the Hippodrome. In 2012 BREMF staged *Florentine Intermedi*, which involved aerial acrobatics, for which the circus mode of the Hippodrome would have been ideal.

Local organisations and groups with which we could collaborate include, for example,

- Brighton Comedy Festival (brightoncomedyfestival.com),
- Brighton Digital Festival (brightondigitalfestival.co.uk).
- Brighton Early Music Festival
- Cinecity film festival (cine-city.co.uk)
- New Sussex Opera

DRAFT

Stage and screen

Dame Judi Dench, *actress*
 Dame Penelope Keith, *actress*
 †Ken Dodd, *comedian*
 Mark Hammill, *actor*
 Julie Christie, *actress*
 Sarah Miles, *actress*
 Fenella Fielding, *actress*
 Josie Kidd, *actress*
 Tim Flavin, *actor*
 Graham Norton, *television presenter and host*
 Dara Ó Briain, *comedian and television presenter*
 Roy Hudd, *comedian, actor and broadcaster*
 Sheila Matthews, *actress and singer*
 Count Arthur Strong, *actor and raconteur*
 Josephine Tewson, *actress*
 Johnny Worthy, *actor, director, Equity trustee*
 Mark Wynter, *singer and actor*
 Christopher Biggins, *actor and TV presenter*
 Jack Shepherd, *actor*
 Brian Capron, *actor*
 Kevin Bishop, *actor*
 Philip Martin Brown, *actor*
 Stephen Grant, *comedian and presenter*
 Dillie Keane, *actress, singer, comedienne*
 Joseph McGann, *actor*
 Bruce Montague, *actor and writer*
 Peter Polycarpou, *actor*
 Michael Simkins, *actor*
 Lalla Ward, *actress*
 Barbara Whatley, *actress*
 Dave Willetts, *actor and singer*
 Ivor Dembina, *comedian*

Music

Billy Bragg, *musician*
 Norman Cook, *musician*
 Claire Martin OBE, *singer and broadcaster*
 Barb Jungr, *singer-songwriter*
 Joe Stilgoe, *singer, songwriter*
 Karen Street, *musician, composer*
 Tom Emlyn Williams, *tenor*

Theatre management

Sir Nicholas Hytner, *director, producer, former artistic director, National Theatre*
 Sir Brian McMaster, *former director, Edinburgh International Festival*
 Mike Leigh, *film and stage director*
 Michael Attenborough CBE, *director*
 Raymond Gubbay, *impresario*
 Clarie Middleton, *Chief Executive, Hackney Empire*
 Murray Edwards, *Executive Director, Wakefield Theatre Royal*
 Nigel Cole, *film director*
 Max Finbow, *Managing Director, David Ian Productions*
 Nigel Pittman, *former Executive Director London, Arts Council England*
 Kevin Fitzmaurice, *Producer, Royal Shakespeare Company (RSC)*
 Mark Graham, *production manager, RSC*
 Rebecca Preston, *Development Director, RSC*
 Sara Aspley, *Director of Commercial Services, RSC*
 Simon Marsden, *Technical Director, RSC*
 Ivan Douglas, *Costume Department Administrator, Royal Shakespeare Company*
 Alistair McArthur, *Head of Costume, RSC*
 Toby Park, *Director, Spymonkey Theatre Company*
 Mark Fox, *Advertising Manager, Really Useful Theatre Group; Chair, Frank Matcham Society*
 Martin Burton, *founder and director, Zippos Circus*
 Tim Anscombe, *producer, production manager*
 Colin Granger, *co-founder, Komedia*
 Marina Kobler, *co-founder, Komedia*
 David Lavender, *co-founder, Komedia*
 Richard Linford, *theatre producer, artists manager*
 Mick Perrin, *comedy promoter*
 Liz Hall, *Executive Director, Carousel*
 Keith Shepherd, *former chair, Brighton Theatre Group*
 Faynia Williams, *theatre director, BBC producer*
 John Stalker, *theatrical producer*

Dance

Dame Beryl Grey, *ballerina*
 Pam Harcourt, *Tiller Girl*
 Rosalie Kirkman, *Tiller Girl, Queen Ratling 2014*

Writing

Sir Alan Ayckbourn, *playwright and director*
 †Sir Arnold Wesker, *playwright*
 David Benedictus, *writer and theatre director*
 Ted Bottle, *theatre historian, Editor, Old Theatres Magazine*
 Gordon Craig, *Samuel Beckett scholar*
 Richard Crane, *playwright*
 †Gavin Stamp, *architectural historian*
 Peter James, *novelist*
 David Wood, *children's dramatist*
 Henry Naylor, *comedy writer, director, performer*
 Anthony Slide, *cinema historian*
 Don Stacey, *circus historian*

Politics, trades unions

Caroline Lucas, *MP for Brighton Pavilion*
 Maureen Beattie, *President, Equity*
 Malcolm Sinclair, *past President, Equity*
 Christine Payne, *General Secretary, Equity*
 Horace Trubridge, *General Secretary, Musicians Union*
 Dave Webster, *National Organiser Live Performance, Musicians Union*

Education

Professor Gavin Henderson CBE, *Principal, Royal Central School of Speech and Drama*
 Janette Eddisford, *Principal, Academy of Creative Training*
 Professor Robert Orledge, *music scholar*
 Gerry Tebbutt, *musical theatre teacher*
 Anne Bickmore, *Founder, ABC Fund*
 Rupert Rhymes, *president, Frank Matcham Society*

† since deceased

... and thousands more

Reverse chronological
order of appearance
since the campaign's
inception

2020 February 6

The Argus
Left to rot: MP demands action to save
treasured theatre from crumbling

2019 May 24

Brighton & Hove News
Hippodrome owner told to make urgent
repairs as plans fail to materialise

2019 March 4

Brighton & Hove News
Hippodrome plans delayed for business case

2019 January 30

The Stage
Proposed designs for renovated Brighton
Hippodrome unveiled

2019 January 25

Brighton & Hove Independent
Developer reveals plans for the Hippodrome
theatre in Brighton

2019 January 25

The Argus
New plans released for the Brighton
Hippodrome theatre | Plans to restore
Hippodrome must be cautiously welcomed
[Comment column]

Brighton & Hove News
First image of new Hippodrome plans
released

2019 January 22

The Stage
Theatres Trust urges local councils to work
with owners to save 31 at-risk venues

2018 December 19

The Argus
Please think before buildings in Brighton
are demolished by Adam Trimmingham

2018 November 29

Brighton & Hove News
Work starts on Hippodrome refurb ahead
of planning application

The Argus
Save our theatre [Editorial]

2018 November 28

The Argus
Plans to revive Brighton's treasured
buildings get the green light

2018 November 28

The Argus
Adam Trimmingham says: Why there is still
some hope for the Hippodrome

2018 November 26

Brighton & Hove News
Hopes boosted for revival of Hippodrome
and the historic heart of Brighton

2018 November 20

Brighton & Hove News
New protections for Hippodrome set to be
agreed

2018 August 8

The Argus
New hope for Hippodrome

2018 January 28

Brighton & Hove News
Brighton Hippodrome tops 'theatres at
risk' register for third year running

2018 January 24

The Argus
Comedian Dara O'Briain calls for Hippodrome
Theatre to be saved from becoming hotel
Brighton & Hove Independent
Hippodrome 'most at-risk' theatre in the
country

2018 January 23

The Guardian
More than 30 UK theatres at risk of being lost
BBC News
Brighton Hippodrome tops 'at risk' list for
fifth time in a row

2017 November 16

The Argus
Lucas: Theatre plans 'a tragedy' for Brighton

2017 November 11

The Argus
'The council must save our Hippodrome'

2017 November 10

The Argus
Hippodrome's buyer wants it to be a hotel

2017 November 9

Brighton & Hove News
Rumours of luxury hotel and flats plan for
Hippodrome

2017 November 6

Brighton & Hove News
Campaigners fear Hippodrome about to be
sold and converted to non-theatre use

2017 November 6

The Stage
Campaigners fear Brighton Hippodrome
will be sold for non-theatre use

2017 October 23

Brighton & Hove News
Campaigners raise fears over 'rotting'
Hippodrome

2017 March 19

Brighton & Hove Independent
Hope for the Hippodrome

2016 October 30

The Observer
Seaside town struggle to rescue lost
empires of entertainment

2016 October 21

Brighton and Hove Independent
Historic England puts Brighton's Old Town
on new 'at risk' register
The Argus
Brighton Old Town—including theatre and
synagogue—on at risk register

2016 July 29

The Argus
Heritage gems battle for vital public cash

2016 March 4

Brighton & Hove Independent
Hippodrome is 'well worth saving' says
star, after rare glimpse inside

2016 March 3

The Argus
Fatboy Slim gives his backing to
Hippodrome restoration dreams

2015 December 17

The Stage
Brighton, Blackpool and Lyme Regis split
£130k coastal revival funding

2015 December 13

The Argus
£50,000 funding boost for seafront
regeneration plan

2015 December 2

The Stage
Brighton Hippodrome ripe to become a
'theatre of varieties', report concludes

2015 December 1

Brighton and Hove News
Brighton Hippodrome campaigners call
public meeting to share their plans

2015 November 29

The Argus
Dream to open Brighton Hippodrome
could be realised within three years

2015 November 2

Brighton and Hove News
Campaigners' Hippodrome plans begin to
take shape

2015 October 22

The Stage
Brighton Hippodrome and Rose Playhouse
among England's most endangered buildings

2015 September 20

The Argus
Trust: Hippodrome remains on top of at-
risk list

2015 September 18

The Guardian
Thirty-one British theatres at risk of
destruction, Theatres Trust reports

2015 June 22

Brighton & Hove News
Brighton Hippodrome's new owners to
spend six months working with
campaigners on venue's future

2015 June 19

The Argus
UK's leading owner of live music venues buys historic Brighton theatre

BBC News
Brighton Hippodrome owners carry out study to reopen venue

The Stage
Academy Music Group buys historic Brighton Hippodrome

2015 April 21

Brighton & Hove News
Brighton Hippodrome mothballed as future remains uncertain

2015 February 25

The Argus
Hippodrome campaigners launch new £25,000 fundraising campaign

Brighton & Hove News
Hippodrome campaigners launch fundraising drive

2015 January 12

The Argus
Plans for new multi-screen Brighton cinema shelved after developer makes a u-turn on use for historic venue

BBC News
Vue Cinema withdraws from Brighton Hippodrome project

The Stage
Campaigners fighting to save Brighton Hippodrome given fresh hope as cinema chain pulls out

2015 January 11

The Argus
Plans to turn Brighton Hippodrome into Vue cinema and shops shelved as Save Our Hippodrome film campaign video

2014 December 29

The Stage
Brighton Hippodrome may be down, but it's far from out

2014 December 12

The Argus
Hippodrome campaigners 'will not give up' on battle to save historic theatre venue from development

2014 December 8

The Stage
Judi Dench and Alan Ayckbourn protest at Brighton Hippodrome cinema plans

2014 October 28

The Argus
Magic star joins campaign to save Brighton Hippodrome from being converted into cinema and restaurant complex

2014 September 19

The Argus
Fight to save Brighton's Hippodrome from redevelopment into eight-screen cinema appears over after planning application isn't called in

The Stage
Brighton Hippodrome campaigners lose fight over cinema conversion plans

2014 September 18

The Independent
Brighton Hippodrome tops list of 33 historic theatres at risk

The Guardian
Brighton Hippodrome tops Theatre Trust's list of playhouses at risk

2014 September 16

The Argus
Hopes dashed for Hippodrome campaigners community asset bid

2014 September 14

Brighton and Hove News
Brighton Hippodrome tops Theatre Buildings at Risk Register

2014 August 18

Brighton and Hove News
Brighton Hippodrome plans put on hold by Pickles

2014 August 5

Brighton and Hove News
Campaigners push for Brighton Hippodrome to be listed as a community asset in bid to halt development

2014 July 25

The Argus
Fighting fund set up to save Hippodrome theatre

2014 July 22

The Stage
Hippodrome campaigners to fight on after council setback

2014 July 20

The Argus
New Hippodrome petition calls on minister to halt conversion plans

2014 July 17

The Argus
Give us a 'West end' venue to inspire our young actors

2014 July 16

The Argus
Hippodrome fate to be decided at planning meeting | Historic Brighton theatre set to become eight screen cinema complex

BBC News
Brighton Hippodrome cinema plans approved by council

Latest News
Brighton and Hove planners approve turning Hippodrome into multiplex cinema

Brighton and Hove News
Brighton and Hove planners approve turning Hippodrome into multiplex cinema

2014 July 11

The Argus
Hippodrome plans set to go ahead

2014 July 9

Latest News
Brighton Hippodrome £18 million cinema plans set for go-ahead

2014 May 9

The Times
Losing this gem will rock Brighton

2014 May 2

The Stage
Theatres Trust objects to final Brighton Hippodrome cinema plans

2014 April 18

The Argus
Public works money could have salvaged Brighton's Hippodrome (letter)

2014 April 9

The Argus
Controversial Brighton Hippodrome cinema plans get English Heritage backing

2014 April 3

BBC News Sussex
English Heritage backs Brighton Hippodrome cinema plans

2014 March 19

The Argus
Thousands sign Brighton Hippodrome petition

2014 March 17

The Argus
Drama over cinema plans for Brighton Hippodrome

2014 January 24

The Argus
Plans to transform Brighton's Hippodrome must be resubmitted

2014 January 21

BBC News Sussex
Brighton Hippodrome cinema plans declared incomplete

2014 January 14

The Argus
£35m scheme for historic Hippodrome theatre in Brighton unveiled

2014 January 11

The Argus
A thousand sign up to save Brighton Hippodrome

2014 January 9

The Stage
Brighton Hippodrome campaigners rally for final chance to save venue

2013 November 18

The Argus
West End star vows to defy Brighton Hippodrome bulldozers

2013 November 17

Civic Brighton & Hove
The Hippodrome could house 8 new cinemas or a theatre

Website

The 'official' website is

ourhippodrome.org.uk

This contains news, a brief history, an extensive gallery of images (photographs, plans, posters, programmes, etc), a complete record of media coverage, reports and press releases.

A new website will come online soon at

brightonhippodrome.co.uk

Social media

No fewer than four Facebook pages were created to support the campaign. None is an 'official' account and most are largely defunct.

Save the Brighton Hippodrome

@Brighton_Hippodrome

Created 24 June 2011

Followed by 6,123 people, liked by 6,324

Our Brighton Hippodrome

@ourbrighton.hippodrome

Created 10 January 2014; 342 friends

Superseded and replaced by the following, although some recent posts have been added.

Our Brighton Hippodrome

@brightonhippodrometheatre

Created 16 February 2014

Followed by 3,094 people, liked by 3,204

Save Our Hippodrome

@SaveOurHippodrome

Created 16 October 2014

Followed by 2,856 people, liked by 2,915

Now the most actively maintained.

Petitions online

- <https://you.38degrees.org.uk/petitions/keep-brighton-hippodrome-for-live-performance>
- <https://you.38degrees.org.uk/petitions/council-must-help-save-brighton-hippodrome>
- <https://you.38degrees.org.uk/petitions/stop-planning-approval-for-brighton-hippodrome>

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