

PRESS RELEASE

18th November 2018



Flash mob set to descend on Streatham Hill Theatre, London SW2, at 3pm on Sunday 25th November

The Friends of Streatham Hill Theatre are organising a flash mob photoshoot to save this beautiful and historic theatre and to show Beacon Bingo and Lambeth Council how much the space means to the local community. Hundreds are set to gather outside the theatre on Sunday 25th November at 3pm, where a photo will be taken at 3.15pm.

Time is running out: The Friends of Streatham Hill Theatre have until 29th November to convince the council that this landmark theatre is worth saving for the community, and in the future could be a hub for arts and culture in Lambeth.

One of South London's best kept secrets, the splendour of the Streatham Hill Theatre is now hidden behind closed doors, but it once rivalled the West End, opening in 1928 and hosting a glittering roll call of stars from John Gielgud to Michael Caine and Sean Connery. This lavish Grade 2 listed building was designed and built for an audience of over 2500 with a stage large enough to take the biggest shows.

In 1962 it reopened as a bingo hall, which helped to largely preserve the exquisite interior features of the building and prevent redevelopment. Now that bingo has ceased, the Friends of Streatham Hill Theatre have been campaigning for the building to be returned to its original purpose as a space for arts, culture and performance for the whole community.

Crucially for this campaign, earlier this year, with support from local residents, Lambeth Council declared Streatham Hill Theatre an Asset of Community Value (ACV). This gives the building additional protection and means that if it is put up for sale, the local community have the opportunity to raise the funds to take it on.

Unfortunately the owners of the building are now appealing to Lambeth Council to reverse their decision. Although the reason for the appeal is unclear, it is possible that they are doing this so that they can sell the property to developers, or apply for a change in usage.

Could yet another one of Streatham's great historic and architectural landmarks be lost again to developers? Streatham Hill Theatre is the last of these historic grand-scale theatres remaining in Streatham. Caesars (originally Locarno Ballroom) and the Megabowl (Gaumont Cinema) have gone. There is nowhere in South London comparable in size or with such facilities as this theatre.

The Friends of Streatham Hill Theatre have until 29 November to convince Lambeth Council that this is a space that is worth saving for the community.

Will you join us? For more information and to sign-up go to

www.streathamhilltheatre.org

[Ends]

Notes for editors:

You are welcome to send a photographer to the event.

Alternatively, our photos will be made available after the event at

www.streathamhilltheatre.org

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www.streathamhilltheatre.org has further press resources.