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Streatham Hill Theatre – a Theatre at Risk

There is a 'sleeping beauty' waiting to be awoken in Streatham, South London: A unique, lavish, Grade 2 listed theatre, designed and built in the late 1920's for an audience of over 2500 with a stage able to take the very biggest shows, but which is now empty and at risk.

Streatham has a long history in theatre and entertainment and was known as "the West End of south London". Arts and cultural activity of all kinds continues in modern day Streatham.

Streatham Hill Theatre (SHT) was opened in 1929 as the Streatham Hill Playhouse. It was bombed in WW2 but was rebuilt and reopened in 1950. Over the years, many famous names have trod the boards there – from John Gielgud to Tommy Trinder.

It became a bingo hall in 1962 but most of the original theatre and its equipment still remain.

The theatre was listed Grade 2 in 1994 as "*an unusually lavish example of a theatre built in the short-lived revival of building in 1929-30; as a suburban example of this date the building may be unique*".

Small scale theatre returned via Streatham Theatre Company from 2013 to 2016. However, bingo ceased in 2017, leaving the building dark, save for a small slot machine lounge.

In 2018 the theatre was added to the Theatres Trust's Theatres at Risk register.

This is a once in a lifetime opportunity – and maybe the very last chance – to revive the Streatham Hill Theatre.

The Friends of Streatham Hill Theatre would like to see the theatre returned to arts and performance use for the benefit of the community.

The building would make a great hub for Streatham's art and cultural community where people can participate, meet and network, and as a base for developing artists and organisations. There is considerable room for offices, studios and rehearsal spaces around the auditorium, which itself can be used as a multi-purpose space, supported by bars/cafes.

The Friends have begun the campaign to tell everyone about the building, the risk and the opportunity. Many people from the area, the arts industry and politics have given their support.

Next we plan to develop a proposal for the future of the building and its use. We will need support of everyone who wants to see this vision materialised, and help from a range of specialists to take the project forward.

You can help us by joining us at <http://sht.gaz.me.uk>, where you'll find more about our campaign and links to our Facebook and Twitter feeds.