

Project Newsletter  
Issue 4  
Spring 2017

## Site Update

Last month an exciting (and for some, rather nerve-wracking) milestone was passed on the Open Up project at the Royal Opera House. Central to the project is the principle of opening up the building to make it more welcoming and accessible to visitors throughout the day and evening.



Bow Street (Image: Geoff Crawford)

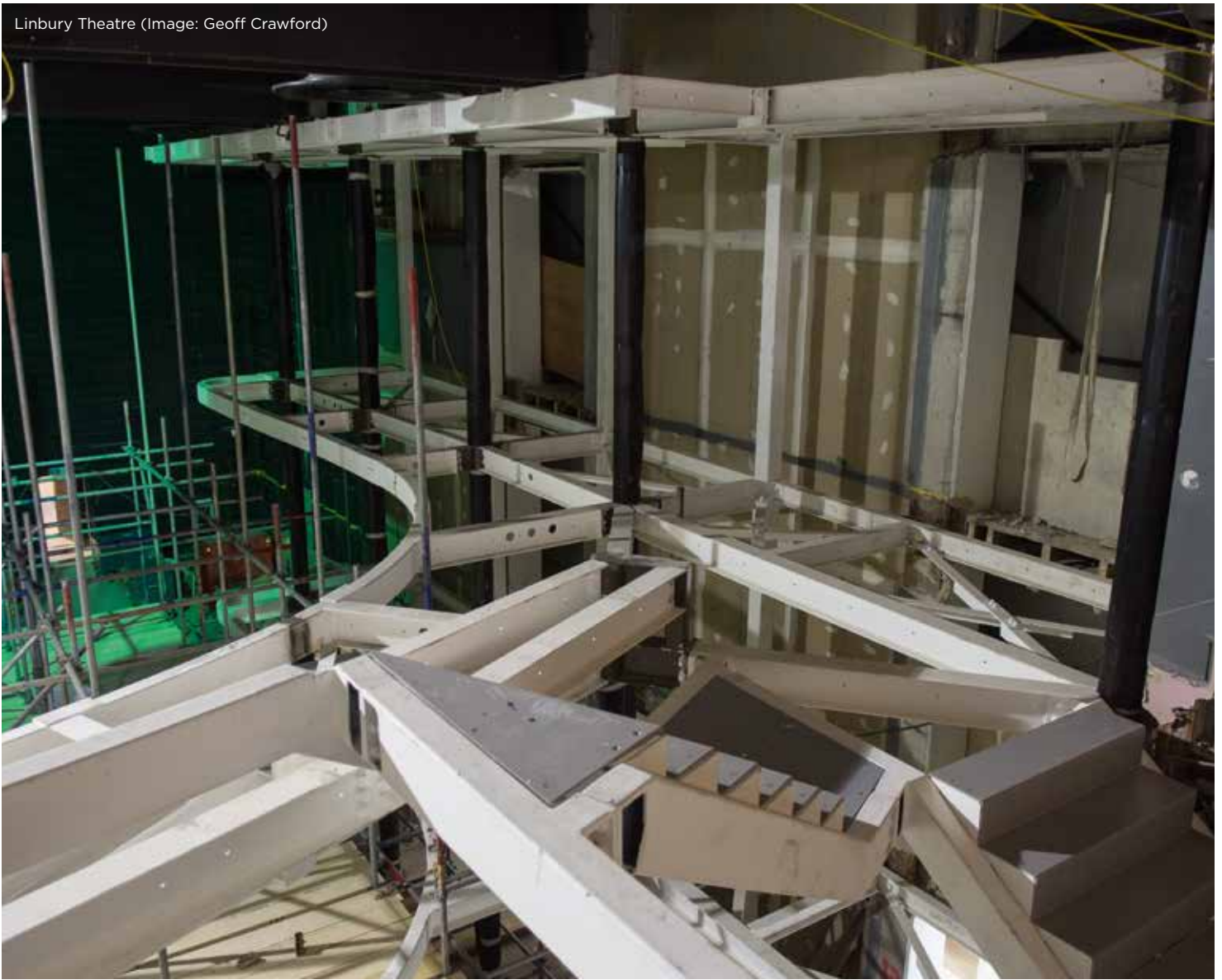
The transformation of the main foyer at ground level is at the heart of the changes being made, and earlier this year, work began to remove the concrete piers holding up the cast-iron and glass structure that is the impressive Paul Hamlyn Hall. This means that from 2018 the public will be able to see into the building from Bow Street across an expansive foyer and down into the Linbury Theatre.

To allow the piers to be removed, a large transfer truss spanning 17 metres and weighing a hefty 14 tonnes was carefully installed to take the load of the building above. Many of us took the opportunity to sign the truss once it was installed – including a few well-known friends!



Sir Bryn Terfel's signature - Bow Street (Image: Geoff Crawford)

This feat of engineering was completed over a period of weeks. Once it was completed, the concrete piers were removed. The façade will now be glazed and a new grand entrance installed at its north end. Remarkably, there was minimal deflection sustained during the works and no impact on the intricate glazed structure - which continued to have public use throughout. Huge congratulations and thanks to the entire team that managed this complex manoeuvre.



The Linbury Theatre steelwork has now been installed, and the revised horseshoe curve of the theatre auditorium has been unveiled. Scaffolding is now in place to carry out high-level works to the theatre, following which the timber balcony fronts and seating will be installed.

## Visitor Experience

In the last newsletter we announced the latest addition to our design team: Studio Linse, who are working on a scheme to refurbish the Amphitheatre Level. These construction works are due to commence in the autumn and will include some work to the outdoor terrace.

The Conservatory above the original 1858 façade is now undergoing refurbishment works, which include a remodelling of the bar in this area. This will improve the pre-show and interval experience for audiences – especially those seated on the right side of the auditorium. These works are due for completion in the summer.

## Site Awards

In February and March, our site awards went to Andy Misgina, a member of our Wilson James site security who is always happy to go the extra mile, and Matt Fotheringham, one of our scaffolders from GKR who ensures a high level of health and safety standards at all times.



### Contact details

For more information, please visit our website; [www.roh.org.uk/open-up](http://www.roh.org.uk/open-up)

To get in touch with one of the ROH project team, please call Harriet on 07890 545720 or send us an email on [openup@roh.org.uk](mailto:openup@roh.org.uk)

If you have any questions regarding the activity on site, you can also contact Richard Jones at Rise on 07425 982440