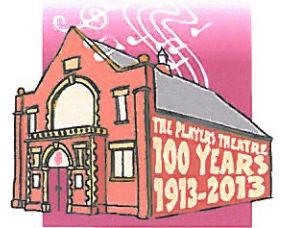


BUILDING A BETTER THEATRE



THAME PLAYERS THEATRE COMPANY

AN APPLICATION FOR GRANT FUNDING FROM

THAME TOWN COUNCIL

THAME PLAYERS THEATRE COMPANY - BUILDING A BETTER THEATRE

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CONTENTS

APPLICATION FORM

An application following the format of the online form for smaller grants to provide a consistency of approach

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

Evidence of need

Business plan

Audience statistics

Backdrop - newsletter for April 2013

FURTHER DOCUMENTS TO COMPLETE THE APPLICATION

Planning permission

Quotes for heating system

Land Registry document

2010/11 accounts

2011/12 accounts

Energy audit

Memorandum and Articles of Association

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APPLICATION FORM

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THAME TOWN COUNCIL - GRANT APPLICATION

	1. Organisation details
Name and address of organisation	Thame Players Theatre Company The Players Theatre, Nelson Street, Thame OX9 2DP
Usual meeting place	The Players Theatre, Nelson Street, Thame OX9 2DP
Are you a registered charity?	Yes 1092559
When was your organisation formed?	1944
What are the aims and objectives of your organisation?	<p>From the Memorandum and Articles of Association "The Company is established for the advancement of the education of the public in amateur dramatic art by its performance in Thame and district and the encouragement of interest in all aspects of the theatre."</p> <p>TPTC owns, manages and runs The Players Theatre as a venue for live and cinematic performances and make it available to enable the community to produce and perform all forms of the performing arts in Thame and district. The company stages 5 of its own productions each year, which are selected to form a blend of serious plays, from Shakespeare to Tom Stoppard, comedies, pantomimes and other shows designed to satisfy a broad range of tastes.</p> <p>Opportunities are available for people of any age from 16 to 70 (or over) interested in acting, singing, stage managing, directing or set-building to take part in TPTC productions. These activities provide experiences which help to build young careers and contribute to quality of life for all, from school-leavers to those at retirement age.</p> <p>TPTC also arranges for visiting groups to appear at the theatre, including touring theatre companies, musical groups and celebrity performers. In conjunction with Thame Cinema for All, regular cinema screenings feature classics as well as more recent Oscar-winning films.</p> <p>TPTC stages around 5-6 successful Murder Mystery events every year, which are written, directed and acted by volunteers and performed for invited audiences in the Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire area.</p> <p>The theatre is available for hire to businesses and other organisations which are attracted by a venue which is unique, yet has up-to-date technical, lighting and presentational facilities.</p>

What is the benefit of your organisation to the community?	There is no other dedicated theatre facility in the Thame area and demand is very likely to increase when the 775 planned new houses are built in Thame. TPTC has a long-standing successful track record as a venue for amateur and professional live performances and cinema screenings. Improving these facilities is a priority for the town, maintaining and growing its cultural life, especially following the latest rejection of the Sainsbury's development plans which included a community space
Is your organisation affiliated to others?	No
What is your catchment area?	Thame and nearby villages within an approximate 10 mile radius
Number of volunteers	TPTC has 250 members and friends all of whom contribute on a voluntary basis. The management committee consists of 11 members of the company who meet monthly and make decisions relating to all aspects of running the company, from programming and pricing to marketing initiatives and future developments. The 3 senior officers are the chairman, treasurer and secretary. Other committee members have specific responsibilities for maintenance, front of house and membership. Separate sub-committees take responsibility for development, fundraising and publicity, each including at least 2 members of the main management committee.
Number of users	Apart from the 250 members and friends, audiences across the range of performances and screenings at the theatre amount to some 6000 people each year
Percentage of users resident in Thame	A survey carried out in 2011 showed 38% of our audiences are resident in Thame and another 34% live within 5 miles of Thame
Membership breakdown	Age is not recorded as part of membership statistics. There are 2 types of membership - full members who pay an annual fee of £25 and friends who pay £5. There are some 110 full members and 140 friends.
Community events	Not applicable
Current balance	Financial information £29,344
What is this earmarked for?	£15,000 is kept as a reserve for unexpected emergencies, as recommended by our accountants (Richardsons), £10,000 is the cashflow needed to run the theatre on a day to day basis and the balance is available for future development

<p>Details of Thame Town Council grants received in the last 3 years</p>	<p>No grants have been requested in the last 3 years. Grants totalling £6,000 were received prior to the major refurbishment of the theatre in 2002 and a grant of £1,500 (25% of the total cost) was received towards the installation of airconditioning equipment in 2007</p>
<p>What is the grant to be used for?</p>	<p>2. Grant application</p> <p>A completely new heating system is to be installed enabling greatly improved comfort and a superior audience experience. The current system is totally inadequate, only being capable of raising the temperature by 10°C degrees above the outside temperature. In winter, with freezing temperatures outside, this means that in the theatre it is often below 15°C during performances. Audience members have to remain with overcoats on and many people refuse to come to performances during cold weather. The new system will achieve a 24% improvement in energy usage by the theatre and reduce CO2 emissions by 22%. (Certificates attached). The work is planned to be completed before the onset of winter 2013.</p> <p>The replacement of the heating system is a major item and the most urgent element of a larger refurbishment programme which will include an 11% increase in seating capacity (to enable more people to enjoy performances), a reconfiguration of the balcony seating (to enable a better view of the performances), building work to enlarge the stage (to enable more ambitious performances to be staged) and improve lighting facilities (to enable higher technical standards of performance). All these improvements will combine to provide better quality productions that can be seen by more people in greater comfort. With the exception of the heating installation, work on the rest of the project will take place during 2014.</p>
<p>Total cost of project</p>	<p>The heating element of the overall project will cost £46,086 (2 quotes attached)</p>
<p>Amount requested</p>	<p>£10,000</p>
<p>Percentage of grant to total cost</p>	<p>22%</p>
<p>Have you applied to other organisations in the last 2 years?</p>	<p>No. TPTC is a fully viable organisation which only requests funding for major capital projects and has therefore not needed to make grant applications in the last 2 financial years. Grants for this project have been sought from SODC (£20,000) and TOE2 (£10,000), the balance being raised from within TPTC. Grants for the overall project are being sought over the coming 12 months from a wide range of trusts, other grant funding</p>

bodies, businesses and local organisations. In addition donations are being sought from members and friends of TPTC and numerous fundraising events will take place at the theatre and elsewhere.

Name and address of contact person Pat Shepherd, Chairman
tel: 01296 747017 mob: 07970 450136
email: p.k.shepherd@btinternet.com

Name of the cheque payee Thame Players Theatre Company

Do you have any connections with current Town Councillors TPTC has no formal connection with current town councillors although many councillors have expressed support for the theatre and regularly attend performances as audience members

Declaration

I apply for grant aid on behalf of the organisation stated and I declare that:

1. I have noted the conditions under which grants are made and confirm that if successful, I, and the organisation which I represent, will abide by them.
2. It is understood on behalf of the organisation that Thame Town Council may seek to receive the full grant or such part of it as the Council may determine if:
 - i) The organisation ceases to operate
 - ii) The grant ceases to be used for the purpose (s) for which it was given or the facilities cease to be used for the purpose for which the capital grant assistance has been given (within a period of ten years from payment of the grant)
 - iii) The organisation is found to be in breach of the conditions applied to the grant

Membership

I further declare that:

- a) Membership is open to all and no application for membership will be refused on other than reasonable grounds, i.e. there will be no discrimination on grounds of race, occupation, religion or other opinion.
- b) The managing body of the organisation is composed mainly of members representing those using the facilities.

I undertake on behalf of the Society/Organisation that the grant or such part of it as Thame Town Council may determine will be repaid in the event that the Society/Organisation is found to be in breach of any of the assurances above.

Signed.....  Date 25/4/13

Tony Long, Director