

Everyman Theatre Submits Redesign Plans

The legendary Everyman Theatre has set the stage for a 2013 rebirth. Liverpool Merseyside Theatres Trust (LMTT) has submitted an application for planning approval to Liverpool City Council, for the design of a new theatre building. The all-new Everyman will be built on the site of its current incarnation, on Hope Street.

Described in the plans as 'a vibrant creative hub fit for this uniquely cultural city in the 21st century' the venture is an exciting prospect for this thriving theatre that has definitely outgrown its current facilities.

The Everyman has always been a theatre of and for the people of Liverpool. LMTT and the project team consulted widely with a diverse range of stakeholders throughout the design process, to ensure that it remains so.

Developed and designed in close collaboration with prominent theatre architects Haworth Tompkins, the building will reimagine the Everyman's dynamic and inclusive 400-seat 'thrust' stage auditorium, much loved basement Bistro and iconic Everyman sign. It will remain, says Director of Haworth Tompkins Architects, Steve Tompkins, 'part of Liverpool's heartbeat.'

As well as incorporating the best of the old design, the new building will be complete with some vital new facilities, many of which will also serve its sister theatre, The Playhouse. These are to include a youth and community space, to house a vast and growing community and education programme, a rehearsal space, offices for production staff and a hub for writers.

The new redbrick building will make a striking addition to Hope Street, incorporating a new frontage with 105 life-sized, abstracted portraits of Liverpool people, transferred onto cut aluminum shutters. A physical representation of the community to which the Everyman has always belonged.

The project team has been working closely with the local planning office and CABE, whose initial reaction has been extremely positive.

Everyman Executive Director, Deborah Aydon said, "When it opens in 2013 the new Everyman will emphasise Liverpool's continued status as a cultural capital and will be a further boost to the city's rebirth as a richly rewarding place to live and to visit."