

Highbury

• • • • Little Theatre

“Enhancing
the Highbury
experience”

DEVELOPMENT
PROPOSALS



“A good theatre
never stands
still”

John English OBE
Highbury Founder Member

The Development

Highbury Theatre is always striving to increase the enjoyment of its patrons and our current development plans will :

- Increase the space available to the bar and café areas to provide a more relaxed atmosphere (particularly at interval times)
- Provide a purpose built rehearsal area to replace the old hut presently used
- Provide increased storage space for our ever-expanding costume collection
- Increase the amount of off-road parking



Highbury Facts:

- 140 seat main auditorium
- 40 seat studio theatre
- No paid staff
- Non-profit making
- 24,000 audience per year
- Highbury Players present 7 main and several studio performances per year.
- Highbury Youth Theatre meet weekly and produce 2 shows per year
- A range of one night shows to a weeks run performed by local groups
- Local artists exhibit in the foyer for most performances

Front of House

The current refreshment areas will be extended and reconfigured with more space for the setting out of pre-ordered interval refreshments and easier access between bar and coffee areas.



Currently with 140 people to serve it can get a bit tight at interval time!

The new facility will allow our hard working volunteer staff to bring this aspect of the "Highbury experience" to the same high quality that our patrons have come to expect of our plays. The need to upgrade this area was highlighted in our audience satisfaction surveys.

The first floor serving area will be improved to assist us to continue with our popular pre-show group suppers.



The first floor toilets will be modernised.

Highbury's extensive stock of costumes, with which our wardrobe group provide such a high quality service to the theatre, will be given additional storage space.



Rehearsal

At any one time Highbury may have up to three plays in rehearsal.

Our rehearsal hut is old, cold and the wrong size to represent the stage.



It is long overdue for replacement.

The new rehearsal building will be located on the far side of the car park, releasing additional space for parking.

It will provide a space to allow us to rehearse plays to ensure the continuation of Highbury's high quality productions.



Progress

We have engaged an architect, produced plans and obtained planning permission.

The Cost

The cost for the entire scheme is £460,000. We would like to complete all the works as soon as possible. The plan is to commence with the work to the rear of the theatre.

How Can I Help?

You can help by:

- Organising a fund raising event
- Providing sponsorship or grant money
- Putting us in contact with sources of sponsorship or grant funds

Please contact:

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Development Fund Raising Co-ordinator
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What Is Highbury?

*"An amateur organisation
with professional standards"*

Highbury Theatre is a registered educational charity. Its aims are to encourage participation in all matters related to theatre, and to maintain and develop the Theatre as an Arts Centre to benefit the wider community. It has been in Sheffield Road since 1937 when volunteer members began the construction of the first theatre, parts of which are still in use today. Many improvements have been made to the theatre including the building of a studio and refurbishment of the auditorium in the 1980s.

Who uses Highbury?

Highbury Players are the resident group and present seven main house productions each season. In addition, the Theatre has its own *Youth Theatre* for those aged between 14 and 21. Highbury is used extensively by various *other groups*, including *children's dance and drama groups*, and provides facilities for other *local community drama companies* without performing space of their own. The Theatre is also used by a local flower arranging group, and hosts a number of fund raising events every year.



*Highbury Little Theatre is operated by Highbury Theatre Centre Ltd.
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