

Press Release



12 March 2010

ATG ANNOUNCES EXCITING PLANS FOR NEW THEATRE AND OLD FIRE STATION, OXFORD

The **Ambassador Theatre Group (ATG)** today announced exciting plans for the future of the **New Theatre** and the **Old Fire Station (OFS)**, Oxford.

ATG are planning to revitalise the New Theatre's programming by offering a greater selection of productions including West End shows, comedy, dance, opera, ballet and pantomime. The New Theatre will be working closely with ATG's flagship regional venue, Milton Keynes Theatre and the new state-of-the-art Aylesbury Waterside Theatre, set to open in October 2010, to maximise opportunities for all three venues.

As part of the proposals, ATG have also formally confirmed to Oxford City Council their consent to surrender the lease of the Old Fire Station to the homeless charity **Crisis** in June 2010. Funded by the Government's '**Places of Change**' programme, the building will be refurbished throughout, creating inspirational spaces for performances, rehearsals, exhibitions and social enterprise. Crisis intends to reopen the venue in the summer of 2011.

The changes to the OFS mean that the night club that operates within the premises will close at the end of May, but ATG are planning to redevelop a space at the Oxford New Theatre to provide OFS night club customers with an electrifying brand new alternative venue.

Rosemary Squire, ATG's Joint Chief Executive said: "Oxford's New Theatre is a wonderful venue with a loyal customer base and we're delighted that it's now part of our

regional portfolio. We've identified the theatre as a key regional asset and it will certainly have an important role to play in ATG's future. The announcement of these exciting developments underline ATG's commitment to Oxford and we'll continue to offer a wonderfully varied theatre programme for the people of this historic city."

Co-founded by **Howard Panter** and **Rosemary Squire** in 1992, ATG has a total of 38 venues across the UK. ATG is also one of the country's foremost theatre producers and has been behind some of the most successful and innovative productions in Britain and internationally.

New Theatre highlights for 2010 include *The Rocky Horror Show* starring David Bedella, *Calendar Girls*, Irish sensation *Riverdance*, the hit musical *Hairspray* with Brian Conley, *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat* and at Christmas, the spectacular *The Sound of Music* starring Connie Fisher.

The Old Fire Station's fantastic final season includes two visits from Oxford Triptych Theatre with their adaptations of Shakespeare's *Henry IV* and *Much Ado About Nothing*. The OFS will once again be involved with the OxFringe Festival, playing host to nine different productions over three weeks and local playwright Joe Graham returns to debut his latest work *Fun Run*. There's also a student production of Oscar Wilde's *An Ideal Husband* and a new production of *Dracula* from the staff of the New Theatre and the OFS.

For further show information call the following Box Office numbers - **New Theatre** 0844 847 1585, **OFS** 0844 844 0662.

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