

## **Physical Building Access: A Statement**

Harrogate Theatre

June 2019

We acknowledge and regret that as a building we fall short on general physical accessibility. There are 44 steps to our Studio Theatre space and no current method to avoid stepped access to certain spaces within the building. This is an ongoing issue we face across our artistic programme and is sadly an all-too-common challenge for many similar listed heritage spaces.

Please note we aim to present shows in alternative/ 'off site' spaces offering improved access where possible (There are 11 such shows in our autumn 2019 season) and we are committed to increasing the proportion of step-free accessible shows every year.

On the theme of wider diversity and accessibility we do offer a range of BSL interpreted, captioned, audio described and relaxed performances across each season.

Please be assured we are committed to improving physical access. Conversations with our landlord, Harrogate Borough Council, and plans for significant fundraising to install a lift within our listed building are all on going.

Physical access at Harrogate Theatre is an ongoing, complex, and frustrating issue for our team and one that is shrouded in significant financial challenge. We thank you for your patience and understanding while we continue to work to evolve and improve the situation for the benefit of everyone in our community.