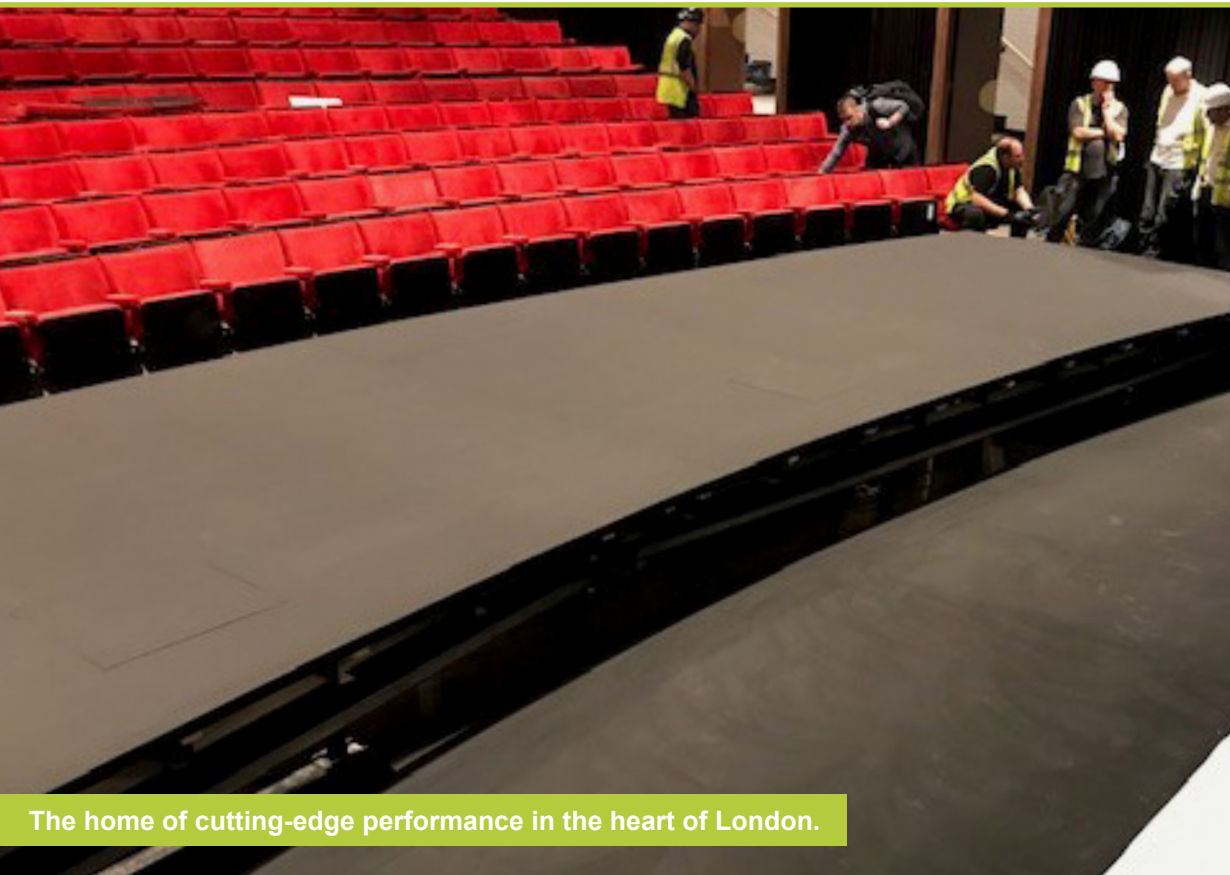




Showcase

Stage Engineering
Serapid LinkLifts
Fire Curtain
Motorised Winch
Control System
Triple E Unibeam Track
Maintenance
Drapery Solutions
Premier Wool Serge

The home of cutting-edge performance in the heart of London.

J&C Joel was appointed by Overbury to complete their Stage Engineering, Track and Drapery Package at Bloomsbury Theatre, University of Central London.

Bloomsbury Theatre is considered the home of cutting-edge performance in the heart of London. The theatre originally opened in 1968 and showcases the best of theatre, music, dance, comedy and everything in-between.

To begin with, J&C Joel designed and built two Forestage Elevators manufactured from Steel Beams, which varied in size to allow for the lift's 50-tonne load capacity. The first lift measured 11m wide by 2.5m deep and the second measured 12.4m wide by 3.5 deep, with built-in handrail sockets. Per lift, 6 Serapid LinkLifts were used to raise and lower the front row of seats in the auditorium and extend the thrust stage, alternatively, both levels could be lowered to achieve a combined orchestra level. These were all integrated with the University of Central London's emergency fire door exit sequence along with several other doors around the theatre proscenium, designed to open and close via the control system provided by J&C Joel.

As previously mentioned, one of the two lifts is the only double-stacked, counter-levered lift in the country and can hold up to a substantial 50 tonnes combined over both levels, this was proven during a J&C Joel safety test that was carried out as part of the process.

In addition, the lifts had two sets of removable fasciae at different sizes, both with safety features to ensure the health and safety of actors on stage; for example, if the scenery was to become potentially hazardous or fall onto the lift, the lift would immediately stop.

Next, J&C Joel completed the reconfiguration and Maintenance of the theatre's existing Counterweight Sets, these were a double purchase with 25 individual lines. The Counterweight Sets '1' and '2' were both reconfigured to be operated from stage level and set '24' and '25' were moved downstage to create accessibility for an access ladder. The other 21 sets had the bearing and wheels changed but remained in the same position.



25
counterweight
sets

50
tonne
capacity

60
minute burn
time





Showcase

Stage Engineering
Serapid LinkLifts
Fire Curtain
Motorised Winch
Control System
Triple E Unibeam Track
Maintenance
Drapery Solutions
Premier Wool Serge

The theatre originally opened in 1968.

As part of the Maintenance work, J&C Joel also replaced the Steel Wire Rope, Hemp Lines and provided 25 New Ladder Bars and Terminations. They then updated a pair of existing Motorised Advanced Bars in the auditorium with new steel wire rope, Ladder Bars and Load Monitoring Load Pins in the Head Pulleys, which could all be controlled by the touch screen control pendant. Around the units, J&C Joel provided a Safety Cage with a proximity trip switch that would shut the unit down immediately if anyone was to access this area, to ensure their health and safety.

For another part of the project, J&C Joel manufactured and installed a 60-minute burn time Safety Curtain (an impressive 30 minutes longer than industry standards set by the Yellow Book) with a concrete-clad rear, Zetex Plus Face Cloth and Steel frame structure. In the event of a fire, the safety curtain is designed to be positioned in between the audience and the stage. The curtain was raised and lowered using J&C Joel's innovative 500kg Motorised Winch which was fixed to the fly gallery and an individual Counterweight Cradle to the left of the stage. To the top of the Fire Curtain was a smoked seal and to the bottom was a yield pad, the curtain was guided from the top to the bottom in large C-channel Steel beams to achieve a smooth and effective transition.

Finally, J&C Joel provided fixed Rigging Bars to the rear proscenium wall and 8 individual Swivel Arms. These hung black J&C Joel's black Premier Wool Serge (WS090) drapes and operated on **Triple E** UniBeam track, which is perfect for moving large, heavy-weight drapes.

Fraser Davidson, J&C Joel's Head of UK and EU Projects, commented: "A project this size and this demanding showcases the talent and skill of J&C Joel's manufacturing, design and installation team, whilst simultaneously highlights the range of services we can offer."

