



Exeter
NORTHCOTT

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SAVE EXETER NORTHCOTT CAMPAIGN

Dear Theatre-goer

We hope that you enjoyed today's performance and no doubt you are shocked to discover that Exeter Northcott faces the very real prospect of closure. The Arts Council has told the Theatre's Board of Management that it is withdrawing the whole of its £547,000-a-year grant.

In the last year the Arts Council said it was 'committed' to Exeter Northcott's future. On that basis Exeter City Council, Devon County Council, the University of Exeter and private funders pledged £2.1m towards refurbishing this wonderful venue. The Arts Council itself contributed £100,000 towards the cost of the conversion and a further £540,000 in revenue grant to support the Theatre whilst it was closed.

The result is the total transformation of your theatre which you can see around you today. I am sure you can imagine how angry and disappointed we feel that all of this investment could very well be wasted and that 58 people could lose their jobs.

The Arts Council has given us no real reason why it is withdrawing funding and we had no inkling at all that this was going to happen. The Government's Comprehensive Spending Review gave the Arts Council more funding than it was expecting. Nevertheless, the decision has been made to withdraw the Theatre's grant. Given that Exeter Northcott has an annual turnover of about £1.6million, a cut of £547,000 will be fatal.

I would ask that all of us attempt to encourage the Arts Council to reverse their decision and that we all need to make our feelings known to them. We understand the Arts Council will make its final decision on 21 January. We need to gather as many expressions of support as possible by then. (If you would like to contact the Arts Council direct: Nick Capaldi, Director, Arts Council SW, Senate Court, Southernhay Gardens, Exeter, Devon EX1 1UG tel: 01392 229240 and/or Christopher Frayling, Chair, Arts Council England, 14 Great Peter Street, London SW1P 3NQ)

I hope you will fill out the tear off slip at the bottom of the letter and place it in the one of the collection boxes on your way out. Please tell as many of your friends as possible what is happening. They too can support us via email: savethenorthcott@exeternorthcott.co.uk or in writing to Save the Northcott Campaign, Exeter Northcott, Stocker Road, Exeter EX4 4QB.

Thank you for your support.

Yours

Stephen Gratton
Chairman of the Northcott Theatre Board

I am adding my voice to the campaign to **SAVE THE NORTHCOTT** and call upon the Arts Council to restore the Theatre's grant.

NAME:

ADDRESS:

TELEPHONE NUMBER:

EMAIL:

Signature

*Data Protection- This information will only be used by Exeter Northcott for this campaign only and **will not** be passed to any third parties.*

Please tick if we can contact you again about the Campaign via email

Please tick if you do not want us to contact you via post or phone