



# Assembly Rooms Theatre Durham

## **EQUANS worked closely with Durham University to ensure a historic theatre is ready for the 21st century, thanks to comprehensive renovation programme**

The £2.4million project focused on bringing the 19th century Assembly Rooms Theatre back to its former splendour, whilst still making it fit for use in the modern age thanks to a raft of new facilities added to enhance the building.

Built in 1869 and bought by the university in 1930, the Assembly Rooms has been a hub of student theatre for almost a century but was in need of extensive restoration.

EQUANS led on the refurbishment of the historic building, with a focus on returning the main hall of the theatre to its former grandeur - restoring the original ceiling and walls, as well as bringing the frontage back into top condition.

The updates also focused on modernisation and making the building accessible to all, with the addition of a disabled viewing platform and a lift to get access to all floors of the building.

Upstairs, a new bar and cafe has been built to complement the new ticket office, leading into the main auditorium which has had all 220 seats replaced.

In the basement, new dressing rooms have been fitted out with proper toilet and shower facilities. Those sit alongside a new workshop space, providing students with better facilities to build sets and design props.

Throughout the work, EQUANS ensured they were considerate to the needs of the wider community within Durham and during noisier works, the site team were considerate of university students taking their end-of-year exams, meaning the team had to plan in when louder works could be carried out with minimal disruption to the project schedule.



**For further information please contact:**

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