

## August 2008

### **Penelope Keith CBE is appointed a Trustee of The Theatres Trust.**

Margaret Hodge, the Minister for Culture, announced today that Penelope Keith CBE has been appointed a Trustee of The Theatres Trust. Her term of appointment will run from 14 July 2008 to 13 July 2011.

#### Biographical notes

Penelope Keith CBE started her acting career in repertory theatre in Cheltenham, Greenwich, Lincoln, Manchester and Salisbury. She was a member of the Royal Shakespeare Company at Stratford upon Avon and the Aldwych Theatre for two seasons, and since 1972 has toured the country extensively with theatrical productions as actor, director and producer. She has worked at London theatres such as The Globe, Theatre Royal Haymarket and The Apollo. Penelope became a household name in the 1970s when she played Margo Leadbetter in the sitcom *The Good Life*. Following that, she was the lead character in the BBC sitcom *To the Manor Born*. Currently, she is President of the Actors Benevolent Fund. She was appointed a CBE in 2007. She has not undertaken any political activity in the past five years.

#### Background

The Theatres Trust is the National Advisory Public Body for Theatres, established by The Theatres Trust Act 1976 '*to promote the better protection of theatres*' and has the powers to acquire or hold any theatre or land required for the benefit of any theatre, contribute to the acquisition of any theatre or land, and maintain or assist in the maintenance of any theatre. The Trust has a UK wide remit to provide leadership in the statutory planning and protection of theatres and to develop a strategic approach to achieving better protection for theatres.

The Trust's trustees give their services on an honorary basis but travel/subsistence and out-of-pocket expenses are reimbursed.

This appointment has been made in accordance with the OCPA Code of Practice. Appointments are made on merit and political activity plays no part in the selection process.