

January 2008

Theatres Trust: Reappointment of Chair, Rupert Rhymes OBE

Margaret Hodge, the Minister for Culture, has reappointed **Rupert Rhymes** as Chairman and Trustee of The Theatres Trust. His third and final term as Chair will run from 31 January 2008 to 30 January 2009. His final term as Trustee will run from 31 January 2008 to 30 January 2011.

Rupert Rhymes had twenty five years experience in direct theatre management before becoming the first chief executive of the UK's leading trade associations for theatre managers and producers, the Society of London Theatre and the Theatrical Management Association, in 1987. During his tenure the trade associations became widely respected bodies speaking for the industry during difficult periods whilst promoting significant marketing initiatives such as Theatre Tokens.

His early managerial posts were at The National Theatre at the Old Vic working for Sir Laurence Olivier and for eighteen years at the Coliseum with Sadler's Wells Opera/English National Opera for Lord Harewood.

He has served on a number of arts boards including Oxford Stage Company and Bristol Old Vic as well as the governing body of the Central School of Speech and Drama, the Theatre Design Course and the Mander and Mitchenson Theatre Collection.

He received the OBE for services to drama and the Society of London Theatre's special award in 2002.

Rupert has undertaken no political activity in the past five years.

Notes to Editors:

1. The Trust is a statutory body established by The Theatres Trust Act 1976 to "promote the better protection of theatres" with a UK-wide remit. It is an Advisory Non-Departmental Public Body (NDPB) which is consulted by local authorities on any planning applications or developments involving land on which there is a theatre. The Trust provides an authoritative and knowledgeable source of expert advice and information on theatres, promotes the value of theatre buildings and champions their future.
2. Rupert Rhymes' first term as Chair ran from 06/04/2002 to 30/01/2005. His second term ran from 31/01/2005 to 30/01/2008.
3. This reappointment 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.
4. Further information on The Theatres Trust can be obtained from its website www.theatrestrust.org.uk