

projects



Peter Cook

royal shakespeare theatre

Location: Stratford-upon-Avon, England

Project Type: Renovation and New Construction

Seat Count: 1400 Existing, 1050 Proposed

Opening: 2010

Cost: £112.8 Million

Architect: Bennetts Associates

Theatre Consultant: Charcoalblue

Contact: Peter Wilson | Project Director | 01789 20159

AD Scope: Acoustics | Sound Isolation | Noise Control

Acoustic Dimensions is proud to have been part of the Royal Shakespeare Company's transformation of the Royal Shakespeare Theatre in Stratford-upon-Avon. The acoustic success in the space is in creating a natural energy for the unaided voice of the RSC performer. The proximity of the seating to the stage helped to maximise the direct sound, while the ventilation systems are designed to be silent (at the threshold of hearing) so that performers can make use of the full dynamic range of sound. However, there remained acoustic challenges. The technical gallery above stage ruled out a sound-reflective ceiling, and retaining the proscenium opening of the old theatre ruled out a sound-reflective upstage wall. Faced with these constraints, we used extensive computer modeling to make the best use of surfaces designing to reflect sound to the audience located behind the performer.

AD has worked with RSC since 1993 on multiple projects:

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Noise exposure control, scenery workshop; sound isolation between studio and the main theatre, Newcastle upon Tyne

Room acoustics measurements and demonstrations in existing RST

Noise control for replacement chiller

Room acoustics of temporary theatre at the Roundhouse, Camden

Room acoustics consulting and design for £112m Royal Shakespeare Theatre, Stratford upon Avon

Acoustics for RSC's "Histories" productions at Roundhouse

ACOUSTIC DIMENSIONS