



The Empire  
Cinema and Theatre

**EMPIRE THEATRE, CONSETT.  
TECHNICAL INFORMATION**

**Address: Front Street, Consett, County Durham, DH8 5AB. Tel: (01207) 218171**

**Seating capacity:** Balcony (Circle): 140; Stalls: 374

This total of **514** includes designated wheelchair platforms at the rear of the stalls, sufficient to seat up to 6 disabled people in wheel chairs.

**Stage:**

Proscenium stage with slight rake. **Dimensions:** Front apron 16.3m; Proscenium aperture 10m wide; stage depth (proscenium curtain to cyclorama wall) approximately 7m.

The stage has an integral orchestra pit, with removable top sections which form the downstage apron to the stage when the pit is not in use.

**Cinema facilities:**

A roller cinema screen is fitted behind the Proscenium Arch, operated by an electric motor. The theatre, which operates as a regular cinema, has one 35mm projector, with a tower, and a separate cinema sound system with Dolby surround-sound.

**Get-in/loading:** a large scene dock door at the rear of the stage opens directly onto a small service road (Queen Street). Please note that the dock door is approximately 1m. higher than street level, requiring the lifting in of equipment. The street is usually busy, so ramping in from the vehicle is not usually possible, except late at night for get-out.

**Wing-space.** Very limited, due to origins of venue as a Variety Hall.

**Dressing rooms.** Two reasonably large dressing rooms, each suitable for up to 15 or so people, are located below stage, with access to S/L and S/R wings, and linked by under-stage cross-over. There is also one small dressing room at stage level, in S/L wings, which has access via a lift, making it suitable for use by disabled performers, or as a quick change or soloist's dressing room.

**Curtains:** Proscenium Curtain is burgundy red with gold trim; stage drapes are dark blue. Venue has a gauze and a white cyclorama cloth. There are two sets of mid-stage runners, also in blue. The venue now also has one pair of black tabs, three pair of black legs, and two black borders, to the enable a full black box to be created on stage.

**Lighting:**

**Power:** 125A 3-Phase feeding 72 channels of hard wired Paradim digital dimmers.

**Lighting bars:** Front of house above control room- 2 circuits  
Main Front of house bar above stalls- 12 circuits

**Stage:** LX1.-12 circuits  
LX2: 12 circuits  
LX3: 12 circuits  
LX4: 8 circuits

**Please note:** all LX bars are hand-winchd with a **total load not exceeding 150Kg.**

**Floor:** 12 circuits on side walls in wings  
2 circuits at follow-spot positions on balcony

All circuits are 15A round-pin.

On side walls in wings, there are two by 13A double sockets per side, switched from control room.

**Lantern Stock:**

6 CCT Sil 30 zoom profile  
12 CCT Freedom 28 - 58 degree zoom profile  
6 Strand SL 15 / 32 profile  
1 Strand Cantata 18 - 32 degree profile  
12 CCT Starlette 1.2Kw Fresnel complete with barn doors  
12 CCT Minuette 650w Fresnel c/w barn door  
26 Par 64 parcan c/w CP 62 lamps (wide beams)  
6 Par 64 short nose floor cans c/w CP 62 lamps  
3 Strand Coda 4 500w cyclorama floods  
2 Follow Spots  
4 Martin Mac 500

**Control:**

Zero 88 Bullfrog lighting desk  
There are 3 control positions- control room, front-of-house mixing position, and S/R.

**Lighting sundries:**

A selection of gobos and gobo-holders, a reasonable selection of colour filter gels, and a reasonable stock of extension cables.

**Sound:**

**Power:** 63A single-phase RCD protected cee-form connector, located stage right behind proscenium arch.

**Multi-core:** 48 way multi core wired 38 channels in, ten return, is installed from behind S/R proscenium arch, to rear of stalls or control room, as appropriate.

**Front-of-House system:** 5Kw HK Audio Actor system, comprising of 8 sub-bass, 4 mid-top, self powered cabinets, and 2 mid-top infill cabinets flown from FOH bar.

**Mixing desk:** Midas Venice 32 channel mixing console (32:4:2)

**On Stage monitoring:**

4 Toa 12" wedge monitors driven by 1 , 2 x 150w stereo monitor amp.

**Effects/Play-back:**

2 Behringer 31 Band Graphic Equalizers

6 DBX 31 Band Graphic Equalizers

1 Tascam C.D. / Cassette

1 Tascam MD

1 TC Electronics M One XL

**Microphone stock:**

2 Sennhieser Handheld Radio Microphones

10 Sennhieser Lapel Radio Microphones

2 Behringer DI Boxes

A limited number of conventional microphones and stands are available.

**Talk-back:**

A Tech-Pro talkback system with various outlets around the theatre is installed.

6 headsets and belt-packs are available.

The auditorium has an induction loop fitted, which is supplied from the control room.

**Sundries:**

The venue has a good quality baby grand piano on stage, and upright in the orchestra pit.

A number of music stands c/w stand lights are available for use if required.

**For further details please contact:**

**Ashley Hawthorne Bell, Theatres Technician, on (01207) 218896/ 07903-561045 (mobile), or**

**E-mail: [ashley.bell@derwentside.gov.uk](mailto:ashley.bell@derwentside.gov.uk)**

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**Derek Gettings, Duty Manager (Technical) on (01207) 218171**