

The Berry Theatre

Property Services



Location:

Wildern School, Hedge End, Hampshire

Client:

Eastleigh Borough Council; Hampshire County Council and Wildern School

Value: £3.9 million

Completed: February 2011

Specialist teams:

Architects, Interior Design, Quantity Surveying, Structural, M&E and Landscape:
HCC Property Services
Theatre Consultant: Arup

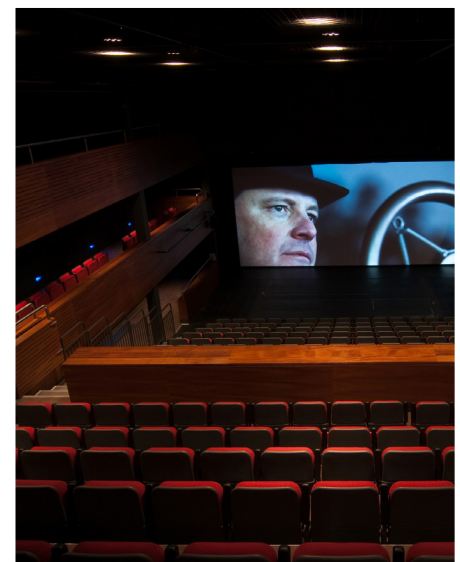
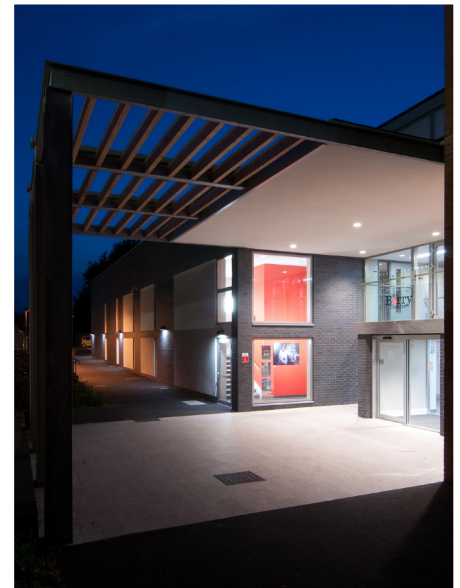
The Berry Theatre was officially opened by Bafta Award nominated actor Samuel West on 7th April 2011. The theatre is the latest in a string of community facilities to be co-located on the Wildern School site. HCC Property Services were appointed by Eastleigh Borough Council (EBC) to provide a full conception to completion design and procurement service for the stakeholders. The brief was to design a 300 seat flexible theatre to compliment the existing arts facilities in the borough and at the school. The new Theatre would have professional management and needed to provide facilities that balanced use by touring companies with community use and school productions.

The site sits behind the existing D@rt performing arts building and straddles the schools old access road and the adjacent Primary school site. The intimate galleried layout is a response to the tight site but also to the technical requirements. Retractable seating and adjustable floor sections allow the theatre to be used as a large flat-floor space for workshops or be reconfigured as a 308-seat auditorium for music, theatre performances or digital cinema presentations with surround sound.

The successful outcome of the project was a result of the collaborative working between local authorities, design team, main and specialist contractors. This collaborative approach allowed a focus on the details that make the difference in a successful theatre. In a building of this scale, this does not mean expense or complexity, but instead care and attention in design and execution.

Key Benefits

- Provides a new flexible community venue with professional standard facilities and technical equipment, including 'high street' quality digital film projection.
- High quality interior design, finishes and specification help to ensure that the Theatre has a distinct identity to rest of campus.
- Links to existing D@rt performing arts building at every floor to allow both buildings to function together or independently of each other.
- Very cost effective project despite level of specification achieved through collaborative relationship with framework contractor.
- Sustainable features include, highly insulated and very air tight building fabric LED lighting, solar thermal panels, air source heat pumps and a highly efficient thermal wheel heat exchanger.



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