

THE STAGE

Why the English Theatre Frankfurt must be saved – this week in Your Views

YOUR VIEWS DEC 7, 2022 BY THE STAGE



The under-threat English Theatre Frankfurt. Photo: Shutterstock

We are pleased that The Stage has reported on the existential threat to the English Theatre Frankfurt (ETF), mainland Europe's leading English-speaking theatre ([‘Campaign launched to save largest English-language theatre on European continent’](#), November 3, p2). As artistic directors whose careers and practice have benefited from the ETF, we want to add two further points.

The closure of the ETF would be as big a loss for the British theatre sector as the closure of any thriving regional theatre. The ETF produces at least six large productions each year, including European premieres of new plays, employing hundreds of UK freelancers.

In a climate of increasing isolationism, the ETF boldly brings cultures together. It enriches the city of Frankfurt as much as any bank, and promotes a harmonious, bilingual working environment that leaves artists feeling proud to be European.

The English Theatre Frankfurt's closure would be an act of corporate greed and folly. We encourage everyone to sign the petition (english-theatre.de/etf-campaign/) and we hope the Frankfurt stakeholders can find a way forward to protect this much-loved and important theatre.

David Byrne,

Artistic director, New Diorama Theatre

Tom Littler,

Artistic director, Orange Tree Theatre

Ryan McBryde,

Creative director, Mercury Theatre Colchester

Drew McOnie,

Artistic director, the McOnie Company

Adam Penford,

Artistic director, Nottingham Playhouse

Lotte Wakeham,

Artistic director, Octagon Theatre Bolton