

Site mapping potential territories.

I have chosen to investigate the grand theatre in Swansea. I took interest in this site when I started to think of the possibilities of a workspace that's easy to negotiate with and also can supply a good place for photographic and artistic work. The accessibility so far seems like more negotiation is needed. As I've been in an email chain trying to convince them to let people have an exhibition in their space. It's a difficult bargain to push as they haven't said no but have stated it would be hard to implement an exhibition space. As of writing this part I have not had a chance to investigate the site in person but have arranged a date to visit and take some photos this Tuesday the 7th of October. My relationship to this place is surface level, I've never been into the theatre, never seen a play there or any shows and the closest I've gotten to it is by walking past it. However I've seen photos from their website and it looks like a beautiful venue and I have always been fascinated by the stage. The curtains, the seats and the all very theatricality of the building itself. I look forward to seeing what I can negotiate and see if I can find connections to an artistic approach I can photograph and write about.

opened on July 26, 1897, and was designed by William Hope for entrepreneurs H H Morell and F Mouillot. Apparently however in August of 1934 the theatre was converted into a cinema due to the rise in film media taking over stage productions. This was a last hope heel turn because the theatre was no longer bringing many people into see theatre productions. It remained as a theatre until 1947 where due to Swansea suffering badly from post war Damages, the cinema was put for sale and was purchased by a Captain W.E Willis. Willis restored it to its original theatre layout and sold it later to Swansea city in 1979. Speaking to fellow classmates, the theatre is a great place and beautiful design, and speaking to some people who stay at my workplace to see the theatre shows always tell me how great it is and that they travel from miles away to see some of the productions put on in the theatre. According to the FOH manager I spoke to in person, the now "arts" sector of the building used to be a part of the Swansea bus station. When it was acquired by the theatre they expanded it into where the box office and cafe now reside. The woman told me she works closely in the cafe and that a lot of older people come in just to relax and enjoy teas and cake etc

If they allowed a group to work there I believe it would be a fantastic opportunity for both documentary and artistic outlets. The ideas I personally have is the use of the architecture's grandiose design often has connotations of horror and the theatrical, curtains are of course a staple of acting as well as appearing in many famous imagery. I also think the groups could expand and focus on different parts of the theatre as it does hold a lot of space. The work could then join together cohesively to create a beautiful mosaic of work that benefits everyone. I also think (if allowed) the space would get a lot of attention from people wanting to see it as it is already an artistic building, the kind of people who would see it would most likely be more appreciative and see the art work more in depth than if the project were held outside for instance. I think it's a fantastic opportunity and I hope in the future it is a possibility to work there and exhibit some kind of work. Unfortunately on my visit I was unable to get access to the auditorium but she did give me her personal work email and said it could be arranged but that a exhibition space is highly unlikely. So even if this isn't the place for the project I do think I will return as it's a great opportunity to get some good photos



