

## Additional evidence on COVID-19: UK Theatre and Society of London Theatre

### 1. Headlines:

- 1.1. **Industry will lose over £330mn over next 12 weeks, and same amount over next 26 weeks IF recovery begins immediately, if not losses will rise further.**
- 1.2. We welcome the package of measures put in place last over the last two weeks by the Chancellor, including business rates holidays and furloughing for those that qualify. But there is still more to urgently do.
- 1.3. The performing arts industry needs urgent clarity on recent government announcements. One of these is as we highlighted in our last submission – self-employed.

### 2. Self-employed

- 2.1. We welcome the financial support announced by the government for self-employed and freelance people in our industry - this is very welcome and much needed.
- 2.2. We remain concerned by the ability of people to access adequate funds through the welfare system until payments start to be made under the new **scheme in June**.
- 2.3. We urge a rethink of whether some form of **interim payment** can be granted to self-employed people.
- 2.4. **New entrants** - many thousands of people who graduated last summer will also not be eligible for the scheme and will need rapid support.

### About us

- [SOLT](#) and [UK Theatre](#) are the trade associations and members' organisations representing the interests of those engaged in the production and presentation of medium to large-scale dramatic and lyric theatre in the UK. Their memberships are drawn from both subsidised and commercial theatre.
- The combined box office income of SOLT and UK Theatre's membership was more than £1.28 billion across London and the rest of the UK, with 34 million tickets sold in 2018.
- SOLT represents approximately 230 London-based producers, theatre owners and managers, including all the major subsidised theatrical organisations in London.
- UK Theatre represents approximately 240 theatres, concert halls, dance companies, producers and arts centres throughout the UK. UK Theatre also operates as a professional association, supporting over 1,400 individuals working professionally in theatre and the performing arts in the UK