

OUR COACH ARRIVES AT THE ALDWYCH



EXPLORING COVENT GARDEN BEFORE OUR TOURS



PLAQUE COMMEMORATING THE ISSUE OF A GRANT BY CHARLES II IN MAY 1670 TO THE 4TH EARL OF BEDFORD TO HOLD A MARKET IN COVENT GARDEN PIAZZA 'ON EVERY DAY OF THE YEAR EXCEPT SUNDAYS AND CHRISTMAS DAY, FOR BUYING AND SELLING ALL MANNER OF FRUIT, FLOWERS, ROOTS AND HERBS'.



THE BRONZE HONOURS ALL THE MEN AND WOMEN WHO BOUGHT AND SOLD FRESH PRODUCE WHICH WAS THEN DISTRIBUTED THROUGHOUT ENGLAND

THE ROYAL OPERA HOUSE — BOW STREET FAÇADE



EXTERIOR OF THE PAUL HAMLYN HALL



THE HALL NOW ACTS AS THE ATRIUM AND MAIN PUBLIC AREA OF THE OPERA HOUSE

ANIMAL HEADS CREATED FOR HANDEL'S 'ALCINA' PRODUCTION IN 2022



ALCINA PREMIERED ON THIS SITE AT THE THEATRE ROYAL, COVENT GARDEN
IN APRIL 1735

MOUSE COSTUME MADE FOR THE 2023 PRODUCTION OF CINDERELLA



COSTUMES FOR 'LA FILLE MAL GARDÉE' (1960) CREATED BY THE ROYAL BALLET'S FOUNDER, CHOREOGRAPHER FREDERICK ASHTON



A TUTU BEING INSTALLED IN DISPLAY CASE IN THE MAIN PUBLIC AREA OF THE OPERA HOUSE



THE SEATING AREA FOR THE GROUND FLOOR CAFÉ



THE FIRST TOUR GROUP GATHERS TO MEET OUR GUIDE



SASHA OUR GUIDE



WITH OUR HEADSETS IN PLACE, SASHA EXPLAINS HOUSEKEEPING RULES FOR THE TOUR



AN ILLUSTRATED HISTORY OF THE OPERA HOUSE BEGINS OUR TOUR



IN 1728, JOHN RICH, (THE FIGURE ON THE LEFT) ACTOR-MANAGER OF THE DUKE'S COMPANY AT LINCOLN'S INN FIELDS THEATRE, COMMISSIONED THE BEGGAR'S OPERA FROM JOHN GAY, WHICH PROVED VERY POPULAR AND ENABLED HIM TO RAISE FUNDS TO BUILD A NEW THEATRE IN COVENT GARDEN, WHICH OPENED IN 1732.

A FIRE DESTROYED THE THEATRE ON 20 SEPTEMBER 1808



REBUILDING BEGAN IN DECEMBER 1808, AND THE SECOND THEATRE ROYAL, COVENT GARDEN OPENED ON 18 SEPTEMBER 1809 WITH A PERFORMANCE OF MACBETH FOLLOWED BY A MUSICAL ENTERTAINMENT CALLED THE QUAKER

FOLLOWING A FIRE ON 5 MARCH 1856, THE THEATRE WAS ONCE MORE
REBUILT, AND RE-OPENED ON 15 MAY 1858



THE ROYAL OPERA HOUSE IN 1958



THE ROYAL OPERA HOUSE IN 2016 FOLLOWING MAJOR RECONSTRUCTION BETWEEN 1997 TO 1999



THE ORIGINAL ENTRANCE HALL OF E M BARRY'S OPERA HOUSE



STATUE OF FREDERICK GYE, MANAGER OF THE ROYAL OPERA HOUSE
(1848-1878) BY PRINZ VON GLEICHEN 1880



THE CHRISTMAS TREE IN THE ENTRANCE HALL



THE PAUL HAMLYN HALL FORMERLY KNOWN AS THE FLORAL HALL



A LARGE IRON AND GLASS STRUCTURE ADJACENT TO, AND WITH DIRECT ACCESS TO, THE MAIN OPERA HOUSE BUILDING ORIGINALLY BUILT BY THE OPERA HOUSE TO HOUSE A FLOWER MARKET (ALSO SELLING FRUITS AND VEGETABLES)



THE BAR CICORIA



VIEW ONTO THE COVENT GARDEN PIAZZA AND MARKET



CHRISTMAS TREE HANGING OVER THE LINBURY FOYER



WAITING FOR OUR COACH AFTER A WONDERFUL VISIT

