



An Edwardian auditorium and studio space, hosting classic and new drama and musicals.

Showcase

- Drapery Solutions
- Vegas 620 Velvet Velour
- Regal Satin
- Bonded Wool Serge
- Coloured Wool Serge
- Premier Wool Serge
- Stage Engineering
- Counterweight
- Pilewind Winches
- Chain Hoists
- Track
- Erail

When Perth Theatre underwent a huge restoration, they called upon J&C Joel to provide a full drapery package and carry out a complete overhaul of their stage engineering.

Perth Theatre is one of Scotland's oldest and best-loved repertory theatres. The current Grade B listed building was constructed in 1900 and is run as a producing theatre by Horsecross, who wanted to restore the theatre to its former glory.

Before starting the drapery element for the auditorium, J&C Joel invited Gavin Johnston, Head of Productions at the theatre, to their Mill to discuss every aspect of the drapery from the design of applique right through to the colour of the materials, and the size and look of the trimmings. During the meeting, J&C Joel also ran through the manufacturing process and the lead times involved so Gavin could report back to the trustees of the theatre. During what was an invaluable meeting, J&C Joel was able to show the various shades of gold Regal Satin; allowing the shade that worked best with the new gold leaf paint to be selected.

As part of the drapery package, J&C Joel manufactured and installed a shaped Front of House pelmet which measured 7.755m wide x 2.870m drop, at its deepest. It was manufactured from wine Vegas 620 Velvet Velour (VEL175), interlined with Bonded Wool Serge (WS048) and finished with citrine Regal Satin (REG003) banding, handwoven custom dyed bobble fringing, to replicate the original, and a replica of the existing applique manufactured from citrine Regal Satin. After consultation with Gavin and the trustees, the decision was taken not to replicate the old centrepiece, instead, J&C Joel extended the satin banding.

The Front of House curtains, each of which measured 5.300m wide x 6.960m drop, were also manufactured from wine Vegas 620 Velvet Velour (VEL175) with 50% fullness and finished with citrine Regal Satin banding, which was set up from the 40mm handwoven custom dyed wool braid and 460mm deep bullion. The bottom 460mm of the drapes were manufactured from gold Coloured Wool Serge (WS010) to help emphasise the gold bullion sitting in front of the fabric.

J&C Joel also manufactured and installed intricately shaped pelmets for the six boxes, all of which had applique replicating that of the original, all in citrine Regal Satin and finished with the same bobble fringe as the Front of House Pelmet, ensuring consistency of look and colour across all drapes.

For the stage engineering side of the project in the main auditorium; J&C Joel undertook a major refurbishment of the 38 single purchase counterweight sets, including new flybars and hauling lines. The company also installed four pilewind winches for individual tasks on stage.

7.755m
pelmet

38
counterweight
set

460mm
bullion



Showcase

Drapery Solutions
Vegas 620 Velvet Velour
Regal Satin
Bonded Wool Serge
Coloured Wool Serge
Premier Wool Serge
Stage Engineering
Counterweight
Pilewind Winches
Chain Hoists
Track
E-rail

Perth Theatre is one of Scotland's oldest and best-loved repertory theatres.

The pilewind winches included a new upstage flying bar which had a safe working load of 250kg and a new house pelmet bar which had a safe working load of 150kg. For the feature chandelier above the auditorium, J&C Joel installed a 150kg pilewind winch with non-rotational steel wire rope and a cable management reeler.

A bespoke counterweight overhaul winch with a safe working load of 600kg was also installed which allowed the theatre staff to safely overhaul an out of balance counterweight set during production fit-ups. This was installed on a track on the grid floor enabling the hoist access to the counterweight cradles - this was designed to haul the fully loaded counterweight cradle to the loading gallery, safely, and reducing the manual handling requirement as previously exerted during production fit-ups and get outs.

Also, in the grid space, J&C Joel's engineers installed two loudspeaker Exe Rise 250kg chain hoists at the front of the stage for a new loudspeaker installation.

In the goods loading bay J&C Joel also installed a Serapid chain lift and a bespoke lift platform which provided the theatre with a much-needed goods lift to manoeuvre equipment and grand pianos. The lift had a speed of 150mm/s and a static and dynamic load of 280kg/m².

In Perth Theatre's Studio Space, J&C Joel installed three bespoke dimensioned truss grids for SLAV, each formed from Litec QX30A quad truss. Each truss had six EXE Rise chain hoists each with a safe working load of 300kg. Each truss had a 50kg/m payload with a maximum 1500kg UDL. A standard control system was provided to allow any truss to move independently from each other. Perimeter drapery for the space was also manufactured from black Premier Wool Serge (WS090) and installed on E-rail track.

In the community room space, J&C Joel installed two bespoke lighting grids which were fixed into the fabric of the building, allowing the client to configure lights as required. Perimeter drapery was also manufactured and installed in the space. The drapes were manufactured using black Premier Wool Serge and hung on two u-shaped E-rail track systems.

Oliver Marns, Creative Sales Manager at J&C Joel said: "The end result was a stunning set of drapes which really work with the décor and colour scheme of the main auditorium. The intricacy of the applique really stands out and it is a testament to the skill of the J&C Joel creative team that this was all manufactured by hand."

Fraser Davidson, J&C Joel's Head of UK Projects, said: "This project was a fantastic opportunity to add some modern stage engineering to a wonderful old theatre, without reducing the operational needs of the client. The original stage engineering equipment was refurbished, and new stage equipment was added to the theatre and its new studio and public spaces giving the Perth Theatre a fresh venue to put on first-class shows."

