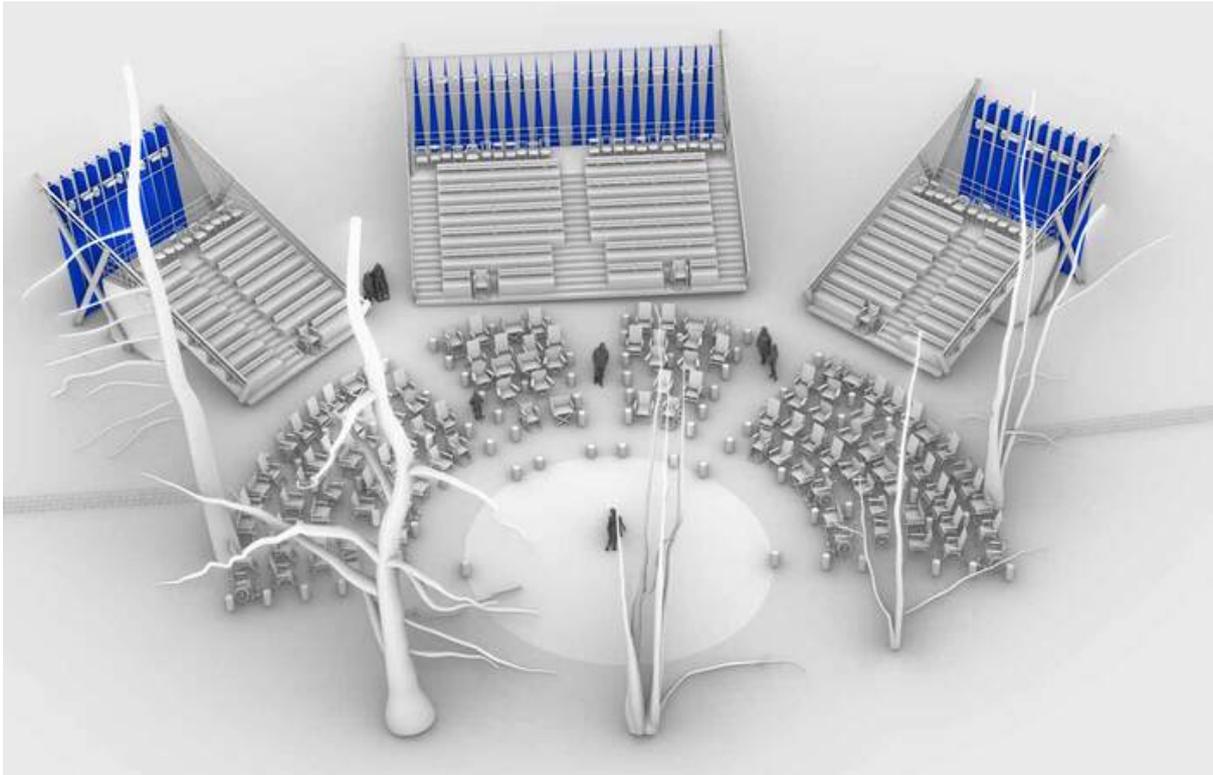


Theatre in the Forest pop-up venue to open at Suffolk burial site Sutton Hoo

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Design of the new Theatre in the Forest venue

Suffolk-based theatre company Red Rose Chain is collaborating with designers [59 Productions](#) to launch a new pop-up venue. Theatre in the Forest will be based at Anglo-Saxon burial site Sutton Hoo, near Woodbridge, in partnership with the National Trust.

It is due to open in summer 2022, with further details on the design of the theatre to be revealed by Red Rose Chain at a charity gala event on July 31.

Design company Footprint Scenery, which has previously worked on the National Theatre and the Royal Court, will build the venue.

Red Rose Chain artistic director Joanna Carrick said: “It is so exciting to be working with 59 Productions and for them to bring their immense international experience to the project. The creative team from both organisations has been working hard together throughout lockdown to design exciting new infrastructure, focusing on our unique audience experience and strong community roots to secure the future for this very popular event.”

Carrick added: “Mark Grimmer, co-founder of 59 Productions, grew up in Suffolk and was a key member of Red Rose Chain’s youth theatre which makes this collaboration even more special. We are so proud of everything Mark has achieved and it means the world to us to be working with 59 productions on the launch of a new era for Theatre in the Forest at Sutton Hoo.”

The team for Theatre in the Forest at 59 Productions is led by Leo Warner and architect Jenny Melville.

59 Productions said: “This design follows a through-line of research and development the company has embarked upon over the last year in response to the ongoing pandemic. We are passionate about creating spaces that are safe, secure and accessible for all and can’t wait for audiences in Suffolk to enjoy live theatre once again, this time at Sutton Hoo.”

Red Rose Chain has been awarded funding from the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport and Arts Council England’s Culture Recovery Fund to develop the space.

The project is also supported by New Anglia Local Enterprise Partnership, through the Business Resilience and Recovery Grant Scheme.