

**DISCOVER WINCHESTER FACT SHEETS**

To best serve the media we are creating a one-stop-shop for key information relating to Discovery Winchester members. This will appear in the Media Information section of the Visit Winchester website.

Please fill out the following as fully as possible and return to [miranda@rocketlaunch.co.uk](mailto:miranda@rocketlaunch.co.uk) Please also send up to five high resolution images which are suitable to be downloaded and used by the media.

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| Name of attraction | Theatre Royal Winchester |
| Key media contact | Victoria Burt |
| Key media contact email | victoria.burt@theatreroyalwinchester.co.uk |
| Key media contact phone number(s) | 01962 844600 |
| Attraction location | 21 – 23 Jewry Street, Winchester, SO23 8SB |
| Attraction social media handles | Twitter – TRwinchester  Instagram – theatreroyalwinch  Facebook – TRWinchester |
| Attraction website | https://www.theatreroyalwinchester.co.uk/ |
| Attraction description in 100 – 150 words | Theatre Royal Winchester is a beautiful 400-seat, mid-scale, mixed genre receiving house situated in the heart of Winchester city centre. It welcomes over 70,000 visitors to over 300 performances each year. It hosts drama, musicals, physical theatre, dance, comedy, music, singers, talks, circus-inspired acts, and family performances. Each year the theatre produces its own traditional family pantomime that is enjoyed by over 20,000. The theatre runs its own youth theatre groups within the city centre and wider district of Winchester. The theatre is run by Live Theatre Winchester Trust, a registered arts and education charity that also organises the annual Outdoor Arts festival, Hat Fair. |
| Attraction key facts  No more than 10 stats and USPs | \*It is the only surviving cine-variety theatre in the country.  \*The building was originally built as a hotel, The Market Hotel, for the farmers taking cattle to the Corn Exchange (now Winchester Discovery Centre).  \*It opened as a cine-variety theatre in 1914 – three months after the first world war began.  \* The building was earmarked for demolition in the early 1970s but a group of local enthusiasts fundraised and bought the building in trust for the community. At this time Winchester City Council gave the building listed status.  \* The bar area of the building used to be 2 shops!  \*Theatre Royal Winchester is predominantly a receiving house, meaning it does not produce its own repertoire but hosts touring companies. The exception to this is their in-house pantomime.  \*Each year it presents over 300 performances – including from theatre groups, dance companies, comedians, musicians and circus-inspired acts – to over 70,000 audience members.  \*It has an intimate Edwardian-style auditorium, which seats 400 theatre-goers.  \*It is considered one of the most beautiful theatres in the south of England.  \*In 2014 it celebrated 100 years as a performance venue.  \*In 2019 it won the award for Best Family Entertainment in Hampshire, in the Hoop Awards, which celebrate the country’s best organisers of family activities.  \*Theatre Royal Winchester has Arts Award Centre status, meaning it is a hub for children and young people to seek support in their journeys to become and grow as artists and art leaders.  \*Each festive season the theatre produces its very own pantomime. Beauty and the Beast, in 2018, is its most successful, with almost 20,000 theatre goers enjoying the show and lyricist, James Barry, and composer, Simon Slater, being nominated for a Great British Pantomime award for Musical Achievement.  \*The theatre is run by a registered charity, the Live Theatre Winchester Trust, which also runs the annual Outdoor Arts festival, Hat Fair.  \*The theatre will be refurbishing its foyer and bar area this summer and opening a daytime Café Bar in Autumn 2019! |
| Opening hours | Box Office: 10am – 5pm (also call 01962 840 440 between these times)  Performance times vary – check website for individual show details |
| Admission charges | Ticket prices vary – check website for individual shows and offers |
| Photography and filming policy | No photography or filming in the auditorium without prior permission |