

Bilco Specified for Acoustic Smoke Vents at London's Unicorn Theatre



The Arts



The Unicorn Theatre, Southwark, London

The Unicorn Theatre based in Southwark, London opened its doors in December 2005 after a 14 month new build programme completed by Mansells. The auditoria, which can seat 330+ specialises in producing some of the very best in performing arts for children

Bilco was specified by Keith Williams Architects to supply two steel quad leafed acoustic smoke vents, each measuring 1525 x 4875mm which were installed above the stage area, and are designed to provide emergency smoke venting in a fire situation. They also act as a barrier against both noise generated inside and outside the auditoria – the upper and lower doors are specially insulated and are approved to sound transmission class (STC) rating of 45 and a outdoor-indoor transmission class (OITC) rating of 37. In addition, these smoke vents can also be used to provide fresh air and comfort ventilation.

Bilco Type ACDSH units are designed to operate in a number of ways. Firstly they are fitted with thermolatches connected to a fusible link, which provides failsafe smoke ventilation by releasing the covers when the temperature reaches 74° C. Secondly, 24vDC solenoids are installed which will also trigger the thermolatches and open the unit in the event of an emergency, via a signal received from the smoke alarm system. Thirdly, the vents are equipped with interior and exterior release cables to enable the covers to be opened manually.



Type ACDSH acoustic smoke vents.

Andy Shewan, General Manager at the Unicorn, said "he was pleased with the operation of the smoke vents, in-fact despite being on a busy London street the sets of lower acoustic covers have often been left hanging open with no discernable noise entering the building during performances. He further commented that "the smoke vents top and bottom had also on many occasions been left in the fully open position which had proved especially beneficial during the long hot summer to ventilate the auditoria, prior to performances, making for a more comfortable audience experience."

Bilco smoke vents are available in a range of sizes to suit a variety of applications spanning concert halls & commercial premises thru to high rise housing & hospitals. Bilco also offer a range of fully automatic REM smoke vents which can be triggered in an emergency by a wide range of devices- typically a smoke detector linked to a dedicated battery backup control panel. Alternatively Bilco smoke vents can be wired directly into a building's management system.

Sector
Performing Arts

Project
Unicorn Theatre,
Southwark, London

Architect
Keith Williams

Contractor
Mansells

Consulting Engineer
Arup

Bilco Specification
Acoustic Smoke Vents -
2 ACDSH
Roof Hatch (single leaf) -
1 SS-50
Floor Door - 1 JD3-AL



The 330+ seat auditoria.



Theatre reception area.



SS-50 single leaf roof access hatch.
(1220 x 1830mm)

Bilco UK Ltd.
Park Farm Business Centre,
Fornham St. Genevieve, Bury
St. Edmunds, Suffolk IP28 6TS
Tel: 01284 701696
Fax: 01284 702531
Email: bilcouk@bilco.com
www.bilcouk.com