



## **Theatre Installation Case Study – Garsington Opera Pavilion, Wormsley Estate, Buckinghamshire**

### **Background**

SingScreen were tasked by Garsington Opera to produce screening for their opera pavilion to help with social distancing for performances and support their risk mitigation strategy with regards to the COVID 19 pandemic.

### **The Timescale**

Initial contact was made by the company at the beginning of August 2020 with a deadline for delivery of materials by the 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2020, enabling installation by the following week, for an opening night on 12<sup>th</sup> September 2020.

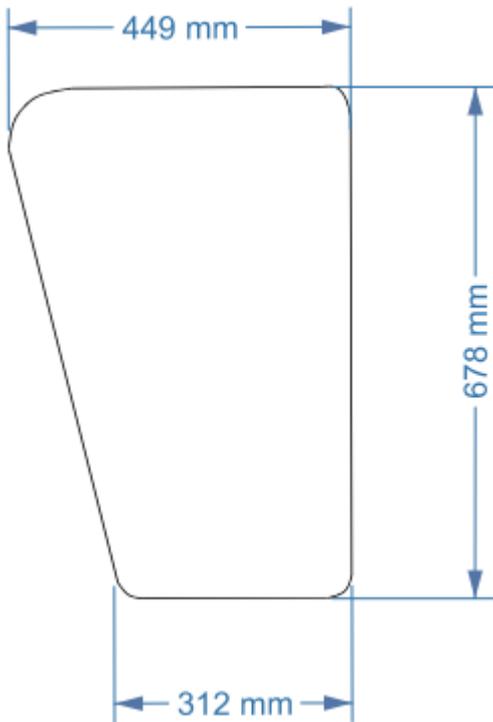
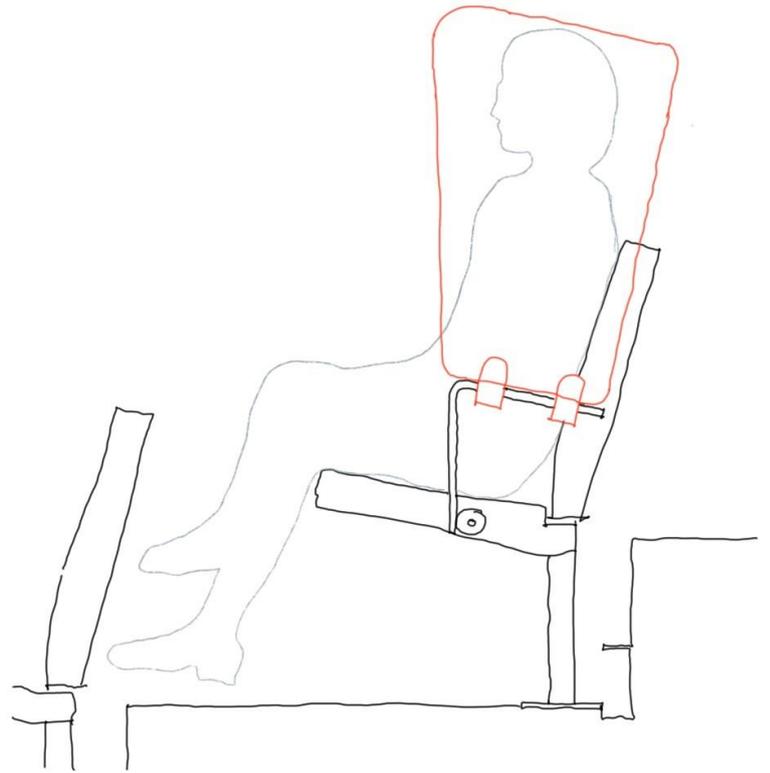
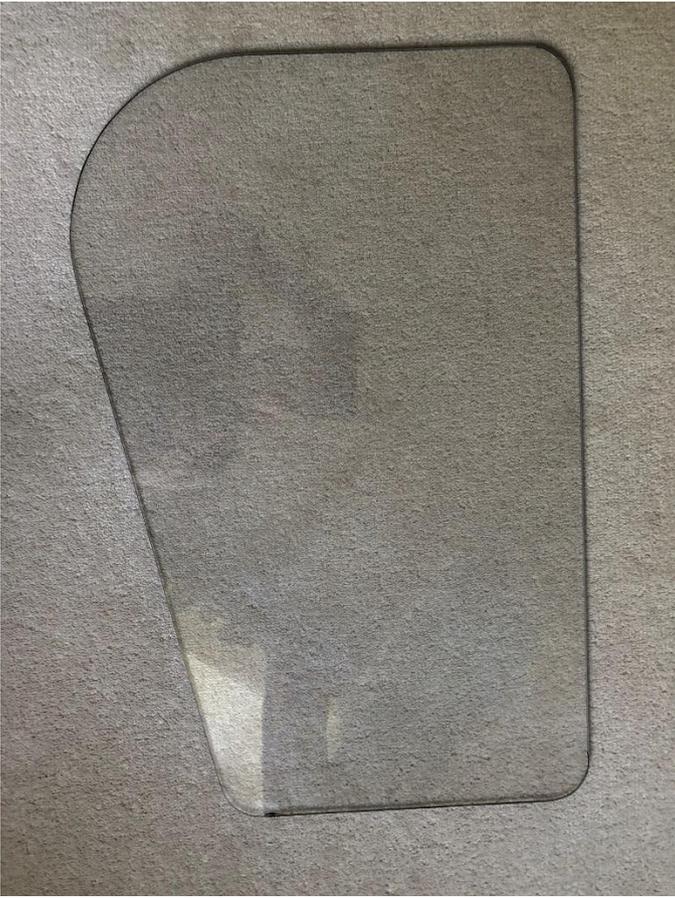
This short timescale made sourcing suitable brackets and fixtures (which would not damage the birch ply seating) more difficult. Robustness of the brackets and Perspex panels was a paramount concern. At this particular time there were significant pressures in the UK on finding suitable supplies of the relevant materials and products and getting manufacture completed. Within a week of being asked to make a quotation it had been accepted and all orders and logistics were in place. Delivery came in the week commencing 24<sup>th</sup> August around one week ahead of schedule!

### **The Quotation**

SingScreen was asked to quote for bespoke panels made of 5mm clear cast acrylic, which would be sturdy, freestanding and create as little distraction for the sight lines of audience members. In the end the contract was made of 85 pairs of brackets to fix the screens and 90 screens (in case spares were needed). All the screens were CNC cut, which gave an excellent finish and the ability to follow the contours of the proposed panel design. All screens came with polished edges.

### **The Product**

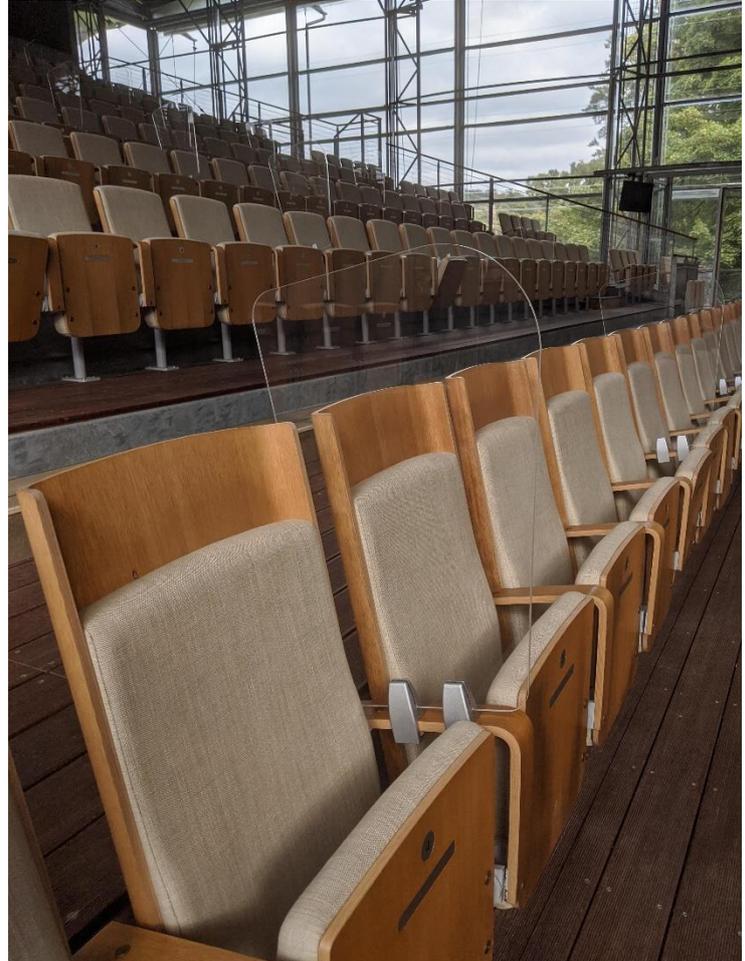
Made of 5mm clear cast acrylic panels, which have excellent optical quality, we worked to specifications set out by Garsington Opera. We provided silver brackets made from cast aluminium for a quality, sturdy finish.



## Installation and Final Commissioning

The panels were delivered by our trusted delivery partner DX Deliveries on their overnight signed for service. All goods were tracked and signed for upon being received. Garsington Opera's technical team installed the panels as per the instructions provided.

You can see the panels with their plastic film/coating which protects the acrylic from scratching during transportation and installation. We can then see them without this coating with the pavilion ready for action in performance, with each of the panels polished and ready for use by audience members. *(First used Saturday 12/09/20)*



*Pictures on site & Diagrams courtesy of Angus Heron-Boyd & Garsington Opera*

## Reviews

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/opera/what-to-see/fidelio-garsington-opera-heart-warming-model-stage-covid-safe/>

I believe this was the first professional presentation of a full-scale opera mounted in England since mid-March. Although it was presented to a **socially distanced auditorium** and staged in concert format adapted for reduced orchestral forces, it gave one grounds for hope that more such events will follow, **if managements can be brave and inventive**. At Garsington, a lovely relaxed atmosphere was generated by the staff, and instead of nannying or policing, we were allowed to rely on good old common sense to govern our behaviour. Relatively easy to do, I suppose, in such spacious rural surroundings, but still a model of how it should be.

*Rupert Christiansen, The Telegraph, 13<sup>th</sup> September 2020*

## Features



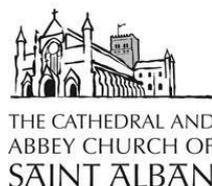
**BBC South Today - 14/09/20 (Evening Programme)**  
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer/episode/m000mr7z/south-today-evening-news-14092020>

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