

The Backstage Theatre, Purfleet, Essex.



The Backstage Centre is London's newest production rehearsal and training facility, situated in Purfleet, just 11 miles east of London City Airport in a new cultural industries business zone, High House Production Park.

The Backstage Centre offers a fully equipped space for all types of production rehearsal and training requirements. From large-scale theatre and opera, to arena-scale band rehearsals, the Centre can easily accommodate a wide variety of production needs.

Designed in consultation with industry experts from some of the world's best theatrical venues, the specification of **Vistamatic**[®] vision panels came from Frederik Gibberd, one of Britain's foremost architectural practices, with over 60 years experience in the design and construction of a wide range of building types.

The specific requirement was to provide privacy to artists, students and lecturers' whilst allowing the ability to discretely observe an environment without interruption or compromising acoustics.

A spokesman for the Backstage project says "The **Vistamatic**[®] **Max XL** achieves our requirements exactly and the Lifetime Warranty* is great as our students do tend to play with them. We are very happy with Gibberds recommendation of them"

Technically specified to the very highest standards with a grid capacity of 100t and a clear floor area of 35 x 25m – The Backstage Centre is the perfect place to rehearse anything from large-scale operas and concerts to automation and flying.

11 **Vistamatic**[®] vision panels are installed in the project each one specified to acoustic standards offering sound reducing qualities not normally available with a standard glazed system.

The Backstage Centre offers a dedicated meeting point for technicians, producers, creative teams and learners of all ages and at every stage of their careers – from world-renowned international artists to young people taking their first career steps.

Working with the Further Education sector and industry training providers, the centre will deliver training that helps to develop the technical skills and expertise needed to support the fast-growing music, theatre and live events industries, to enable them to achieve their economic potential.

The Centre will offer young learners the chance to experience real-time training with some of the world's best bands and theatre companies in a large-scale industry-standard venue, strengthening their skills and giving them the practical experience of working in a real-world environment.

Recently opened, the Academy will become an important national and local training facility that will help meet the UK's anticipated need for 30,000 skilled backstage and technical theatre staff by 2017.

The build will complete phase three of the Production Park's transformation from a derelict and decaying farmstead to a modern training, production and community facility in the heart of the Thames Gateway.

Will McKee, chairman of the Thurrock Thames Gateway Development Corporation, which managed the building contract on behalf of High House Production Park Ltd, was quoted as saying "The Development Corporation was delighted to announce Kier Eastern as the building contractor for the National Skills Academy. This is a strategically important development for Thurrock; rooting this important growth sector in Purfleet has been a long-term objective of the Corporation and its partners. The Academy will raise the aspirations of the local community and will provide important training opportunities as well as the potential for new jobs."

Vistamatic[®] is honoured to be associated with such an esteemed and diverse project and the specification of the Max XL demonstrates once again the unique merits of this product.

*Against faulty manufacture