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STAR STUDED OPENING FOR AYLESBURY'S WATERSIDE THEATRE

V4 joined client, Aylesbury District Council; The Arts Team, RHWL Architects; constructors, Willmott Dixon and new operator, the Ambassador Theatre Group to celebrate the opening of Aylesbury's spectacular new theatre.

A host of stars from stage and screen took to the red carpet to mark this milestone in UK theatre history. Guests including two of the UK's greatest actors, David Suchet and Simon Callow; everyone's favourite funny-lady, Ruby Wax; celebrated star, Susan Hampshire; the Rocky Horror Show's illustrious Richard O'Brien; Hollywood's Warwick Davies; dance maestro, Adam Cooper; the beautiful Gemma Atkinson and legendary singer Tony Christie, to name but a few, were joined on the big screen by well-wishers from the wider world of entertainment.



Before curtain-up local theatre supporters were treated to a live stage show hosted by all round musical entertainer Jonathan Wilkes and West End leading lady Suzanne Shaw before the iconic Cilla Black – star of the theatre's Christmas pantomime Cinderella - cut the

ribbon to 'open the house' for the first time for a breath taking performance of Northern Ballet's Swan Lake.

Project managed by V4 on behalf of Aylesbury Vale District Council, the landmark building was inspired by the hills and forests of the surrounding Chiltern countryside situated right at the heart of Aylesbury. It boasts an impressive 1,200-seat auditorium that converts into a 1,800 standing capacity hall. The venue offers a more intimate 200-seat space, a range of versatile meeting rooms, public spaces and a friendly café.

V4 Programme Manager, Paul Tonks said: *"We're very proud to have worked in partnership with Aylesbury Vale District Council and the design team on the successful delivery of this stunning new cultural and entertainment venue. It is a real asset to both the local and regional community and sets an inspiring direction for the future regeneration of the town. We look forward to continuing our work with the Council and its partners to grow the local economy by bringing additional retail, hotel, leisure and educational facilities to the Vale."*

The opening of Aylesbury Waterside Theatre marks the creation of a new vibrant environment where other exciting projects are already underway. A new green space to the front of the theatre links them to one of the towns' best assets – the canal. By 2012 the area will be home to a new Waitrose and hotel, along with a redevelopment of the canal basin and the opening of the National Enterprise Academy – the brainchild of Dragon's Den's Peter Jones.

Leader of Aylesbury Vale District Council John Cartwright said:

"Our faith in the theatre to deliver bigger benefits for the economy as well as a sparkling new entertainment venue for people from all walks of life to enjoy, is already starting to be repaid. As influential people whether Peter Jones, Government ministers or potential new investors, meet with the district council or its partners, the theatre has become a powerful weapon in the town's armoury to sell itself as a place to be".

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