

ELEPHANT AND CASTLE



Mike and the Mechanics' Mike Rutherford (left), Bobby Davro (middle) and Norman Jay show their support

STARS COME OUT TO SAVE CORONET

Stars who have performed at the Coronet

- Tom Jones
- Tinchy Stryder
- Justin Timberlake
- Tinie Tempah
- Oasis
- Blur
- Mumford and Sons
- Mike and the Mechanics
- Placebo
- The Libertines
- Franz Ferdinand
- Alicia Keys
- David Gilmore
- Ronan Keating (pictured)



By Amelia Burr

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A HOST of celebrities is backing the campaign to save a historic theatre from demolition.

The Coronet in Elephant and Castle dates back to 1872, when it opened as the Elephant and Castle Theatre. Stars like Oasis, Justin Timberlake and Mumford and Sons have played there in recent years, but now the former Trocadero site is under threat from developers.

Sir Tom Jones took to the stage there just last week at a birthday bash for celebrity tour manager Barrie Knight with guests Myleene Klass and Kate Thornton snapped enjoying the silver-haired fox's rendition of Sex Bomb.

Mike and the Mechanics, Pink Floyd's David Gilmore and Ronan Keating also serenaded the stars, with some getting behind the campaign to save the venue by holding up #savethecoronet signs.

Developers, Delancey, bought the site along with the Elephant and Castle

Shopping Centre back in December and have expressed a preference for 'redevelopment', which would mean knocking the Coronet down after their lease expires next year. With Delancey preparing to put a planning application in before May "now is the time to save the Coronet," said Director Richard Littman, who has set up an online petition with support from Simon Hughes, MP for Bermondsey and Old Southwark, and London Assembly member Val Shawcross.

"I'm for them redeveloping the area but we need to keep its important history. Buildings like the Coronet are part of the Elephant's history," added Richard, who is now contacting big names from the venue's past, including Charlie Chaplin's family and Michael Caine.

Delancey say they are now in the process of consulting the public about they want for the site. "We have always been clear that the best way to achieve the full regeneration of the site is to redevelop the shopping centre,

including the Coronet site. However, there are no definitive plans for the Coronet with whom dialogue continues," said a Delancey spokesman - though Richard says there are no discussions happening at the moment. If you want to support the campaign to save the Coronet, visit www.change.org/en-GB/petitions/Southwark-council-save-the-coronet or tweet using the hashtag #savethecoronet. To give feedback to Delancey, visit www.elephantandcastleshopping.com

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