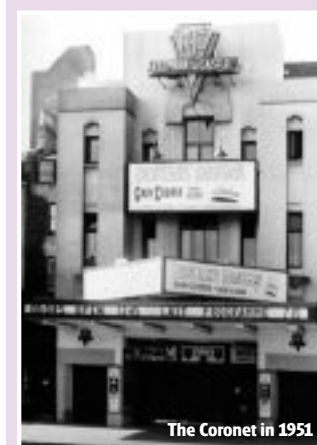


ELEPHANT & CASTLE

WE'LL RESTORE HIDDEN JEWEL

Under threat Coronet would be restored to 1930s glory if saved from demolition



The Coronet in 1951

By Amelia Burr

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AN HISTORIC jewel in Elephant and Castle's crown will be uncovered and restored if it is saved from demolition, the building manager has promised.

There has been a theatre where The Coronet now stands since 1872, but developers, Delancey, bought the site along with the Elephant & Castle Shopping Centre back in December and have expressed a preference for 'redevelopment', which would mean knocking it down after their lease expires next year.

The campaign to save the Coronet got a boost recently when the Theatres Trust put in an application for the building, where Charlie Chaplin is said to have performed, to become grade II-listed, giving it extra protection from redevelopment or demolition.

While the outcome of this application is pending, the Coronet's manager, Richard Littman, has vowed to spend up to £2million restoring the building to its former Art Deco glory from when it was an ABC cinema in the 1930s.

"By revamping the venue...we want to play an integral part in making

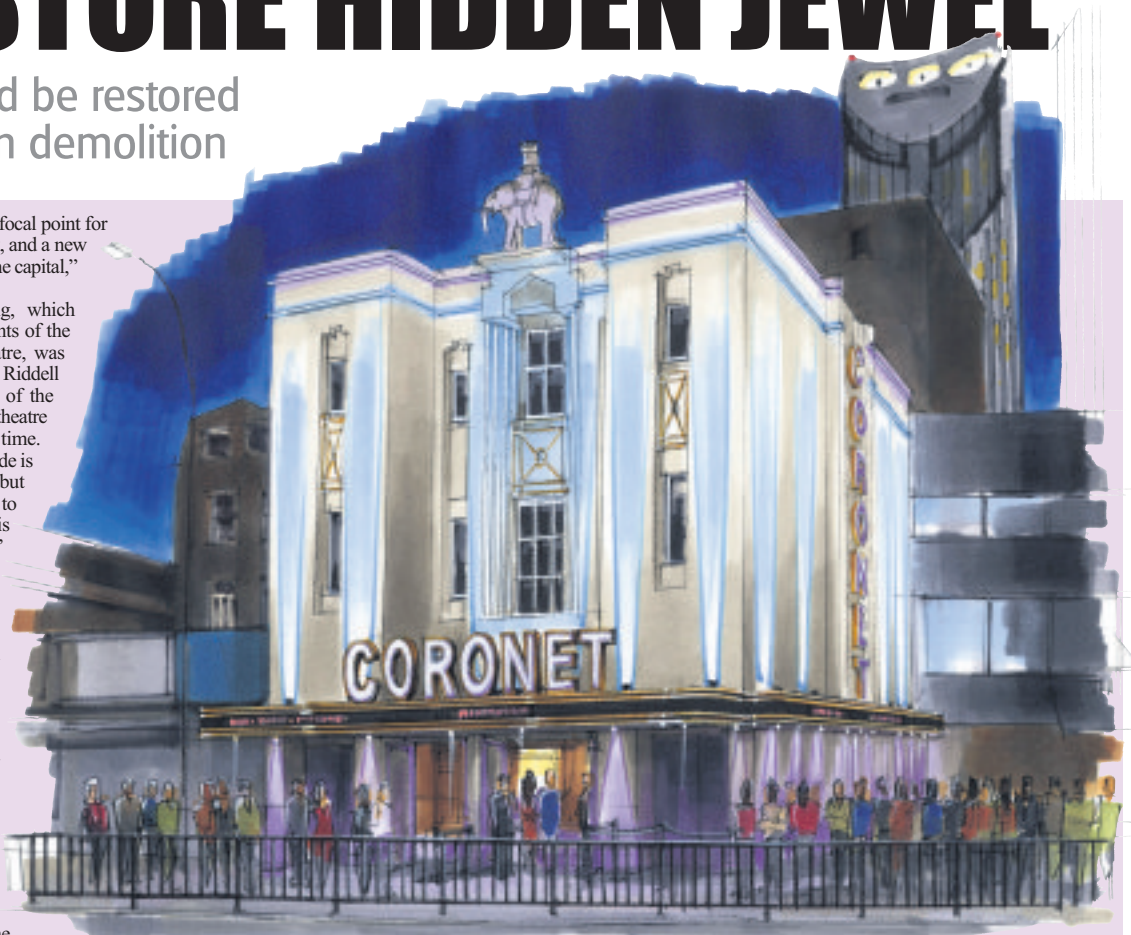
Elephant & Castle a focal point for culture in Southwark, and a new destination point in the capital," he said.

The 1932 building, which incorporates fragments of the original 1800s' theatre, was designed by William Riddell Glen, who was one of the leading cinema and theatre architects of the time. Glen's Art Deco facade is currently in tact but obscured by cladding to the front, which is "easily removeable," according to the Theatres Trust.

Last month the *News* reported on how Southwark Council and the Mayor of London had both written to English Heritage to express their opposition to the listing of the Coronet as it may delay the multi-billion pound regeneration of the whole area.

But Richard hopes his new vision for the Coronet could be incorporated into the regeneration and Timothy Jones, English Heritage Principal Inspector of Historic Buildings and Areas for London, previously agreed that a listed Coronet could form part of any future plans for the Elephant & Castle. "Listing does not prevent change and there is a clear framework for ensuring that environmental benefits, including the protection of our historic environment, can be delivered alongside both economic and social benefits," he said.

The online petition set up to save the Coronet has well over 4,000 signatures and can be found at www.change.org.



Coronet exterior



ELEPHANT & CASTLE

Arrest after man stabbed in the neck in Elephant shopping centre

By Amelia Burr

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A MAN has been arrested on suspicion of attempted murder following a stabbing in Elephant & Castle Shopping Centre last week.

The 29-year-old victim was seen running into the ground floor of the shopping centre at the

Walworth Road entrance. He was being chased by a black man said to be in his 30s, who stabbed the victim in the neck outside the WHSmith store before fleeing the scene by the same route.

The victim was taken to a South London hospital but his injuries were not life threatening. He is now said to be in a stable

condition, though has not been discharged from hospital as yet.

A police cordon was put in place after the incident just after 1.30pm, where a pile of clothes and a pool of blood marked the scene of the crime.

A 33-year-old man was arrested on Monday and has subsequently been bailed until February.



The taped off crime scene within the shopping centre