



# UNUSUAL

## Dominion Theatre

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**Client** Nederlander UK

**Scope** Complete refurbishment of backstage facilities

**View at** [www.dominiontheatre.com](http://www.dominiontheatre.com)

The Dominion Theatre in London's bustling West End shut its doors in July 2014 to undergo the biggest refurbishment and restoration project that the theatre had seen since it opened in 1929. This multi million pound refurbishment restored the theatre to its original 1920s grandeur including the installation of a new flying system to enable the Dominion to host the heaviest, most complex shows. The theatre's owners, Nederlander, approached Unusual Rigging with a brief to design the flying system to a specification that stood head and shoulders above every other in London's West End. Taking this on board, Unusual designed a state of the art system complete with rolling beams, which gives the Dominion the flexibility to host short runs, touring productions and to continue as home to the Hillsong Pentecostal Church, which uses the theatre as its place of worship every Sunday.

## Unusual Rigging:

- Removed the original 1929 flying system, the fly gallery and the floor-mounted drop pulleys in the grid and replaced them with Unusual's standard system
- Adjusted the position of the theatre's original header beams which carry the 'header pulleys' and strengthened them to carry the increased loads imposed by the upgraded system
- Re-routed the wire suspension ropes for each set of header pulleys overhead to clear the grid floor, and installed a substantial amount of new steelwork to the roof to support overhead diversion pulleys in the process
- Installed a new flying system with 54 cross-stage sets and two 'up and down' stage sets – each of which has twice the capacity of the old system – 500kg instead of 225kg
- Installed a runway beam system, which allows temporary rigging points to be installed over any point of the stage without the need to bring in special steelwork
- Installed strong, new 'ladder type' twin tube fly bars to carry the scenery
- Increased the capacity of the loading gallery to store the weights required by the new system. When no scenery is rigged there is in excess of 20 tonnes to be stored
- Fitted the theatre with state of the art front loading cradles, improving manual handling practice
- Brought load capacity in line with modern scenic construction – heavier metal framed scenery as opposed to canvas and timber flats and painted cloths.

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