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JOINT PRESS RELEASE

“Trust Welcomes First Night Riders to Town”

The Mechanics' Institution Trust is playing host to **The First Night Riders** - a group of motorbike riding, theatre professionals and their friends - which are to don their leathers and helmets to raise much needed funds for The Theatrical Guild (TTG).

The Team is due to arrive in Swindon's Railway Village by midday on the 24th June where Trust Chair Daniel Rose and fellow trustees and supporters will meet them. Mr Rose will give the group a tour of the Railway Village; discuss the current situation of the Mechanics' Institution and more specifically the state of the theatre.

Daniel Rose, Chair of The Mechanics' Institution Trust said, “I'm very excited to welcome such an important and originally fun campaign to Swindon. Whilst the current state of the Mechanics' is of great concern the Trust is pleased that the building has been singled-out by the professional theatre community as being nationally significant and deserving of great attention and sensitive restoration, this is something the Trust has promoted for many years”.

Just like 2010, the one-week motorcycle ride is scheduled to visit some of the UK's most exciting theatres, towns and cities. Riders will rev up and burn off from outside the National Theatre on 18 June and arrive back in London eight days later to conclude the ride outside the gates of Alexandra Palace.

Along the way riders will visit a number of fascinating theatres and companies including the historic venue, Theatre Royal, Bury St Edmonds, Cardiff Millennium Centre and the Isle of

Man TT course! In addition last year's riders will retrace wheel-rubber-marks back to Stratford Upon Avon. Here they will see a brand new production of *Macbeth*; the first production to have been specifically created for the recently re-opened, transformed Royal Shakespeare Theatre.

Each rider taking part will raise a target of £500 or more. Last year FNRs raised an impressive £12,000.

Once again the event is organised by Brenda and David Edelstein from Triple E and is supported by a team of industry volunteers who arrange the route, hotels and sponsors. David Edelstein discusses, "This year we hope to raise even more money for TTG by encouraging industry riders and their friends to take part. We would ask all interested parties to contact Brenda or myself or go to our website for more information on how to volunteer."

TTG is the only theatre charity in the UK available to anyone who is or has worked in the theatre – backstage or front of house. TTG offers support and financial assistance to theatre people and regularly assists those who want to retrain or develop their careers. To that end it has recently launched its education bursary. The charity also offers financial assistance to those unable to work due to accident or illness, retirees who require financial help to maintain their independence and those who require supplementary funds for nursing home fees or childcare costs.

All excellent reasons to dust down the leathers, polish the helmet, mount the bike and join the First Night Riders adventures out of the wings and into the wind!

Ends

An opportunity for press photography will take place at 1:00pm in Emlyn Square.

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Editors Notes

First Night Riders website and route details: <http://www.firstnightride.com>

Facebook Page - <http://www.facebook.com/pages/First-Night-Riders/138911349513536>

Twitter Page - <https://twitter.com/#!/FirstNightRide>

The Theatrical Guild - <http://www.ttg.org.uk>

About First Night Riders:

The First Night Riders is a charity motorcycle ride organised by people who work in theatre and associated industries to raise money for The Theatrical Guild. Taking place for the second time this year, it has been organised by David and Brenda Edelstein. Riders will undertake a round Britain tour of new, interesting and historically significant theatres starting and finishing in London. All money raised will go to The Theatrical Guild.

This year's route:

The ride dates are the 18th to the 25th of June 2011 and on the evening of Friday the 17th there will be an evening event that will include the riders briefing.

The ride will depart on the morning of Saturday the 18th of June from the National Theatre in London.

Day 1 - Depart National Theatre, London travel to Theatre Royal, Bury St. Edmunds then to Theatre Royal, Norwich

Day 2 - Visit Norwich - Castle Acre, Metool then travel to Nottingham and then Liverpool

Day 3 - Visit the Gaiety Theatre/Villa Marina, Isle of Man

Day 4 - Ride around the TT Circuit, then visit the Wurlitzer Theatre Organ, Isle of Man then travel to Liverpool

Day 5 – Visit Playhouse Theatre, Liverpool then travel to Clwyd Theatr Cymru - Aberystwyth

Day 6 – Visit The Ceredigion Coliseum Museum, Aberystwyth followed by a scenic ride to Cardiff

Day 7 – Tour Wales Millennium Centre, Cardiff, travel to The Mechanics Institute tour, Swindon then on to see "Macbeth" at the RSC, Stratford upon Avon

Day 8 - Stratford-upon-Avon then onto Alexandra Palace, London. Tour Alexandra Palace Theatre and the BBC studio

About the theatrical Guild:

The Theatrical Guild (TTG) is one of the UK's longest serving theatrical charities. Established to help all those who have been, or are currently, employed in professional theatre, it's the only charity in the UK that is available to anyone who has worked in the theatre, back stage, front of house or on stage.

TTG offers support and financial assistance to people at all stages of their lives and careers. The charity regularly helps theatre professionals who want to retrain or develop their careers, offers financial assistance to those unable to work due to accident or illness, pensioners who need financial help to maintain their independence and those who require supplementary funds for nursing home fees or childcare costs.