

## **SECTION 2**

MAN: And here on Radio Rivenden we have Lynne Rawley, the Public Relations Officer of our own Rivenden City Theatre. Hello, Lynne.

LYNNE: Hello.

MAN: Now, the theatre is reopening soon after its three-year redevelopment programme, isn't it?

- LYNNE: That's right, and there are a lot of improvements. The first thing people will see when they go in is that the foyer has been repainted in the original green and gold. Then the box office has been reoriented, with its own access from the side of the building instead of through the foyer, which means it can be open longer hours, and has more space, too. The shop that used to be in the foyer, which sold books and CDs, is the one part of the redevelopment which isn't yet complete. The plan is to find new premises for it near the theatre, and we've had difficulty finding somewhere suitable. We hope to reopen the shop in the next few months. Q11
- MAN: Will audiences find any difference in the auditorium?
- LYNNE: Yes, we've increased the leg-room between the rows. This means that there are now fewer seats but we're sure audiences will be much happier. And we've installed air conditioning, so it won't get so hot and stuffy. We already had a few seats which were suitable for wheelchair users, and now there are twice as many, which we hope will meet demand. Something else that will benefit audiences is the new lifts. The two we used to have were very small and slow. Q12
- MAN: Anything for the performers?
- LYNNE: Yes, we've made a number of improvements backstage. The small, dark dressing rooms we used to have have been converted into two large airy rooms, so they're much more comfortable now. And the state-of-the-art electronic sound and lighting systems have been installed. Q13
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- MAN: OK, so what's the first play that audiences can see when the theatre reopens?
- LYNNE: We've got a very exciting production of Peter Shaffer's *Royal Hunt of the Sun*, which is currently touring the country. That starts on October the 13th and runs till the 19th. We're experimenting a bit with the time the curtain goes up. We used to start all our performances at 7.30, but that made it difficult for people to go home by public transport, so instead we're beginning at 7, because at 9.45, when it finishes, there are still buses running. Tickets are already selling fast. The Friday and Saturday performances sold out almost immediately and, in fact, now there are only tickets for Monday and Thursday. Q14
- IAN: How much are they?
- LYNNE: We've introduced a simpler price structure. Ticket prices used to range from £6 to £30 but now they're all £18. They're available from the box office, in person, by phone, fax or post. or online. Q15
- IAN: OK, Lynne, now if you'd like to give the contact details for the theatre . . .