

Restoration gift is Europe's largest New-look Lyceum

FEW Christmas gifts will have been more gratefully received than that given by the EEC to Sheffield's Lyceum Theatre—a £4m grant towards restoration.

Bradford's Alhambra Theatre, Newcastle Theatre Royal and Cardiff New Theatre have all received grants for renovation work. But that made to the Sheffield theatre is the largest European grant to go to a theatre in the UK.

The cost of restoring the Lyceum has been put at £11.4m and is being undertaken by the Lyceum Theatre Trust and Sheffield City Council in partnership.

Work on the theatre is expected to be completed by next autumn with opening performances scheduled for December 1990. The Lyceum and its neighbour, the Crucible theatre, will be managed together.

It is hoped that the Lyceum will become a major draw, attracting more tourists and visitors to Sheffield.

The theatre is being restored as part of a larger scheme of urban regeneration in the city which includes a new hotel and a pedestrianised square to be used for arts events.

The team behind the scheme say it will create new jobs as well as helping Sheffield's growth

