To the Editor  
*The Times*, London

Sir,

We are deeply concerned about the threat to the United Kingdom’s National Collection for the Performing Arts by the proposed redundancies of expert Archives and Collections staff at the Victoria and Albert Museum. These proposals will remove dedicated expert support of vital scholarship on an international level, and risk the preservation of Britain’s cultural heritage for future generations.

British performing arts are world-leading, innovative, and creative. These proposals put the stewardship of this British heritage at risk. The proper care and future development of our national Performing Arts collection is of vital importance for current and future audiences, artists, and scholars.

The current proposals for reorganisation and redundancies will result in loss of specialist knowledge and expertise with which to animate and develop the collections. On behalf of the international community of performing arts scholars, artists, curators, and keepers of archives, we ask the V&A Directors to reconsider these disproportionate cuts to the Performing Arts collections in their care.

Yours,

Professor Kate Newey, Chair, Standing Conference of University Drama Departments  
Professor Roberta Mock, Chair, Theatre and Performance Research Association  
Professor Elaine Aston, President, International Federation for Theatre Research (IFTR)  
Professor Trevor R Griffiths, Acting Chair of the Society for Theatre Research  
Alan R. Jones, President, SIBMAS (International Association of Libraries, Museums, Archives and Documentation Centres of the Performing Arts)  
Paul R. Fleming, General Secretary, Equity  
Dr. Marla Carlson, President, American Society for Theatre Research (ASTR)  
Dr Joshua Abrams, President, Association for Theatre in Higher Education ([www.ATHE.org](http://www.ATHE.org))  
Dr. Yana Meerzon, President, Canadian Association for Theatre Research (CATR/ACTR)  
Dr Kene Igweonu, President, African Theatre Association (AfTA)  
Professor Christine Woodworth, President, Mid-American Theatre Conference (MATC)  
Dr Cristina de Lucas, Co-Chair of the Society for Dance Research (UK)  
Professor Bryan Moore, Literary Managers and Dramaturgs of the Americas (LMDA)  
Erin Lee, Chair, Association of Performing Arts Collections (APAC).  
Dr Doug Reside, Curator of the Billy Rose Theatre Division, New York Public Library  
Dr Eric Colleary, Cline Curator of Theater and Performing Arts, Harry Ransom Center, University of Texas (Austin)  
Jenny Fewster, AusStage: The Australian Live Performance Database.  
David Tredinnick, Performing Arts Heritage Network (PAHN), the Australian Museums and Galleries Association