

# dalston past

## Dalston Theatre

*The Dalston Theatre* which stood at 12 Dalston Lane had a rich and varied history. Built in 1886, to designs by *Alfred Brandreth*, the *North London Colosseum and Amphitheatre* was initially built as a circus.

It hosted the circus of *Sir Robert Fossett* whose great grandson, *Bobby Roberts*, still runs a circus today.

It became the *Dalston Theatre of Varieties* in 1898, and a new grand entrance was designed. As a Victorian variety theatre, it hosted Hackney's own international star of the music hall *Marie Lloyd*.

It was converted into a 2,500-seat cinema in 1920 at huge expense. Opened by Hackney's then Mayor, *Herbert Morrison*, and *Lord Beaverbrook* it was described as "the greatest cinema in the British Empire if not the world".



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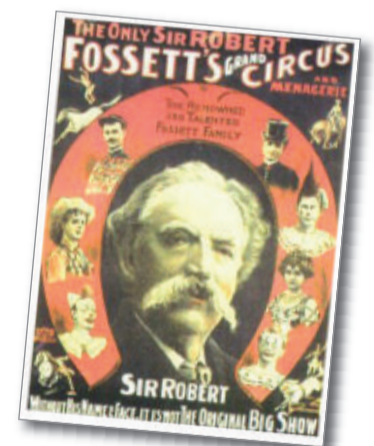


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