

Restored to grandeur...

THE Grand Opera House in York will reopen in September after a painstaking operation to restore it to its former Edwardian splendour.

The grade II listed theatre was built in 1902 and opened with Florri Ford in Little Red Riding Hood.

The most famous names of the music hall era played there, including Charlie Chaplin, and Laurel and Hardy.

But when the age of variety ended it became a seedy, run-down pro-

perty known as the SS Empire, staging wrestling contests and bingo.

It was sold about three years ago and is now being lovingly restored within a multi-million-pound development to create a 1,037-seat theatre.

The developer, India-Pru of Oxfordshire, is advertising in *The Stage* newspaper for a dynamic management team to run the theatre.

Applications are invited for the post of general administrator and managers for the box office and marketing, catering, technical and front of house.

The company says that when the theatre is fully restored it will become a major tourist attraction as well as a centre providing the very best in all aspects of the performing arts.

About 50 jobs are expected to be created.