

THEATRE ALIBI



Board Member Recruitment Pack

Theatre Alibi is an established arts organisation which has been making work from its base in the South West of England since 1982.

We are looking to expand our Board and to welcome a number of new Board Members to work closely with the organisation as we continue to deliver high quality theatre to our audiences. With exciting projects and changes lined up, we are looking for dynamic individuals who are keen to get involved in seeing in the changes whilst maintaining a sound and stable organisation.

We pride ourselves on producing high quality work which reaches all ages and is given the same value whether it's on a West End stage, in a village hall or in a classroom. Accessibility is of vital importance to us and in most years we reach up to 13,000 children in their primary schools. More recently, we have also been working directly with people within their communities, gathering stories and creating work in response.

The past 3 years have been a time of great change for Theatre Alibi; a hugely successful project in our local community of St Thomas in Exeter has led to significant changes in the work we make, the people with whom we engage and the stories we tell. The pandemic has accelerated these changes and highlighted new opportunities, as we fundamentally adapted our work for schools, so that we could reach children in smaller bubbles as well as digitally, and brought shows to people's doorsteps. We are enormously proud to have continued creating live performances throughout. As we look to the future, we are excited to embrace the new direction of the company and to fully explore our new potential.



Photo: Table Mates



We aim to be a dynamic and inclusive arts organisation and for this to be reflected throughout our structure. We wish to recruit up to 6 new Board Members to join an experienced team of Trustees and bring new ideas and direction, reflecting the change throughout the organisation. The new Board Members will be in place in time for the appointment of a new Chair and Treasurer, and, as all members will be eligible for these roles, we are keen to hear from individuals who bring relevant skills, such as a strong understanding of governance and/or finance.

We are proud to be a National Portfolio Organisation (NPO) meaning that we are in receipt of regular funding from Arts Council England. As such we are committed to the Investment Principles of the Let's Create Strategy and it is the role of the Board of Trustees to keep the organisation accountable to these. The new Board Members will be in place as the organisation applies for the next round of NPO and will be heavily involved in setting the strategy and direction, which we hope will continue to secure our place within the Portfolio.

This is an exciting opportunity which will see you joining an organisation which is financially and organisationally stable and helping to shape a dynamic future for Theatre Alibi.



OUR STRANDS OF WORK AND PRIORITIES

• South West primary school children

In a normal year we reach up to 13,000 children in their own primary schools with a new piece of theatre. This work is at the heart of what we do. By going into schools we are able to reach almost every child in the local area and give many of them their first experience of theatre.

• Creating work for and with specific communities

These may be geographic in focus, but not necessarily. A particularly successful project in our home ward of St Thomas in Exeter has shown us the power and reach of this type of work. We will be applying this learning to continue working with communities in a meaningful and change-making way.

• Sector Development

Following on from a PhD which focused on the impact of our children's work, we have been increasingly contributing to the development of the sector. We are currently running a series of webinars featuring conversations with international artists. We wish to continue making our mark, leading these conversations, leading training and playing our part in working towards every child in England having access to high quality theatre.



DIVERSITY & INCLUSION

We are committed to ensuring our organisation is more representative in every aspect of its being, from the make-up of our teams, to the stories we tell. Ensuring our Board is representative of the area we live in is a key step to attaining this goal.

A diverse and inclusive board will hold a variety of lived experiences. The change we are looking for will challenge us with new perspectives and ideas and will allow us to shape a truly dynamic and creative future for Theatre Alibi.

The current make-up of the Board of Trustees is predominantly white, cisgender and non-disabled. We believe strongly that Theatre Alibi will be strengthened by diversity. We especially welcome applications from those who bring difference. The Theatre Alibi Board is made up of individuals, each with their own lives and experiences – our Board Members are not appointed to represent specific groups, interests or organisations.

We welcome applications from everyone, regardless of their experience of Board Member work. We are also keen to change how we run things to ensure that our Board is as inclusive as it can be, so if you have any commitments or barriers which you feel might leave you out of the running, please get in touch. We are open to looking at our practices and to making changes wherever they might be needed.





WHO WE ARE LOOKING FOR

We are particularly keen to hear from individuals with a love of the arts and theatre and from individuals with a background in marketing and PR or finance and accountancy.

Within the next year, the terms of office for our Chair and Treasurer will come to an end. The new Board Members will be in place in time for the appointments of a new Chair and Treasurer, and as all Board Members will be eligible for these roles, we are keen to hear from individuals who bring relevant skills, such as a strong understanding of governance and/or finance.

We are looking for individuals who are excited about supporting a well-established organisation, who will honour the history Theatre Alibi brings with it and be ready to get involved in the conversations which will lead us into the future.

Being a Board Member for Theatre Alibi brings an opportunity to play a pivotal role in the direction of a long standing and well established organisation. It is a chance to join in debate, share ideas and gain valuable experience of strong governance.



Photo: Down To Earth



Photo: I Believe In Unicorns

WHAT YOU ARE COMMITTING TO

Board Members are expected to:

- Attend quarterly Board Meetings
- Attend productions whenever possible
- Ensure Theatre Alibi's financial stability
- Discuss and decide on policies
- Make sure Theatre Alibi stays within the law and its constitution
- Act independently from the executive to take responsibility for Theatre Alibi's National Portfolio agreement
- Work with the Executive to ensure the Let's Create Strategy and investment principles are being upheld
- Provide general support for Theatre Alibi and in particular for its management team
- Undertake the legal responsibilities associated with being a Director and Trustee under Company Law and the Charities Act
- Act as a spokesperson and advocate for Theatre Alibi



Photo: St Thomas Story Tours

Board Members attend 4 meetings annually. There are also a number of sub-committees which meet at least once annually. Meetings have historically taken place in person at Emmanuel Hall, our base in Exeter. These have been moved online due to the pandemic and we envisage this to continue and for meetings to become a mixture of online and in person, depending on what is most accessible for our Board Members.

We are also keen for Board Members to attend Theatre Alibi events including performances and community events as well as representing the organisation where appropriate.

Board Members are elected on a three year term of office, renewable a maximum of two times.

How to Apply

To apply, please send us no more than two sides of A4 or a filmed or audio-recorded statement detailing your relevant experience and why you wish to become a Member of the Theatre Alibi Board.

The Closing Date

Please send everything to debbie@theatrealibi.co.uk by the 31st of January 2022.

Interviews

Interviews will take place on the 9th, 10th and 11th of February 2022.

If you would like an informal conversation before applying please get in touch, we would love to hear from you!

debbie@theatrealibi.co.uk



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www.theatrealibi.co.uk

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