

# CHAIR RECRUITMENT PACK – LITTLEWORLD LTD

## OVERVIEW

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In 2018 The Horse + Bamboo Theatre Company celebrated its 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. In the latter half of the previous Arts Council England (funded) National Portfolio Organisation agreement the company has spent some time reflecting and responding boldly to the challenges we face in the present cultural and political climate. We are now over a year into our National Portfolio Organisation 2018-22 agreement with Arts Council England and have embraced the opportunities and challenges of this with enthusiasm, creativity and energy.

To lead us in our next stage of development we are seeking to recruit a new Chair to the board of trustees. The Chair will support and line-manage the senior executive in the delivery of her role and will lead the board of trustees. Littleworld Ltd is the registered charity which trades as Horse + Bamboo Theatre. Littleworld's activities are defined under three main headings.

Horse + Bamboo Theatre: a 40 year established touring visual theatre company. H + B also run theatre programmes removing barriers to engagement with theatre and the arts. Presently these programmes are with Syrian families, South Asian women in Haslingden and with Dads in prison supporting maintenance or development of relationships with their children.



The Boo Theatre: a 90 seat theatre and music venue, cafe and arts centre in Rossendale. The Boo leads on our local festival Waterfoot Wakes.



Baby Boo: our early years programme for 0-4 years which embeds Early Years Foundation development stages, giving very young children their first experience of theatre through outreach and partnership with Homestart and others.



## HISTORY

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Horse + Bamboo was formed in 1978 by a small group of artists, musicians and performers led by one of our current Artistic Directors Bob Frith. Our purpose was to take visual, musical and predominantly non-verbal theatre to places largely neglected by conventional forms of theatre, playing to audiences from a wide range of backgrounds. The name derives from the use of horses to pull a caravan when touring, which was a central feature of the company's work from 1979 to 1999.

Horse + Bamboo now tours in a more conventional manner, but our roots in rural touring are maintained through tours with small, flexible shows that lend themselves to community and non-theatre venues. The development of The Boo, the company base in Waterfoot, originally the village's Liberal Club, serves as a centre and venue for the company's local community in Pennine Lancashire.

## MISSION

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We draw inspiration from our location in Pennine Lancashire and reflect our sense of place in the work that we produce. We are part of the cultural fabric of our neighbourhood and celebrate and actively reflect its rich diversity. The Boo provides a sense of belonging, a place for inspiration and a welcoming environment where families and community members can share experiences through art and theatre. Through educating and inspiring audiences we can have a lasting impact on the quality of their cultural lives and give them a sense of commitment to Horse + Bamboo Theatre and The Boo and thereby become advocates for our work and contribution to the community.

National and international tours enable us to reach new audiences and consolidate our reputation as national and international specialists in puppetry and mask. We will continue to draw inspiration from touring and reflect this back to our local audiences through the development of our work. We produce thought provoking and emotionally engaging theatre with an integrity that resonates with audiences.

We support wide-ranging art forms guided by the strengths and enthusiasms of the artists and audiences with whom we work. We share our skills and resources with emerging artists and support our wider community in engaging young people and families in the arts.

## ATTRIBUTES OF A CHAIR OF TRUSTEES

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- Commitment to the work of Littleworld Ltd, Horse + Bamboo Theatre, The Boo an Baby Boo
- Experience of line-management and staff appraisal
- A clear passion for our work, and alignment with our values and mission
- Understanding of the legal duties, responsibilities and liabilities of trusteeship
- Strategic vision
- Good independent judgement
- Possesses tact, diplomacy and powers of persuasion.
- An ability to think creatively.
- Ability to work as a member of a team and willingness to state personal convictions and, equally, to accept a majority decision and be tolerant of other views
- An established reputation or profile with a willingness to use their contacts to advance the Company's mission
- A preparedness to offer personal and professional skills and experience to support the work of the staff when required.
- Commitment to Nolan's seven principles of public life: selflessness, integrity, objectivity, accountability, openness, honesty and leadership.

- Board members are also required to act with integrity and in the best interests of the Company, avoiding personal conflicts of interest, or misuse of the Company's funds or assets

## BENEFITS OF BECOMING A TRUSTEE

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- Networking opportunities
- Active involvement in a creative hub at the heart of the community
- Opportunity to actively support and guide the organisation and be part of work that reaches, benefits and influences a wide range of groups and stakeholders.
- Complementary tickets and opportunities for you and your family to access shows, workshops etc

## ELIGIBILITY

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Some people are disqualified by law from acting as a trustee including anyone who:

- Has an unspent conviction for an offence involving deception or dishonesty
- Is an undischarged bankrupt
- Has been removed from trusteeship of a charity by the Courts of the Charity Commission for misconduct or mismanagement
- Has been disqualified from being a company director under the Company Directors Disqualification Act 1986.

## TERMS OF APPOINTMENT

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- No remuneration will be made, but travel and out-of-pocket expenses can be reimbursed where required.
- Board meetings (currently quarterly) and Annual General Meetings (which coincide with Board meetings). Board meetings are held at The Boo, Waterfoot, Rossendale, usually on a Wednesday at 6.30pm.
- To provide advice and support to senior staff as appropriate
- To keep up to date with funding issues of note for the Company

## EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST

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Expressions of interest should be made by emailed letter to [esther@horseandbamboo.org](mailto:esther@horseandbamboo.org) to be received by **10<sup>th</sup> November 2019**. The letter should highlight the skills and attributes you can bring to the role. You should demonstrate your experience in any similar role, as well as your reasons for wishing to become Chair of Littleworld Ltd. Please include a CV.

Please contact us on 01706 220 241 if you require this information in an alternative format.

For an informal discussion about the roles, please contact our Executive Director, Esther Ferry-Kennington on [esther@horseandbamboo.org](mailto:esther@horseandbamboo.org) or contact details for our Interim Chair, David Agnew can also be requested through the above phone number.