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CHAIR OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

THE NATURAL THEATRE COMPANY (BATH ARTS WORKSHOP)

BACKGROUND

Bath Arts Workshop Ltd trading as Natural Theatre Company is a registered charity and company limited by guarantee. Bath Arts Workshop Ltd. is registered for VAT. As a registered charity the organisation is headed by a Board of Trustees made up of highly committed volunteers who offer a wide range of skills and expertise to the management of the organisation. Board Meetings are held quarterly with additional sub committees meeting more frequently as required. They are a non-executive group and they are not involved in the day to day operations of the organisation but have ultimate responsibility for directing the affairs of the company.

Bath Arts Workshop was founded in 1969. It was originally a number of community projects which became businesses in Bath -John's Bikes, Walcot Reclamation and The Natural Theatre Company. The others went their separate ways, leaving The Natural Theatre Company as the trading name for Bath Arts Workshop. The company started above a second hand clothes shop in Bath - which inspired most of the early pieces. Often the company would arrange events at the various Bath Festivals in the 60s and early 70s. By the 80s the company had started touring world-wide with its street theatre and indoor shows. The company became a Regularly Funded Organisation for the Arts Council. In 2000 the company was at its largest, with the commission to be the resident street company at The Dome. Since that time there have been only a few indoor shows, some by associated companies. Interactive (street) theatre has continued to tour, increasingly for corporate events.

In 2011, the company lost its Arts Council core funding. An emergency business plan was put in place after a period of professional consultation. This helped to keep the company solvent until the retirement of the Artistic Director on 31 Dec 2013. A new plan was written by Andy Burden (Business Development Manager) at the end of 2013. Andy Burden started as the new Director of the company on 1st Jan 2014.

MISSION STATEMENT

Our mission is to create inclusive, engaging and accessible theatre and interactive performance in the most unexpected places. We enhance the public's understanding and awareness of theatre by sharing our enthusiasm for theatrical arts and expanding the horizons of audiences and artists.

VISION

Inspired by The Boston Philharmonic, The Natural Theatre follows a vision of "passionate theatre making without boundaries"

ADMINISTRATIVE & MANAGEMENT STAFF:

Director – Andy Burden
Administrator – Elle Roberts

Participation Manager – Mark Bishop
Bookkeeper -Alfie Thomas

NATURAL THEATRE PROVIDES THE FOLLOWING PRODUCTS AND SERVICES:

Interactive Performance: walkabout comic characters interact directly with the audience in the street, festivals, or corporate events.

Costumed Character Interpretation: historically accurate Roman characters perform at Roman Baths

Theatre Shows: the company has produced successful indoor shows such as: Scarlatti, Rasputin, William Tell, Evening with Albert Einstein and A Night At The Bijou.

Natural Diversions: a programme generating interactive scenarios by disabled performers.

Education: our Youth Theatre is weekly in Bath and in the Summer Holidays. We also run workshops in a variety of schools, colleges and theatres.

The Building: one of the best equipped arts buildings in the area which is a fabulous resource, part of which is hired out and shared with the local community.

FINANCIAL AND ORGANISATIONAL MATTERS

Natural Theatre has an annual turnover of over £300,000. There are currently 4 paid administrative employees and around 30 freelance performers who work regularly for the company. There are a number of other creative people who assist with particular projects.

CHAIRPERSON ROLE

We require a new Chair to lead the Trustees and the organisation through the realisation of its new business model as laid out in the 2014 Business Plan. The trustees are responsible for the building and the financial and business security of the organisation.

At this critical time of reinvention, BAW seeks an individual with skills and experience of successful business planning, especially in aligning financial, artistic and business objectives, and ideally a track record of running and developing small to medium enterprises or equivalent. Knowledge of charities compliance and of public funding is an advantage. An interest in the arts and/or social inclusion would be very useful.

The role is voluntary, offering the opportunity to make a real difference to the lively national and international performing arts scene. There will be some opportunities to attend performing arts functions and launch events.

TIME COMMITMENT

It is envisaged the role will require a six-weekly meeting with the Director, 4 x Board meetings per annum, 1 x awayday per annum, additional meetings and contact where necessary.

CHAIR ROLE DESCRIPTION

Overall Purpose

To provide leadership and direction to the board of Trustees. The Chair's remit is to enable the Board to fulfil their responsibilities for the overall governance and strategic direction of the organisation. The Chair will ensure that the organisation complies with its governing document, charity law, company law and any other relevant legislation or regulations and to make sure that the organisation pursues its objects as defined in its governing document. The Chair's role is also to work in partnership with the Director and to support the employees, helping them achieve the

aims of the organisation; and to optimise the relationship between the Board of Trustees and the staff. In addition to the general responsibilities of a Trustee, the Chair has a number of tasks specific to their role:

Main Responsibilities

- providing leadership for the Board of Trustees in their role of setting the strategy and policy of the organisation
- planning the annual cycle of board meetings and setting the agendas
- chairing and facilitating the board Meetings
- giving direction to board policy making
- monitoring that decisions taken at Board meetings are implemented
- representing the organisation at appropriate events, meetings or functions
- acting as a spokesperson for the organisation where appropriate
- Liaising with Director to keep an overview of the organisation's affairs and to provide support as appropriate
- Reviewing and appraising the performance of the Director
- Sitting on appointment panels as required
- Acting as final stage adjudicator for disciplinary and grievance procedures if required
- attend/be a member of other committees/working groups when appropriate

Qualities of a Chair

- commitment to the organisation
- leadership ability
- integrity, strategic vision and good/independent judgement
- a willingness to devote the necessary time and effort to their duties as Chair and trustee
- ability to take decisions for the good of the organisation
- good communication skills
- tact and diplomacy
- willingness to speak their mind and listen to the views of others
- an ability to work effectively as a member of a team
- understanding of the legal responsibilities and liabilities of a trustee

Desirable experience

- Prior experience of committee/trustee work
- Knowledge of the type of work undertaken by the organisation
- A wider involvement with the voluntary sector

If you are interested in this role, please send a CV and cover letter, illustrating your suitability to our Acting Chair, Rona Fineman ronafineman@aol.com

If you require more details or would like to chat about the role, please email Rona to arrange a convenient time to talk with her.

Closing date for applications: **Friday 28th October.**