

We are recruiting Trustees at Open Clasp Theatre Company

Be an activist. Join the movement.



About Us

We are an award-winning women's theatre company and a leading force for equity, participation & change based in West End Women and Girls Centre in Newcastle Upon Tyne with a national and international reach.

Our aim is to Change the World, One Play at a Time by placing theatre at the heart of transforming the lives of women and girls excluded from theatre and society.

We work creatively on multiple levels for change; with women & girls as co-creators, producing work for audiences, engaging audiences to have a creative response, and undertaking commissions to support law and policy change. Our work is regularly performed in theatres, prisons, schools, conferences, and community centres. We capture our work digitally so we can reach on average 7500 people a year in their homes, workplaces and community spaces.

Who we are looking for:

We are currently looking for new trustees (board members) with experience and knowledge of the creation of theatre and experience of national producing and programming networks especially those who've worked with innovative theatre companies or digital theatre for screen production and distribution. We are looking for skilled and experienced trustees who can also sit on our Artistic Subgroup, informing the future programme of Open Clasp. Find out more about us at www.openclasp.org.uk

Due to the nature of our work the post is open to women only (exempt under the Equality Act 2010 Schedule 9, Part 1).

We are committed to equality of opportunity and maintaining the diversity of our current board to ensure that we reflect the full breadth of the women and girls we collaborate with. We have a young board with 45% aged 20-34 (UK avg. 30%) and 68% identify as coming from a lower socio-economic background.

Time commitment:

This role requires a commitment to attend 4 x 2 hour artistic subcommittee meetings, 4 x 2 hour board meetings, a 4 hour AGM and an annual board and staff review day (in early December). Some



business is also conducted outside of board meetings over email. Meetings are hybrid to accommodate trustees not based in the North East, where travel is required, the company will support trustees by arranging travel and accommodation and reimbursing reasonable expenses.

Eligibility:

Candidates need to be at least 16 years of age. To ensure the organisation remains independent, candidates must not be a current employee of Open Clasp Theatre Company.

Candidates must be legally eligible to become a Charity Trustee and Company Director, i.e. you must not:

- Have an unspent conviction for an offence involving dishonesty or deception (such as fraud)
- Be declared bankrupt (or subject to bankruptcy restrictions or an interim order)
- Have an individual voluntary arrangement (IVA) to pay off debts with creditors
- Have been disqualified as a Company Director
- Have previously been removed as a trustee by the Charity Commission or the High Court
- Be disqualified or barred from acting as a trustee of this charity under the Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006

What we offer in return:

A fantastic opportunity not just to make a difference in an area that matters to you, but also to develop your skills. We can offer training and support where necessary, as well as a comprehensive induction and buddying system with our existing trustees.

“Being a trustee at Open Clasp has enabled me to contribute to the work of an incredible arts organisation that has a true impact on the lives of women all over the world. I have met and worked alongside some incredibly inspirational women, and I have gained so much from the experience. It’s an honour to be part of a life-changing charity”. Helen Ferguson

This is a voluntary role, without a salary, but reasonable expenses incurred in relation to the role may be claimed back from Open Clasp Theatre Company. These include: travel, childcare or care of other dependents when attending meetings.

Our board will need to get to know you and have asked that you:

- Send us an expression of interest (max 2 sides of A4) which includes how you fit the criteria outlined above, what you could contribute to the role and why you are applying for the role.
- Return it to ellie@openclasp.org.uk before Friday 16th September.
- We will then arrange a meeting / zoom with Helen Ferguson - the chair of the board of trustees, and Ellie Turner and Catrina McHugh - the Joint Chief Executives.
- If suitable we would invite you to attend and observe a board meeting or Sub Committee dates tbc.

We are very happy to chat about the company, board, role and answer any questions you might have. Please contact the team who will arrange for Ellie, Catrina or Helen to give you a call info@openclasp.org.uk or 0191 272 4063