

FUNDRAISING CONSULTANT RECRUITMENT PACK

Thank you for your interest in working with us in this key developmental role with Dogstar Theatre Company.

Dogstar has been commissioning, producing and touring new plays from its base in the Inverness area for over 20 years. The company has toured to a huge variety of venues throughout Scotland and abroad. We have co-produced with companies in Denmark and Sweden and have presented our work at festivals, theatres and universities in Poland, Ukraine, Germany, Sweden, Denmark, Netherlands, Belgium, Ireland, USA, England, Wales, France and Australia.

The great majority of these new plays have been written by playwrights from the Highlands & Islands of Scotland. There has been a gradual development of professional theatre production in the region over the last 40 years, which has accelerated in recent years due to the creation of degree courses in theatre and performance at the University of the Highlands & Islands. There is now a growing body of emerging playwrights and other professional theatre workers to be found across our region, and we are keen to continue to support their creative lives and development through our work.

Dogstar has delivered a series of successful projects over the last two years: SPARK – The Highland New Play Festival in January 2024, produced in partnership with Eden Court Theatre and Playwrights' Studio Scotland; a London run and performances in Sweden and France during 2024 of the company's flagship production, *The Tailor of Inverness*; a popular tour of the North Highlands & Islands of George Gunn's eco-tragicomedy *The Fallen Angels of the Moine*; an on-going programme of theatre-making and playwriting workshops for schools and adult groups in the North Highlands & Islands; and an acclaimed, sold-out mid-scale tour with Matthew Zajak's adaptation of James Robertson's best-selling novel *The Testament of Gideon Mack*. We work hard at Dogstar!

JOB DESCRIPTION

The company is now looking to consolidate its recent successes by building its resilience. To that end, Creative Scotland are supporting us with a significant grant as we embark on a six-month period of organisational review and development. At the forefront of this programme of change is the need to develop a coherent and achievable fundraising strategy which will help us to move forward with confidence.

We are therefore seeking a freelance fundraising consultant to develop a comprehensive fundraising strategy that will support the expansion and long-term sustainability of Dogstar, enabling us to continue our much-needed, highly regarded work throughout the Highlands and Islands and beyond.

SCOPE OF WORK

Research and Strategy development

- Research and evaluate current local/national funding streams
- Evaluate Dogstar's current and planned programme of activity in relation to potential for income generation
- Using this knowledge, identify the most promising opportunities for diversification of income
- Develop and write a 3-year fundraising strategy based on this knowledge
- Draft a Case for Support for Dogstar

Funding Applications, approaches and introductions

- Identify some potential "quick wins" and support applications/approaches
- Identify suitable longer-term grant opportunities aligned with the programme's objectives and (time-permitting) prepare grant applications, working closely with the Dogstar team
- Make approaches and introductions to other potential supporters, donors or stakeholders across Scotland

There is a lot to do, but the rewards are great! Since its beginnings, Dogstar has positively impacted the lives of many Highland writers, actors, directors, designers, and musicians, delivering opportunities for employment, career development and creative growth on their own doorstep. We have brought extraordinary experiences to thousands of audience members across our region, and far beyond. We are a small but merry band, dedicated to giving Dogstar and all its beneficiaries the very best chance to build on these successes: that's what this next period is all about.

PERSON SPECIFICATION

Our successful candidate will be a highly motivated individual, with wide experience of fundraising across the creative arts sector in Scotland.

We would particularly welcome applications from candidates living in the Inverness, Highland or Moray areas.

Skills and expertise:

- Proven experience as a freelance fundraising consultant, with a track record of securing five-and six-figure sums from a range of funders.
- Proven experience of producing fundraising strategies for arts organisations.
- Strong written communication skills, including the ability to write persuasively and concisely.
- Up-to-date, detailed knowledge of funders across Scotland and beyond that focus on theatre, new writing and the performing arts generally as a priority area.
- Excellent communication skills and the ability to work with a wide range of people
- Attention to detail and strong proofreading skills.
- Ability to work independently and meet tight deadlines.
- Ability to quickly understand new areas and sectors to write compellingly and persuasively across varied subject matters.

FUNDRAISING CONSULTANT – PAY & CONDITIONS

Fee and working time

We are offering a temporary, freelance contract with a set fee of £12,000, which represents 40 days at £300 per day. The contract will begin no later than 1 September 2025 and extend until 31 December 2025. The allocation of working days will be agreed with the Executive Producer on commencement of the contract.

Place of work

The Fundraising Consultant will be expected to work from home, with regular meetings taking place with other team members online or at Dogstar's base in Easter Ross.

HOW TO APPLY

Please send your CV of up to 4 x A4 pages and a covering letter of no more than 2 x A4 pages outlining:

- The way you will approach the work
- Experience of similar work, including examples, where appropriate, of fund-raising research and strategy development in an arts setting
- Experience of working with different stakeholders
- A proposed timetable of your work
- Why you would like to work with Dogstar

Email applications to: information@dogstartheatre.co.uk and please use *Dogstar Theatre Fundraising Consultant Recruitment* in the subject line.

We will also accept spoken applications submitted on video or on sound files.

Application deadline: 09.00 Monday 11 August 2025

Interviews will be held in person in Inverness, venue tbc, or online, on **Friday 15 August**

Dogstar Theatre does not allow discrimination on the grounds of gender, race, disability, ethnic or socio-economic background, age, family circumstances, marital status or civil partnership, religion, sexual orientation, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity or other irrelevant difference and is committed to working with diversity in a positive way. We welcome and encourage applications from groups of people who are under-represented including black and minority ethnic groups and people with disabilities. The principles of fair and open competition will apply and appointments will be made on merit.

Please also complete this EDI monitoring form when you submit your application. This information is anonymous. [Dogstar Equality and Diversity Monitoring Form R](#)

Thank you for your interest: we look forward to receiving your application!



Artistic Director Matthew Zajac **Associate Artist** Jack MacGregor
Executive Producer Rachel Dominy **Assistant Producer** Bryony Barclay

Board: Angela Cran, Nick Fearne, Duncan MacInnes, Keira Smith, Brian Spence

Dogstar Theatre Company, Tallysow Cottage, Novar, Evanton IV16 9XH
Registered Company No. SC298278 Scottish Charity No. SC032678

[Dogstar Theatre Company](#)