

Chair of Board of Directors/Trustees

As we head into a period of organisational development and resilience building, Dogstar Theatre is looking to appoint a new Chair to its board. This is a crucial moment for Dogstar, with challenges and opportunities ahead which will require strong support and input from the board. We need someone at the helm who is committed, connected and creative to guide us through this next chapter.

About Dogstar

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 Zajac's adaptation of James Robertson's best-selling novel *The Testament of Gideon Mack*. We work hard at Dogstar!

About this role

The role of the Chair of the Board is to provide leadership and direction to the board of Directors/ Trustees, enabling the board to fulfil its responsibilities for the overall governance and strategic direction of the charity. The Board, working with the Artistic Director and Executive Producer, will set Dogstar's strategy and oversee its implementation.

The Board will ensure that the charity complies with charity law and any other relevant legislation or regulations, and make sure that the charity pursues its objects as defined in its governing document. The Board has recently taken the decision to review that governing document, so this will be a significant piece of work to be undertaken in the coming months.

The Chair will work with the Artistic Director and Executive Producer to help them achieve the aims of the company, and to optimise the relationship between the board of Trustees and the staff.

In addition to the general responsibilities of a Director/Trustee, **the main responsibilities of the Chair are to:**

- Provide leadership for the board of Trustees in their role of agreeing and overseeing Dogstar Theatre's strategy and business planning
- Ensure that the Board monitors the delivery and regular review of the charity's policies
- Plan the annual cycle of board meetings and set the agendas
- Chair and facilitate board meetings
- Monitor that decisions taken at board meetings are implemented
- Ensure that the board meets for an annual strategy day in addition to its formal board meetings
- Represent the organisation at appropriate events, meetings or functions
- Act as a spokesperson and ambassador for the organisation where appropriate
- Hold regular meetings with the Executive Producer and Artistic Director to keep an overview of the organisation's affairs and to provide advice and guidance as appropriate
- Set objectives, and review the performance of the Executive Producer and Artistic Director
- Sit on appointment panels as required
- Hold annual one-to-one review meetings with individual trustees
- Act as final stage adjudicator for disciplinary and grievance procedures if required
- Attend other committees or working groups when appropriate in role as Chair
- Attend Dogstar performances, rehearsals and other events
- Provide informal mentoring and support where necessary and appropriate
- Draw on their networks and contacts for the benefit of the charity where appropriate

Time Commitment

- Regular board meetings (currently 4 per year) – either online or in-person
- Annual strategy day
- Regular routine meetings with Executive Producer/Artistic Director: online or in-person
- Annual one-to-one meetings with trustees: online or in-person
- Attendance at performances/events
- Ad hoc meetings where necessary

Approximately the equivalent of 12 days per year.

This is an unremunerated position

Skills and experience

- Experience and/or knowledge of the arts sector in Scotland and beyond
- Understanding of how arts organisations are funded in Scotland
- Board experience, either as a trustee or non-executive director
- Understanding of governance including in relation to the charity sector in Scotland
- Able to lead a diverse board of trustees to reach agreed conclusions
- Supportive but constructively challenging of the management team
- Prepared to share knowledge, contacts and experience and to make introductions and broker relationships
- Experience of representing an organisation at a senior level in the public realm

How to apply

Applicants should send a CV and short covering letter addressed to Rachel Dominy, Executive Producer at rachel.dominy@dogstartheatre.co.uk. Please add *Chair recruitment* to the subject line.

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

Deadline 09.00 Monday 31 August with meetings with potential candidates to take place during the first two weeks of September.

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. 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 applications. This information is anonymous. [Dogstar Equality Monitoring Form](#)

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

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Registered Company No. SC298278 Scottish Charity No. SC032678

[Dogstar Theatre Company](#)