



## Royal Court Theatre Board Recruitment Pack



### About the Royal Court

The Royal Court Theatre is the writers' theatre. It is the leading force in world theatre for energetically cultivating writers – undiscovered, emerging and established. Producing up to 20 new plays per year in its two theatre spaces in London's Sloane Square, the Court also runs extensive writer development activity including an ongoing programme of commissions, workshops, attachments and playwriting groups. Twenty years of pioneering international work around the world means the Royal Court has relationships with writers on every continent.

Within the past sixty years, John Osborne, Samuel Beckett, Arnold Wesker, Ann Jellicoe, Howard Brenton, David Hare have started their careers at the Court. Many others including Caryl Churchill, Athol Fugard, Mark Ravenhill, Simon Stephens, debbie tucker green, Sarah Kane; and, more recently, Lucy Kirkwood, Nick Payne, Penelope Skinner and Alistair McDowall, have followed.

The Royal Court has produced many iconic plays from Laura Wade's *Posh* to Jez Butterworth's *Jerusalem* and Martin McDonagh's *Hangmen*. Royal Court plays from every decade are now performed on stage and taught in classrooms and universities across the globe.

It is because of this commitment to the writer that we believe there is no more important theatre in the world than the Royal Court.

### Current Board

Anthony Burton CBE, Chair  
Graham Devlin CBE, Vice Chair  
Jennette Arnold OBE  
Judy Daish  
Noma Dumezweni

Emma Marsh  
James Midgley  
Andrew Rodger  
Anita Scott  
Lord Stewart Wood  
Mahdi Yahya

### Current Leadership

The current Artistic Director and Chief Executive of the Royal Court is Vicky Featherstone. She has been in post since January 2013. She was joined in April 2013 by Executive Producer Lucy Davies. They make up the Executive team. Finance Director Helen Perryer also attends Board meetings.

### Constitution

The Charity name is the English Stage Company (ESC) and it was constituted in 1956.

The ESC Board opts to appoint its Board members for an unlimited period but implements best practice with regard to that appointment with an initial three-year appointment, renewable for one further term of three years.

The Board meets four times per year, with meetings lasting approximately 90 minutes and alternating between 10am and 6pm. Trustees are invited to all press nights throughout the year, and to fund-raising events as needed.

At present, the Royal Court board has one sub-committee: Finance & General Purposes which meets a fortnight before the main Board. There is a Development Council which also meets quarterly.

The Charity has two wholly-owned trading subsidiaries: Royal Court Theatre Productions and English Stage Company Catering. Some trustees sit as Directors of these subsidiaries, according to skills and expertise.

### Duties of directors

- To be enthusiastic advocates of the company's work
- To ensure that the company complies with its governing document (its Memorandum and Articles of Association), charity law, company law and any other relevant legislation or regulations.
- To ensure that the company pursues its objectives as defined in its governing document
- To ensure that the company applies its resources exclusively in pursuit of its objectives, and evaluates its performance against agreed targets
- To safeguard the good name and ethos of the company
- To promote the work of company
- To ensure the effective and efficient administration of the company
- To ensure the financial stability of the company
- To protect and manage the property of the company and to ensure the proper investment of its surplus funds
- To ensure the proper human resource management of the senior posts in the company
- To use any specific skills, knowledge or experience to help the board reach sound decisions

- To appoint and induct new Board members as required

In addition to the above, members of the board will also be expected to show

- A genuine interest in and commitment to the company's work
- A willingness to devote the necessary time and effort, and to attend at least 3 out of 4 main board meetings each year; and (if appropriate) participate in any board working parties, depending on specialist skills
- Strategic vision
- Sound, independent judgement
- An ability to think creatively
- A willingness to speak freely and openly
- An understanding and acceptance of the legal duties, responsibilities and liabilities of trusteeship
- An ability to work effectively as a member of a team
- Awareness and adherence to Nolan's seven principles of public life: selflessness, integrity, objectivity, accountability, openness, honesty and leadership

All new members of the board will be provided with an induction process.

#### How to apply

Please send a covering letter and a CV to [recruitment@royalcourttheatre.com](mailto:recruitment@royalcourttheatre.com) by 5pm on 2 December with the subject "Board"

If you wish to talk more in advance about the role and responsibilities, please contact Lucy Davies via [rominaahearne@royalcourttheatre.com](mailto:rominaahearne@royalcourttheatre.com)