RECRUITING A NEW CHAIR OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Image credit Ellie Kurttz, from *Emily Rising* (2016)
Little Angel Theatre is an internationally renowned puppet theatre, compact but constantly expanding and innovating.

We produce high quality theatre for family audiences. Over the last 10 years the theatre has expanded and taken on ever-more ambitious projects, both artistic and community-driven. We have enjoyed collaborations with the Royal Shakespeare Company, Kneehigh, Polka Theatre and Royal & Derngate. We have more than tripled our audience numbers in-house and on tour. Our work has been seen around the country, both in theatres and hard-to-reach communities, as well internationally in USA, Spain, Qatar and Canada.

Our venue in Islington is also host to dozens of visiting companies throughout the year. In 2014, we began leasing a new premises from Islington Council, to act as a hub for our community and creative learning programmes, as well as provide rehearsal and storage space, extra desks and a versatile second performance venue.

Our Creative Learning department offers courses and classes for all age groups, including a highly respected Youth Theatre and a specialist Youth Theatre catering for those with high functioning autism. Last year we completed our seventh consecutive year of partnership with Thornhill School, where our Puppeteer in Residence supports the learning needs of the students through creativity.

We are a registered charity with strong governance, robust finances and a committed board of trustees.

A few words from Artistic Director, Samantha Lane:

“I'm thrilled to be leading Little Angel Theatre into its next phase of development. It’s such an exciting and unique venue, with an unrivalled reputation and history, and I intend to continue to celebrate its uniqueness through the presentation of world-class puppetry for all the family, at the theatre and on tour, and leading the way in innovative puppetry education and training.

Under my leadership as Artistic Director, Little Angel Theatre is at the start of a renewed strategy and business plan. From autumn 2016, we are seeing new artists, new strands of work and crucially a more embedded and long-term approach to our community outreach work. We will celebrate our rich history while pioneering new ideas and techniques, and we will train the next generation of puppeteers and makers. And above all, we aim to bring puppetry to everyone, regardless of background or location.

While keeping ticket prices affordable, we will also maximise our other income streams in order to invest in skills and employability training for young people within Islington, the fourth most deprived borough in London, and extend our community engagement programme to promote social wellbeing and cohesion.

I couldn’t be more excited about the future of the theatre”
WHAT’S INVOLVED AND HOW TO APPLY

What’s involved?

Little Angel Theatre (LAT) is seeking a new Chair to manage an effective Board and to ensure the organisation is meeting its charitable objectives at all times. The role of the Chair is a multifaceted one, acting as an important bridge between staff and trustees, overseeing Board meetings and governance for the organisation and providing ongoing advice and support to LAT’s leadership. The board, currently comprised of 6 trustees meets formally in Islington approximately five times a year and all trustees contribute according to their own skills and experience, through engagement directly with the Little Angel staff team at a variety of events and activities.

As well as having a passion for the arts and experience in both charity compliance and philanthropy, our new Chair will bring a network of contacts to the theatre, which will help LAT to further its impact and improve sustainability through the exploration and development of new income streams. The Chair will work closely with the Artistic Director and the Executive Director, both challenging and guiding them as needed and will also have prior experience in chairing a Board in order to add significant value to both the governance and growth of Little Angel in the future.

If you feel that you have the experience, skills and background to help take Little Angel Theatre through its next phase of development we would love to hear from you. Please see our website for more details about the organisation and its aims.

We welcome applications from people from public, private or non-profit sector backgrounds, and particularly from people from black, Asian and minority ethnic groups, as they are currently under-represented at LAT at this level.

How do you apply?

Please email chris@littleangeltheatre.com with a one page cover letter detailing what you would bring to the position and your experience to date (or attach a CV) by 7th December 2016.

What happens next?

We’ll be arranging to meet candidates in mid-December and early January and we hope to be working with the new Chair by February.

If you have any additional questions about this opportunity please email: chris@littleangeltheatre.com or phone Chris Wootton (Executive Director) on 020 3780 5974.
MISSION STATEMENT

Little Angel Theatre aims to present world-class puppetry on stage, off stage and on screen.

We aim to achieve this in the following ways:

1. **Tell great stories using puppetry**
   We want to make work that inspires our audiences. As the late Alan Rickman said 'it's a human need to be told stories' and puppetry as an art form is uniquely placed to fire the imagination and tell beautiful and powerful stories. We produce 4-5 of our own in-house productions each year, as well as hosting a diverse range of work from around the UK and internationally. Our participation work empowers everybody to tell stories using puppetry.

2. **Recognise the artist in everyone**
   We believe in the creative capabilities of everyone we come into contact with. This includes all staff and volunteers, participants and audiences. All of our participation work starts from this premise: from age 2 to 102, if you are open to being creative, Little Angel Theatre will help you on your journey.

3. **Use puppetry to excite, educate and inspire**
   We recognise the potential of puppetry as a tool outside of traditional performance. Whether in clubs for children or youth theatre, adult evening classes or our Spectrum Youth Theatre for teens on the autistic spectrum, teachers' INSET or in applied settings, puppetry is a fantastic art form with huge scope to help people develop social skills, express themselves creatively and appreciate of live theatre.

4. **Embrace the pioneering vision of our past to build and create the future**
   Since its foundation in 1961, Little Angel Theatre has consistently produced world-class puppetry shows. We celebrate our roots and remember that the theatre's success has always been built upon a spirit of artistic innovation. We are committed to pushing the boundaries of what puppetry can be, whilst embracing and preserving the rare and precious crafts that have been passed down through generations. This includes working with a diverse range of artists, exploring the possibilities of what puppetry can be and trialling digital presentations of puppetry.
Train and develop current and future puppeteers and puppet makers

Little Angel Theatre exists because of artists and what they create. We are committed to having an artist-centred approach, supporting them with training and development at all levels of experience, actively encouraging peer-level support and mentoring, and improving pay and conditions for artists that we employ. In 2017, we will launch the first accredited Puppetry Apprenticeship Programme to offer unparalleled training in the art of making and manipulating puppets.

Make puppetry and the arts accessible to everyone

Little Angel Theatre is situated in the heart of the London Borough of Islington: a complex, culturally diverse area, where wealth lives side by side with deprivation. We are well placed to create a long-term positive impact in this community. The arts offer a unique opportunity to aid social cohesion, and empower people of all ages through creativity. For many years we have given away thousands of free tickets to shows and workshops through our Puppets for All scheme and we are committing more resources than ever to deepening our impact.

*A Very Old Man with Enormous Wings*, in association with Kneehigh (2011)
KEY STAKEHOLDERS

Board of Trustees

Melinda Burton
Rhian Harris (Interim Chair)
Bailey Lock
Chris Lowry
Katie Owen
Fiona Philips

Honorary Patrons

Gregory Doran

Patrons

Dame Judi Dench DBE
Clive Owen & Sarah-Jane Fenton
Michael Pennington
Baroness Pitkeathley OBE
Sir Simon Rattle CBE
Michael Rosen

Honorary Associates

Lyndie Wright MBE
Ronnie Le Drew

Associate Artists

Rachael Canning
Matthew Robbins
Steve Tiplady
Sarah Wright

Image credit Ellie Kurttz, from Jabberwocky (2014)
FINANCES

Little Angel Theatre follows a robust business and financial plan that has seen eight consecutive years of growth in turnover. We always work to diversify our income streams and hold a healthy level of reserves to make us more sustainable and allow us to take more artistic risks.

Our income for the period ending 31st March 2016 was £1,029,773 and we showed a modest surplus for the period.

Where our income comes from

About two thirds of our income is derived from our primary activities: ticket sales for in-house shows, fees paid to us by venues for our touring productions, and tickets and fees received for delivery our education and community work. Total philanthropic giving came to £174,950. The largest segment came from Trusts and Foundations who support our charitable aims. Arts Council England supported a national touring and participation project, as well as the Suspense Festival 2015. As always, we are grateful to a large number of individuals who have given donations or become members, including the Golden Angels, a new syndicate who support the creation of a new show each year. This year also saw an increase in corporate sponsorship – we had partnerships with Angel Central, Bolt Burdon Solicitors, Currell Residential, NatWest, Dalziel-Pow, and received significant in-kind support from Frederick’s and Chipotle.

What we spend it on

80% of our expenditure was ploughed straight into our primary activity: producing shows, touring work and running an expansive education and participation programme (including our artist development programmes). Included in this is income sacrificed in order to offer free tickets and workshop places to disadvantaged people through Puppets for All.

As a result of Little Angel Theatre’s activity, we:

- employed 15 core members of staff (full and part time)
- employed over 130 artists, 25 workshop leaders, 15 technicians, 6 Front of House and Box Office Assistants
- supported 162 emerging artists through our HATCH, FIRSTS and INCUBATE schemes
- entertained 42,118 people in-house, reached 40,454 people on tour and engaged over 4,000 children and young people in our Creative Learning activities

Value for money

We generated £5.50 for every £1 raised from grants, sponsorship and donations.
YEAR AT A GLANCE 2015-16

Audiences

42,118 at LAT
40,454 on tour
82,572 in total – highest ever attendance

Shows

4 in-house productions, doing 423 performances
34 visiting productions, doing 148 performances
6 national and international tours, 401 performances

Creative Learning and Community

3,493 child participants in courses, classes, schools workshops and holiday activities
1,060 adult participants in evening classes, weekend courses and professional training
7th consecutive year Puppeteer in Residence at Thornhill, working with 250 children over the year
100 workshops in schools, community centres and other settings

Artist Development

FIRSTS – 5 companies given space, seed investment, and mentoring to launch the premiere of a new show
HATCH – 9 emerging companies given a platform to try out new ideas at this scratch festival
INCUBATE – 25 artists given free research and development space at Little Angel Studios
Professional Development workshops and masterclasses in a variety of disciplines, including marionette carving, puppet construction, writing for puppetry, costuming, shadow and light, live animation, long-string marionette performing, object manipulation and various panel discussions

Access

Over £5,000 worth of free show tickets and workshop places given away for free through our Puppets for All scheme
£5 tickets available for most shows; highest ticket price £14

Staff and Employment

Employed 15 core members of staff (full and part time)
Employed over 130 artists, 25 workshop leaders, 15 technicians, 6 Front of House and Box Office Assistants
Engaged 7 interns on education placements and 73 volunteers
There is magic in this compact theatre and its glowing stage

Time Out

Image credit Ellie Kurtz, from WOW! Said the Owl (2015)