



SEVEN DIALS PLAY HOUSE

Trustee Recruitment
INFORMATION PACK



About Us

Thank you for your interest in Seven Dials Playhouse and becoming a Trustee. Please see below for further information about the organisation and joining the Board.

More information is available via our website – sevendialsplayhouse.co.uk. Should you wish to speak to someone in person, please feel free to arrange a time to talk with Faye Castelow, Trustee (trustees@sevendialsplayhouse.co.uk) or, Amanda Davey, CEO (amanda@sevendialsplayhouse.co.uk).

Seven Dials Playhouse is the West End's home for the development of professional theatre and the artists that make it possible. We deliver an extensive, year-round programme of artist support and professional development opportunities; a high-quality theatre performance programme for audiences; training and programmes to develop the artists and audiences of tomorrow.

Charitable Objects

To promote, maintain, and advance education particularly by the encouragement of the arts and by research, lectures, discussions and seminars, vocational training, and the provision of research facilities related to the arts in general and inter alia the art of the theatre and by the production of educational plays.

Mission

From our dynamic, creative hub in the heart of the West End, our mission is to nurture theatre-makers and performers at all stages of their careers ['artists'], and to present innovative live performances enjoyed by diverse audiences.

Vision

Our vision is of a world-leading UK theatre industry that reflects diverse stories and voices. One that is understood, needed and valued.

We support artists to develop their careers

We support artists as they develop their careers, whether through creating new work, refining their craft, or seeking industry connections. We achieve this through our Artist Development Programmes where artists can develop work, continue to train, attend events or network, as well as through our live performance programmes.

We are a hub for creativity, collaboration, and connection-making

We offer a space where artists can gather, work, and exchange ideas. Facilities include a 50-seat development space 'The Pen', a 60-seat studio space 'The House', versatile rehearsal rooms; a café and bar (open 11 hours a day) with free public access and affordable coworking options, such as a £5 bottomless coffee & tea offer, networking, rehearsing, and more.

We are breaking down barriers

We want to reflect the diversity of contemporary Britain, both in the work presented on our stages and through supporting artists from a wide range of backgrounds, and audiences alike. We are committed to anti-racism, justice, equity, diversity, and inclusion. We aim to ensure that the whole organisation remains relevant, resilient, and culturally productive. In doing so, we will help to



eliminate barriers, both actual and perceived, that prevent people from engaging with theatre as artists and audiences.

We present dynamic and high-quality live performances

We are committed to delivering a carefully curated programming approach to ensure that every production meets a high artistic standard whilst also supporting the development of new voices, in line with our mission and vision. We will select work that is exciting, innovative, and champions creatives across all career stages. In our public programme we will present three seasons each year: September–November, February–March, and April–May. In 2025/26 we will move to an open call process for productions to apply to perform on our stages. Productions will typically operate on a venue split model, with no hire fees - reinforcing our commitment to accessibility and artistic excellence.



Foxes (May 2022)

Photo credit: Lidia Crisafulli



Legal Status and Structure

Seven Dials Playhouse is a group of two limited companies, both limited by guarantee without share capital.

Seven Dials Playhouse Limited (01353824) is the holding company and registered charity (275934) and Actors Workshops (London) Limited (06196271) is its subsidiary. Both companies are registered at 1a Tower Street, London, WC2H 9NP. It is the principal trading address for **Seven Dials Playhouse**.

Seven Dials Playhouse promotes the charitable objects and Actors Workshops (London) Limited is the commercial arm of the group (trading subsidiary).

Seven Dials Playhouse Limited is governed by a non-executive Board of Trustees who act in a voluntary capacity.

Where we are

After the charity agreed to overhaul its business model in 2020/21, it immediately faced the unprecedented challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic and later, its after-effects.

Over this period, we lost 75% of roles through redundancy and, on top of dealing with historic debts accrued as The Actors Centre, the charity struggled to move forwards with the momentum needed to deliver the change we had originally planned.

The 2022-2024 period can, in many ways, be characterised as an organisation that was in stasis. However, many seeds of change were put in place during this same period. We recruited trustees to the Board, adding new or refreshed skills and momentum. We piloted new work and honed our existing core programmes, delivering positive impacts for artists and communities. And most significantly, the Board agreed and completed the sale and leaseback of 1a Tower Street, clearing historic debts and creating the opportunity necessary for re-resourcing the charity so that it can deliver for its audiences.

2025/26 is about transition. Strengthening our services, enhancing our communications to stakeholders, and laying the necessary foundations for growth and sustainability for the years that follow. In future years, as we increase the output of our programmes, we will remain open to further opportunities to ensure we are continually advancing the quality of our output, engaging with and responding to what the industry needs, in line with our resources and finances.





Diary of a Somebody (March 2022)

Photo credit: Brittain Photography

Board of Trustees

The Trustees are both directors and members of the limited company.

The Board meets at least four times a year to maintain effective oversight and control. The purpose of these meetings is to ensure the charity is functioning as intended, making key decisions, and fulfilling its legal and charitable obligations.

There are smaller working groups of the Board, meeting regularly, focussing on the following areas:

- Finance
- Income generation, fundraising and business development
- Artist and audience-focussed programme

The intention is to review the frequency and consider monthly sub-groups as required. Short-term working groups are also formed for a dedicated time to address a specific organisational need. When the work of these groups is completed, the working group is dissolved. An example of this would be the Chair/Trustee Recruitment working group.

In addition, the Board and Senior Leadership Team (SLT) hold an annual Awayday meeting to discuss future planning and strategy.



Directors

Currently, the organisation has six Trustees:

- Andrew Subramaniam – Chair – Partner & Chartered Accountant
- Stuart Boxall – Professional Fundraiser for arts, culture and charities
- Faye Castelow – Actor
- Reece McMahon – Producer and Creative
- Irfan Mughal – Lawyer and Businessman
- Ian Nicol – Public Sector NED

There has been an organic turnover of Trustees with three new Trustees joining in 2023/24 following public recruitment.

There are no persons with significant control and the following statement is filed at Companies' House "The company knows or has reasonable cause to believe that there is no registrable person or registrable relevant legal entity in relation to the company".

The trading subsidiary, Actors Workshops (London) Limited has two Directors, Amanda Davey, CEO, and to coincide with the Chair of the Board of Trustees of the organisation – Andrew Subramaniam.

The Trustees in any charity are responsible for ensuring that the charity delivers its mission/ vision within its resources by setting strategy, agreeing business plans and guiding the organisation.

In particular, our Trustees are responsible for:

- Ensuring that the work of Seven Dials Playhouse fulfils its purpose and charitable objectives, and any legal requirements.
- Setting the strategy for delivering these objectives: agreeing and monitoring implementation of business and corporate plans.
- Agreeing policies and procedures to ensure the effective and efficient administration of Seven Dials Playhouse.
- Ensuring financial accountability and sustainability: agreeing budgets and investment policies, monitoring expenditure against budget and income and supporting the charity's fundraising.
- Where necessary and appropriate, liaising with other stakeholders and funders to promote and publicise the work of Seven Dials Playhouse.
- Attending productions, and other events as agreed, and on behalf of the organisation.



What are we looking for?

On this occasion we are seeking to appoint six highly engaged new Trustees with specific skills and experience. We are particularly interested in those with experience in the following areas/with the following skillsets.

- Artist/Professional Development
- Artists/Creatives
- Building Development (capital)
- Business Development
- Finance
- HR
- Marketing/Communications (Advertising)

What is involved?

The appointments will start in Summer 2025. Trustees serve an initial term of three years, extendable up to a maximum of seven years (two rotations of three years, plus one further year).

You do not need experience as a Trustee to join us; we will provide full support and training. The roles are unremunerated, but we will support Trustees with expenses for travel to meetings, and childcare if required.

There are four Board meetings each year, each lasting about two hours.

Meetings are held in central London, with some Trustees joining by Zoom as necessary (we expect that Trustees to attend at least 50% of the meetings in person at Seven Dials Playhouse).

Board meetings are attended by the Chief Executive (CEO) and members of the Senior Leadership Team (SLT).

The Board also holds an annual Away Day to consider future strategic direction and ambitions.

In addition to the formal meetings, Trustees may work closely with the staff team on particular projects close to their area of expertise.

Board members receive regular updates on specific/priority developments in between meetings, and are encouraged to attend regular events and productions, on behalf of the organisation.

We estimate that the monthly time commitment will be one day (this may be by attending short meetings, via email communication, or by actively leading on a specific area of organisational business).





Foxes (May 2022)

Photo credit: Lidia Crisafulli

Diversity and inclusivity

Seven Dials Playhouse is committed to promoting diversity and equality of opportunity. We actively oppose and seek to tackle all forms of discrimination and structural inequality, and we believe that all people deserve to be treated equally, consistently and fairly. We aspire to good practice and to set a high standard of inclusion and equality in everything we do. Part of this commitment is to ensure that our Board of Trustees reflects and values the diversity of the people with whom we work.

Timeline

- Feel free to contact us for a further conversation.
- Deadline for applicants is 10am, Tuesday the 27th of May 2025.
- Shortlisted candidates will be contacted to attend interviews and to view the space.
- Interviews will take place from June 2025.

How to apply

We want to encourage a broad range of applicants to apply for the position of Trustee of Seven Dials Playhouse and as such, we are open to receiving applications in a variety of formats.

Interested applicants can send a full CV, and accompanying cover letter detailing your interest in Seven Dials Playhouse, and the skillset you would bring to the role (no more than two sides of A4).

If there are any reasonable adjustments or if there may be another application format better suited to you, we are very happy to do all we can to accommodate your requests – please email trustees@sevendialsplayhouse.co.uk or call 020 3841 6601 to facilitate.

Applications should be sent to trustees@sevendialsplayhouse.co.uk with the subject line 'Seven Dials Playhouse Trustee Recruitment'.

Thank you.





SEVEN DIALS PLAY HOUSE



Help! We Are Still Alive (September 2022)

Photo credit: Danny With A Camera

Seven Dials Playhouse
1A Tower Street
London WC2H 9NP

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Seven Dials Playhouse Playhouse is a company limited by guarantee,
Company No. 01353824, and a Registered Charity, No. 275934.

