TRUSTEE PACK
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Omnibus Theatre is a multi-award winning independent theatre in Clapham, South London. The heart of our ambitious programme, inspired by our building’s literary heritage, lies in both classics re-imagined and contemporary storytelling. We provide a platform for new writing, and interdisciplinary work, aiming to give voice to the underrepresented and challenge perceptions. We believe in affordable tickets and theatre for all.

Omnibus Theatre is led by Artistic Director Marie McCarthy and Executive Director Bridget Kalloushi. We are a registered charity and receive no core funding. Our wonderfully supportive patrons include Dame Judi Dench, Paulette Randall MBE, Rikki Beadle-Blair MBE and Lord Michael Cashman.

Our venue is home to our Theatre (90-110 seats) and the Studio Upstairs (80 seats), a café/bar and two performance and rehearsal spaces. To find out more about How We Programme click here. To see What’s On click here.

Last year Omnibus Theatre celebrated its 10th birthday and as it enters its second decade, we believe our space is where the local community can come together to connect, find joy, and discover new possibilities. Our Trustees are vital to us, they provide a sounding board offering valuable insights and help us to interrogate the whys and wherefores. You may not be new to Boards, or this might be your first time. Either way, we want to hear from you if you want to be part of a thriving Off-West End theatre and help to be part of its future as a flourishing cultural hub over the next decade. Omnibus Theatre is a registered charity. We are overseen by a non-executive Board of 12 Trustees.

The current Trustees have a range of backgrounds and lived experience – theatre directing, arts communications, parliament, local government, law and finance. While we have identified some gaps in our skill sets we welcome anyone who brings commitment and enthusiasm and we want to include more trustees from the global majority communities.
Our History

Omnibus Theatre was opened in November 2013 following a seven-year community-led campaign to save the old Clapham Library built in 1889, from thirteen property developers who wished to convert this much-loved building into private apartments. Local support raised £130,000 and 2,000 people contributed as volunteer decorators, builders, fundraisers, and supporters to maintain the heritage of the library as a civic space accessible to all.

Since 2013, we have grown from a fledgling arts centre with no existing audience into a thriving theatre and much-loved community resource for the use of residents, workers and visitors of Clapham, Lambeth and the surrounding areas.
What Do We Look for In Trustees?

Omnibus Theatre is managed by a group of volunteer trustees, some local and others who live further afield. We are looking for new trustees who can bring fresh perspectives to join the board.

We need a diverse group of people who bring different skills and experience but are prepared to help the theatre to succeed and to serve our local community. It is an unpaid role, and your responsibility is to make sure that we deliver on our mission and our work benefits the public.
Questions

What is Omnibus Theatre’s Vision and Mission?

Our Vision

Omnibus Theatre reimagines the world with fearless, bold theatre that challenges perceptions, entertains, and inspires change.

Our Mission

• To create a home for our community to play, learn, dream, and imagine.

• To champion and support diverse story tellers.

• To nurture new talent to develop skills and thrive.

• To offer affordable and accessible theatre to all.

What are we asking you in terms of commitment?

To attend 6 meetings per year. At times, as a trustee you may be asked if you would like to volunteer on various sub-committees assigned to focus on a particular task which will play to your interests and experience.
How often do we meet?

The board meets for 1.5hrs every two months. The dates are arranged in the diary 6 months in advance and trustees are given plenty of notice. Meetings take place in the early evenings from 6.30pm and wrap up around 8pm.

Where do the meetings take place?

At the venue which is only 5 mins from Clapham Common underground or trustees can dial-in remotely on zoom if they are unable to attend, although generally our preference is to meet in person. Afterwards trustees are encouraged to gather in the theatre café/bar, for informal social drinks.

What else is on offer?

• Opportunity to see shows staged at the theatre for free.
• Invitations to Members Summer and Christmas parties.
• Priority booking for special Omnibus Theatre “In Conversations With”. In Conversation guests have included Dame Judi Dench, Miriam Margolyes and Bill Nighy who have been great supporters of the theatre over the years.
How To Apply

Our aim is for this application process not to be onerous or in any way exclusionary. To make this as straightforward as possible candidates are invited to either submit a 200-word written statement or to film a 2 mins recording expressing why they want to become a trustee and what value they feel they can bring.

Please send this for the attention of our chair Fiona Mactaggart at this email address: marie.mccarthy@omnibus-clapham.org

What Happens Next?

The closing date for expressions of interest will be July 17 2024. The board will then invite shortlisted candidates to take part in a brief 25 mins zoom meeting. You will hear from Marie McCarthy, Omnibus Theatre’s Artistic Director about her ambitions for the venue and its exciting programme ahead, as well as having the opportunity to ask the trustees in attendance any questions about the role.