HAMPSTEAD THEATRE
APPOINTMENT OF CHAIR

APPOINTMENT BRIEF
FEBRUARY 2020
AN INTRODUCTION

Now celebrating its sixtieth year, Hampstead Theatre is one of the leading new writing theatres in the English-speaking world and one of the most prolific producing houses in the UK. Across their two auditoria - a newly enlarged and refurbished state-of-the-art 370 seat Main House and a 102 seat Studio - the Theatre presents 14 new house-produced productions each year to close-to-capacity audiences and critical acclaim.

Hampstead remains committed to new writing and the highest quality of productions and will continue to shape the future mainstream by championing a diverse range of original talent. The Theatre is proud to have supported the careers of many writers, showcasing world premieres from Harold Pinter, David Hare, Michael Frayn, Mike Leigh, Nina Raine, Roy Williams, Frances Ya-Chu Cowhig, Debbie Tucker-Green, Rona Munro, Shelagh Stephenson and April De Angelis as well as UK premieres of Tennessee Williams, Brian Friel, Athol Fugard, and Tony Kushner.

Its policy of presenting accessible new work at affordable prices has turned Hampstead into a London, national and international theatre destination with audiences that are ever-more representative of the diverse and changing makeup of the British population.

Hampstead's box-office success, ongoing public funding and the support of its patrons, members and friends allows it to take risks, to programme boldly and to invest faith, resources and time in developing artists and their work.
THE ROLE

CONTEXT
The current Chair of Hampstead Theatre, David Tyler will be stepping down from the Board in September 2020. He leaves in place an able and committed Board, an excellent and hardworking Executive Team, a good financial position and an exciting period ahead. The Theatre is now seeking an exceptional candidate to join the board as Chair.

THE OPPORTUNITY
The Chair provides leadership and direction to the Board of Trustees and to the joint Chief Executives, supports the employees and ensures that the organisation achieves its objectives. The Chair must ensure that the Theatre's affairs as a Registered Charity are conducted with probity.

GOVERNANCE
The Board of Trustees consists of 13 members some of whom also serve on finance, nomination and development sub-committees. The Development Board of seven members help to raise money for the organisation. Trustees serve for up to two consecutive three-year terms and main board meetings are normally held five times a year.

The full-time staff of 21 are led by the joint Chief Executives, Roxana Silbert (Artistic Director) and Greg Ripley-Duggan (Executive Producer).

Photo by Manuel Harlan
PERSON SPECIFICATION

The successful candidate will ideally bring all of the following qualities:

- A passion for theatre and the performing arts and the conviction that the arts have the power to transform lives and communities;
- A strong track record of leadership;
- A strong understanding of governance and board leadership and development, ideally gained through prior experience in a chairing or non-executive capacity whether in the commercial or charity sector;
- Considerable management experience gained at the highest level, ideally in consumer or audience-facing businesses;
- The willingness to play a leading role in fundraising activities;
- The willingness to be an outstanding ambassador and advocate for the Theatre and its mission;
- The energy, skills and experience to support and raise the Theatre’s profile in London and globally;
- Capacity for strategic thinking to support the ambitions and long-term development of Hampstead Theatre;
- The management skills required to support an excellent executive team;
- Emotional and strategic intelligence;
- High level networks and a willingness to use professional and personal contacts for the benefit of Hampstead Theatre and to advance the organisation externally; and
- A demonstrable commitment to diversity.
TERMS OF APPOINTMENT

The appointment is for an initial three-year with a maximum of two successive terms of three years.

The role is unremunerated but reasonable expenses will be paid.

Hampstead Theatre works hard to be an open and inviting organisation to all audiences and visitors, and to reach out to new and young audiences. It embraces the ACE creative case for diversity and believes that the greater the range of perspectives, lived experiences and cultures embodied in the artists with whom it works, the more exciting, relevant, resilient and culturally productive the Theatre will be. Hampstead aims to reflect the diversity of contemporary Britain, both in the work presented on stage and the audiences it attracts. The Theatre is an equal opportunity and a Disability Confident Committed employer.

HOW TO APPLY

Saxton Bampfylde Ltd is acting as an employment agency advisor to Hampstead Theatre on this appointment.

Candidates should apply for this role through our website at www.saxbam.com/appointments, using code PAIAZA.

Click on the ‘apply’ button and follow the instructions to upload a CV and cover letter.

The closing date for applications is noon on Monday 23 March 2020.

GDPR personal data notice
According to GDPR guidelines, we are only able to process your Sensitive Personal Data (racial or ethnic origin, political opinions, religious or philosophical beliefs, trade union membership, genetic data, biometric data, health, sex life, or sexual orientation) with your express consent. You will be asked to complete a consent form when you apply and please do not include any Sensitive Personal Data within your CV (although this can be included in your covering letter if you wish to do so), remembering also not to include contact details for referees without their prior agreement.

The equal opportunities monitoring online form will not be shared with anyone involved in assessing your application. Please complete as part of the application process.