**Blue Apple Theatre invites applications for the role of Chair of Trustees**

Blue Apple Theatre is a highly ambitious theatre company that brings all the benefits of taking part in theatre to learning disabled performers and enables them to present high quality productions to the widest possible audience.

Our current chair, Professor Edward Rochead, prepares to retire from the board of trustees after three years leading the charity through a period of unprecedented growth in the number of people it works with, its renewal as Company in Residence at the University of Winchester, and consolidating the learning gained during the Covid 19 pandemic from which the organisation has embraced operating virtually for some activities.

During the current year, the trustees and staff have worked collaboratively to develop a new, even more ambitious, strategy for the coming years, and we seek a new chair with the skills and experience to lead the board during this exciting new phase and potentially support the organisation as it seeks Arts Council England National Portfolio status.

**Role description for Blue Apple Theatre Chair of Trustees**

**General information**

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| Role title: | Blue Apple Theatre Chair of the Board of Trustees |
| Location: | Board meetings at the University of Winchester or elsewhere, and some reading and admin from home. Occasional events in various locations usually within Hampshire. |
| Hours: | Attendance at approximately four in-person board meetings per year and occasional virtual action group, and other meetings and events. |
| Salary: | This is a voluntary post but agreed expenses can be reimbursed. |
| Responsible to: | Board of Trustees |
| Tenure: | The chair is elected annually but we anticipate the successful candidate committing in principle to an initial term of three years. |

**Responsibilities of Blue Apple Theatre Chair of Trustees**

The main responsibilities of this role include:

Leadership and strategic oversight, to ensure Blue Apple Theatre

* Complies with its governing document, charity law and other relevant legislation or regulations.
* Achieves the aims and objectives set out in its vision and strategy.
* Has a highly effective and efficient administration to drive the strategic plan and agreed board meeting actions.
* Demonstrates the highest level of financial integrity and stability.
* Safeguards its good name and ethos.
* Provides a safe and healthy working environment for its participants, staff, facilitators and anyone engaging in the activities of the charity.

Ambassadorship and stakeholder engagement to ensure Blue Apple Theatre:

* Has an active, visible and informed chair to connect with members, staff, volunteers and stakeholders.
* Is represented at key internal and external events, to actively promote its work and demonstrate its value.
* Develops a strong and evolving stakeholder network to meet the demands of its strategic plan.
* Is highly visible at fundraising events for the organisation.
* Has a chair who keeps abreast of the work of the group, by attending rehearsals and performances.

Following a recent recruitment drive we have a healthy number of trustees with a diverse range of experiences and skills, who are keen to support the new chair as they are appointed. You may view trustee profiles here: <https://blueappletheatre.com/board-members-patrons>

Blue Apple Theatre welcomes applications from people of all backgrounds.

**Application process**

For an informal conversation please feel free to contact the current chair Edward Rochead via [trustees@blueappletheatre.com](mailto:trustees@blueappletheatre.com).

To apply, please send a CV and covering letter explaining why you would like to chair Blue Apple and how you see yourself delivering the role as chair. Please send this to the Governance Action Group via [trustees@blueappletheatre.com](mailto:trustees@blueappletheatre.com).

The deadline for applications is midnight on the Monday 29 January 2024.

We hope to hold first interviews, probably virtually, in February, with a second round of interviews including conversations with participants, staff and stakeholders in March. Shortlisted candidates will be invited to an interview with an appropriate panel. We aim to agree the appointment at the Board meeting in April, with the successful candidate joining the board as a trustee at that meeting and with the Chair being formally elected at the AGM in July. You will have the opportunity to request an informal conversation with the current chair and you will also have a chance to meet the staff and other trustees in the recruitment process.