

playing ON

TREASURER

TREASURER RECRUITMENT 2021

Playing ON is a socially engaged theatre company, working in complex social settings and making professional work to platform voices from these communities.

As we look to grow over the next 5 years we need you to come on the journey.
Keep reading to find out about our treasurer trustee opportunity.

RECRUITMENT





We are a registered charity and professional theatre company with a body of work drawn from the communities within which we work. Our three critically acclaimed plays by the late Philip Osment have all been published by Oberon and performed at London theatre venues and nationwide. Our most recent play "Can I Help You?" was nominated for an OFFIE award for best director for Jim Pope.

We use workshops, training and performance to engage with disenfranchised communities. Our current programmes include working in partnership with the NHS in mental and physical health settings, working with those who have experience of the care system and working with young people at risk of long-term unemployment. We create theatre which brings together experts by profession and experts by experience to improve the wellbeing of all.

We are at a very exciting time in our journey. Having recently converted to a Charitable Incorporated Organisation we are currently preparing for a major funding bid to Arts Council England to become a regularly funded National Portfolio Organisation.

You will be joining a dedicated board of trustees and will contribute positively to discussions including setting policy, budgets and goals, evaluating performance against agreed targets, keeping abreast of meeting legal governance and quality standards.

We have implemented robust financial systems over the last 18 months so anticipate the role of the Treasurer being largely an advisory position, supporting the leadership team to maintain and enhance our systems, whilst contributing to wider organisational strategy and governance.

Playing ON is led by a joint executive, Artistic Director/CEO Jim Pope and Executive Director Rhian Davies. The board of trustees is led by our Chair Adam Moll. It currently has 5 members. You can read more about the Playing ON team and board at <https://www.playingon.org.uk/aboutus>

"I started off as a participant, and then I became associate artist with the company and then a few years later, I also became a board member. It's been a great journey in the sense that I was learning with Playing ON, learning as I got into facilitation, to then leading workshops and being on the board as well."

- Michael Amaning, Trustee

Playing ON was set up in 2010 to provide a platform for disenfranchised people and create professional theatre of the highest artistic quality.

We disrupt cycles of low aspiration by engaging with the target group, running drama workshops and facilitating improvised performances. These become the catalyst for lively public forums, which are co-produced **by** users **for** users in their own communities.

Through taking part in Playing ON workshops and shared performances, the cycles are reversed. Participants gain new understanding and are empowered to re-engage with education, training and employment.



“I came to a Playing ON workshop as a service user in May 2017 and found myself on a stage reading out my work to the public at the Albany Theatre. NUTS.”

- Mental Health Service User and Former Trustee

DISRUPTORS

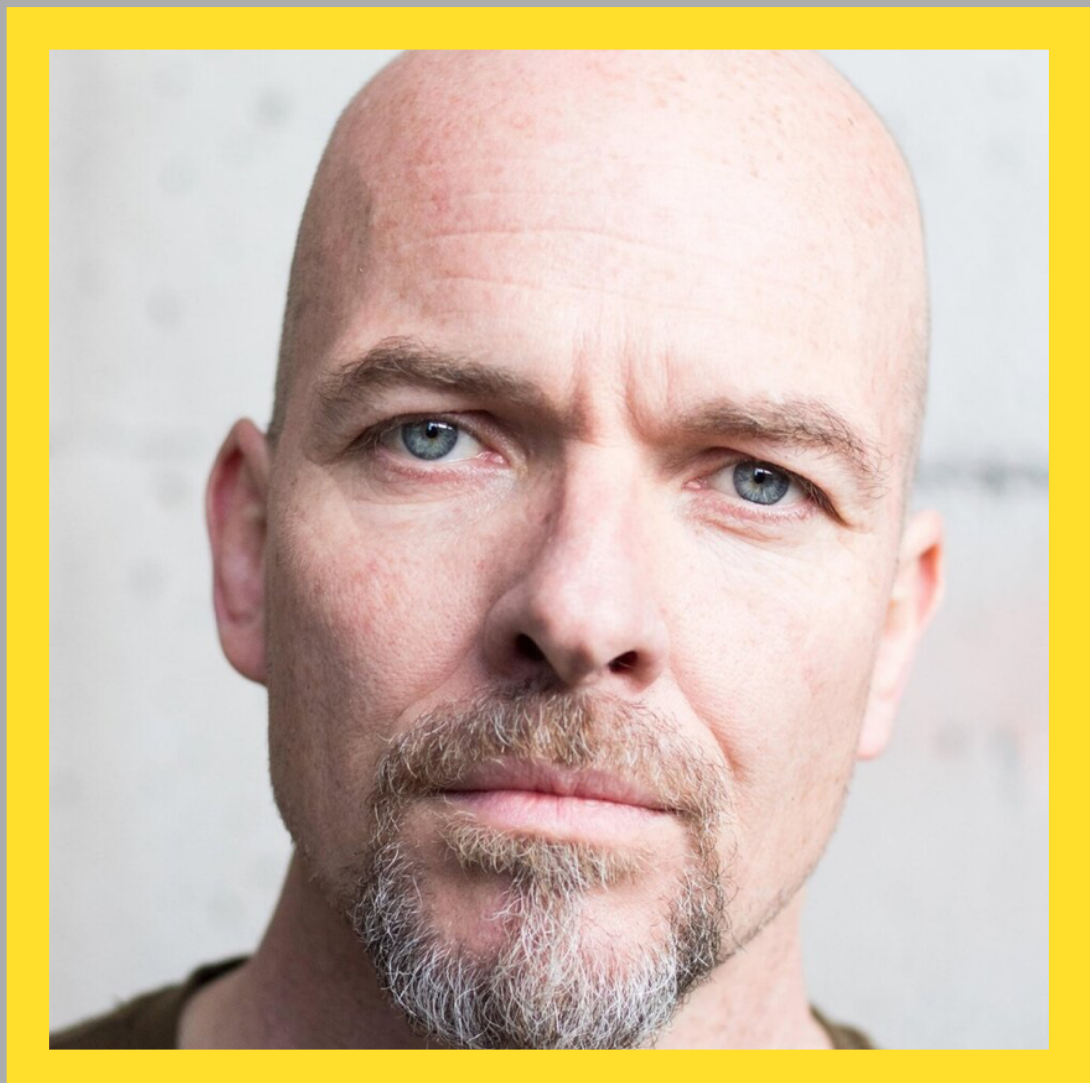
Authentic voices are then translated into new theatre scripts that inspire audiences through an urgent and truthful portrayal of life in contemporary Britain.

Our published plays have been performed in multiple settings from theatres to community centres from hospitals to the House of Lords. By expanding the circles of influence, we make decision makers question the system and address its faults.



RADICAL

A message from our Artistic Director, Jim Pope



Starting a radical new theatre company wasn't easy in the aftermath of the financial crash of 2009. Over the years though with each new project, our confidence has grown. We have cemented many valuable relationships, both within the Playing ON community with board members and associate artists and with external partners who have spurred us on to expand and widen our reach.

To date we have worked with prisoners and prison staff, mental health service users and NHS staff, hospital patients, drama students, those in recovery for addiction, young people in care and youth offending teams. We have produced three full scale theatre productions and many intensive theatre devising programmes. We have mentored emerging practitioners, delivered trainings and headed conference events.

Our work has continued unabated through lockdown as we have used social media platforms, mobile devices, go-pro cameras and social distancing measures to enhance our usual theatre making offer. As lives become more isolated and the gap between rich and poor widens, the need for our work has increased. Lockdown has created opportunities that did not previously exist. I was moved recently by a comment made by a young care home leaver in a drama workshop, which I was running on zoom. She said that it was the first time she had been in a space filled entirely by her peers all of whom have also grown up in care. For her it meant a respite from stigma and not having to pretend that she led a different life. Thanks to the extraordinary support of our trustees we have moved from strength to strength.

"Virtually all the patients who were engaged in the six-week workshop programme were discharged at about the same time and in that respect, I think that the performance clearly accelerated their discharge. I know in two definite cases where I can clearly say the performance led to me discharging them."

- Dr Dele Olajide, consultant psychiatrist, The Maudsley Hospital.



OUR CURRENT PROJECTS

DRILLING DIAMONDS

Shortlisted for a Children and Young People Now award 2020, Drilling Diamonds is a project working with young people at risk of engaging with the criminal justice system and those at risk of unemployment. By bringing together urban music, drama and film we explore the experiences of young people in London as they navigate their way to adulthood. Developed in partnership with Spotlight Youth Services in Tower Hamlets, we are now working in Lewisham with Lewisham College, Albany and Rose Bruford; and have plans to expand to Newham in the coming years.

NHS / MENTAL HEALTH

Urban Tribe, our most recent mental health project in partnership with East London NHS Foundation Trust, is at evaluation stage with results due by September 2021. By bringing together service users and service providers to explore co-production in clinical contexts, participants gained new perspectives, increased confidence and looked for ways to improve their clinical interactions.

We are working in partnership with an NHS trust to gather the opinions of their 7-25 year old service users about their care pathways and experiences.

UNDER OUR ROOF

Working with Leap Confronting Conflict we are delivering drama interventions for care experienced young people and the adults in their lives. The outputs will be disseminated widely and will help develop and nurture a network of care leavers able to articulate and explore their shared experiences in creative and healthy ways.

PROFESSIONAL PRODUCTIONS

We are planning and developing 3 pieces inspired by our projects in the care sector, with young people and the criminal justice system. With Spring 2023 as our next full production.



A Note from the Chair of the Board, Adam Moll

"I remember the goosebumps watching my first Playing ON production. For all the beautifully crafted writing, it was the raw authenticity of stories from people whose voices are seldom heard on stage that reeled me in.

We've been on quite a journey over the past decade but our next step is our biggest yet, as we seek to become one of the Arts Council's National Portfolio Organisations, giving us the stability to grow and impact thousands more lives.

To achieve this we need to enhance our Board with passionate, ambitious and diverse people who share a belief in the transformational power of theatre and a desire to share it with the most marginalised.

If this resonates with you then we'd love to hear from you. Join us on our journey and enjoy the goosebumps along the way!"





Playing ON Theatre Company
believes in a world where
disenfranchised communities can
be better understood.

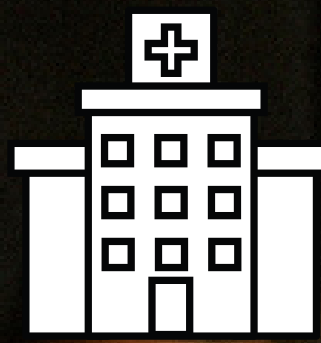
We bring together experts by
experience and experts by
profession through innovative
performances, workshops and
training to explore new
relationships; transforming lives and
improving the wellbeing of all.

VISION MISSION

STORIES FROM THE BARRACKS

1850

participants
including:



Mental health service
users and providers



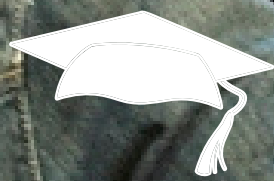
Young people at risk
of engaging with
criminal justice
system



Academics &
members of
the House of
Lords



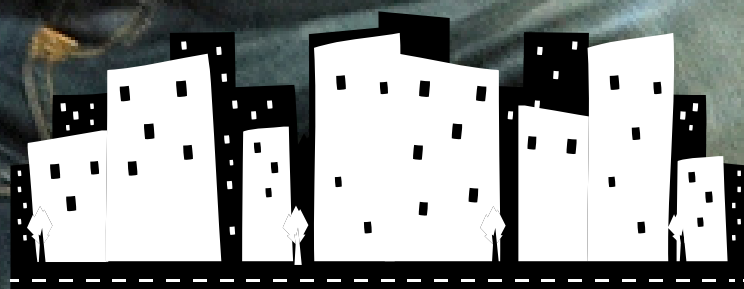
Care
experienced
young people



Applied
theatre
students and
practitioners

5900

Audience members,
including:



480 across 9
community tour
venues



1930 online
audience members
since March 2020



3427 theatre building
audience members



PARTNERS

We partner with a range of organisations and institutions in different ways:

- Funders, recent funders include Baring Foundation, Arts Council England, The Young Londoners' Fund, Wakefield and Tetley Trust
- Host organisations, who are usually embedded in the community we are working with and bring us in for our expertise in socially engaged practice. These include: Spotlight Youth Services, Lewisham College, Dragon Cafe, MicroRainbow International and NHS trusts including East London and Camden and Islington
- Theatres, we are an associate company at Omnibus Theatre where we have mounted our two most recent productions. We have toured theatres including: Vault Festival, North Wall in Oxford and The Gulbenkian. We are currently working with The Albany on Drilling Diamonds for Lewisham Borough of culture 2022.
- Education partners, we work with applied theatre and performance courses to bring our practice to the next generation of practitioners. These include The University of Kent, Rose Bruford and Central School of Speech and Drama.

ARTISTS

We are currently entirely run by freelance artists, producers and administrators which means we are well placed to be in the discussion around freelancers which has become all the louder through the pandemic.

Our associate pool comprises people who started as participants on projects, others who trained under Jim at National Youth Theatre and some practitioners who have been working in the sector for many years. We include pastoral associates whose purpose is to support participant engagement.

THE ROLE OF THE TREASURER

Role: Treasurer

Team/Department: Board of Trustees

Salary: None (non-executive role)

Location: London but can accommodate remote working

Key Responsibilities

Overall:

- Oversee the financial affairs of the organisation and ensure they are legal, constitutional and within accepted accounting practice.
- Ensure proper records are maintained and that effective financial procedures continue to be in place.
- Support the CEO and Executive Director to monitor and report on the financial health of the organisation.
- Support the Executive Director with the production of necessary financial reports/returns, accounts and audits.

Specifically:

- Liaise with relevant staff to ensure the financial viability of the organisation.
- Make fellow trustees aware of their financial obligations and take a lead in interpreting financial data to them.
- Support the Executive Director to report the financial position at board meetings (balance sheet, cash flow, fundraising performance etc).
- Support the Executive Director with the production of an annual budget and propose its adoption at the last meeting of the previous financial year.

- Ensure proper records are kept and that effective financial procedures and controls are in place, ie:
 - Cheque signatories
 - Purchasing systems and limits
 - Petty cash/ float
 - Salary payments
 - Pensions, PAYE and NI payments
 - Others as appropriate
- Appraise the financial viability of plans, proposals and feasibility studies.
- Lead on appointing and liaising with auditors/an independent examiner

Qualities:

- Knowledge and experience of current and fundraising finance practice relevant to voluntary and community organisations.
- Knowledge of book-keeping and financial management (as necessary)
- Good financial analysis skills
- Ability to communicate clearly

Approximate Time Commitments:

- Quarterly trustee meetings (2 hours)
- Supporting and advising the CEO, Executive Director and trustees (approx. 1 hour per month)



LEGAL
GOVERNANCE
TEAM
MARKETING
ENGAGEMENT
FUNDRAISING
THEATRE

ABOUT YOU

The experience and qualities we're looking for:

- A commitment to the aims and values of Playing ON CIO
- An Ability and willingness to provide the level of commitment required for this role, including attendance of quarterly Board meetings
- Experience of governance –desirable not essential
- An Ability to work as a team

We'd be particularly interested in talking to you if you have knowledge or experience in one or more of the following areas:

- o Theatre or film industry
- o Fundraising
- o Marketing and Communications
- o Legal/contract law

What are the perks of the job?

- Early bird press night and rehearsed reading invitations
- Exclusive access to backstage tours
- Guaranteed seats for all public productions.



NEXT STEPS



WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU

If after reading this, you feel as though you'd like to know more or are interested but unsure, **GET IN TOUCH!**

For more information and to ask any questions you're unsure about, email jim@playingon.org.uk. Alternatively, if trusteeship feels scary or too much of a commitment but you can offer expertise in marketing support, accountancy, legal or business planning, get in touch as we'd love to hear from you.

To register your interest in becoming a trustee, [apply here!](#)



"Its impact on the audience was startling and, for me, it was a most convincing theatrical representation of life in prison."

- Sir Ian McKellen on **INSIDE**