

# DARK HORSE

## TRUSTEES

[darkhorsetheatre.co.uk](http://darkhorsetheatre.co.uk) | [info@darkhorsetheatre.co.uk](mailto:info@darkhorsetheatre.co.uk)

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*You Have Been Watching*



[@darkhorse\\_uk](https://twitter.com/darkhorse_uk)

[@dark\\_horse\\_uk](https://www.instagram.com/dark_horse_uk)

[@dark\\_horse\\_uk](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCdark_horse_uk)

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## CALL FOR NEW TRUSTEES

Dark Horse, Huddersfield's long-running professional theatre company, is looking for experienced and enthusiastic trustees to join its Board of Directors for the next chapter of its history. Led by Executive Director Iain Bloomfield and Creative Director Amy Cunningham, the company has a range of exciting new projects underway as it builds on the success of recent touring production #Unit21.

The company is open to any interested parties and is particularly looking for trustees with expertise in: the law, including charity and / or arts law; financial management, business and fundraising; the arts sector, including film and / or theatre; Human Resources.

In line with its core commitment to equality and diversity, Dark Horse welcomes interest from under-represented sections of the community.

*'This wasn't a show about learning disabilities by people with learning disabilities, this was an absurd and joyous comedy performed by talented actors who happened to have learning disabilities'*

Theatre Bubble  
(You Have Been Watching)

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*'Breathtaking... Irrepressible Theatre'*

The Guardian  
(Hypothermia)

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*'Wit and precision, proves you can't predict when the magic of theatre will strike'*

WhatsOnStage  
(Sing Something Simple)

*Sing Something Simple*





## ABOUT DARK HORSE

**'A theatre company that believes that theatre can bring about positive change by helping people see the world differently'**

Dark Horse's mission is for people with learning disabilities to be given the equality of opportunity to train and work in the performing arts.

Based in Huddersfield, West Yorkshire, Dark Horse is one of the UK's leading theatre companies working with learning disabled and neurodiverse actors.

At the heart of the work is the development of original performance work for regional and national touring with our ensemble of actors. The acting ensemble also operates a Steering Committee to guide the company's direction.

In addition we run advanced theatre training for a cohort of student performers, undertake commissioned work for festival and events across the region, develop online resources and deliver disability-based training to professional bodies including police officers and nurses.



## THE ROLE OF A TRUSTEE

**Trustees carry a legal responsibility to ensure the good governance of the charity they serve. Their role and duties are set out by the Charity Commission and include the requirements to:**

- Ensure the charity is carrying out its purposes for the public benefit
- Comply with the charity's governing document and the law
- Act in the charity's best interest
- Manage the charity's resources responsibly
- Act with reasonable care and skill
- Make sure the charity is accountable

**To carry out these duties, trustees need to:**

- Understand and fulfil the charity's mission, aim and objectives
- Work with senior staff to establish the company's strategic plans
- Oversee the implementation of plans and monitor performance indicators
- Monitor finances to ensure the viability and sustainability of the company
- Make sure that appropriate policies and practices are in place and maintained, and commit to observing them
- Appoint senior staff, monitor their performance and provide support and guidance as required
- Ensure the company complies with relevant law
- Attend and contribute to meetings as appropriate
- Act as an ambassador for the company
- Participate in Board development to ensure that trustees can fulfil their duties
- Manage change and risk effectively
- Trustees may also take particular responsibility for overseeing a specific aspect of the company's work

Further information on the role of a trustee [can be found here](#).

*Workshop with actor Julie Hesmondhalgh*





## TERMS OF APPOINTMENT

Dark Horse is looking to appoint trustees for a three-year term in the first instance, with the possibility of extending further. All trustees must declare any conflict of interest to ensure they can act in the best interests of the company.

Trustees are voluntary and receive no salary or fee.

## TIME COMMITMENT

**Trustees are required to invest time in the following ways:**

- Attending quarterly Board meetings, either online or in person
- Reading Board papers which are sent out in advance of meetings
- Attending the Annual General Meeting
- Providing particular advice and support to staff in line with their expertise
- Meeting with relevant stakeholders
- Participating in staff recruitment and management activities
- Attending performances and other public company events
- Networking and advocating on behalf of Dark Horse



## EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST

To express interest in becoming a trustee for Dark Horse, or to enquire further, please email Dave Calvert, the Chair of Trustees, at [david.calvert@bishopg.ac.uk](mailto:david.calvert@bishopg.ac.uk).

*Dark Horse ensemble*

