

AD INFINITUM TRUSTEE RECRUITMENT PACK

AD INFINITUM



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DEPUTY CHAIR'S WELCOME

Since I've joined the board of trustees in 2021, Ad Infinitum has continued in its trail blazing form of bringing thought-provoking productions, to increasingly diverse audiences, themed around social change. Entertainment on its own is not enough for the Ad Infinitum audience, who want to be informed and challenged in creative ways that have lasting impact.

Having become an Arts Council National Portfolio Organisation in 2023, the organisation has matured artistically, operationally, and financially. This maturity has been matched with improved governance and a push for embracing change and growth. Our existing board is diverse in many ways, and we welcome different expertise, perspectives, and life experiences.

I've certainly grown during my time as a trustee and think you could too. One early moment when I first became a trustee involved doing Deaf Awareness training and being taught British Sign Language (BSL). The session was led by Ad Infinitum associate David Ellington, and for me it demonstrated that Ad Infinitum's ambition to ensure inclusivity and access for trustees, artists and audiences was definitely not lip-service. This course has given me the confidence to, at the very least, be able to greet Deaf colleagues and introduce myself – although as they say practice makes perfect!

Our board meetings are well run, and everyone has the chance to contribute, question and debate. Being a critical friend for Ad Infinitum is a role that is fulfilling in every sense of the word. Why don't you join me?

Larna Bernard
Deputy Chair of Trustees, Ad Infinitum CIO



Bucket List

ABOUT OUR ORGANISATION

“Ad Infinitum’s work is of the highest quality and creates unforgettable experiences for audiences. Their commitment to deepening engagement with performances is equally adventurous; and they have an impact within the sector, supporting a wider range of artists to develop.”
Chris Sudworth, Birmingham Hippodrome

As a LGBTQIA+, working class and ethnic minority-led theatre company, we embrace difference through collaboration, enabling a more representative theatre culture to exist by placing those minoritised by society at the heart of our work.

Founded in 2007, Ad Infinitum is led by Nir Paldi and George Mann Co-Artistic Directors/Founders). Polly Davis (Executive Director), Emma Macnair (General Manager), and Mia Lake (Producer) complete our core team. We work with our diverse family of collaborators based in Bristol, the UK and internationally to develop, create and perform our creative projects. Our board of six trustees includes experts from across the cultural, corporate and charity sectors and is led by Chair, Lauren Clancy, Interim Director of Oldham Coliseum. Our pro bono board network provides the organisation with legal, strategic and branding support and access to extensive networks.

We’re proud to be an Associate Artist at The North Wall, Oxford and are Associate Artist Alumni at Bristol Old Vic (2015-24), Bush Theatre (2011-13), The Lowry (2011-17) and Redbridge Drama Centre (2009-17).

Ad Infinitum is an Arts Council England National Portfolio Organisation for 2023-27 and we receive core funding from Bristol City Council as part of the Cultural Investment Programme.

OUR PRODUCTIONS INCLUDE:



LAST RITES

How do you have the big conversations, when the small conversations never happened? Arjun has to find a way to say goodbye to his father - but his whole life, he's not even been able to say good morning or ask about his day. A complex, powerful journey of love, loss, and parenthood.

"TREMENDOUS" - The Guardian

Co-commissioned by London International Mime Festival, Derby Theatre and Corn Exchange Newbury.



[CLICK TO WATCH THE TRAILER](#)



BEAUTIFUL EVIL THINGS

A fierce, funny, bloody take on some of the oldest stories known to woman. From a killer gorgon.

"DYNAMIC, ILLUMINATING AND HUGEY ENTERTAINING" - The Scotsman

"HAIR-RAISING, HEART-QUICKENING WHIRL OF MYTHS" - The Guardian

Co-commissioned by Tobacco Factory Theatres with support from The Wardrobe Ensemble.



[CLICK TO WATCH THE TRAILER](#)



IF YOU FALL

A moving, humorous and sensitive story based on real-life personal testimonies. Filled with a capella singing, this intergenerational ensemble cast tell the deeply human stories of older people, their families and carers struggling to approach end of life care with dignity.

"ELOQUENT AND IMPASSIONED" - Bristol 24/7

Co-commissioned by Northern Stage, HOME and Corn Exchange Newbury and supported by Bristol Old Vic, Birmingham Hippodrome, The North Wall, Culture Weston and Theatre Orchard.



[CLICK TO WATCH THE TRAILER](#)



EXTRAORDINARY WALL [OF SILENCE]

Three coming-of-age stories, united in a struggle against violence, ignorance and oppression. Combining the company's signature style of physical storytelling with the beauty of British Sign Language in an unmissable feast for the senses.

"SUBTLY PROFOUND" - The Guardian

Commissioned by Birmingham Hippodrome, Bristol Old Vic and HOME.



[CLICK TO WATCH THE TRAILER](#)



NO KIDS

Should we have kids, or not? George and Nir are a real-life same-sex couple trying to answer a question many of us face.

"CONSTANTLY COMPELLING" The Stage

Developed at Battersea Arts Centre and supported by Salisbury Playhouse, Tobacco Factory Theatres, Birmingham Hippodrome; premiered at Edinburgh Festival Fringe; toured to venues around the UK, and to Hong Kong and the USA.



[CLICK TO WATCH THE TRAILER](#)



BUCKET LIST

The powerful story of one Mexican woman's fight for justice. A story about love, loss and revenge, told with physical storytelling, live instrumental music and song.

"THE COMPANY'S USE OF MOVEMENT, ITS PERFORMATIVE RIGOUR, AND ABILITY TO CONJURE WORLDS IS SECOND TO NONE" - The Stage

Commissioned by The Lowry, supported by Bush Theatre. Winner of The Stage's 'Best Ensemble', 3 week London run at Battersea Arts Centre, where it won an Off West End Award.



[CLICK TO WATCH THE TRAILER](#)



BALLAD OF THE BURNING STAR

Armed with music, killer heels and a lethal troop of divas an enraged Israeli executes a story of victimhood, persecution, aggression and love. With shrapnel sharp voices and moves as smooth as an oiled tank chain, this cabaret troop invites you on a journey into the core of the conflicted Jewish State.

"A THEATRICAL HAND GRENADE" -

The Guardian

Commissioned by The Lowry, supported by Bush Theatre. Winner of The Stage's 'Best Ensemble', 2 UK tours & 3-week London run at Battersea Arts Centre, where it won an Off West End Award.



[CLICK TO WATCH THE TRAILER](#)



TRANSLUNAR PARADISE

A poignant, life-affirming tale without words.

"AN ADMIRABLE, INFINITELY GENTLE AND WORDLESS STORY OF LOSS AND REMEMBRANCE" The Times

"THIS IS A SHOW THAT WILL STEAL YOUR HEART"

The Scotsman

Commissioned by The Lowry, Theatre Royal Bath. Received 6 UK & 3 international awards. Performed 500+ times in 20 countries.



[CLICK TO WATCH THE TRAILER](#)

[CLICK HERE TO VISIT OUR WEBSITE TO FIND OUT MORE ABOUT ALL OF OUR PRODUCTIONS.](#)

Since 2007 we have:

- Created 14 award-winning, critically acclaimed touring productions.
- Worked with leading organisations including Barbican, Bristol Old Vic, HOME, The Lowry and Battersea Arts Centre.
- Reached over 200,000 audiences nationally and internationally.
- Toured to 25 countries including USA, China and Brazil.
- Received 22 industry awards including 2 Off West End Awards and 2 The Stage Awards.
- Provided high-quality artistic training to 2000+ early-career artists in partnership with educational institutions, festivals and touring venues, in the UK and abroad.

OUR PLAN FOR 2023-27

“Ad Infinitum's ethos is really brave, bold and provoking - they have a desire to bring togetherness from a variety of individuals, regardless of their diverse background and sexual identity”

David Ellington, Deaf Artist and Filmmaker

We hold a position in the UK's cultural landscape as a diverse-led company that is internationally renowned, award-winning, and making transformative theatre through a collaborative devising process we've refined over 18 years.

Our purpose is to highlight complex but urgent socio-political issues through theatre which is entertaining and accessible. We create ambitious, experimental productions that contribute to national conversations and provide opportunities for audiences to engage, respond and contribute to lesser heard perspectives on universal themes.



We've gained an excellent reputation for creating unforgettable live and digital projects that thrill, inform and galvanise audiences, underpinned by impactful, long term partnerships with venues to develop a more inclusive arts ecology - increasing awareness, shifting perceptions and catalysing social progress. Our specialised creative methodology brings people who experience marginalisation into our process and our projects through extensive research, the collection of authentic narratives and co-created engagement with communities.

After a process of consultation with our board, collaborators, artists and partners, we have created an ambitious portfolio of activities for 2023-27 that make a significant and impactful contribution to the cultural sector.

CREATING WORLD CLASS THEATRE

Devising new shows in collaboration with diverse artists and companies informed by rigorous research and extensive engagement.

TOURING

Bringing our high quality new productions and live and digital portfolio of shows to new and existing audiences nationally and internationally.

ORGANISATIONAL AND SECTOR DEVELOPMENT

Working in partnership with venues and artists to reach new audiences, and testing and trialling new artist-led programmes that are informed by sector-wide collaboration and co-created with creatives who experience marginalisation.

LEARNING AND ENGAGEMENT

Delivering workshops and engagement programmes that enrich the lives of children, young people and communities and developing the quality and breadth of creative teaching in schools by delivering CPD for teachers.

WHO WE'D LIKE TO JOIN US

Looking towards an exciting future, our current trustees and the team now wish to further transform and develop our board. Through broadening the skills, knowledge and lived experience of our trustees we will ensure Ad Infintum's board is representative of the work we make and the people we make work with and for.

In 2024-25, we wish to recruit new trustees to our board from across the following sectors and areas of expertise:

- Artists and freelancers working in the cultural sector
- Teachers or people working in other professions in the education sector
- People with finance, organisational development, fundraising or governance expertise working in the public or cultural sector
- People with experience of working with and in communities, particularly in Bristol and the surrounding area
- People who have experience of working in policy-making, diversity and inclusion, social activism or human rights

LIVED EXPERIENCE

We are a diverse-led company and the majority of our board and senior management team are female, LGBT+ and from a low socio-economic background. Inclusivity, relevance and representation at all levels of the company is critical and helps to ensure that we are meeting our aims and objectives, while serving the audiences, artists and communities we work with at every level.

The lived experience of our trustees is of equal importance to their professional achievements. We want our board to represent and give a voice to the collaborators we work with, our core team, our city and our audiences. We believe that a diverse board will lead to stronger and more effective governance.

We actively encourage people whose backgrounds, lived experience and skills are underrepresented in the sector to join us and positively impact our organisation. We are particularly keen to receive applications from people from the Global Majority and Deaf and disabled people to join our board.

WHAT IT MEANS TO BE A TRUSTEE

Our trustees have a legal responsibility to ensure that Ad Infinitum fulfils its charitable objectives, remains financially solvent and always meets its statutory requirements. The board meets four times a year with the senior management team to discuss key decisions, have oversight of the organisation's finances and ensure that we are delivering our aims and objectives.

Our trustees also act as a sounding board and bring constructive support and advice on a range of strategic issues for the organisation, and may provide additional, specific support to senior management or take part in subcommittee meetings. Trustees also take on 'champion' roles in areas that complement or relate to their experience and interests, and this ensures the senior management team receive support and challenge on particular areas that are important to us.

We also ask that you act as an advocate for Ad Infinitum and champion our work through your networks, and to proactively seek out and broker opportunities that may benefit the organisation.

Board meetings will be held in person in Bristol and online, and we'll hold an annual away day and Annual General Meeting (AGM) once a year.

Trustees serve for a minimum term of three years, with potential to serve a total of two terms.

OUR CURRENT TRUSTEES ARE:

Lauren Clancy - Interim CEO of Oldham Coliseum

Larna Bernard - Business consultant – experienced in customer and service user led design and volunteer for many years in community organisations representing the underserved

Nigel Gardner - former Head of Finance at Bristol Old Vic

Joanna Dong - Founder/Director of a London-based international performing arts agency and creative producer

DL Williams - Deaf queer poet working with British Sign Language and English

Melanie Aram - Head of Leadership and Major Gifts at Maggie's Centres

[Click here to visit our website for more information about our Trustees.](#)

INDUCTION, SUPPORT AND TRAINING

We'd like to take the opportunity of welcoming three new trustees onto our board as a moment to train and induct all our trustees so that we can create an effective, inclusive and dynamic board for the years ahead. We'll meet with you and the Chair, Lauren Clancy to discuss what support and training you might like to help you fulfil your role effectively, and what types of development opportunities the board might do together.

Being a trustee is a voluntary role and is unpaid, however we will reimburse you for all reasonable expenses, including travel and childcare costs if required. To enable Deaf trustees to join our board, we'll ensure the required access needs for board meetings and papers are met, which may include BSL interpretation, captioning etc.

We are passionate about creating a more diverse and representative arts sector and will work to provide any access support or arrangements that are required for you to undertake this role effectively.



[CLICK TO WATCH DR VOXOFF'S SIGN LANGUAGE SCHOOL FOR HEARING CHILDREN BY MATTHEW GURNEY](#)



[CLICK TO LISTEN TO OUR PODCAST 'UNTIL I FIND YOU'](#)

APPLICATION PROCESS

Please send a CV, and cover letter which is no longer than two sides of A4 or a video in your chosen language no longer than five minutes, detailing why you'd like to join us as a Trustee, and what skills and experience you could bring to our organisation.

We'd love to hear about:

- Why our work and being a trustee at Ad Infitum interests you
- What you think you could bring to the role of Trustee
- What your passions are and what inspires you
- What you need in order to do your best work. Please feel free to send an access rider if you have one.

We actively encourage applications from anyone regardless of age, disability, ethnicity, heritage, sexuality, gender and socio-economic background.

Please send your application via email to Polly Davis, Executive Director at polly@ad-infitum.org with the subject 'Trustee Recruitment'. Please also contact Polly if you have any questions or would like to chat about the role. Once we've received your application we'll contact you to have an informal chat - either online or in person - and following that will arrange for you to meet the Chair and/or Deputy Chair, Executive Director and Co-Artistic Directors (in person ideally or online if needed). If we think you would make a great trustee, we'll ask you to attend a board meeting as an observer, before officially joining us.

Travel expenses for meetings will be reimbursed and as part of the interview process you will be asked to confirm that you are eligible to act as a Trustee for a charity and we will carry out Disclosure and Barring Service checks.

AD INFINITUM

AD-INFINITUM.ORG



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