

RECRUITMENT PACK

TALL STORIES THEATRE COMPANY

TRUSTEES

Thank you for your interest in joining us as trustee.

First things first! You can get a good idea of who we are and what we do by looking at our website: <https://www.tallstories.org.uk/>

In this pack, we've included:

- an overview of Tall Stories' work
- a brief of the two roles we're looking for
- how to apply and the timeline of the recruitment process

If you have any questions about the role, or you would like to have an informal chat with a current trustee or one of the Senior Management Team, please contact Laura our Executive Director at laura@tallstories.org.uk who will gladly arrange this.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Tall Stories



Photos: The Gruffalo's Child and Room on the Broom, based on the book © Julia Donaldson and Axel Scheffler 2004, Macmillan Children's Books.

About Tall Stories

Tall Stories is a registered charity that brings great stories to life for audiences of all ages. Known primarily for work for family audiences, we create small and medium scale shows that perform in the UK and across the globe. Our purpose is to entertain, create conversations and bring magical moments to life through the very best of story-telling theatre. We strive to make our work as accessible as can be for all the family, as such some of our performances are to people who otherwise might not have the opportunity to enjoy live theatre. Seeing engaged and rapt audiences across the continents is what makes our work worthwhile. We're also delivering and developing an outreach programme to share learning of story-telling and theatre management.

We value our audiences and all those who work with us as performers, creatives and 'behind the scenes'. We strive for inclusiveness and fairness in our choice of shows, casting, where we tour and to whom we perform our stories.

We're based in Islington, North London, in a section of Central Library on Holloway Road. This is our administrative base, alongside a large studio space suitable for rehearsals and performances for an audience of up to 80.

It's an exciting time to join Tall Stories. We've just turned 25 and are at the start of an important new era for the company. We look forward to welcoming you to be part of an experienced and highly motivated Board of Trustees guiding Tall Stories' future.

For further information about the company please look at our website: www.tallstories.org.uk



Photos: Tall Stories Studio in Central Library, Holloway Road, Islington

Our programme of work 2022/23 currently includes:

The Smeds and the Smoos: Christmas run, national tour and West End

The Gruffalo: regional tour, Christmas run and US tour

Room on the Broom: West End, regional tour

The Snail and the Whale: UK tour

The Gruffalo's Child: West End and regional tour

International: we partner with various partners around the globe to tour our work to audiences in Australia, US, Germany, Malta and Dubai to name a few.

Islington community and outreach programme

Tall Stories' programme of work in the studio space includes free performances for Islington school groups and residents, opportunities to give local young people an insight into how a stage production is created, workshops for actors and theatre creatives, a programme of support for emerging theatre companies, sharing of works-in-progress and preview performances of new shows.

We're building an ever more positive partnership with Islington Council, working together on community events such as the Summer Reading Challenge and the Islington Word Festival. In 2021, we ran our first ever Summer School for local Islington children. The majority of the children who attended were HAF eligible. We're also partners on Islington Council's 11:11 programme working closely with local schools to support every child in the borough to access 11 cultural and creative experiences by year 11. We're also part of the Council's Cultural Leads strategy group. We want to build on this base and create even stronger links into the community and with local schools.

The aim for our studio is be recognised as a storytelling hub with a local reach and industry benefit.



Photos: Tall Stories Studio schools and community visits and meet & greets with the Gruffalo company.



The Brief for the trustee roles

We're looking for 2 new Trustees to join our vibrant and engaged Board of Trustees to lead the company through an important phase in our development, to support and guide the delivery of our artistic work and our Islington community and outreach programme.

We strive to have an exciting, broad range of voices on our Board, people who share our values and vision and can bring their varying life experience and skills to our work. We value lived experience as much as professional experience in our Board members.

In dialogue with our existing Trustees, we've identified the below desirable skill sets which we feel are important areas of growth for the company. It may be that you cover several of the elements we are searching for below, or that you have significant knowledge in just one area - we welcome applications in both scenarios.

We are looking for individuals with knowledge and experience of:

Education, community & outreach

or/and

Artistic vision and strategy – as artistic/executive director, producer or other senior role

or/and

Digital reach & audience development

If you're someone who can:

- Sharpen our thinking
- Proactively bring your skills and experience of the above to the Board. If you've had experience of the creative arts world, even better!
- Help us increase the education, youth and participation aims of Tall Stories
- Help us continue to provide high-quality theatrical experiences for young audiences and their families at small to mid-scale, ensuring commercial viability and excellence
- Help us increase our reach and vision for the work we do to local, national and with international audiences
- Bring a new and diverse voice and experience to our Islington community and outreach projects
- Give support and challenge to the executive team
- Be a champion for equality, diversity and inclusion

then please apply. We want to hear from you whether this is your first board position, or you already have years of trustee experience. We're committed to providing training, support and mentorship as required.

To ensure the Board reflects the diversity of the communities we work in and the stories we tell, we're keen to hear from people from culturally diverse background (including Black, Asian and Other Ethnic Groups), those who are disabled and those from the LGBTQ+ community and/or lower socio-economic backgrounds. Living or working in Islington would be welcome, but not essential. If you identify in this way, then please tell us in your covering letter and monitoring form.

Your commitment to us

- To attend four Board meetings a year of 2.5 hours each where we receive and approve artistic, operational and financial updates. Two of our meetings are held together in person in London and two are virtual.
- To come to one Away Day a year in London.
- To be available for *ad-hoc* advice.
- As certain responsibilities are delegated to sub-committees, to be prepared to serve on one of these.
- To see at least one Tall Stories production each year.
- To share Tall Stories' values of kindness, generosity and integrity whilst striving for high-quality accessible theatrical experiences for children and their families.

Please note, trustee positions are voluntary and unpaid. However, we'll gladly reimburse you for reasonable travel expenses and additional childcare where appropriate.

Our commitment to you

- We are committed to making all trustees and colleagues feel welcome and included.
- We will give a full induction of the company and the trustee role on starting. If you are new to trustee/Board work, we will provide extra support through buddying with an existing trustee or working with a member of the executive team as required. We are open to discussing any further support a Board Member might require to be able to fully participate and undertake their duties, including, but not limited to, accessibility, WiFi connection/tech, training, etc.
- We are committed to being inclusive throughout all areas of our work.
- We will give you the opportunity to 'make a difference' whilst helping shape the future of a wonderful story-telling company.
- We will invite you to attend our shows, projects and events throughout the year to help you connect to, and feel able to represent and advocate for, our work.

The role and responsibilities of a trustee

The Board is responsible for making sure that Tall Stories delivers its charitable objectives; remains solvent; is properly managed; and complies with all relevant legislation and governance. Trustees share a commitment to, and passion for, supporting the success of Tall Stories.

For more information on the role of the Board and what shapes our organisation please visit:

www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-essential-trustee-what-you-need-to-know-cc3

<https://www.ncvo.org.uk/help-and-guidance/governance/#/>

Trustees are required to understand and embrace the seven principles of public life as defined by the Nolan Committee. These are selflessness, integrity, objectivity, accountability, openness, honesty and leadership.





How to apply

If you're excited about what we do, and think your experience can add value to our Board, we'd love to hear from you.

Please apply with the following:

1. Your CV or a list of previous experience in an employed or voluntary capacity
2. A completed Equal Opportunities Monitoring form. This form will be kept separate from your application throughout the application process.
3. A brief cover letter (max 2 sides of A4) OR a short video (max 5 minutes) answering the following questions in your own words:
 - a. Why you're interested in becoming a trustee for Tall Stories
 - b. What you would bring to the role and why

Send to recruitment@tallstories.org.uk with the e-mail subject header "Tall Stories Trustee".

Note on Video applications: Please send videos as an unlisted You Tube video or audio from your chosen platform with a ULR link. The quality of filming isn't important, you can just use a smartphone camera or webcam.

If you require access support to apply, please email laura@tallstories.org.uk

Shortlisting process

Candidates will be scored by a panel of Board and staff members on the:

- Strength of their answers to the questions above
- Relevant skills and experience in community outreach/education/creative industries

Successful candidates will be invited to interview with members of our Board and Executive team in person.

This is an ongoing recruitment process. Interviews will be held periodically.

We will let you know either way whether you've been selected for interview.

Thank you for considering joining our Tall Stories team.