

MORTAL FOOLS

New Board members needed



Who we are

Mortal Fools exists to create fantastic theatre by young people working as co-creators alongside professionals, in ways and settings which positively change lives.

We are a creative learning company based in North East England. We are a company limited by guarantee and a registered charity with five trustees, a core staff team of three and a team of ten freelance practitioners.

What we believe

We believe that many of the world's problems arise from disengagement, and that fundamental to *engagement* and wellbeing of individuals and society as a whole is individuals having a positive self-image, confidence and a sense of purpose. Without these things aspirations and motivation are typically low. When the numbers of disengaged individuals in a community is high, this disengagement can shape society.

Whilst it may not be a survival requirement, creativity is a fundamental human need and therefore vital to *fulfilment*. The act of creating something – baking a cake, building something or creating art - makes us feel present, that we can make a mark on this world – it shouts, '*I'm here!*' We therefore use the creative arts to help people have this type of experience which can, in turn, build confidence, give experiences of personal accomplishment and help shape a positive self-image, especially in young people.

With the right application, participation in the creative arts can bring about lasting *behavioural* change, where instead of feeling that their life and what they do doesn't matter, young people believe they can achieve things, that they can have an impact and so feel more motivated to find a constructive place for themselves in the world.

Where we are now

We currently run three main programmes for young people and a further programme of professional development workshops for corporate audiences.

Creatives of the Future – this is our youth theatre programme where young people work alongside professional theatre artists to create fantastic pieces of original theatre. These are often performed in community settings like village halls and schools, which we temporarily transform into fully-functioning theatre spaces.

It also includes on-the-job training for early career artists to help them develop their practice, confidence and networks in the sector.

You can watch a short film about our youth theatre work [HERE](#).

Unlocking Potential – this programme uses drama to support Year 5 children from disadvantaged backgrounds to explore the world, build their aspirations and reading, writing and language skills. Children's original writing is used to create original plays, which are performed for them by actors. They also complete Explore Arts Award and showcase their learning to their peers and families. The project has been shaped in collaboration with teachers and there is a strong teacher CPD element throughout.

Future Ready – this programme uses a theatre production process to support teenagers with special educational needs and disabilities to develop the skills, confidence and resilience needed to make a successful transition out of education.

This programme involves peer-to-peer leadership and teacher CPD. You can watch a short film about last year's project [HERE](#).

Drop the Act – this is our programme of training workshops for corporate audiences in partnership with the region's leading producing theatre, Northern Stage. We run programmes of open and bespoke workshops for clients including Newcastle University, Bond Dickinson, Northumbrian Water, Ward Hadaway, Port of Tyne, Sintons Law, Apex Acoustics and Virgin Money.

Where we want to be

Mortal Fools has bold ambitions for the future. We are applying to become part of the Arts Council's National Portfolio of cultural organisations from 2018-22. If we are successful, this will represent a major step-change in how we work.

However, our ambitions are the same regardless. We want to scale up the programmes above, develop both our artistic and participatory practices and become a leader in our area of work. We want to programme interesting work into the region, with a focus on younger audiences, and have long-term ambitions for this to happen in our own venue – a hub for creating new work with young people, enthusing new audiences and supporting younger artists develop their skills.

What we need

We are recruiting new Trustees for our Board. We need motivated, skilled, and energetic people to help us make this climb. As a group, the Board is dedicated, insightful, supportive, and diligent - working hard to help Mortal Fools grow into something quite special.

To develop the company in the way we intend, we need additional Trustees with expertise in one or more of the following areas: Education, Finance, Legal and Governance, Business Development, Fundraising and Mental Health/Psychology. While we're seeking particular expertise in these areas, all Trustee roles are generalist and all Board members contribute to all aspects of overseeing the organisation.

We are developing the way we work with our Trustees, but as a minimum, they are usually expected to attend 4-5 business meetings, and 1-2 Away Days each year in the Tyne Valley/Newcastle area, attend some of our events and activities and work with the lead staff on short projects as the need arises.

To find out more about the company and the work we do, please visit our website www.mortalfools.org.uk.

If you're interested in becoming a Trustee, or would like more information, please contact our Artistic Director, Kiz Crosbie, on 07779 579558 or kiz@mortalfools.org.uk