

## Liverpool and Merseyside Theatres Trust Limited Summary Equal Opportunities Policy



This is a summary of version of the Liverpool and Merseyside Theatres Trust Equal Opportunities Policy, and focuses on the way we implement equality of opportunity when recruiting and employing people. If you are applying for a job, and would like to see the full policy, then please email [recruitment@everymanplayhouse.com](mailto:recruitment@everymanplayhouse.com)

The Liverpool and Merseyside Theatres Trust (LMTT) aims to be fully aware of the historical, cultural and social experiences of many individuals and groups. We are committed to eliminating discrimination and encouraging diversity amongst our workforce. Our objective is to create a working environment in which there is no unlawful discrimination and all decisions are based on merit.

The Company led by the Board is committed to Equal Opportunity practice and to making this policy fully effective.

### **Equality in LMTT**

The Company aims to make its work fully accessible for as wide an audience as possible and to reflect the cultural diversity of the communities it works with, and we select employees on their abilities and aim to ensure that no employee, patron or potential employee is discriminated against on the ground of the criteria set out in the Equality Act (2010). Discrimination is unlawful when it takes place on one of the following grounds (the protected characteristics):-

- age
- disability
- gender re-assignment
- marriage and civil partnership
- pregnancy and maternity
- race
- religion or belief
- sex
- sexual orientation

The Company will not tolerate discrimination against any staff by fellow employees, or persons appointed to the service of the Company.

Discrimination can take a number of forms:

- Direct discrimination is when someone is treated worse than someone else just because of a protected characteristic.
- It is also direct discrimination when someone is treated worse than someone else because they associate with someone with a protected characteristic or because they are perceived to have a protected characteristic.
- Indirect discrimination is when an apparently neutral practice or requirement disproportionately disadvantages one group and cannot be justified by the needs of the business.

It is also discrimination when a disabled person is treated unfavourably because of something connected to their disability and this cannot be justified by the needs of the business or when the business fails to make reasonable adjustments for a disabled person.

We will make adjustments to accommodate disabled employees where possible and reasonable. For example, we can provide extra equipment or support, we can re-arrange duties and we can make changes to our premises in appropriate case. If you think you may have a disability, you are encouraged to tell the business about this so that we can explore what adjustments might be appropriate.

### **Recruitment and Selection**

We aim to ensure that job requirements and job selection criteria are clear and based only what is required to get the job done effectively. We will avoid making stereotypical assumptions based on protected characteristics about who is able to do a particular job.

We aim to ensure that no job applicant is placed at a disadvantage by practices or requirements which disproportionately disadvantage protected groups and which are not justified by the demands of the job.

For all jobs, we will draw up a clear and accurate job description and person specification to ensure that we remain focused on what the job involves and the skills, experience and qualifications which are relevant and necessary to do the job. Depending upon the skills required for the job, recruitment shall be aimed at as wide a group of suitably qualified and experienced people as possible and each candidate will be considered on his/her merits, experience and suitability for the post.

Shortlisting for interview will be done by at least two people using a pre-agreed marking system that is applied fairly and consistently to all applicants. When we hold interviews, we will ensure that more than one person conducts them to avoid unintentional bias. Where appropriate and possible, selection panels will include a balance of gender and ethnicity. We will not ask for personal or irrelevant information on application forms or in interviews. We will focus instead on whether someone has the relevant skills, qualities and experience to do the job. As posts become vacant the Head of Department concerned will review the area of work in conjunction with the Administration Department.

Where a job description already exists it will be reviewed in light of the vacancy and to ensure that it contains no indirect discrimination. Any changes are to be agreed with the Administration Department. Candidates for interview will receive copies of job descriptions and information on the Company.

The Company aims to encourage applications from, and training opportunities for, people from underrepresented groups in our workforce. For some recruitment and promotion exercises we may take positive action to address under-representation in our workforce by encouraging applications from people from certain under-represented groups. For example, we may target our advertising towards particular groups, we might hold open days, work shadowing opportunities targeted at particular groups or we might provide training for particular groups to prepare them for promotion. However, we will ultimately make recruitment and promotion decisions on merit and not on the basis of protected characteristics.

All those involved in the interviewing procedure will be made fully aware of the Company's Equal Opportunities Policy. Recruitment procedures shall be regularly monitored and modified to ensure that individuals are selected on the basis of their merits, experience and suitability for the post.

DECLARATION – The Rehabilitation of Offenders Act (1974) requires that people applying for positions which give them 'substantial, unsupervised access on a sustained and regular basis' to children under the age of 18 years MUST declare all previous convictions which are then subject to police checks. An applicant in this category can only be offered a job subject to a successful police check. This includes potential employees, volunteers and self-employed people such as practitioners. They should also be required to declare any cases pending against them. Applicants should be reassured that any information will be treated in confidence and will not be used against them unfairly.

Disclosure and Barring Service – When an applicant has been selected who will be required to work with young or vulnerable people, an application for an Enhanced check from the Disclosure and Barring Service will be made and must be received by the organization before their appointment can be confirmed. Details on this procedure can be obtained from the Administration Department.

### **Grievances**

Any job applicant who believes that s/he has been treated inequitably within the scope of this policy should contact the Head of Administration, via [info@everymanplayhouse.com](mailto:info@everymanplayhouse.com) or on 0151 706 9113, who will investigate the complaint.

Allegations of potential breaches of this policy will be treated seriously. Employees and contractors who make such allegations in good faith will not be victimised or treated less favourably as a result. However, false allegations of a breach of this policy which are found to have been made in bad faith will be dealt with under our disciplinary procedure.