

Matthew Linley

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Summary

An enthusiastic, experienced and entrepreneurial and arts leader. My broad range of experience includes theatre and performing arts producing and programming, fundraising, project, venue and organisation management, artistic programming, strategic development, capital project development and commissioning.

Career History

Artistic Director and Chief Executive Officer, Unity Theatre Liverpool – 2014 to December 2017

Principal Responsibilities

- To provide strong, inspirational and high profile leadership for the artistic, strategic and operational demands of the Unity
- To ensure the ongoing financial resilience of the organisation
- To develop the vision and programme of Unity, ensuring its place at the heart or edgy and radical theatre in the North of England.
- Responsible for a company with an annual turnover in the region of upto £900k per year , annually hosting 300 performances, reaching between 24-26,000 audiences.

Programme Highlights

- Produced *Nina – a story about me and Nina Simone* with Riksteatern. Liverpool & Sweden (2016), Young Vic and Traverse (Edinburgh Fringe) (2017) with a UK tour planned in 2018.
- Co-produced *Lampedusa* (with Soho Theatre and Hightide), *Chicken* (with Eastern Angles), Lizzie Nunnery's *Horny Handed Tons of Soil* and *Bardolph's Box* (with Up The Road Theatre). Worked in association to premiere *20 Stories High (Broke n Beat Collective)* and Tmesis Theatre (*Happy Hour*).
- Developed our relationship with Action Transport – increasing the reach, capacity and professionalism of our seasonal co-production. Both *Princess and the Pea* (2015) and *Little Red and the Big Bad Wolf* (2016) were critically acclaimed, and Little Red is being revived as the Christmas show for Z Arts and Brewery Arts in 2017.

Funding bids

- Secured £435k of Arts Council funding for a new capital programme at Unity, which has been supported by the City Council (£120k) and to date over 50% of our fundraising target of £100k has been achieved.
- Secured four years of NPO funding (£272,000 per annum), strategic tour funding for *Nina* (£95,000) and Catalyst Evolve support (£133,900)
- Secured capital bids of over £150k including Garfield Weston Foundation (50k), Granada Foundation (30k), One Ark (15k) and PF Holt (10k)

General Manager, Eastern Angles

2011 to 2014

Principal Responsibilities

- Overall responsibility for the strategic and operational management of the company , including executive producing all the companies productions (generally 4 to 5 productions a year)
- Responsible for financial and human resource management and strategic planning. Managing a team of 13 staff (plus volunteers and freelance creatives) and an annual turnover of £7000,000
- Managing Eastern Angles relationships with its funders including Arts Council England, Heritage Lottery Fund, Suffolk County Council and local borough and district councils
- Producing around 5 shows a year, supporting and developing new work (through commissioning, workshops and readings).

Funding bids

- Secured £120k of Catalyst support for Eastern Angles fundraising activity and 95k of small scale capital.
- Secured £15k of GFA funding for *I heart Peterborough* and £5k funding for *River Lane* from Forrester Trust.
- Annual applications to local authorities for funding totalling just under £100,000k
- Manage the National Portfolio contract with Arts Council England and the £160,000 award from Heritage Lottery Fund for the *Forty Years On* project

Freelance Producer and Arts Manager February 2008-2011

Projects included

- Produced and fundraised for *Murray Lachlan Young's Quest for the West* (2011) and *The Incomers* (2013) *Phrased and Confused* (2008/9/11), *Cepheus (Indos, Croatia)* 2011, *Insulting Cabaret* (2009/10), the *SEAS club* (Varna, Bulgaria, June 2008), *BadCo* (Croatia) 2008, *Bloody Brits* (2009)
- Interim Live Art Producer for Dartington (April 2009-March 2011) including producing two HOME festivals, through the hub.
- Consultancy and project work for BBC, EM Media (Nottingham), Creative Partnerships, Beaford Arts, Wolverton Unlimited, the hub and Metro Boulot Dodo
- Chair of the selection panel for *Artists Taking the Lead* (Arts Council Olympic project) in the East.

Director, Phoenix Arts Leicester

November 2002 – February 2008

Principal Responsibilities

- Overall responsibility for the strategic and operational management of the company. Managing a team of up to 25 staff and an annual turnover of £750,000 to deliver a programme of 700 film screenings, 140 live events and 200 education events annually.
- Taking a lead role in the development of plans for Phoenix Square (DMC) which opened in 2009. Key roles included business and operational planning, providing end user input into the design process and general advocacy for the project.

Programme Highlights

- Commissioning and first performances of work by company in residence Metro Boulot Dodo. *Blown Up* (2002), *Fib* (2003/4) (site specific and co commissioned by the Now Festival, Nottingham), *Under Pressure* (2004/5) and *Spring* (2005 – co commissioned by the Royal National Theatre).
- Co-producing Louise Katerega's *A State of Becoming* which went onto be nominated for the Place Prize.

Funding bids

- Several successful RALP bids – including £29,000 for six digital art commissions and £50,000 for the continuation of the live programme. Led and secured £50,000 of funding (Three Cities) for the *Love City* project.

Arts Co-ordinator, 21 South Street Arts Centre, Reading May 2000 – Nov 2002

Principal Responsibilities

- Managing and programming a small scale arts centre (110 seated, 200 standing) with an annual turnover of £240,000.
- Day to day responsibility for the venues operation, health and safety, licensing and the effective managing of all events including performances, hires and workshops.

Programme Highlights

- Brought *Lenny Henry* (Jan 2001) and *Mark Thomas* (May 2001) to the venue for residencies prior to major national tours.
- Produced and staged *The Shouting Fence* at the Oracle Shopping Centre.
- Invited Wildcard Theatre (*Richard III*, autumn 2001), Platform 4 (*Dr Heidegger's Experiment* 2002), Peoplykeus (*Rhinoceros*, spring 2002) and Tell Tale Hearts (Spring 2002) to create new works at the centre. Other programme highlights include *An Die Musik*, *Ballet Lorent* and *Goat Island*.

Successful Funding Bids

- Part of the team that negotiated a £120,000 Next Stage grant for a 3 year programme focused on culturally diverse programming. This was complemented by a successful £30,000 New Audience programme bid to develop Asian audiences and programming.
- £240,000 from the New Opportunities Fund for a three year programme of After School clubs linked to the programme of Reading Arts.
- £30,000 RALP bid for artist led capital improvements to the building. Successful bids under £10,000 include Southern Arts (x3), Performing Rights Society (x2), Hinrichsen Foundation, Calouste Gulbenkian and Paul Hamlyn Foundation.

Arts Manager, Michael Tippett Centre (MTC), BSUC

April 1998 – May 2000

Arts Development Assistant, Newport Borough Council

July 1997 – April 1998

Marketing and Sales Assistant, Sherman Theatre, Wales

October 1996 – July 1997

Boards / committees / directorships / professional memberships

- Recently appointed board member for Colchester Mercury Theatre
- Regional representative for Independent Theatre Council (ITC) in the North West, and formally the East
- Professional Member of Theatre UK and former regional rep for Independent Theatre Council (ITC) in the North West, and East
- Currently Director of Phrased and Confused CTC and the Hub Arts CTC.
- Previous board memberships include 30 Bird Productions, Regional Council Member Arts Council England (East), Spark Childrens Festival (Leicester) and Bristol Area Dance Agency.

- Chair of the selection panel for *Artists taking the Lead* in the East. Co-chair of the *Live Literature Consortium* (Leicester Phoenix, Exeter Phoenix, Gulbenkian Theatre, Contact Theatre, The Albany, Birmingham Mac, Norden Farm Centre for the Arts).

Education

Dartington College of Arts (University of Plymouth) *BA Hons 2/1 Theatre and Arts Management (graduated 1994)*

St Mary's Secondary School, Menston, West Yorkshire *4 A Levels, 9 GCSE's*

Referees

Mr Chris Bliss
Estate Director, Liverpool One
Angles
Chair of Unity Theatre

Mr Ivan Cutting
Artistic Director, Eastern

Contact details available on request