



MÓTUS

ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

JOB PACK

MÓTUS was established in 2013 by professional dancers based in Milton Keynes, who had spent over 20 years professionally working around the country and internationally, recognising that there was a huge absence in relation to accessing high-quality, regular dance programming within Milton Keynes; mainly due to there being no dance programming houses (alongside the folding of Bucks Dance - our regional dance agency). MÓTUS' founders recognised the potential sitting and waiting to be harnessed in the region and so, MÓTUS was born.

Since its inception, MÓTUS has presented nine festivals hosting an eclectic, exciting and diverse programme of work from national and internationally celebrated companies. Our performance programme takes place across the city in free public open spaces, within the centre:mk, across our cultural venues (with The Venue MK being our partner venue) and within sited areas which make interesting performance spaces. We programme high quality work on the British touring circuit to include Phoenix Dance Theatre, Aakash Odedra, Motionhouse, Company Chameleon, Joli Vyann, James Cousins, Charlotte Vincent, Jose Agudo's 'Carmen' alongside creating our own showcases of work and creative ventures. JUMP START is our U.Dance endorsed youth dance platform which welcomes hundreds of young dancers to The Venue MK annually to share talent, creativity and passion.

MÓTUS also programmes workshops and masterclasses at all levels throughout the year and is becoming a recognisable name in support of new dance work and emerging dance artists through the ADJUSTMENTS platforms - presenting and discussing new work. These platforms are a space to try new ideas for work and provide feedback to artists through discussions with live audiences and a panel of arts professionals.

Since MÓTUS began it has celebrated increased collaboration in Milton Keynes between artistic groups and ideas. MÓTUS is delighted to be supported by Arts Council England, Milton Keynes City Council, Milton Keynes Community Foundation, The D'Oyly Carte Foundation and the Leche Trust.



MÓTUS Vision

MÓTUS is a dance charity founded by Helen Parlor investing in strong, diverse artistic collaborations and partnerships to increase reach and engagement in dance across all community sectors in Milton Keynes.

MÓTUS Mission

Our mission is to see our theatres and arts scenes bustling with life from every age group and from every sector of the community - everyone is welcome here.

CORE VALUES

MÓTUS seeks to deliver its mission through the pursuit of its core values of quality, diversity, inclusivity, access and communication, through all of its activities.

Quality– in the individuals working with MÓTUS , in the work produced by MÓTUS , and in experiences for participants and audiences

Diversity– in the composition of the company members, and in the kind of experiences and opportunities offered

Inclusivity– in programming work that has broad appeal, and in particular in the range and scope of educational activities

Access– in producing work that is accessible and open to audiences from diverse backgrounds, and in opening up educational experiences to as broad a range of people as possible with varying abilities

Communication– in presenting work that is communicative and relevant to current audiences, and in the way we interact with audiences, venues and all partners



MAIN PURPOSE OF THE ROLE

To provide the artistic leadership of MÓTUS by developing and implementing the company's vision which will build on the founders and MÓTUS' amazing legacy and achievements.

To spearhead the organisation into an exciting new stage of its development. You will set the artistic programme, build partnerships and collaborations with artists, companies, funders, stakeholders, audiences and all those who engage with MÓTUS and its varied programmes. To listen to the needs of local, regional, national and international artists, companies and service users. To be an advocate for dance and its benefits locally, regionally and nationally. To be a changemaker, a creator a leader who creates meaningful dance experiences for everyone. You will be expected to work with the General Manager and board of trustees, to bring all projects to fruition.

MÓTUS are offering a fee of £14,000 for an Artistic Director to work 2-days a week for 20-weeks (c. £350 per day) to develop a programme. It is planned that further funding will be sought in the coming months to extend the duration of the AD role.

Over the past 12-months, MÓTUS has been delivering the programme of our founder artistic director Helen Parlor, who sadly passed away early in 2023. To keep MÓTUS on sure footing, an artistic director is required to provide future focus for the charity.

The trustees are looking for an individual to bring their own artistic vision to the charity to offer a structured programme which will be of value to Milton Keynes and offer appeal to our funders going forwards.



ROLE EXPECTATIONS

1. To create the future strategic vision for MÓTUS in agreement with the board
2. To develop a programme that brings together professional companies and the people of MK
3. For that programme to be attractive to funders, especially Arts Council England.
4. To provide leadership to the freelancers (freelancers currently each have a board lead who is in regular contact with them).

REQUIRED OUTCOMES

1. Review MÓTUS' past programme and work to develop an understanding of MÓTUS' aims and achievements
2. Present an overarching strategic vision and plan for the charity, for sign off by the board of trustees
3. Support the freelance team with high-level sign-off and support as required
4. Explore companies who would work with MÓTUS as part of your new programme and establish a delivery plan with timescales and costs
5. Identify potential funders and support the fundraising efforts with leadership support from the board and practical support from the freelance fundraiser



ARTISTIC AND CREATIVE LEADERSHIP

1. Devising and producing programmes for Milton Keynes's theatres and performance spaces, in consultation with MÓTUS' General Manager and board of trustees.
2. Providing inspiration and leadership for all the company's activities, especially performances and community education and outreach projects
3. Commissioning new work, combined with works from other choreographers, including seasoned dance professionals and new voices.
4. Commissioning and briefing choreographers, designers, composers and other collaborators
5. Developing creative partnerships with other companies and organisations regionally, nationally and internationally.

TOURING

1. Overseeing rehearsals of visiting companies, in conjunction with MÓTUS.
2. Liaising with technical managers about technical requirements of the artistic programme and venue capabilities
3. Selecting and supporting companies ensuring high standards of performance
4. Monitoring and managing the different processes of performances.
5. Delivering post-show talks when necessary

LINE MANGEMENT

1. Recruiting and monitoring of dancers, choreographers, designers, composers and other collaborators
2. Managing and motivating dancers and other artistic staff as appropriate
3. Leading and managing artistic teams to plan and collaborate on productions
4. Inspiring dancers to enable them to achieve their potential, creating new opportunities for their development within the artistic vision
5. Liaising with the General Manager and Access & Education teams regarding the artistic content of education projects
6. Holding regular meetings with the freelance team



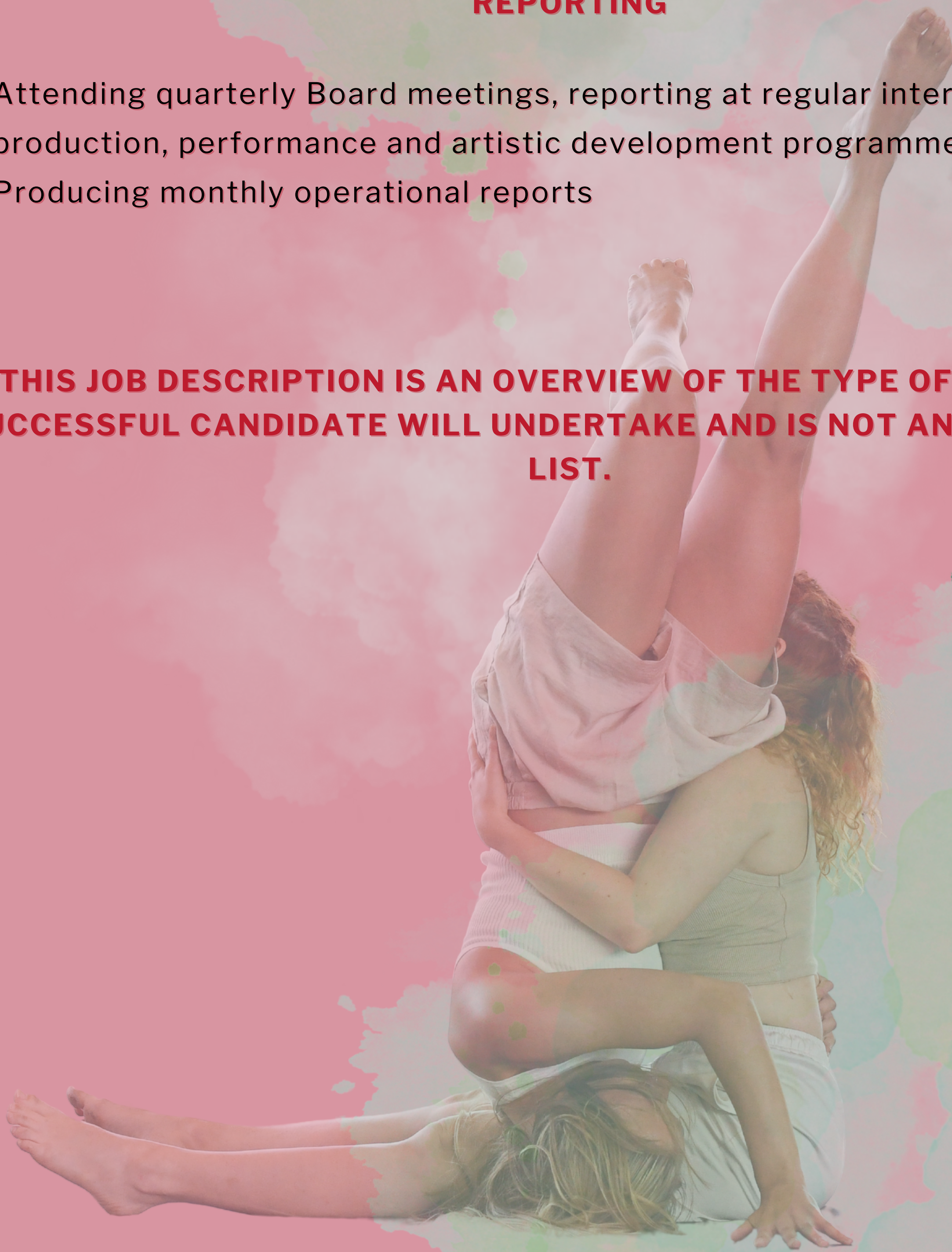
ADVOCACY AND COMMUNICATION

1. Ensuring good communication of the artistic vision internally and externally, so that the vision informs and influences MÓTUS's practice and delivery
2. Building excellent working relationships with other artistic organisations regionally, nationally and internationally
3. Representing the Company to the press and media as appropriate
4. Developing and maintaining strategic relationships with sponsors and other funders

REPORTING

1. Attending quarterly Board meetings, reporting at regular intervals on production, performance and artistic development programmes.
2. Producing monthly operational reports

THIS JOB DESCRIPTION IS AN OVERVIEW OF THE TYPE OF WORK THE SUCCESSFUL CANDIDATE WILL UNDERTAKE AND IS NOT AN EXHUASTIVE LIST.



ESSENTIAL EXPERIENCE

1. Significant experience of working in Dance
2. Knowledge of the UK dance context
3. Knowledge and experience of the national and international contemporary dance world - the major influences, trends and emerging talent
4. Experience of all-scales of touring both indoor and outdoor and an understanding of the needs and requirements of a company operating within this field
5. Experience of working with and identifying a broad range of choreographer's work and how to find/develop new choreographers within the framework of MÓTUS.
6. Leadership experience that has been coherent and sustained based on a clear vision and strategy that inspires and motivates staff and artists
7. Experience of working within strict financial controls

ATTRIBUTES

1. Commitment to diversity within the arts and culture sector
2. Belief in, and understanding of the core values of the company
3. Extensive knowledge of the art form
4. Creative flair and entrepreneurial spirit with a keen eye for opportunities
5. Demonstrable understanding of how to assemble a programme of work
6. Ability to talk critically and constructively to choreographers about their work
7. Ability to act as an ambassador for the company to the arts sector, audiences, funders and stakeholders
8. Ability to construct programmes which reflect audience expectations and an understanding of the role of a dance organisation in relation to its audiences
9. Ability to develop the skills of dancers and maintain and develop their commitment to the company
10. Ability to work under pressure and to prioritise



SKILLS & ABILITY

1. Excellent organisational skills: ability to deal effectively with multiple workload demands
2. Sound financial understanding
3. Highly efficient attention to detail
4. Excellent written and spoken communication skills with application to report writing, keynote delivery and public speaking
5. Excellent communication and interpersonal skills with the ability to work with a broad range of people
6. High level of computer literacy with particular skills in the Microsoft Office suite of software
7. The ability to lead a small team
8. Strong ability to represent the company to a broad range of donors and stakeholders and ability to attract new support
9. Confidence in building and maintaining relationships with key stakeholders such as: choreographers, dancers, venues, artists and so on

DESIRABLE

1. Experience of working in a dance company or organisation.



TO APPLY

Please submit a copy of your CV and a 1-2 page proposal on how you would approach this contract, why you think you are the best fit, and any connections you have to MÓTUS and/or Milton Keynes.

You must also include phone and email address for two references who we may contact in advance. Please also outline when you would be able to commence the contract.

The £14,000 fee includes all expenses. The role is a work-from-home contract but some travel to Milton Keynes will be required (to assess venues, meet companies, attend MÓTUS events)

Applications should be submitted to the chair Lucy Davies on chair@motusdance.co.uk by 15 April 2024 . For in informal conversation about the role, please email outlining your availability and Lucy will call you back.

Interviews will be online within 2-weeks of the closing date.

