

BOARD NOMINEE STATEMENTS 2017

George Hims – Board Nominee Statement

It has been a great privilege to serve as Chair of the SMA Board. We have increased the frequency of our Board Meetings and have been making steady progress on updating SMA policy, listening and responding to members and looking at ways of offering our support to new industry initiatives such as PIPA.

It's a really exciting time for the SMA; with a brand new website on the horizon and lots of popular training courses - from Orchestral Stage Management to Elements of Company Management. I am keen to develop some new courses for the SMA, and am currently in the midst of preparing a course on DSMing; open to everyone, but primarily aimed at ASM Book Covers who are interested in making the move up to DSM.

There is still a lot of work to be done, and I have a few ideas I would like to implement - including more social opportunities for members and maybe even develop some sort of 'Buddy' scheme for our Graduate members.

I would be honoured to continue to serve the SMA as a Board Member in the future.

Sarah Yelland – Board Nominee Statement

I started in stage management many years ago in Liverpool. After the inevitable move to London, I continued working as an ASM, chiefly in the West End. However, once I had done my first tour, I was bitten by the touring bug. The challenge of walking into a building on a Monday morning, not having fitted the show in there before and having to work out all the twists and turns throughout the days and weeks, is a challenge I love. Also visiting towns that I would never visit otherwise is great. Who knew that I would know my way around Glasgow? The SMA is very important as it looks after the needs and interests of all stage managers; those in the West End, those in permanent positions, those that tour with shows needing 5 trailers, and those that tour with a transit van. Every job has its challenges. It's why we do it. If it was easy, it wouldn't be so much fun. If any member of the SMA has a question or a difficulty we can support them, and we do.

Emma Hansford – Board Nominee Statement

I am currently Senior Stage Management Tutor at Mountview Academy of theatre Arts, where I have worked for the last 14 months. Prior to this I have worked in a freelance capacity as a ASM, DSM, CSM and Stage Management Tutor. I have worked in regional theatre, touring, West End and events. My teaching includes LAMDA and ALRA as well as Mountview.

I have been a member of the SMA several years and feel it is time for me to make my contribution as until now I have had very little time to devote to outside interests due to difficulties of the freelance lifestyle.

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Ruth Sidery – Board Nominee Statement

I have been working in theatre, corporate events, TV/film and professional training for some 30 years since graduating the SM and Technical Course at BOVTS. I have worked on hundreds of productions of all scales, rep, touring, receiving houses, festivals, corporate events, TV and film productions etc in all manner of stage management (and related) roles, and some roles other than SM (ie technical and PM), which has given me a deep understanding of all the disciplines found in production departments right across the arts/entertainment/corporate industries.

I have had a desire to offer my services to the SMA for a long time as I have a passion for keeping stage management standards high, championing the work we do in an ever-changing and challenging world that often threatens to undermine the highly skilled nature of our craft. I believe the ethos of the SMA mirrors that too, along with offering support to the myriad of stage managers in the UK and abroad and, in association with many of our technical counterparts, help to drive innovation in the industries we serve. As a jobbing stage manager now joining the training industry (as SM Tutor at BOVTS) I feel I serve the industry on many levels and wish to champion the good work of the SMA amongst those joining the industry as well as those who have been working for any number of years. I would very much like the opportunity to contribute to the Association's vision by working alongside fellow SM professionals, passionate about the work we do for the industries we care deeply about.

I look forward to the opportunity to work with, and on behalf of, you, the board and SMA members.