

**Category: Open****Candidate: Pax Lowey**

I am standing for my second term on the Board, having served four years as a Director and three years of them as Vice Chair. I was elected Vice Chair by the wider Board with not a single vote against me in three years. As a Board member and Vice Chair, I have been independently minded and I have done my best to ensure that all Board members are treated fairly and their experience is heard.

My first job in the arts was as a Fringe technician in 2007, learning as I went, and since then, I've worked throughout the arts in roles as varied as programmer, producer, festival director, venue manager, tour manager, marketing coordinator, and technician.

I currently work as a freelance comedy/theatre producer. Previous roles include leading the comedy programme at Southbank Centre; running the Live Comedy Association, fundraising and lobbying the government during the COVID-19 lockdowns; and founding Actually Rather Good Comedy Festival. My other experience has included Glasgow International Comedy Festival, End of the Road Festival, Machynlleth Comedy Festival, and King's Head Theatre in London.

Over the last two decades, I have worked across the Fringe and the wider arts, at every level from grassroots to Europe's largest arts venues. I have experience on a vast range of events including theatre, comedy, music, games, and science communication — and I wouldn't be working in the arts today without the Fringe.

Since being elected to the Board, I've supported and championed the work of the Society such as the Keep It Fringe Fund, while not hesitating to raise concerns and advocate for improvements: including to Board meetings themselves to ensure informed, effective governance. I'm always keen to make Board meetings more accessible, inclusive and useful for everyone.

Rising accommodation prices and costs of running venues pose an existential threat to the Fringe, raising existing barriers and preventing those with less means from performing, working on, or even attending shows. This limits the faces that we see and the voices that we hear. As someone whose career (and life) was transformed by the Fringe, I understand its power to change lives. I want more people to be able to share that experience. Many of these challenges are rooted in wider issues, such as reduced arts funding and Edinburgh's housing crisis. The Fringe Society can't solve them alone, but if we use the breadth of talent and experience from across the Fringe, as well as the wider arts sector and Edinburgh community, we can tackle them together: making the Fringe more fair, representative and sustainable.

If re-elected, I will continue to champion and stand up for the whole of the Fringe ecosystem: artists and performers; producers, technicians and all other freelancers; big

and small venues and their staff; and every single part of the Fringe: the Free Fringe, the ticketed Fringe and street performers.

I've visited the Fringe every year since 2001, working at the majority of them, and there is nothing in the world like it. I love it, and am passionate about ensuring it is here for future generations! Thank you.