

**Transcript of Trustees’ Recruitment Film – 27May21**

***Crawford Gillies – Chair, Pitlochry Festival Theatre*:**

‘Hello, I am Crawford Gillies, Chair of Pitlochry Festival Theatre. Welcome’

***Kris Bryce, Executive Director, Pitlochry Festival Theatre:***

Hi, I am Kris Bryce Executive Director here at Pitlochry Festival Theatre and welcome to Explorers’ Garden. The theatre was founded in 1951 by John Stewart and has the longest continuous history of production in Scottish theatre. In full flight in the summer season we can have upwards of 200 members of staff working on site and will welcome anywhere up to 100k people to the town for the theatre, the gardens, and our bars, restaurant and shop .V2021 is our Capital Project which has been developed in recent years, it imagines effectively three things, the first is the creation of a second performance space alongside our main house auditorium, the second is the refurbishment and extension of our public spaces for audiences to visit and the third is the creation and extension of our back of house spaces for us to build the work for audiences to come see. During its development the Capital Project has been supported by Creative Scotland, Scottish Enterprise and Perth & Kinross Council. We also received funding from Scottish Government to help develop the idea. It now is the only cultural project which has been supported by Scottish Government in the Tay Cities’ Deal, the £300m investment package across this region. PFT has an unusual operating model in that we can generate anywhere up to 85% of our own income each year through our ticket sales, through entrance to the gardens here and through our bars, restaurant and retail functions. The rest of the 15% comes through public subsidy from both Creative Scotland and Perth & Kinross Council, our local authority; for every £1 of public investment the theatre returns up to £20 to the national economy. PFT is at a really exciting juncture and we are looking forward to seeing what that journey looks like’

***Elizabeth Newman, Artistic Director, Pitlochry Festival Theatre***

‘Hello, my name is Elizabeth Newman and I am the Artistic Director of PFT we pride ourselves on bringing Pitlochry to the world and the world to Pitlochry. We grow three things here in Pitlochry – Plays, Plants and People - and not necessarily in that order. The pandemic has been really challenging but we have tried to turn it into an opportunity, we have launched brand new virtual stages one of which has had international reach – *Sound Stage*. And this summer we are producing an entirely outdoor summer season, the first in the theatre’s history for our 70th birthday. And as part of that summer season we have managed to build a brand new amphitheatre in this garden which will be completed today; as well as a Bandstand for concerts on the lawn, all of this work is for creating dynamic diverse productions that will reach even more people. PFT is at a really exciting moment in its history. We are 70 years old this year and now is the time to evolve and change, to look more like the world that we want to reach. We want people to come and work with us here in Pitlochry who are going to bring their own perspective that is different to ours, that will challenge what we are doing, that will inspire us to do new things and will make a difference for the theatre and for Scotland’

***Crawford Gillies:***

‘There is no doubt these are incredibly tough times for the theatre sector as a whole, but they are also very exciting times for our theatre here in Highland Perthshire.

Not only have we recently embarked upon a very significant Capital Development Project we have ambitious plans for our artistic output to attract more, and more people to our unique location and to enhance the overall visitor experience - so exciting, exciting times. While we have a very talented executive team, none of this would be possible were it not for a passionate, committed group of Trustees. Trustees who are able and willing to bring their skills, their experiences, their talents to support, to guide, to challenge, to help us build the truly outstanding organisation that we seek to build.

And so whether you are an experienced Non-Executive Director, or for you this may be the first time you have embarked on such a role, we want to hear from you, we want to understand what you can bring to help us achieve our vision.

Thank you for considering becoming a Trustee.’