



DUMBWORLD

BOARD RECRUITMENT

2025 / 26

*"Brought the dog out for a walk and ended up at the Opera.
Really enjoyed @dumbworldltd street opera"*

Hello, and thanks for your interest in becoming a Dumbworld Board Member.

Here's some information about the company, what we do, who we are, and what the role of the Board is. If you have any further questions or need some more information, please reach out to us. Contact details are at the end of this document.

An Introduction to Dumbworld

Dumbworld is a registered charity based in Belfast, and we work locally, nationally, and internationally. We were established in 2009 by composer Brian Irvine & writer/director John McIlduff, and we're a small team of three. We are an artist-led, multi-disciplinary, creative production company that makes work found at the intersection of performance, music, image, and words. We use theatre, film, arts installation, virtual reality, opera, animation, and orchestral oratorio to create cutting-edge, contemporary performance art. Our turnover is approx. £0.5m, and we are core funded by the Arts Council of Northern Ireland and Belfast City Council.

Here are some examples of our work

How We Stand... How We Breathe (2025)

A collaborative series of seven musical interventions co-created with diverse communities across Northern Ireland (190 + individuals), exploring themes of belonging, identity, and societal connection. Performed and recorded with the Ulster Orchestra, it culminated in a series of video/music recordings reminiscent of NPR's Tiny Desk Concerts. This project demonstrates our commitment to community engagement and innovative performance.

Where We Bury the Bones (2025)

A co-production with Kilkenny Arts Festival. Developed from *Carnival of Shadows: #1 Possible Human*, this contemporary music theatre piece explores the narratives we construct about history and identity. Premiering at Kilkenny Arts Festival, it combines music, voice, theatre, and film to challenge perceptions of truth and storytelling. The production was praised in the *Journal of Music* for its "fascinating exploration of Kilkenny's history" and compelling contemporary performance style.

NI Film Scoring School (2024–2025)

Partnering with Ulster University, Hard Rain Soloist Ensemble, Regional Cultural Centre, this is a unique educational initiative for aspiring composers. This intensive course offered participants the opportunity to learn the aesthetic and technical aspects of composing music for film, games, and

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TV. Mentored by internationally acclaimed professionals, participants created original scores and received fully mastered recordings of their work. The *Arts Council of Northern Ireland* highlighted the course as “nurturing the next generation of talent in the creative industries.”

The Scorched Earth Trilogy (2019–2025)

A co-production with Irish National Opera. A trio of satirical street art operas addressing environmental and political issues through a mix of opera, orchestral music, street art, and animation. The trilogy was showcased internationally, including Costa Rica and Germany. *The Times* described it as “short, sharp, sardonic commentaries on the climate crisis... anarchic and funny.”

A Children’s Guide to Anarchy (2024–2025)

A co-commissioned project with Red Note Ensemble, involving students from Oakwood Primary School, Glasgow, who created seven musically animated posters as a manifesto of youthful creativity and social commentary. The project won an Ivor Novello Classical Award, demonstrating our ability to create playful yet thought-provoking work with children and communities.

What does Board membership involve?

Board Members are responsible for steering Dumbworld and ensuring good governance through adopting sound legal, ethical, operational, and financial management policies.

Our current Board members (see: <https://dumbworld.co.uk/about-us/meet-the-board/>) ensure that Dumbworld has adequate resources and manages these resources effectively to fulfil its mission and purpose. Board members meet quarterly. All meetings are currently via Zoom. Board membership is voluntary, and for a maximum of 4 years. Key responsibilities include working with Dumbworld’s staff to:

1. Review strategic aims and objectives.
2. Provide organisational leadership and advice.
3. Oversee operational policies and procedures.
4. Provide financial oversight.
5. Oversee staff development.
6. Ensure legal compliance.
7. Champion and promote Dumbworld.

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What are we looking for?

We're looking for talented, enthusiastic, committed volunteer board members, aged 18+, to help lead and strengthen the organisation to develop our legacy of world-class arts programming. You'll be contributing your specialist skills/knowledge to help Dumbworld meet its aims and aspirations, operate strategically, visualise the future, and develop in the right direction. We are particularly interested in applications from individuals with expertise in the following areas: HR, Legal, Digital (Marcomms and Social) and Evaluation but welcome all applications and will consider each on their individual merits.

Think of applying?

If you are interested in applying, please send a current CV (no more than 2pp) and a brief statement of no more than 200 words on why you'd like to join us to hello@dumbworld.co.uk by **Friday 21 November 2025**.

Detailed company information, including the company's business plan and audited accounts, will be made available to shortlisted applicants. We anticipate undertaking brief and informal online interviews before the end of the year, with new board members joining us in January 2026.