

PRESS RELEASE

Monday 13 November 2017



## **Lilli Geissendorfer Announced as New Director of Jerwood Charitable Foundation**

We are delighted to welcome Lilli Geissendorfer as the new Director of Jerwood Charitable Foundation who will take up the post from 22 January 2018.

Jerwood Charitable Foundation is an independent grant-making foundation and UK registered charity dedicated to imaginative and responsible funding of the arts, with a particular focus on supporting talent and excellence. We work with exceptional, dedicated artists and producers supporting them to develop and thrive at important stages in their practice, often in partnership with leading UK arts organisations, through making grants to organisations and individuals nationally alongside delivering our own strategic projects. We find, nurture and promote talent and advocate for the best possible conditions for the making of art, supporting artists, arts organisations and the sector to make artistic work of the utmost strength and quality.

Lilli Geissendorfer has a background as a theatre producer with an interest in creating definitive new work with outstanding artists. Previous roles include Producer at Almeida Theatre, delivering Rupert Goold's ambitious productions, and Relationship Manager for Theatre at Arts Council England where she managed an NPO portfolio and developed environmental sustainability policies. Lilli co-produced the first HighTide Festival in 2007, ran the film and theatre producing company Strawberry Vale Productions and co-founded Londoners on Bikes, a pop-up cycle safety campaign for the London 2012 Mayoral election. She is a Salzburg Forum Cultural Leadership Fellow, a Clore Emerging Leader and studied social and political sciences at Goldsmiths and Cambridge University.

As part of her new role, Lilli will begin work on the next four year strategy for Jerwood Charitable Foundation, 2018-2022, which will set out the ways in which our organisation will continue to support the work of early-career artists and producers across art forms nationally, deepening and developing our strategic relationships around the programme. Until she joins the team in January the organisation is led by Deputy Director Jon Opie, with the support of the Jerwood Charitable Foundation Board of Trustees.

Jerwood Charitable Foundation's experienced and specialist team members will continue to lead on the development of its strategic initiatives alongside the new Director, including: Sarah Williams, Head of

Programme for Jerwood Visual Arts; Joy Francis, Project Manager for the Jerwood Compton Poetry Fellowships; and Kate Danielson, Programme Director for the Weston Jerwood Creative Bursaries.

Lilli says: *"I am so looking forward to joining such an interesting and influential team at a time when Jerwood Charitable Foundation's mission feels more vital than ever"*.

Tim Eyles, Chair of Jerwood Charitable Foundation's Board of Trustees says: *"Following a rigorous search for a new Director Lilli was an outstanding candidate that immediately understood the ethos of Jerwood Charitable Foundation. We are very much looking forward to working with her."*

Two Trustees have also been recently appointed to the Board, Vanessa Engle and Catrin Griffiths.

Vanessa Engle is an award winning filmmaker who has been making documentaries for BBC Television for 30 years. For the first 15 years of her career, she made arts programmes, including films about art, music and literature. More recently she has made social affairs documentaries that explore our fundamental values and belief systems.

Catrin Griffiths is Editor of Award winning B2B publication *The Lawyer*, was Director of New City Media and a former editor of *Legal Business Magazine* where she also worked as a journalist. Her work has received a UK Press Gazette award and she has led the debate on diversity in the legal profession.

For further information and press enquiries contact [alexis@jerwoodcharitablefoundation.org](mailto:alexis@jerwoodcharitablefoundation.org) or [jon@jerwoodcharitablefoundation.org](mailto:jon@jerwoodcharitablefoundation.org) / 020 7261 0279

**-ENDS-**

**Image credit: Lilli Geissendorfer. Image: Cem Tekin**

### **Notes to editors**

**Jerwood Charitable Foundation** is dedicated to imaginative and responsible revenue funding of the arts, supporting artists to develop and grow at important stages in their careers. The aim of its funding is to allow artists and arts organisations to thrive; to continue to develop their skills, imagination and creativity with integrity. It works across art forms, from dance and theatre to literature, music and the visual arts.

Supported by a board of Trustees it spends around £1.5 million each year including overheads. It was established in 1999 by Jerwood Foundation to take on and develop Jerwood's UK project funding activity, and was gifted an endowment of £25 million by the Foundation in 2005. For more information visit:

[www.jerwoodcharitablefoundation.org](http://www.jerwoodcharitablefoundation.org)

### **Who's who at Jerwood Charitable Foundation**

#### **Trustees**

Tim Eyles (Chair); Lucy Ash, Vanessa Engle, Thomas Grieve, Catrin Griffiths, Katharine Goodison, Philippa Hogan-Hern, Rupert Tyler, Julia Wharton.

#### **Team**

Lilli Geissendorfer, Director; Jon Opie, Deputy Director; Alexis Stevens, Communications Manager; Sarah Gibbon, Projects Officer; Bridget Bell, Administrative Assistant; Sarah Williams, Head of Programme, Jerwood Visual Arts; Joy Francis, Project Manager, Jerwood Compton Poetry Fellowships ; Kate Danielson, Programme Director, Weston Jerwood Creative Bursaries.

[www.jerwoodcharitablefoundation.org/about-us/people](http://www.jerwoodcharitablefoundation.org/about-us/people)

## **Biographies**

### **Lilli Geissendorfer**

Lilli Geissendorfer previously worked at Almeida Theatre where she was Producer. Highlights of her time there include *Chimerica*, *American Psycho: A new musical*, *Mr Burns*, *King Charles III*, and *Mary Stuart*. Prior to this she was Relationship Manager for Theatre, London for Arts Council England, focusing on environmental sustainability and supporting emerging artists through Grants for the Arts. In 2007 she co-founded the new writing specialist Hightide Festival in Suffolk, and from 2007-2009 was Commercial Manager at the Arcola Theatre. In 2006 she set up Strawberry Vale Productions, bringing new voices including writer Penelope Skinner, and directors Polly Findlay and Christopher Haydon to the stage. She is a Salzburg Forum Cultural Leadership Fellow, a Clore Emerging Leader and studied social and political sciences at Goldsmiths and Cambridge University.

### **Vanessa Engle**

Vanessa Engle is an award-winning freelance documentary filmmaker based in London. For the first 15 years of her career, she made arts documentaries, including four years (1989 - 1993) working for BBC2's late night arts magazine programme, *The Late Show*. She subsequently made single films about Ray Davies of the Kinks, artist Sarah Lucas and authors Mervyn Peake and Charles Bukowski. Her three-part series *Britart*, about Britain's Young British Artists, was commissioned for the launch of BBC4 in 2002 and was followed by another three-part series *Art & the 60s* (2004), which had a tie-in exhibition at Tate Britain. Her film about Charles Saatchi launched the Imagine strand on BBC1 in 2003. Since 2005, she has been making authored social affairs documentaries on a wide range of subjects, many of which explore our fundamental values and belief systems, including five three-part series for BBC Television. Her most recent films include *Love You to Death: A Year of Domestic Violence* (2015) and *The Cult Next Door* (2017), which told the story of a bizarre Maoist cult, which existed behind closed doors in South London for nearly 40 years.

[www.vanessaengle.com](http://www.vanessaengle.com)

### **Catrin Griffiths**

Catrin Griffiths is a leading legal and business journalist. As editor of award-winning B2B publication *The Lawyer* she has helped transform it into a global brand and has particular expertise in online communications and has led the debate on diversity in the legal profession. She is an avid consumer of the arts, in particular theatre. As a Welsh-speaker she takes a strong interest in minority languages and takes a particular interest in social mobility and access to the arts. Outside work she is an experienced choral singer in several ensembles, and runs a local choir in Highbury, North London. Catrin is also a trustee of Orchestras Live.

[www.thelawyer.com](http://www.thelawyer.com)