
The Play House (B'ham) Limited

(a company limited by guarantee)

Report and accounts

for the period ended

31 August 2021

Company number 2828276

Charity registration number 1034809



**ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021**

	Pages
Directors, trustees and advisers	2
Directors' report	3 - 5
Independent examiner's report	6
Statement of financial activities	7
Balance sheet	8
Notes to the financial statements	9 - 12

DRAFT

The Play House (B'ham) Limited



CONSTITUTION

The Play House (B'ham) Limited trades as Language Alive! and Catalyst and is a company limited by guarantee and a registered charity governed by its memorandum and articles of association. Charity number 1034809. Company number 2828276.

DIRECTORS AND TRUSTEES

Deborah Shaw – Chair
Keshena Bowie – Deputy Chair
Alexandra Henwood – Deputy Chair
Daniel Jones
Sian Roberts (resigned November 2021)
Tessa Taylor (appointed May 2020)
Gillian Twaite

SECRETARY

Laura Killeen

INDEPENDENT EXAMINERS

Guest Wilson Chartered Accountants
8 Wolverton Road
Snitterfield
Stratford upon Avon
Warwickshire
CV37 0HB

REGISTERED OFFICE

The Play House
c/o Birmingham Repertory Theatre
Centenary Square
Broad Street
Birmingham
B1 2EP

DIRECTORS' REPORT

The directors present their report and accounts for the period ended 31 August 2021.

PRINCIPAL ACTIVITY

The company's principal activity during the year continued to be the provision of arts education services mainly to schools in the West Midlands.

LEGAL STATUS OF THE CHARITY

The charity is a company limited by guarantee and has no share capital. The liability of each member in the event of winding-up is limited to £1.

FINANCIAL RESULTS AND REVIEW OF THE BUSINESS

The income and expenditure account for the period is set out on page 7. A full review of the business is included elsewhere in this Annual Report.

DIRECTORS AND THEIR INTERESTS

The directors of the company during the year are listed on page 2.

RESERVES POLICY

It is the policy of the charity to maintain unrestricted funds, which are the free reserves of the charity, at a level that equates to not less than 3 months unrestricted expenditure. This provides sufficient funds to cover management and administration and support costs.

RISK MANAGEMENT

The Directors have examined the major strategic, business and operational risks which the charity faces and confirm that systems have been established to enable regular reports to be produced so that the necessary steps can be taken to lessen these risks.

DIRECTORS' RESPONSIBILITIES FOR THE ACCOUNTS

Company law requires the directors to prepare accounts for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the company and of the income and expenditure for that period. In preparing those accounts the directors are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- prepare the accounts on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the company will continue in business.

The directors are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the company and to enable them to ensure that the accounts comply with the Companies Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

AUDIT EXEMPTION

The Directors are satisfied that the company was entitled to exemption from audit under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 and section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011. These accounts have not, therefore, been subjected to audit.

APPOINTMENT OF TRUSTEES

At every annual general meeting one-third of the Directors who are subject to retirement by rotation shall retire from office. The Directors to retire by rotation shall be those who have been the longest in office.

The Directors may appoint a person who is willing to act to be a Director, either to fill a vacancy or as an additional Director. A Director so appointed shall hold office only until the next following annual general meeting and shall not be taken into account in determining the Directors who are to retire by rotation at the meeting. If not reappointed at such annual general meeting, he shall vacate office at the conclusion thereof.

A Director who retires at an annual general meeting may, if willing to act, be reappointed. If he is not reappointed, he shall retain office until the meeting appoints someone in his place, or if it does not do so, until the end of the meeting.

TRUSTEE INDUCTION AND TRAINING

New trustees receive orientation information to brief them on their legal obligations under charity and company law, the content of the Constitution, the decision making processes, the company plan and recent financial performance of the charity.

The company aims to have twice annual board/staff events where board members get the opportunity to meet employees, other trustees, and see examples of the company's work. Trustees are encouraged to attend appropriate external training events where these will facilitate the undertaking of their role.

ORGANISATION

The Play House is governed by a Board of Trustees. The board meets at least quarterly. A General Manager has been appointed by the trustees to manage the day to day operations of the charity. To facilitate effective operations, the General Manager has been delegated authority, within terms of delegation approved by the trustees, for operational matters including finance, employment, artistic and educational activities.

FINANCIAL AND OPERATIONAL REVIEW

The Play House is a long established and highly respected theatre in education company, known nationally and internationally for its trademark participatory approach. Since it was founded in 1986, the company has developed a strong track record of high quality work in schools. It has an excellent reputation locally and regionally with teachers, local authorities, arts organisations and academic institutions.

Our vision is to stimulate the learning and curiosity of children and young people through engagement in drama experiences. We have a strong ethos of meaningful participation at the heart of everything we do through the creation of rich fictional worlds, where children interact with a range of situations and characters. We strongly believe in the transformational power of theatre.

The Play House continues to weather the storm of a very challenging economic climate impacted by the global pandemic caused by the virus COVID-19. Due to restrictions in place to combat the virus schools closed instantly, impacting significantly on The Play House's potential earned income. COVID-19 continues to create an uncertain future with negative financial impacts on many businesses. Support from Paul Hamlyn's Covid Recovery Fund and Arts Council England's Culture Recovery Fund has enabled The Play House to maintain a core staff of 4 part-time employees, employ freelancers, inflate the company's reserves to pre-pandemic levels and most importantly continue to serve children and young people across Birmingham.

Key projects and highlights from 2020/21

Split Second

Split Second, a programme for 9-13 years exploring consequences of knife crime in terms of medical and legal implications. Due to COVID-19 The Play House filmed Split Second and it was shared with schools in a digital format. The programme resonated with children and had strong Teacher feedback: "A brilliant and effective workshop that helped the children think about the serious consequences of their actions. It explored the difficult topic of knife crime in a way where children understood the impact without it being too graphic."

HOPE

HOPE is an engaging workshop for primary school children aged 7-11 which explores their experiences and feelings surrounding lockdown through the safe context of a story. Set in the Derbyshire village of Eyam after the plague of 1666, HOPE explores the amazing true story of the villagers' voluntary isolation that saved the lives of the surrounding communities. HOPE was created in response to children's experiences of COVID and gave them a safe environment to make sense of their feelings.

Hansel & Gretel

We continued our ever popular strand of 'Traditional Tales' by filming Hansel & Gretel to share with schools digitally during the time of school closures. This received a positive response and was popular during the winter season.

Storybike Fundraiser

To highlight the impact COVID-19 had on The Play House we developed a fundraising campaign through the Storybike Fundraiser. Malcolm Jennings, Teacher Actor, created and developed the idea. Malcolm borrowed a delivery bike which was adapted to contain a story box. Malcolm visited schools along the number 11 bus route (which took The Play House across the areas of Birmingham where the company first delivered work) and children chose an object from the box, which Malcom created a story about. This helped to raise the company's profile and we raised £1,202 in donations.

#ItGetsLighterFromHere

Culture Central launched the collaborative campaign with arts organisations across the West Midlands, #ItGetsLighterFromHere, for the 2020 Winter Solstice. Artists were commissioned by arts organisations to share creative moments of hope and happiness. The Play House commissioned local artist Ayeisha Siniara to create Love Letters To The Moon.

Resilience Quest

In the Spring of 2021 The Play House worked with 6 students from Birmingham Conservatoire to create Resilience Quest, which was our first programme touring to schools after the second national lockdown. Resilience Quest provided a safe avenue for children to explore healthy coping strategies for dealing with difficult emotions.

Careless Talk

Careless Talk is a thought provoking workshop which explores how a young person could be groomed to take part in extremist action. The piece is set in the fictional town of Brodingham and tells the story of Scarlett, a young member of a minority community, The Circle, who are being persecuted by another group. The children are guided through a process where they find positive and peaceful solutions for the characters in this piece which promotes social responsibility, tolerance and respect. This programme is a long-established touring workshop for The Play House and was the company's first full schools tour after the second national lockdown.

By The Riverbank

We adapted By The Riverbank for an outside public performance as part of Coco Pop-up in Cotteridge Park. The piece was supported by the Sir Barry Jackson Trust, which enabled us to engage over 80 children and their parents/carers for free. By The Riverbank took the children on an interactive storytelling journey across the park to discover the animals and nature present.

By order of the Board

Laura Killeen

Secretary
Date 2022

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT to the Directors of The Play House (B'ham) Limited

I report on the financial statements of The Play House (B'ham) Limited for the period ended 31 August 2021 on pages 7 to 12.

This report is made solely to the company's members as a body, in accordance with the Companies Act 2006. Our work has been undertaken so that we might state to the company's members those matters we are required to state to them in our report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the company and the company's members as a body, for our examination work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

Respective responsibilities of Trustees and examiner

As described on page 3 the company's Directors are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view. The Directors consider that an audit is not required for this year under the Charities Act 2011, s.144(2) ("the 2011 Act") and that an independent examination is needed. I am qualified to undertake the examination, being a qualified member of ICAEW.

Having satisfied myself that the charity is not subject to audit under company law and is eligible for independent examination, it is my responsibility to:

- Examine the accounts under s.145 of the 2011 Act;
- To follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission under s.145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act; and
- To state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the general Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from you as Directors concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a "true and fair view" and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

- (1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:

- to keep accounting records in accordance with the Companies Act 2006 s.386; and
- to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records, comply with the accounting requirements of the Companies Act 2006, s.396 and the methods and principles of FRS 102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland".

have not been met; or

- (2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Name: Neil Wilson

Relevant professional qualification or body: ICAEW

8 Wolverton Road, Snitterfield, Stratford upon Avon, CV37 0HB

Date 2022

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT AND STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES for the period ended 31 August 2021

	Notes	Restricted Funds £	Unrestricted Funds £	Total August 2021 £	Restricted Funds £	Unrestricted Funds £	Total March 2020 £
INCOME	2						
Donations and legacies		101,632	-	101,632	71,453	-	71,453
Income from charitable activities							
Arts education services		-	26,534	26,534	-	74,756	74,756
Income from other trading activities							
Investment income		-	-	-	-	-	-
Total income		101,632	26,534	128,166	71,453	74,756	146,209
EXPENDITURE	3						
Charitable activities		44,782	21,206	65,988	71,453	63,322	134,775
Governance		-	11,016	11,016	-	14,427	14,427
Total expenditure		44,782	32,222	77,004	71,453	77,749	149,202
NET INCOME		56,850	(5,688)	51,162	-	(2,993)	(2,993)
Net transfers between funds		-	-	-	-	-	-
FUND BALANCES BROUGHT FORWARD		-	58,641	58,641	-	61,634	61,634
FUND BALANCES CARRIED FORWARD	8	56,850	52,953	£ 109,803	-	58,641	£ 58,641

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year.

All incoming resources and resources expended derive from continuing activities.

The Play House (B'ham) Limited



BALANCE SHEET as at 31 August 2021

	Notes	Restricted Funds £	Unrestricted Funds £	August 2021 £	March 2020 £
FIXED ASSETS					
Tangible assets	5	-	2,694	2,694	1,536
CURRENT ASSETS					
Debtors		-	22,095	22,095	10,280
Cash at bank and in hand		64,966	28,164	93,130	60,579
		64,966	50,259	115,225	70,859
CREDITORS: amounts falling due within one year	6	(8,116)	-	(8,116)	(13,754)
NET CURRENT ASSETS		56,850	50,259	107,109	57,105
NET ASSETS		56,850	52,953	£ 109,803	£ 58,641
UNRESTRICTED FUNDS					
General	8	-	52,953	52,953	58,641
Designated		-	-	-	-
RESTRICTED FUNDS	8	56,850	-	56,850	-
	8	56,850	52,953	£ 109,803	£ 58,641

For the period ended 31 August 2021 the company is entitled to exemption from audit under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies and section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011. The members have not required the company to obtain an audit of its accounts in accordance with section 476.

The directors have acknowledged their responsibilities for: selecting suitable accounting policies and then applying them consistently; observing the methods and principles in the Charities SORP; making judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent; stating whether applicable UK accounting standards have been followed, subject to any departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and preparing the accounts on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in business.

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the special provisions of Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies and constitute the annual accounts required by the Companies Act 2006 and are for circulation to members of the company.

Deborah Shaw
Director

Date 2022

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS at 31 August 2021

1 ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Company and charitable status

The Play House (B'ham) Limited, a public benefit entity, is incorporated in England and Wales as a company limited by guarantee not having a share capital. Each member has undertaken to contribute to the assets in the event of winding up a sum not exceeding £1. The charity is a registered charity. The registered office is given on page 2.

Basis of preparation and assessment of going concern

The financial statements are prepared under the historical cost convention, in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice "Accounting and Reporting by Charities (SORP 2015)" applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable to the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102), effective 1 January 2015 and the Companies Act 2006.

In preparing the accounts, the directors have considered whether in applying the accounting policies required by FRS 102 and the Charities SORP FRS 102 the restatement of comparative items was required. At the date of transition in applying the requirements of FRS 102 no adjustments were required.

The directors consider that there are no material uncertainties about the Charity's ability to continue as a going concern.

The company does not seek to make a profit, nor can its achievements be measured by normal commercial criteria. In order that a true and fair view should be given in these accounts the directors have set out on page 4 an income and expenditure account which shows the results for the year, but in a format other than the standard formats prescribed in the Companies Act 2006. In the opinion of the directors the format adopted provides greater clarity on the nature of the company's activities and discloses the required information relating thereto. A summary of the more important accounting policies of the company is set out below.

Accounting convention

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard for Smaller Entities published on 16 July 2014, the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2015) – Charities SORP (FRS 102)), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Companies Act 2006.

Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy note(s).

Charitable status and taxation

The company is a charity and is therefore exempt under section 505 of the Income and Corporation Taxes Act 1988 from corporation tax.

Fixed assets and depreciation

All fixed assets are initially recorded at cost. Depreciation is provided on all tangible fixed assets held for use by the charity at rates calculated to write off the cost or valuation, less estimated residual value based on prices prevailing at the date of acquisition or revaluation, of each asset evenly over its expected useful life as follows:

Premises improvements	-	over 10 years
Computer and other office equipment	-	over 4 years
Minibus	-	over 4 years

Income and deferred income

Income from donations and grants, including capital grants, is included in incoming resources when these are receivable, except when donors specify that donations and grants given to the charity must be used in future accounting periods, in which case the income is deferred until those periods and is included in Deferred Income within creditors.

All other income is accounted for on an accruals basis.

Expenditure

Expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and allocated to the appropriate heading in the accounts. Where expenditure is incurred which relates to more than one cost category, the expenditure is apportioned over all relevant headings. The bases of apportionment used reflect time and resources expended on various activities or in support of those activities.

Pensions

The company operates a defined contribution pension scheme. Contributions are charged in the profit and loss account as they become payable in accordance with the rules of the scheme.

Fund accounting

Funds held by the charity are either:

- Unrestricted general funds – these are funds which can be used in accordance with the charitable objects at the discretion of the Directors.
- Designated funds – these are funds set aside by the Directors out of unrestricted general funds for specific future purposes or projects.
- Restricted funds – these are funds that can only be used for particular restricted purposes within the objects of the charity. Restrictions arise when specified by the donor or when funds are raised for particular restricted purposes.

2	INCOME	August 2021 £	March 2020 £
GRANTS – RESTRICTED			
	The Home Office	-	27,698
	Arts Council of England	55,410	15,000
	Millennium Point Trust	-	14,690
	Royal Academy of Engineering	-	5,565
	The Sir Barry Jackson Trust	1,500	2,500
	Edward Cadbury Trust	1,000	2,000
	West Mercia Police and Crime Commissioner	-	2,000
	West Midlands Police and Crime Commissioner	3,000	-
	Rogers & Douglas Trust	-	1,000
	Birmingham Repertory Theatre	4,880	-
	Dame Elizabeth Cadbury	-	1,000
	Birmingham City Council	7,342	-
	West Midlands VRU	5,500	-
	Woodward Trust	1,500	-
	Coventry City Council	-	-
	John Feeney Charitable Trust	1,500	-
	Birmingham & Solihull Mental Health NHS Foundation Trust	-	-
	Paul Hamlyn Foundation	20,000	-
		101,632	71,453
ARTS EDUCATION SERVICES – ALL UNRESTRICTED			
	Sales to schools and universities	23,153	46,756
	Sales to local authorities	3,381	28,000
	Other sales	-	-
		26,534	74,756

3 EXPENDITURE

	Restricted £	Unrestricted £	Total August 2021 £	March 2020 £
CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES				
Staff costs	36,756	19,792	56,548	85,034
Payments to freelance artists	2,020	1,087	3,107	41,648
Motor and travel	31	13	44	776
Production expenses	5,975	314	6,289	7,317
Recruitment costs	-	-	-	-
	44,782	21,206	65,988	134,755

The average number of employees on long term contracts in the year was 4 (2019 – 5). The average number of staff on short term contracts was 6 to the nearest full-time equivalent

GOVERNANCE

Motor and travel	-	-	-	863
Insurance	-	1,449	1,449	1,449
Printing and stationery	-	2,351	2,351	2,172
Telephone and postage	-	1,444	1,444	672
Premises expenses	-	-	-	686
Independent examiner's remuneration	-	1,140	1,140	1,140
Legal & consultancy	-	-	-	175
PR and marketing	-	2,217	2,217	411
Other	-	2,415	2,415	6,859
	-	11,016	11,016	14,427

4 DIRECTORS AND RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

The directors of the company are listed on page 2. No remuneration was paid to any Director during the year and no director received any expense reimbursements.

5 TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

	Premises improvements £	Computer and other office equipment £	Minibus £	Total £
Cost or valuation				
31 March 2020	-	1,536	-	1,536
Disposals	-	-	-	-
Additions	-	1,157	-	1,157
31 August 2021	-	2,693	-	2,693
Depreciation				
31 March 2020	-	-	-	-
Disposals	-	-	-	-
Charge for the period	-	-	-	-
31 August 2021	-	-	-	-
Net book value				
31 August 2021	-	2,693	-	2,693
31 March 2020	-	1,536	-	1,536

6 CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	August 2021 £	March 2020 £
Trade creditors	-	448
Other taxes and social security	-	1,445
Accruals	-	161
Deferred income (note 7)	8,116	11,700
	8,116	13,754

7 DEFERRED INCOME

	August 2021 £	March 2020 £
Balance at start of year	11,700	-
Amount released to incoming resources	(11,700)	-
Amount deferred in year	8,116	11,700
Balance at end of year	8,116	11,700

8 ANALYSIS OF FUNDS MOVEMENTS

	Balance at 31 March 2021 £	Incoming resources £	Expenditure £	Transfers £	Balance at 31 August 2021 £
Unrestricted funds					
<u>Undesignated</u>	48,641	26,534	(32,222)	-	42,953
These are funds which can be used in accordance with the charitable objects at the discretion of the Directors					
<u>Designated</u>					
Development reserve for IT and website upgrades	10,000	-	-	-	10,000
Total unrestricted funds	58,641	26,534	(32,222)	-	52,953
Restricted funds					
These are funds that can only be used for particular restricted purposes within the objects of the charity. Restrictions arise when specified by the donor or when funds are raised for particular restricted purposes	-	101,632	(44,782)	-	56,850
	58,641	128,166	(77,004)	-	£ 109,803