

Company registration number: 02828276

Charity registration number: 1034809

# The Play House ( B'ham ) Ltd

(A company limited by guarantee)

Annual Report and Financial Statements

for the Year Ended 31 August 2024

Bissell & Brown Birmingham Ltd  
Chartered Accountants  
12 Portman Rd  
Kings Heath  
Birmingham  
B13 0SL

# **The Play House ( B'ham ) Ltd**

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## **The Play House ( B'ham ) Ltd**

### **Reference and Administrative Details**

<b>Secretary</b>	Joanne Marie Sadler
<b>Charity Registration Number</b>	1034809
<b>Company Registration Number</b>	02828276
<b>Registered Office</b>	The charity is incorporated in England. c/o Action For Children 2-4 Guild Close Birmingham B16 8EL
<b>Accountants</b>	Bissell & Brown Birmingham Ltd Chartered Accountants 12 Portman Rd Kings Heath Birmingham West Midlands B13 0SL

# **The Play House ( B'ham ) Ltd**

## **Trustees' Report**

The trustees, who are directors for the purposes of company law, present the annual report together with the financial statements of the charitable company for the year ended 31 August 2024.

### **Financial and operational review**

“Performances have always been fully engaging and well-crafted, demonstrating a high standard of theatrical skill and exploring relevant themes and concepts which are always both age-appropriate and stimulating.”  
(Quote from Head Teacher)

The Play House is a long established and highly respected theatre in education company, known 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, delivering engaging theatre work which stimulates children's imagination and creativity, supporting curriculum learning and essential life skill development. It has an excellent reputation locally and regionally with teachers, local authorities, arts organisations and academic institutions.

Our vision is to enhance the learning and development of curiosity for children and young people in the West Midlands, 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, and we are committed to producing work that provides an exciting and challenging first experience of live theatre as enrichment.

In the academic year 2023-2024, The Play House delivered over 350 workshop-performances and reached over 9000 children and young people from across early years settings, primary and secondary schools, as well as local cultural venues including libraries, art galleries and museums.

### **Key projects and highlights from 2023/2024**

#### **Does Birmingham Belong to Me?**

With funding from the Paul Hamlyn Foundation, The Play House worked in partnership with Dr Reza Gholami at the University of Birmingham to create a year long project delivered once a week in 2 primary schools. This project explored the concepts of citizenship and what it means to belong to a place. By exploring lived experience stories, then creating performances inspired by the rich diversity of the city, the children were able to communicate their own ideas about belonging. We also brought the two cohorts of children together from different parts of the city, so that they could learn more about one another and celebrate a shared identity.

“This project gave the children a safe place to explore these ideas and feelings. They have a better understanding of the complexities of belonging and how you can belong to more than one thing. The age is perfect because it catches them while they're young and they're not set in their thinking” (Quote from Teacher of participating students).

#### **Proud to be a Brummie**

With funding from Sir Barry Jackson Trust and Birmingham Arts School, The Play House worked with 3 schools who have limited engagement with the arts, to create a piece of theatre which was shown as part of the Proud to Be a Brummie Festival, held at Symphony Hall in Birmingham. This project was built on co-creation principles, which prioritised the children's own opinions voices to create a fictional response to the idea of being 'Proud to be a Brummie'. Through this project, the participants created a story all about celebrating their local area.

## **The Play House ( B'ham ) Ltd**

### **Trustees' Report**

#### **Journey of a Windrush Heroine**

Funded by the Windrush Day Grant, Near Neighbours, The Play House worked with Grace Bennet to create and deliver this touring performance about the experience of a member of the Windrush generation. This story celebrated the entrepreneurial thinking and contribution to society made by the Windrush generation and their descendants. The show toured around schools and libraries for intergenerational audiences, offering post-show CPD for teachers.

#### **Higher Education Bookings**

The Play House was asked to act as guest lecturers in a variety of Higher Education Settings (including MA Drama and Education students University of Warwick

Undergraduate Applied Theatre Course at The Royal Birmingham Conservatoire

Undergraduate Education Studies & Theatre, Acting and Performance at University of Worcester.)

Our employees gave an overview of the company's work and demonstrated our participation model, in order to increase awareness and understanding for subsequent generations of artists.

#### **School Programme Tour (highlights, not extensive list)**

##### **STEAM**

This project was a new addition to our school's programme and developed from last year's project, Maker Space. The fictional storyline has been rewritten to enable students to access the STEM activities within the 90 minute structure of our programmes. Students work through bio-medical engineering tasks to support problem solving and reach a positive solution within the story. This project has become a popular and effective addition to the programme.

"The workshop was incredibly engaging for all children. The session was not only educational, teaching the children new vocabulary but also developing the children's ability to apply it to tasks. Thank you so much for creating a fabulous experience for our children." (Quote from Teacher)

##### **The Romans**

The Romans examines the legacy of the Roman invasion of Britain and its relevance today. In their role as archaeologists at the site of a newly discovered Roman Villa the pupils uncover the everyday life and customs of Roman Britons. This workshop develops a deeper awareness of both the role of the modern day archaeologist and those of the Roman masters and Celtic slaves in the villas of Roman Britain.

##### **Story Telling Residency**

The Play House Storytelling Residency consists of a Storyteller working with small groups throughout the day. During the sessions the children co-create and share stories together based on a multi-sensory, initial stimulus offered by the storyteller. The storyteller then builds on ideas and any developing narrative coming from children's responses, both physical and verbal. We work with teachers to understand current learning focus and desired outcomes. "You are able to respond to the needs and ability of each child, that is why what you do is so valuable." (Quote from Teacher)

##### **Jack and the Beanstalk**

A participatory retelling of the traditional tale of Jack and the Beanstalk, the performance enrolls children as the Jack's friends. They arrive for a play date to find Jack has gone missing! The children help to find Jack by adventuring up the beanstalk to explore the land in the clouds and save Jack from the Giant.

##### **Anansi the Spider**

This programme brings to life the tale of one of the great Ghanaian and Caribbean folk heroes. Using puppetry, multi-sensory play and song, the children help Aunt Nancy bring to life this African classic where all children can find themselves reflected. This programme has been extremely popular with children saying: "I love joining in with all the activities, especially the dancing" (child quote)

## **The Play House ( B'ham ) Ltd**

### **Trustees' Report**

#### **It's My planet Too**

This story follows Acapella, the tree frog, who has arrived in school from South America in a box of fruit. She's lost and far from home. What should Cherry the greengrocer do? Could Acapella become the pet Cherry's always dreamed of or does she really belong somewhere else? This sensory adventure takes the children into the rainforest to explore why caring for the planet's animals and habitats has a positive effect on us all.

#### **Little Red Hen**

The Little Red Hen workshop introduces children to counting, weighing, and measuring, within the context of this traditional story as an interactive learning experience for young children. Little Red Hen uses puppets, cooking, and storytelling to explore the concepts of growing and sharing. The children travel with The Little Red Hen around the farmyard, meet the animals and problem solve how she will make the bread by herself.

#### **Split Second**

Split Second is a programme for 9-13 years exploring consequences of knife crime in terms of the impact those directly involved, their loved ones and the wider community. Set in a boxing club, the children engage in thought provoking discussions about people's responsibility to one another and how we can support young people experiencing youth violence. This programme is delivered annually off the back of consistently successful tours. "It showed me a bigger view of the world and what not to do." (Quote from a year 5 pupil)

#### **Careless Talk**

Careless Talk is a long-established touring performance-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.

The trustees confirm that they have complied with the requirements of section 17 of the Charities Act 2011 to have due regard to the public benefit guidance published by the Charity Commission for England and Wales.

#### **Trustees and officers**

The trustees and officers serving during the year and since the year end were as follows:

##### **Trustees:**

Tessa Taylor  
Keshena Bowie  
Adaya Henry  
Alexandra Henwood  
Shane Shambhu  
Paul Edwards (appointed 26 January 2024)  
Deborah Shaw, Chair (Resigned 6 November 2023)  
Rachel Cranny (Resigned 6 November 2023)

##### **Secretary:**

Joanne Marie Sadler

# **The Play House ( B'ham ) Ltd**

## **Trustees' Report**

### **Statement of trustees' responsibilities**

The trustees (who are also the directors of The Play House ( B'ham ) Ltd for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the trustees' report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice), including FRS 102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland".

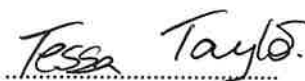
Company law requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year. Under company law the trustees must not approve the financial statements unless they are satisfied that they give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, of the charitable company for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable accounting standards, comprising FRS 102 have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charitable company will continue in business.

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

The trustees are responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the corporate and financial information included on the charitable company's website. Legislation governing the preparation and dissemination of financial statements may differ from legislation in other jurisdictions.

The annual report was approved by the trustees of the charity on 12 May 2025 and signed on its behalf by:



Tessa Taylor  
Trustee

## **The Play House ( B'ham ) Ltd**

### **Independent Examiner's Report to the trustees of The Play House ( B'ham ) Ltd ('the Company')**

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Company for the year ended 31 August 2024.

#### **Responsibilities and basis of report**

As the charity's trustees of the Company (and also its directors for the purposes of company law) you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 ('the 2006 Act').


Having satisfied myself that the accounts of the Company are not required to be audited under Part 16 of the 2006 Act and are eligible for independent examination, I report in respect of my examination of your charity's accounts as carried out under section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 ('the 2011 Act'). In carrying out my examination I have followed the Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act.

#### **Independent examiner's statement**

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of The Play House ( B'ham ) Ltd as required by section 386 of the 2006 Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do not comply with the accounting requirements of section 396 of the 2006 Act other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair view' which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination; or
4. the accounts have not been prepared in accordance with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice for accounting and reporting by charities [applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102)].

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



Barry Matthews FCA  
Chartered Accountants  
Bissell & Brown Birmingham Ltd

12 Portman Rd  
Kings Heath  
Birmingham  
B13 0SL

12 May 2025



## The Play House ( B'ham ) Ltd

### Statement of Financial Activities for the Year Ended 31 August 2024 (Including Income and Expenditure Account and Statement of Total Recognised Gains and Losses)

	Note	Unrestricted funds General £	Restricted funds £	Total 2024 £
<b>Income and Endowments from:</b>				
Donations and legacies		20,000	-	20,000
Charitable activities	3	<u>63,335</u>	<u>20,997</u>	<u>84,332</u>
Total Income		<u>83,335</u>	<u>20,997</u>	<u>104,332</u>
<b>Expenditure on:</b>				
Charitable activities	4	<u>(83,153)</u>	<u>(89,138)</u>	<u>(172,291)</u>
Total Expenditure		<u>(83,153)</u>	<u>(89,138)</u>	<u>(172,291)</u>
Net income/(expenditure)		<u>182</u>	<u>(68,141)</u>	<u>(67,959)</u>
Net movement in funds		182	(68,141)	(67,959)
<b>Reconciliation of funds</b>				
Total funds brought forward		<u>110,928</u>	<u>85,000</u>	<u>195,928</u>
Total funds carried forward	12	<u>111,110</u>	<u>16,859</u>	<u>127,969</u>

All of the charity's activities derive from continuing operations during the above two periods.

**The Play House ( B'ham ) Ltd**  
**(Registration number: 02828276)**  
**Balance Sheet as at 31 August 2024**


	Note	2024 £	2023 £
<b>Fixed assets</b>			
Tangible assets	8	940	1,882
<b>Current assets</b>			
Debtors	9	14,965	1,850
Cash at bank and in hand	10	142,971	201,837
		157,936	203,687
<b>Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year</b>	11	(30,908)	(9,642)
<b>Net current assets</b>		127,028	194,045
<b>Net assets</b>		127,968	195,927
<b>Funds of the charity:</b>			
<b>Restricted income funds</b>			
Restricted funds	12	16,859	85,000
<b>Unrestricted income funds</b>			
Unrestricted funds		111,109	110,927
<b>Total funds</b>	12	127,968	195,927

For the financial year ending 31 August 2024 the charity was entitled to exemption from audit under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

**Directors' responsibilities:**

- The members have not required the charity to obtain an audit of its accounts for the year in question in accordance with section 476; and
- The directors acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Act with respect to accounting records and the preparation of accounts.

The financial statements on pages 7 to 13 were approved by the trustees, and authorised for issue on 12 May 2025 and signed on their behalf by:

  
Tessa Taylor  
Trustee

## **The Play House ( B'ham ) Ltd**

### **Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2024**

#### **1 Charity status**

The charity is limited by guarantee, incorporated in England, and consequently does not have share capital. Each of the trustees is liable to contribute an amount not exceeding £1 towards the assets of the charity in the event of liquidation.

The address of its registered office is:

c/o Action For Children

2-4 Guild Close

Birmingham

B16 8EL

#### **Principal place of business**

These financial statements were authorised for issue by the trustees on 12 May 2025.

#### **2 Accounting policies**

##### **Summary of significant accounting policies and key accounting estimates**

The principal accounting policies applied in the preparation of these financial statements are set out below. These policies have been consistently applied to all the years presented, unless otherwise stated.

##### **Statement of compliance**

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 applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102)) (issued in October 2019) - (Charities SORP (FRS 102)), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Companies Act 2006.

##### **Basis of preparation**

The Play House ( B'ham ) Ltd meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy notes.

##### **Going concern**

The trustees consider that there are no material uncertainties about the charity's ability to continue as a going concern nor any significant areas of uncertainty that affect the carrying value of assets held by the charity.

##### **Taxation**

The charity is considered to pass the tests set out in Paragraph 1 Schedule 6 of the Finance Act 2010 and therefore it meets the definition of a charitable company for UK corporation tax purposes. Accordingly, the charity is potentially exempt from taxation in respect of income or capital gains received within categories covered by Chapter 3 Part 11 of the Corporation Tax Act 2010 or Section 256 of the Taxation of Chargeable Gains Act 1992, to the extent that such income or gains are applied exclusively to charitable purposes.

## The Play House ( B'ham ) Ltd

### Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2024

#### Depreciation and amortisation

Depreciation is provided on tangible fixed assets so as to write off the cost or valuation, less any estimated residual value, over their expected useful economic life as follows:

#### 3 Income from charitable activities

	Unrestricted funds General £	Restricted funds £	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
Schools & universities	63,335	-	63,335	66,745
Garfield Weston grant	20,000	-	20,000	16,400
Windrush project	-	11,997	11,997	20,000
Proud to be a Brummie project	-	9,000	9,000	-
Royal Academy	-	-	-	24,784
29th May 1961 Char Trust	-	-	-	2,000
Edgar Lawley	-	-	-	1,500
Baron Davenport	-	-	-	500
Garfield Weston	-	-	-	15,000
Turner Trust	-	-	-	1,000
William Cadbury	-	-	-	750
Paul Hamlyn Foundation	-	-	-	85,000
	<u>83,335</u>	<u>20,997</u>	<u>104,332</u>	<u>233,679</u>

#### 4 Expenditure on charitable activities

	Unrestricted funds General £	Restricted funds £	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
Production costs	38,368	34,235	72,603	1,923
Freelance fees	-	19,080	19,080	30,322
Staff costs	30,574	35,823	66,397	74,622
PR & marketing	2,534	-	2,534	4,630
Travel	258	-	258	1,551
Insurance	1,908	-	1,908	-
Recruitment	-	-	-	611
Accts & independent exam	1,200	-	1,200	1,100
Office expenses	912	-	912	34
Computer & communications	787	-	787	2,433
Training	-	-	-	47
Rent	4,400	-	4,400	4,800
Legal & Prof	1,112	-	1,112	950
Bank charges	159	-	159	174
Depreciation of fixed assets	942	-	942	942

## The Play House ( B'ham ) Ltd

### Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2024

Unrestricted funds General £	Restricted funds £	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
<u>83,154</u>	<u>89,138</u>	<u>172,292</u>	<u>124,139</u>

#### 5 Trustees remuneration and expenses

No trustees, nor any persons connected with them, have received any remuneration from the charity during the year.

No trustees have received any reimbursed expenses or any other benefits from the charity during the year.

#### 6 Staff costs

The monthly average number of persons (including senior management / leadership team) employed by the charity during the year expressed as full time equivalents was as follows:

	2024 No	2023 No
Staff	3	3
Trustees	<u>7</u>	<u>7</u>
	<u>10</u>	<u>10</u>

No employee received emoluments of more than £60,000 during the year.

#### 7 Taxation

The charity is a registered charity and is therefore exempt from taxation.

# **The Play House ( B'ham ) Ltd**

## **Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2024**

### **8 Tangible fixed assets**

	<b>Furniture and equipment £</b>	<b>Total £</b>
<b>Cost</b>		
At 1 September 2023	3,766	3,766
At 31 August 2024	3,766	3,766
<b>Depreciation</b>		
At 1 September 2023	1,884	1,884
Charge for the year	942	942
At 31 August 2024	2,826	2,826
<b>Net book value</b>		
At 31 August 2024	940	940
At 31 August 2023	1,882	1,882

### **9 Debtors**

	<b>2024 £</b>	<b>2023 £</b>
Trade debtors	14,965	1,850

### **10 Cash and cash equivalents**

	<b>2024 £</b>	<b>2023 £</b>
Cash at bank	142,971	201,837

### **11 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year**

	<b>2024 £</b>	<b>2023 £</b>
Other taxation and social security	10,256	8,542
Accruals	20,652	1,100
	30,908	9,642

# **The Play House ( B'ham ) Ltd**

## **Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2024**

### **12 Funds**

	Balance at 1 September 2023 £	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Balance at 31 August 2024 £
<b>Unrestricted funds</b>				
<i><b>General</b></i>				
General	100,927	83,335	(83,153)	101,109
<i><b>Designated</b></i>				
Designated- develop & IT fund	10,000	-	-	10,000
<b>Total unrestricted funds</b>	<u>110,927</u>	<u>83,335</u>	<u>(83,153)</u>	<u>111,109</u>
<b>Restricted funds</b>				
Windrush	-	11,997	(11,997)	-
Proud Brummie	-	9,000	(9,000)	-
Paul Hamlyn Foundation	85,000	-	(68,141)	16,859
<b>Total restricted funds</b>	<u>85,000</u>	<u>20,997</u>	<u>(89,138)</u>	<u>16,859</u>
<b>Total funds</b>	<u>195,927</u>	<u>104,332</u>	<u>(172,291)</u>	<u>127,968</u>