

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 2025

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

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The Play House (B'ham) Ltd

Contents

Reference and Administrative Details	1
Trustees' Report	2 to 5
Independent Examiner's Report	6
Statement of Financial Activities	7
Balance Sheet	8
Notes to the Financial Statements	9 to 13

The Play House (B'ham) Ltd

Reference and Administrative Details

Secretary	Joanne Marie Sadler
Charity Registration Number	1034809
Company Registration Number	02828276
Registered Office	The charity is incorporated in England. c/o Action For Children 2-4 Guild Close Birmingham B16 8EL
Accountants	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 2025.

Financial and operational review

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.

The Play House (B'ham) Ltd

Trustees' Report

In the academic year 2024-2025, The Play House delivered over 150 workshop-performances and reached over 4500 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 2024/2025

Does Birmingham Belong to Me?

Continuing the major project from the previous year, with funding from the Paul Hamlyn Foundation, The Play House continued this project, which 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.

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.)

The team 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 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.

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.

The Play House (B'ham) Ltd

Trustees' Report

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.

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.

Resilience Quest

Created with a group of Applied Theatre Students from Royal Birmingham Conservatoire and performed by them. A historic legend is used to enable children to gain resilience and persistence through difficulties.

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
Paul Edwards
Liam Alexandru (appointed 22 October 2024)
Alexandra Henwood (resigned 21 October 2024)
Shane Shambhu (resigned 21 October 2024)

Secretary:

Joanne Marie Sadler

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".

The Play House (B'ham) Ltd

Trustees' Report

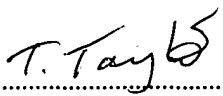
Company law requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year. Under company law the trustees must not approve the financial statements unless they are satisfied that they give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company and of the incoming resources 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 on6/5/26..... 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 2025.

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').

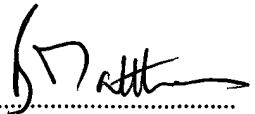
Having satisfied myself that the accounts of the Company are not required to be audited under Part 16 of the 2006 Act and are eligible for independent examination, I report in respect of my examination of your charity's accounts as carried out under section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 ('the 2011 Act').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

Date:..... 19 May 2026

The Play House (B'ham) Ltd

Statement of Financial Activities for the Year Ended 31 August 2025 (Including Income and Expenditure Account and Statement of Total Recognised Gains and Losses)

	Note	Unrestricted funds General £	Restricted funds £	Total 2025 £
Income and Endowments from:				
Donations and legacies		-	26,100	26,100
Charitable activities	3	54,885	73,000	127,885
Investment income	4	18	-	18
Other income		13,451	-	13,451
Total Income		<u>68,354</u>	<u>99,100</u>	<u>167,454</u>
Expenditure on:				
Charitable activities	5	<u>(41,604)</u>	<u>(76,559)</u>	<u>(118,163)</u>
Total Expenditure		<u>(41,604)</u>	<u>(76,559)</u>	<u>(118,163)</u>
Net income		<u>26,750</u>	<u>22,541</u>	<u>49,291</u>
Net movement in funds		26,750	22,541	49,291
Reconciliation of funds				
Total funds brought forward		<u>111,109</u>	<u>16,859</u>	<u>127,968</u>
Total funds carried forward	12	<u>137,859</u>	<u>39,400</u>	<u>177,259</u>

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

The notes on pages 9 to 13 form an integral part of these financial statements.

The Play House (B'ham) Ltd
(Registration number: 02828276)
Balance Sheet as at 31 August 2025


	Note	2025 £	2024 £
Fixed assets			
Tangible assets	9	-	940
Current assets			
Debtors	10	20,946	14,965
Cash at bank and in hand		<u>164,141</u>	<u>142,971</u>
		185,087	157,936
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year	11	<u>(7,827)</u>	<u>(30,908)</u>
Net current assets		<u>177,260</u>	<u>127,028</u>
Net assets		<u><u>177,260</u></u>	<u><u>127,968</u></u>
Funds of the charity:			
Restricted income funds			
Restricted funds	12	39,400	16,859
Unrestricted income funds			
Unrestricted funds		<u>137,860</u>	<u>111,109</u>
Total funds	12	<u><u>177,260</u></u>	<u><u>127,968</u></u>

For the financial year ending 31 August 2025 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 6/5/26 and signed on their behalf by:



 Tessa Taylor
 Trustee

The notes on pages 9 to 13 form an integral part of these financial statements.

The Play House (B'ham) Ltd

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2025

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

Authorised for issue date

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.

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:

The Play House (B'ham) Ltd

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2025

3 Income from charitable activities

	Unrestricted funds General £	Restricted funds £	Total 2025 £	Total 2024 £
Schools & universities	54,885	-	54,885	63,335
Arts Council	-	26,100	26,100	20,000
Windrush project	-	-	-	11,997
Proud to be a Brummie project	-	-	-	9,000
Paul Hamlyn	-	68,000	68,000	-
Theatre Tax Claim	13,451	-	13,451	-
William Cadbury	-	5,000	5,000	-
	<u>68,336</u>	<u>99,100</u>	<u>167,436</u>	<u>104,332</u>

4 Investment income

	Unrestricted funds General £	Total funds £
Interest receivable and similar income;		
Interest receivable on bank deposits	18	18
Total for 2025	<u>18</u>	<u>18</u>

5 Expenditure on charitable activities

	Unrestricted funds General £	Restricted funds £	Total 2025 £	Total 2024 £
Production costs	28,829	5,300	34,129	72,603
Freelance fees	-	17,602	17,602	19,080
Staff costs	10,182	48,257	58,439	66,397
PR & marketing	2,555	-	2,555	2,534
Travel	270	-	270	258
Insurance	913	1,000	1,913	1,908
Release of old tax provisions	(6,000)	-	(6,000)	-
Accts & independent exam	1,300	-	1,300	1,200
Office expenses	387	1,000	1,387	912
Computer & communications	724	-	724	787
Rent	1,000	3,400	4,400	4,400
Legal & Prof	333	-	333	1,112
Bank charges	170	-	170	159
Depreciation of fixed assets	940	-	940	942

The Play House (B'ham) Ltd

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2025

Unrestricted funds General £	Restricted funds £	Total 2025 £	Total 2024 £
<u>41,603</u>	<u>76,559</u>	<u>118,162</u>	<u>172,292</u>

6 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.

7 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:

	2025 No	2024 No
Staff	3	3
Trustees	<u>6</u>	<u>7</u>
	<u>9</u>	<u>10</u>

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

8 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 2025

9 Tangible fixed assets

	Furniture and equipment £	Total £
Cost		
At 1 September 2024	3,766	3,766
At 31 August 2025	3,766	3,766
Depreciation		
At 1 September 2024	2,826	2,826
Charge for the year	940	940
At 31 August 2025	3,766	3,766
Net book value		
At 31 August 2025	-	-
At 31 August 2024	940	940

10 Debtors

	2025 £	2024 £
Trade debtors	7,495	14,965
Accrued income	13,451	-
	20,946	14,965

11 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2025 £	2024 £
Other taxation and social security	5,126	10,256
Other creditors	1,401	-
Accruals	1,300	20,652
	7,827	30,908

The Play House (B'ham) Ltd

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2025

12 Funds

	Balance at 1 September 2024 £	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Balance at 31 August 2025 £
Unrestricted funds				
<i>General</i>				
General	101,109	68,354	(41,603)	127,860
<i>Designated</i>				
Designated- develop & IT fund	10,000	-	-	10,000
Total unrestricted funds	<u>111,109</u>	<u>68,354</u>	<u>(41,603)</u>	<u>137,860</u>
Restricted funds				
Paul Hamlyn Foundation	16,859	68,000	(76,559)	8,300
Arts Council	-	26,100	-	26,100
William Cadbury	-	5,000	-	5,000
Total restricted funds	<u>16,859</u>	<u>99,100</u>	<u>(76,559)</u>	<u>39,400</u>
Total funds	<u>127,968</u>	<u>167,454</u>	<u>(118,162)</u>	<u>177,260</u>