

THE THEATRE COMPANY BLAH BLAH BLAH

England & Wales · Charity number 1039935

Details

Other names	THEATRE COMPANY BLAH BLAH BLAH
Status	Registered
Legal form	Charitable company
Company number	02909605
Registered	1994-08-03
Register	View on the Charity Commission register

Contact

Address	Lawrence Batley Theatre Queen Street Huddersfield HD1 2SP
Phone	01134261394
Email	admin@blahs.co.uk
Website	www.blahs.co.uk

Activities

Objects: TO ADVANCE THE EDUCATION OF CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE IN THE APPRECIATION AND PRACTICE OF THE ARTS, IN PARTICULAR THEATRE, DRAMA AND THE PERFORMING ARTS

Activities: We make theatre based on stories and ideas that interest us, then find ways to engage an appropriate audience, mainly children and young people. We work on ideas and stories over a two/three year period experimenting with different formats with different audiences, taking time to find the best way to tell a story, and the reason we are telling it.

Classification

- **How:** Provides Services, Other Charitable Activities
- **What:** Education/training, Arts/culture/heritage/science
- **Who:** Children/young People, The General Public/mankind

Geography

- Throughout England And Wales

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-03-31	£80,954	£100,903	-	-
2024-03-31	£21,161	£39,652	-	-
2023-03-31	£61,152	£50,902	-	-
2022-03-31	£26,799	£39,383	-	-
2021-03-31	£60,732	£54,929	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Donna Tracey Pankhurst		2023-09-19
GILLIAN CAROLINE MORLEY		
Inderjeet Bell		2021-06-08
Job Kabamba		2021-06-08
LAUREN RACHAEL HUXLEY		2015-09-21

THE THEATRE COMPANY BLAH BLAH BLAH

England & Wales - Charity number 1039935

Accounts

The Theatre Company Blah Blah Blah!

Charity number 1039935

A company limited by guarantee number 02909605

Annual Report and Financial Statements for the year ended 31 March 2025



The Theatre Company Blah Blah Blah!

Annual Report and Financial Statements for the year ended 31 March 2025

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Prepared by West Yorkshire Community Accountancy Service CIO

The Theatre Company Blah Blah Blah!

Trustees' report for the year ended 31 March 2025

Reference and administrative details of the charity, its trustees and advisors

The trustees during the financial year and up to and including the date the report was approved were:

Name	Position	Dates
Donna Pankhurst	Chair	Resigned 29 August 2025
Linzi Tate		Resigned 6 July 2024
Lauren Huxley		
Gillian Morley		
Madeleine Thorne		Resigned 3 September 2024
Inderjeet Bell		
Job Kabamba		
Charity number	1039935	Registered in England and Wales
Company number	02909605	Registered in England and Wales
Registered and principal address	Bankers	
Lawrence Batley Theatre	HSBC Bank Plc	Monmouthshire Building Society
Queen Street	Leeds University	Monmouthshire House
Huddersfield	27 Blenheim Terrace	John Frost Square
HD1 2SP	Woodhouse Lane	Newport
	Leeds University	South Wales NP20 1PX

Independent examiner

Simon Bostrom FCIE

West Yorkshire Community Accountancy Service CIO

Stringer House
34 Lupton Street
Leeds
LS10 2QW

Structure, governance and management

The charity is a company limited by guarantee and was formed on 17 March 1994. It is governed by a memorandum and articles of association as amended by special resolution on 24 June 1994 and amended on 4 January 2019 and 23 July 2020. The liability of the members in the event of the company being wound up is limited to a sum not exceeding £1.

Method of recruitment and appointment of trustees

The trustees of the charity are also the directors for the purposes of company law and are appointed by the members at the AGM.

The Theatre Company Blah Blah Blah!

Trustees' report (continued) for the year ended 31 March 2025

Objectives and activities

The charity's objects

To advance the education of children and young people in the appreciation and practice of the arts, in particular theatre, drama and the performing arts.

The charity's main activities

The usual activity of Theatre Company Blah Blah Blah is to create original theatre performances and drama workshops primarily for and with children and young people, but also their teachers and families, with the purpose of engaging them in learning about the art form, themselves and the world. The charity carries out this work in schools, community settings and theatre venues.

Public benefit statement

In setting our objectives and planning our activities our Trustees have given serious consideration to the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit and in particular the advancement of education of children and young people and the appreciation and practice of the arts.

Achievements and performance

Introduction

Hidden Garden

The show played 26 times across the North of England to a total audience of 1,296 in a mixture of conventional venues and community spaces, some with an history of arts inclusion and some without. The shows played to audiences aged 4 through to 9 (mostly with accompanying adults) and were well received. The original plan was to have a considerable amount of community support running alongside the performance, but we were unsuccessful in a bid to The National Lottery to fund this, which led to Trees For Cities being able to deliver this work and it cost the production audiences and a deeper engagement with the subject matter. This came at particular cost in places like Burnley Downtown Community Pantry and Hoole Community Centre but we are still very glad we played in areas with very little arts infrastructure or provision.

The quality of the final show was excellent which is, in no small part, to the great credit of the production team. There were significant casting issues (with an actor having to be replaced very late in the project) and it became obvious that the production was too big for the infrastructure of the current company to be able to cope with effectively. This was exacerbated by the Executive Creative Producer having significant health issues at the same time as the Producer attached to the show leaving to take up another job. This meant that already busy people became even more busy, that it had no effect on what was shown says a great deal about their professionalism.

Bored on the Ward (formerly Heartbeats)

By the end of the financial year this project was about to begin its beta testing stage, which demonstrates just how hard the team of Matthew Bellwood (story), Nick Lewis and James Mabbutt (music), Chadni Soren (artist), Jack Sibley (lead developer), Tim Woodson (UI designer), Lydia Cotteril (technologist) have pushed the development forward. They have, further, been working closely with Sophie Jo Peel of South West Yorkshire NHS Trust and the Calderdale Hospital's Estates Team to isolate places for installation of artwork relating to the digital game and exploring the best ways of mounting said artwork.

Bored on the Ward is funded by Youth Music and was developed to alleviate boredom amongst children and young people who are either in regular outpatient care or on medium to long stays in hospital. Developed alongside children and young people in Calderdale Hospital, in particular the youth epilepsy group, the project was created through group play, music making and storytelling activity. The digital game is loosely framed around the design of the children's ward at the hospital and invites young users to help broken instruments find their groove again. They do this by participating in mini games which create pieces of music which can be combined through a portal room to create a more complex piece of music.

The Theatre Company Blah Blah Blah!

Trustees' report (continued) for the year ended 31 March 2025

Achievements and performance continued

Once beta testing has been completed it is intended that the game be made available via The Apple Store (on a free download, if approval is granted) so that it can be played on iPads or smart phones around the hospital.

The digital work has been designed so that it is adaptable in terms of growth and easily reskinned so that it can reflect a wider range of hospitals. It can of course be played by any young person with access to a smart phone and iPad and access to the Apple Store.

Fundraising

As was mentioned above, we failed in our bid to The National Lottery (£6,500) to fund the creative playdays, we also failed in bids (£5,000) to the Garfield Weston Foundation and (£5,000) to The Postcode Lottery Foundation and (£2,000) to the Rayne Foundation – all for core support and all turned down due to pressure on funds.

There are very clear indications that, as charities close due to the cost of living impact on their finances; close funding streams; refocus their funding towards frontline services; and as the pressure of application level to charities has grown exponentially (as pressures elsewhere in the funding system shift bids towards them) the chances of success are dwindling. Put simply there are far more arts organisations applying for funding from a shrinking number of Trusts and Foundations who give to the arts.

Our sector is under significant and prolonged pressure, particularly small organisations, experiencing:

- Limited funding growth
- Capacity challenges
- Structural inequality between large and small organisations

The economic outlook over the next five years does not look like this situation is likely to change for any organisation seeking Charitable funding but it is fair to say that the arts and heritage sectors are being hit particularly hard.

Financial review

The net expenditure for the year was £19,949, including net expenditure of £7,882 on unrestricted funds and net expenditure of £12,067 on restricted funds.

Reserves policy

Trustees consider that the appropriate level of unrestricted reserves held by Theatre Company Blah Blah Blah should be a minimum of 3 and a maximum of 5 months expenditure. This is to allow the smooth operation of the charity and to sustain activity during any period of uncertainty. This currently equates to between £6,651 and £11,086 based on current overhead costs of £26,606 per annum. The reserves policy will be kept under review on an annual basis or if risks to the company change.

The charity's free reserves, excluding fixed assets, at the year end were £15,056.

The Theatre Company Blah Blah Blah!

Trustees' report (continued) for the year ended 31 March 2025

Statement of trustees' responsibilities

The trustees (who are also the directors for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the Trustees report and the financial statements in accordance with the applicable law and UK Accounting Standards.

Company law requires the trustees to prepare financial accounts for each financial year which 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 the income and expenditure, of the charitable company for the year. 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 UK accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;

- prepare the accounts on a going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charitable company will continue in operation.

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

This report has been prepared in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities (Charities SORP (FRS102)), and in accordance with the special provisions of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

Approved by the board of trustees on 22/12/2025

Lauren Huxley (Trustee)

The Theatre Company Blah Blah Blah!

Independent examiner's report to the trustees of The Theatre Company Blah Blah Blah!

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the charitable company for the year ended 31 March 2025, which are set out on pages 7 to 13.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity's trustees of the charitable 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 charitable 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 ('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 material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

- 1 accounting records were not kept in respect of the company 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.

Simon Bostrom FCIE

22/12/25

West Yorkshire Community Accountancy Service CIO

Stringer House
34 Lupton Street
Leeds
LS10 2QW

The Theatre Company Blah Blah Blah!
Statement of Financial Activities
(including summary income and expenditure account)
for the year ended 31 March 2025

	Notes	2025 Unrestricted funds £	2025 Restricted funds £	2025 Total funds £	2024 Total funds £
Income from:					
Grants and donations	(2)	-	69,687	69,687	20,000
Performance and workshop fees		10,600	-	10,600	-
Interest		667	-	667	1,261
Total income		<u>11,267</u>	<u>69,687</u>	<u>80,954</u>	<u>21,261</u>
Expenditure on:					
Salaries NICs and pensions	(3)	8,023	5,900	13,923	13,924
Motor, travel and tour costs		-	-	-	725
Insurance		656	-	656	644
Telephone, internet and web support		1,632	-	1,632	971
Administrative costs		482	139	621	413
Advertising		-	3,160	3,160	3,654
Professional fees and consultancy		-	3,860	3,860	6,958
Production costs		8,000	68,197	76,197	9,172
Independent examination		720	-	720	720
Legal and governance		34	-	34	1,221
Bad debts		-	-	-	1,250
Depreciation		100	-	100	-
Total expenditure		<u>19,647</u>	<u>81,256</u>	<u>100,903</u>	<u>39,652</u>
Net income / (expenditure)		<u>(8,380)</u>	<u>(11,569)</u>	<u>(19,949)</u>	<u>(18,391)</u>
Transfers between funds	(4)	<u>498</u>	<u>(498)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Net movement in funds		<u>(7,882)</u>	<u>(12,067)</u>	<u>(19,949)</u>	<u>(18,391)</u>
Fund balances brought forward		<u>23,336</u>	<u>29,910</u>	<u>53,246</u>	<u>71,637</u>
Fund balances carried forward	(4)	<u>15,454</u>	<u>17,843</u>	<u>33,297</u>	<u>53,246</u>

All incoming resources and resources expended derive from continuing activities.

The Theatre Company Blah Blah Blah!

Balance sheet

as at 31 March 2025

	2025	2025	2025	2024
	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total	Total
	£	£	£	£
Fixed assets				
Tangible assets	(5) 398	-	398	-
Total fixed assets	<u>398</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>398</u>	<u>-</u>
Current assets				
Debtors and prepayments	(6) 2,375	4,996	7,371	271
Cash at bank and in hand	(7) 13,579	12,847	26,426	54,752
Total current assets	<u>15,954</u>	<u>17,843</u>	<u>33,797</u>	<u>55,023</u>
Current liabilities:				
amounts falling due within one year				
Creditors and accruals	(8) 898	-	898	1,777
Total current liabilities	<u>898</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>898</u>	<u>1,777</u>
Net current assets / (liabilities)	<u>15,056</u>	<u>17,843</u>	<u>32,899</u>	<u>53,246</u>
Net assets	<u>15,454</u>	<u>17,843</u>	<u>33,297</u>	<u>53,246</u>
Funds				
Unrestricted funds	15,454	-	15,454	23,336
Restricted funds	-	17,843	17,843	29,910
Total funds	<u>15,454</u>	<u>17,843</u>	<u>33,297</u>	<u>53,246</u>

For the year ending 31 March 2025 the charitable company was entitled to exemption from audit under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

The members have not required the charitable company to obtain an audit of its accounts for the year in question in accordance with section 476. The trustees (who are also the directors for the purposes of company law) acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Act with respect to accounting records and the preparation of accounts.

These accounts have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies' regime and with FRS 102 (effective January 2019).

The financial statements were approved by the board of trustees on 22/12/2025

Lauren Huxley (Trustee)

The Theatre Company Blah Blah Blah!

Notes to the accounts

for the year ended 31 March 2025

1 Accounting policies

Basis of accounting

These accounts have been prepared under the historical cost convention with items recognised at cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant note(s) to these accounts. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019) and with the Charities Act 2011.

The charity constitutes a public benefit entity as defined by FRS 102.

There has been no change to the accounting policies since last year.

No changes have been made to the accounts for previous years.

Going concern

The trustees are satisfied that there are no material uncertainties about the charity's ability to continue.

Incoming resources

All incoming resources are included in the Statement of Financial Activities (SOFA) when the charity becomes entitled to the resources, if it is more likely than not that the trustees will receive the resources and the monetary value can be measured with sufficient reliability.

Grants and donations

Grants and donations are only included in the SOFA when the charity has unconditional entitlement to the resources.

Where grants are related to performance and specific deliverables, they are accounted for as the charity earns the right to consideration by its performance.

Expenditure and liabilities

Expenditure is recognised on an accrual basis as a liability is incurred. Liabilities are recognised where it is more likely than not that there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to pay out the resources and the amount of the obligation can be measured with reasonable certainty.

Taxation

As a charity the organisation benefits from rates relief and is generally exempt from income tax and capital gains tax but not from VAT. Irrecoverable VAT is included in the cost of those items to which it relates.

Tangible fixed assets

Tangible fixed assets are capitalised and included at cost including any incidental expenses of acquisition. Gifted assets are shown at the value to the charity on receipt.

Depreciation is provided on all tangible fixed assets at rates calculated to write off the cost on a straight line basis over their expected useful economic lives as follows:

Fixtures and fittings and equipment: over 5 years

Pensions

The charity operates a defined contribution scheme for the benefit of its employees. The costs of contributions are recognised in the year they are payable.

Fund accounting

Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of the general objectives of the charity.

Restricted funds are subjected to restrictions on their expenditure imposed by the donor or through the terms of an appeal.

Further explanation of the nature and purpose of each fund is included in the notes to the accounts.

The Theatre Company Blah Blah Blah!
Notes to the accounts continued
for the year ended 31 March 2025

2 Grants and donations	2025	2025	2025	2024
	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total funds	Total funds
	£	£	£	£
Arts Council England (ACE)	-	49,967	49,967	-
SW Yorkshire Partnership NHS	-	18,820	18,820	20,000
City of Bradford MDC	-	900	900	-
	<u>-</u>	<u>69,687</u>	<u>69,687</u>	<u>20,000</u>

3 Staff costs and numbers	2025	2024
	£	£
Gross salaries	13,699	13,700
Social security costs	725	635
Employment allowance	(725)	(635)
Pensions	224	224
	<u>13,923</u>	<u>13,924</u>

The average number of employees during the year was 1, being an average of 0.4 full time equivalent (2024: 1, 0.4 FTE). There were no employees with emoluments above £60,000.

Defined contribution pension scheme	2025	2024
	£	£
Costs of the scheme to the charity for the year	224	224
Amount of any contributions outstanding at the year end	44	44

4 Restricted funds	Balance b/f	Incoming	Outgoing	Transfers	Balance c/f
	£	£	£	£	£
SW Yorkshire P/ship NHS	29,910	18,820	30,389	(498)	17,843
Arts Council England	-	49,967	49,967	-	-
City of Bradford MDC	-	900	900	-	-
	<u>29,910</u>	<u>69,687</u>	<u>81,256</u>	<u>(498)</u>	<u>17,843</u>

Fund name	Purpose of restriction
SW Yorkshire P/ship NHS	Towards the Heartbeats project. The transfer relates to the purchase of fixed assets for the general purposes of the charity.
Arts Council England	Towards the Hidden Garden project.
City of Bradford MDC	Towards the Hidden Garden project.

The Theatre Company Blah Blah Blah!
Notes to the accounts continued
for the year ended 31 March 2025

5 Tangible assets	Fixtures and fittings	Total
	£	£
<u>Cost</u>		
At 1 April 2024	3,283	3,283
Additions	498	498
At 31 March 2025	<u>3,781</u>	<u>3,781</u>
<u>Depreciation</u>		
At 1 April 2024	3,283	3,283
Charge for year	100	100
At 31 March 2025	<u>3,383</u>	<u>3,383</u>
<u>Net book value</u>		
At 31 March 2025	<u>398</u>	<u>398</u>
At 31 March 2024	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
6 Debtors and prepayments	2025	2024
	£	£
Debtors	7,096	-
Prepayments	275	271
	<u>7,371</u>	<u>271</u>
7 Cash at bank and in hand	2025	2024
	£	£
Cash at bank	26,426	54,752
	<u>26,426</u>	<u>54,752</u>
8 Creditors and accruals	2025	2024
	£	£
Creditors	108	985
Accruals	720	720
Taxation and social security	26	28
Other creditors	44	44
	<u>898</u>	<u>1,777</u>

The Theatre Company Blah Blah Blah!
Notes to the accounts continued
for the year ended 31 March 2025

9 Related party transactions

Trustee expenses

No trustee received any expenses during this year or the previous year.

Trustee remuneration and benefits

No trustee received any remuneration or benefit during this or the previous year.

Remuneration and benefits received by key management personnel

The total employee benefits received by key management personnel were £14,649 (previous year: £14,559).

The Theatre Company Blah Blah Blah!

Statement of Financial Activities including comparatives for all funds (including summary income and expenditure account) for the year ended 31 March 2025

	2025 Unrestricted funds £	2024 Unrestricted funds £	2025 Restricted funds £	2024 Restricted funds £	2025 Total funds £	2024 Total funds £
Income						
Grants and donations	-	-	69,687	20,000	69,687	20,000
Performance and workshop fees	10,600	-	-	-	10,600	-
Interest	667	1,261	-	-	667	1,261
Total income	11,267	1,261	69,687	20,000	80,954	21,261
Expenditure						
Salaries NICs and pensions	8,023	13,924	5,900	-	13,923	13,924
Motor, travel and tour costs	-	128	-	597	-	725
Insurance	656	644	-	-	656	644
Phone, internet and web support	1,632	971	-	-	1,632	971
Administrative costs	482	413	139	-	621	413
Advertising	-	3,474	3,160	180	3,160	3,654
Professional fees and consultancy	-	6,958	3,860	-	3,860	6,958
Production costs	8,000	534	68,197	8,638	76,197	9,172
Independent examination	720	720	-	-	720	720
Legal and governance	34	1,221	-	-	34	1,221
Bad debts	-	1,250	-	-	-	1,250
Depreciation	100	-	-	-	100	-
Total expenditure	19,647	30,237	81,256	9,415	100,903	39,652
Net income / (expenditure)	(8,380)	(28,976)	(11,569)	10,585	(19,949)	(18,391)
Transfers between funds	498	-	(498)	-	-	-
Net movement in funds	(7,882)	(28,976)	(12,067)	10,585	(19,949)	(18,391)
Fund balances brought forward	23,336	52,312	29,910	19,325	53,246	71,637
Fund balances carried forward	15,454	23,336	17,843	29,910	33,297	53,246

THE THEATRE COMPANY BLAH BLAH BLAH

England & Wales - Charity number 1039935

Accounts

The Theatre Company Blah Blah Blah!

Charity number 1039935

A company limited by guarantee number 02909605

Annual Report and Financial Statements for the year ended 31 March 2023



The Theatre Company Blah Blah Blah!

Annual Report and Financial Statements for the year ended 31 March 2023

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Prepared by West Yorkshire Community Accountancy Service CIO

The Theatre Company Blah Blah Blah!

Trustees' report for the year ended 31 March 2023

Reference and administrative details of the charity, its trustees and advisors

The trustees during the financial year and up to and including the date the report was approved were:

Name	Position	Dates
Linzi Tate	Chair of the board	
Lauren Huxley	Vice Chair	
Gillian Morley		
Madeleine Thorne		
Inderjeet Bell		
Job Kabamba		
Anne Lloyd		Resigned April 2022
Pamela Storr		Resigned December 2022
Neil McCallum		Resigned May 2023

Charity number 1039935 Registered in England and Wales

Company number 02909605 Registered in England and Wales

Registered and principal address

Interplay Theatre
Armley Ridge Road
Leeds
LS12 3LE

Bankers

HSBC Bank Plc
Leeds University
27 Blenheim Terrace
Woodhouse Lane
Leeds University
LS2 9HE

Monmouthshire Building Society
Monmouthshire House
John Frost Square
Newport
South Wales NP20 1PX

Independent examiner

Simon Bostrom FCIE

West Yorkshire Community Accountancy Service CIO

Stringer House
34 Lupton Street
Leeds
LS10 2QW

Structure, governance and management

The charity is a company limited by guarantee and was formed on 17 March 1994. It is governed by a memorandum and articles of association as amended by special resolution on 24 June 1994 and amended on 4 January 2019 and 23 July 2020. The liability of the members in the event of the

Method of recruitment and appointment of trustees

The trustees of the charity are also the directors for the purposes of company law and are appointed by the members at the AGM.

The Theatre Company Blah Blah Blah!

Trustees' report (continued) for the year ended 31 March 2023

Objectives and activities

The charity's objects

To advance the education of children and young people in the appreciation and practice of the arts, in particular theatre, drama and the performing arts.

The charity's main activities

The usual activity of Theatre Company Blah Blah Blah is to create original theatre performances and drama workshops primarily for and with children and young people, but also their teachers and families, with the purpose of engaging them in learning about the art form, themselves and the world. The charity carries out this work in schools, community settings and theatre venues.

Public benefit statement

In setting our objectives and planning our activities our Trustees have given serious consideration to the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit and in particular education through the arts.

Achievements and performance

NPO Application

The company submitted an NPO application to Arts Council England for £275,000 for three years core funding, this bid proved unsuccessful. The company has therefore redrawn its business model, set aside reserves to employ a freelance fundraiser to support the Executive Creative Producer in establishing new funders on a project by project basis, kept the core staffing at a minimum until that funding comes on stream and has obtained funding (via the Guerrilla Gardening Grants for the Arts bid) to completely rework our website so that it reflects the ways that the company will be working in future, both of these are expected to come to fruition next financial year.

Guerrilla Gardening

The company entered a second stage of development for this piece thanks to a successful Grants for the Arts bid to Arts Council England, we worked 2 actors, a dramaturg, director, a puppeteer, design technician and kinetic sculptor to explore and flesh out ideas from the first iteration the previous year. The resulting work (about 2/3 of what we think the final piece will be) was shown at Princeville Co-op Academy Primary in Bradford in July 2022 to garner feedback from pupils, staff, parents and carers.

We obtained funding from the National Lottery to provide a day of wraparound arts and growing activity (provided by our project partner, Trees for Cities) which served both as an innovative way of engaging with parents and carers who might not otherwise attend if it was simply a development showing of a piece of theatre and as a way in which they could engage with the school in a new way. The day saw just under 300 attendees which exceeded our expectations. We hired a filmmaker to record the activities and parent/carer/pupil feedback which we now have available for viewing online.

The feedback from both the creative team and attendees has fed directly into our planning for the next stage of development and showing.

Stirring Up The Past

We have continued this project, available on the Love Exploring App, via the Stirring Up the Past web presence and via headphones from The Leeds Library. We have had over 500 visitors thus far.

The Theatre Company Blah Blah Blah!

Trustees' report (continued) for the year ended 31 March 2023

Heartbeats

Towards the back end of the year we got the news that the company has (in partnership with Southwest Yorkshire Hospital Trust) received funding (£90,000) from the Youth Music Trust. We will be developing and delivering a project in hospitals in the Dewsbury/Batley area that explores music making with children in long-term in-patient and outpatient care. We will be working alongside clinicians and care staff, children and young people, parents and carers to scope out, develop and trial a project that adheres to disease protocols and the reality of busy and complicated wards to develop an app/screen delivered technology that allows children to play with music making at whatever level of skill they possess. This project will begin in 2023/2024 but we have already approached storyteller and writer Matthew Bellwood to lead the project as we would like to create a storytelling/gameplaying approach to music making. At a later date, Matthew will bring in a much wider range of artists and developers to realise the project.

Staffing

The company has now moved fully to a Creative Producer model, led by Iain Bloomfield and employed a new Administrator, Lucy Dix. Andrew Procter remains in charge of our finances.

Financial review

The net income for the year was £10,250, including net expenditure of £3,385 on unrestricted funds and net income of £13,635 on restricted funds after transfers.

Reserves policy

Trustees consider that the appropriate level of unrestricted reserves held by Theatre Company Blah Blah Blah should be a minimum of 3 and a maximum of 5 months expenditure. This is to allow the smooth operation of the charity and to sustain activity during any period of uncertainty. This currently equates to between £30,450 and £50,750 based on budgeted expenditure of £121,800. The reserves policy will be kept under review on an annual basis or if risks to the company change.

The charity's free reserves, excluding fixed assets, at the year end were £52,312.

The Theatre Company Blah Blah Blah!

Trustees' report (continued) for the year ended 31 March 2023

Statement of trustees' responsibilities

The trustees (who are also the directors for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the Trustees report and the financial statements in accordance with the applicable law and UK Accounting Standards.

Company law requires the trustees to prepare financial accounts for each financial year which 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 the income and expenditure, of the charitable company for the year. 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 UK accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;

- prepare the accounts on a going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charitable company will continue in operation.

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

This report has been prepared in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities (Charities SORP (FRS102)), and in accordance with the special provisions of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

approved by the board of trustees on 19/9/2023

Linzi Tate (Trustee)

The Theatre Company Blah Blah Blah!

Independent examiner's report to the trustees of The Theatre Company Blah Blah Blah!

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the charitable company for the year ended 31 March 2023, which are set out on pages 7 to 13.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity's trustees of the charitable 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 charitable 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 ('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 material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

- 1 accounting records were not kept in respect of the company 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.

Simon Bostrom FCIE

4/12/2023

West Yorkshire Community Accountancy Service CIO

Stringer House
34 Lupton Street
Leeds
LS10 2QW

The Theatre Company Blah Blah Blah!
Statement of Financial Activities
(including summary income and expenditure account)
for the year ended 31 March 2023

	Notes	2023 Unrestricted funds £	2023 Restricted funds £	2023 Total funds £	2022 Total funds £
Income from:					
Grants and donations	(2)	5,000	55,688	60,688	35,439
Performance and workshop fees		-	-	-	2,775
Interest		464	-	464	245
Total income		<u>5,464</u>	<u>55,688</u>	<u>61,152</u>	<u>38,459</u>
Expenditure on:					
Salaries NICs and pensions	(3)	2,321	11,603	13,924	27,366
Motor, travel and tour costs		-	381	381	1,160
Rent and storage		30	-	30	-
Insurance		635	-	635	620
Telephone, internet and web support		541	-	541	384
Administrative costs		416	-	416	362
Advertising		-	4,475	4,475	2,624
Professional fees and consultancy		4,092	3,028	7,120	8,678
Production costs		-	22,566	22,566	27,027
Independent examination		720	-	720	720
Legal and governance		94	-	94	698
Bad debts		-	-	-	783
Other expenditure		-	-	-	322
Total expenditure		<u>8,849</u>	<u>42,053</u>	<u>50,902</u>	<u>70,744</u>
Net income / (expenditure)		<u>(3,385)</u>	<u>13,635</u>	<u>10,250</u>	<u>(32,285)</u>
Fund balances brought forward		<u>55,697</u>	<u>5,690</u>	<u>61,387</u>	<u>93,672</u>
Fund balances carried forward	(4)	<u>52,312</u>	<u>19,325</u>	<u>71,637</u>	<u>61,387</u>

All incoming resources and resources expended derive from continuing activities.

The Theatre Company Blah Blah Blah!

Balance sheet

as at 31 March 2023

	2023	2023	2023	2022
	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total	Total
	£	£	£	£
Current assets				
Stock	-	-	-	
Debtors and prepayments	(5) 4,514	-	4,514	2,665
Cash at bank and in hand	(6) 49,194	19,325	68,519	59,884
Total current assets	<u>53,708</u>	<u>19,325</u>	<u>73,033</u>	<u>62,549</u>
Current liabilities:				
amounts falling due within one year				
Creditors and accruals	(7) 1,396	-	1,396	1,162
Total current liabilities	<u>1,396</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,396</u>	<u>1,162</u>
Net current assets / (liabilities)	<u>52,312</u>	<u>19,325</u>	<u>71,637</u>	<u>61,387</u>
Net assets	<u>52,312</u>	<u>19,325</u>	<u>71,637</u>	<u>61,387</u>
Funds				
Unrestricted funds	52,312	-	52,312	55,697
Restricted funds	-	19,325	19,325	5,690
Total funds	<u>52,312</u>	<u>19,325</u>	<u>71,637</u>	<u>61,387</u>

For the year ending 31 March 2023 the charitable company was entitled to exemption from audit under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

The members have not required the charitable company to obtain an audit of its accounts for the year in question in accordance with section 476. The trustees (who are also the directors for the purposes of company law) acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Act with respect to accounting records and the preparation of accounts.

These accounts have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies' regime and with FRS 102 (effective January 2019).

The financial statements were approved by the board of trustees on 19/9/2023

Linzi Tate (Trustee)

The Theatre Company Blah Blah Blah!

Notes to the accounts

for the year ended 31 March 2023

1 Accounting policies

Basis of accounting

These accounts have been prepared under the historical cost convention with items recognised at cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant note(s) to these accounts. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019) and with the Charities Act 2011.

The charity constitutes a public benefit entity as defined by FRS 102. There has been no change to the accounting policies since last year. No changes have been made to the accounts for previous years.

Going concern

The trustees are satisfied that there are no material uncertainties about the charity's ability to continue.

Incoming resources

All incoming resources are included in the Statement of Financial Activities (SOFA) when the charity becomes entitled to the resources, if it is more likely than not that the trustees will receive the resources and the monetary value can be measured with sufficient reliability.

Grants and donations

Grants and donations are only included in the SOFA when the charity has unconditional entitlement to the resources.

Where grants are related to performance and specific deliverables, they are accounted for as the charity earns the right to consideration by its performance.

Expenditure and liabilities

Expenditure is recognised on an accrual basis as a liability is incurred. Liabilities are recognised where it is more likely than not that there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to pay out the resources and the amount of the obligation can be measured with reasonable certainty.

Taxation

As a charity the organisation benefits from rates relief and is generally exempt from income tax and capital gains tax but not from VAT. Irrecoverable VAT is included in the cost of those items to which it relates.

Tangible fixed assets

Tangible fixed assets are capitalised and included at cost including any incidental expenses of acquisition. Gifted assets are shown at the value to the charity on receipt.

Depreciation is provided on all tangible fixed assets at rates calculated to write off the cost on a straight line basis over their expected useful economic lives as follows:

Fixtures and fittings and equipment: over 5 years

Pensions

The charity operates a defined contribution scheme for the benefit of its employees. The costs of contributions are recognised in the year they are payable.

Fund accounting

Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of the general objectives of the charity.

Restricted funds are subjected to restrictions on their expenditure imposed by the donor or through the terms of an appeal.

Further explanation of the nature and purpose of each fund is included in the notes to the accounts.

The Theatre Company Blah Blah Blah!
Notes to the accounts continued
for the year ended 31 March 2023

2 Grants and donations	2023	2023	2023	2022
	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total funds	Total funds
	£	£	£	£
Arts Council England (ACE)	-	29,988	29,988	14,999
Leeds City Council Arts@Leeds	5,000	-	5,000	8,640
Mind The Gap	-	1,415	1,415	-
National Lottery Community Fund (NLCF)	-	4,285	4,285	-
SW Yorkshire Partnership NHS	-	20,000	20,000	-
Foyle Foundation	-	-	-	10,000
Leeds Inspired	-	-	-	1,000
Z-Arts	-	-	-	800
	<u>5,000</u>	<u>55,688</u>	<u>60,688</u>	<u>35,439</u>

3 Staff costs and numbers	2023	2022
	£	£
Gross salaries	13,700	26,829
Social security costs	669	2,075
Employment allowance	(669)	(2,075)
Pensions	224	537
	<u>13,924</u>	<u>27,366</u>

The average number of employees during the year was 1, being an average of 0.4 full time equivalent (2022: 1.3, 0.5 FTE). There were no employees with emoluments above £60,000.

Defined contribution pension scheme	2023	2022
	£	£
Costs of the scheme to the charity for the year	224	537
Amount of any contributions outstanding at the year end	44	44

4 Restricted funds	Balance b/f	Incoming	Outgoing	Transfers	Balance c/f
	£	£	£	£	£
ACE Guerrilla Gardening	-	29,988	29,988	-	-
SW Yorkshire P/ship NHS	-	20,000	675	-	19,325
ACE SUTP	4,890	-	4,890	-	-
NLCF Awards for All	-	4,285	4,285	-	-
Mind the Gap	-	1,415	1,415	-	-
Z-Arts	800	-	800	-	-
	<u>5,690</u>	<u>55,688</u>	<u>42,053</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>19,325</u>

Fund name	Purpose of restriction
ACE Guerrilla Gardening	Towards the Guerrilla gardening project.
SW Yorkshire P/ship NHS	Towards the Heartbeats project.
ACE SUTP	Towards the Stirring up the Past project.
NLCF Awards for All	Towards the Guerrilla gardening project.
Mind the Gap	Towards the Guerrilla gardening project.
Z-Arts	Towards the Guerrilla gardening project.

The Theatre Company Blah Blah Blah!
Notes to the accounts continued
for the year ended 31 March 2023

5 Debtors and prepayments	2023	2022
	£	£
Debtors	4,249	800
Prepayments	265	265
Accrued income	-	1,600
	<u>4,514</u>	<u>2,665</u>

6 Cash at bank and in hand	2023	2022
	£	£
Cash at bank	68,519	59,884
Cash in hand	-	-
	<u>68,519</u>	<u>59,884</u>

7 Creditors and accruals	2023	2022
	£	£
Creditors	602	338
Accruals	720	720
Taxation and social security	30	60
Other creditors	44	44
	<u>1,396</u>	<u>1,162</u>

8 Tangible assets	Fixtures and fittings	Total
	£	£
<u>Cost</u>		
At 1 April 2022	3,283	3,283
Additions	-	-
At 31 March 2023	<u>3,283</u>	<u>3,283</u>
<u>Depreciation</u>		
At 1 April 2022	3,283	3,283
Charge for year	-	-
At 31 March 2023	<u>3,283</u>	<u>3,283</u>
<u>Net book value</u>		
At 31 March 2023	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
At 31 March 2022	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>

The Theatre Company Blah Blah Blah!
Notes to the accounts continued
for the year ended 31 March 2023

9 Related party transactions

Trustee expenses

No trustee received any expenses during this year (previous year: one trustee and £113).

Trustee remuneration and benefits

No trustee received any remuneration or benefit during this or the previous year.

Remuneration and benefits received by key management personnel

The total employee benefits received by key management personnel were £14,593 (previous year: £27,366).

The Theatre Company Blah Blah Blah!

Statement of Financial Activities including comparatives for all funds (including summary income and expenditure account) for the year ended 31 March 2023

	2023	2022	2023	2022	2023	2022
	Unrestricted	Unrestricted	Restricted	Restricted	Total	Total
	funds	funds	funds	funds	funds	funds
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Income						
Grants and donations	5,000	8,640	55,688	26,799	60,688	35,439
Performance and workshop fees	-	2,775	-	-	-	2,775
Interest	464	245	-	-	464	245
Total income	5,464	11,660	55,688	26,799	61,152	38,459
Expenditure						
Salaries NICs and pensions	2,321	15,822	11,603	11,544	13,924	27,366
Motor, travel and tour costs	-	86	381	1,074	381	1,160
Rent and storage	30	-	-	-	30	-
Insurance	635	620	-	-	635	620
Telephone, internet and web support	541	384	-	-	541	384
Administrative costs	416	362	-	-	416	362
Advertising	-	-	4,475	2,624	4,475	2,624
Professional fees and consultancy	4,092	8,678	3,028	-	7,120	8,678
Production costs	-	3,086	22,566	23,941	22,566	27,027
Independent examination	720	720	-	-	720	720
Legal and governance	94	698	-	-	94	698
Bad debts	-	783	-	-	-	783
Other expenditure	-	122	-	200	-	322
Total expenditure	8,849	31,361	42,053	39,383	50,902	70,744
Net income / (expenditure)	(3,385)	(19,701)	13,635	(12,584)	10,250	(32,285)
Fund balances brought forward	55,697	75,398	5,690	18,274	61,387	93,672
Fund balances carried forward	52,312	55,697	19,325	5,690	71,637	61,387

THE THEATRE COMPANY BLAH BLAH BLAH

England & Wales - Charity number 1039935

Accounts

The Theatre Company Blah Blah Blah!

Charity number 1039935

A company limited by guarantee number 02909605

Annual Report and Financial Statements for the year ended 31 March 2022



West Yorkshire Community Accounting Service

The Theatre Company Blah Blah Blah!

Annual Report and Financial Statements for the year ended 31 March 2022

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Prepared by West Yorkshire Community Accountancy Service CIO

The Theatre Company Blah Blah Blah!

Trustees' report for the year ended 31 March 2022

Reference and administrative details of the charity, its trustees and advisors

The trustees during the financial year and up to and including the date the report was approved were:

Name	Position	Dates
Pamela Storr	Chair of the board	
Anne Lloyd		Resigned April 2022
Gillian Morley		
Lauren Huxley		
Neil McCallum		
Madeleine Thorne		
Inderjeet Bell		Appointed June 2021
Job Kabamba		Appointed June 2021
Linzi Tate		Appointed June 2021

Charity number 1039935 Registered in England and Wales

Company number 02909605 Registered in England and Wales

Registered and principal address	Bankers	
Interplay Theatre	HSBC Bank Plc	Monmouthshire Building Society
Armley Ridge Road	Leeds University	Monmouthshire House
Leeds	27 Blenheim Terrace	John Frost Square
LS12 3LE	Woodhouse Lane	Newport
	Leeds University	South Wales NP20 1PX
	LS2 9HE	

Independent examiner

Simon Bostrom FCIE

West Yorkshire Community Accountancy Service CIO

Stringer House
34 Lupton Street
Leeds
LS10 2QW

Structure, governance and management

The charity is a company limited by guarantee and was formed on 17 March 1994. It is governed by a memorandum and articles of association as amended by special resolution on 24 June 1994 and amended on 4 January 2019 and 23 July 2020. The liability of the members in the event of the company being wound up is limited to a sum not exceeding £1.

Method of recruitment and appointment of trustees

The trustees of the charity are also the directors for the purposes of company law and are appointed by the members at the AGM.

The Theatre Company Blah Blah Blah!

Trustees' report (continued) for the year ended 31 March 2022

Objectives and activities

The charity's objects

To advance the education of children and young people in the appreciation and practice of the arts, in particular theatre, drama and the performing arts.

The charity's main activities

The usual activity of Theatre Company Blah Blah Blah is to create original theatre performances and drama workshops primarily for and with children and young people, but also their teachers and families, with the purpose of engaging them in learning about the art form, themselves and the world. The charity carries out this work in schools, community settings and theatre venues.

Public benefit statement

In setting our objectives and planning our activities our Trustees have given serious consideration to the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit and in particular education through the arts.

Achievements and performance

My Learning interactive digital resources

Working in partnership with Leeds Museums and Galleries (LMAg) and informed by a steering group of primary teachers, a skilled team of artists, heritage and education specialists created four compelling audio and film stories supported by a suite of cross-curricular, interactive learning resources. These explore the different stages of the journey of a real-life artefact, - a shabti figurine – from the workshops of the Valley of the Kings over three thousand years ago, to display at Leeds City Museum today.

The resources are hosted on the My Learning site, a flagship learning platform curated by LMAg and were launched in July 2021 with an online introductory session for teachers and training for the Museums' learning team. Online CPD exploring experiential learning through Drama was also provided to the steering group alongside the consultation process.

In parallel with project development, two pieces of research were commissioned: mapping digital learning provision across the arts and heritage sectors and a case study report. Learning from these will enable the company to consider how it might bring together live and digital activity in the future to engage and develop audiences.

Stirring up the Past Storytelling Walk

2021 also saw the development of a new local history storytelling walk around Leeds city centre. Listeners are guided by the Genius Loci, or spirit of Leeds to stops on a map where they experience stories of significant people from Leeds who are often marginalised in history.

Designed for children aged 9+, their teachers, parents and carers, the walk was trialled with 60 local children before being launched for families in October with a day of craft activities at Kirkgate Market, and for schools with an online introductory session in December. The walk uses simple mobile phone technology, and for those without access to devices, pre-loaded MP3 players are available to borrow. A micro-site has been set up for the walk which includes a beautifully designed map, sound files, a variety of resources, images and activities to accompany the walk, and guidance on practicalities, including materials for those with additional needs. From Easter 2022 the walk will also be available on the Love Exploring App.

Training was provided to support associate artists from Mafwa Theatre; a community theatre company working with people from sanctuary-seeking and migrant backgrounds; to facilitate the walk for affiliated groups.

The Theatre Company Blah Blah Blah!

Trustees' report (continued) for the year ended 31 March 2022

Achievements and performance continued

Research and development Activity

During 2021/2 The Blahs were involved in activity to develop three exciting new projects:

Guerrilla Gardening

In a city full of concrete, there is a garden hidden away behind the rows of housing, surrounded by high walls. It is bursting with flowers, fruit, and vegetables. The man who lives here grows them to brighten up the grey, and to feed himself. This little oasis stops him from feeling lonely and keeps his bad memories at bay. One day, a child accidentally discovers the garden; at first he is not welcome, but as the seasons change, a friendship blooms. As the man's trust in people grows through his friendship with the child, the walls of the garden come down and the man is encouraged to take his first steps out into his local community.

Between April and July 2021 the Blahs worked in partnership with charity Trees for Cities through their Edible Playgrounds initiative, to start work on a new show for children aged 5+ exploring food poverty and celebrating the unifying power of growing. Workshops were delivered in two Bradford primary schools, using drama and storytelling techniques to consult with children about their experiences and attitudes towards growing and green spaces. Learning from these sessions informed five days of R&D activity with a diverse creative team, culminating in sharing of work-in-progress with the original groups of school children.

Anna Hibiscus' Song

Anna lives in "Amazing Africa" with her extended family; she is so happy that she does not know what to do with her feelings. She sets off to ask her grandparents, aunties, cousins, uncle, and father each of whom give her advice on how to express herself. Finally, her mother helps her to channel her feelings, and sitting in her mango tree Anna finds her own way through song.

The Blahs worked in collaboration with Sheffield-based African theatre company Utopia Theatre to adapt a picture book by Atinuke into a touring show for children aged 3-6 years. Initial drama and storytelling sessions were held in two Early Years settings in Leeds and Sheffield to explore the story with groups of young children, uncovering their interests, understandings and needs. This then fed into two weeks of R&D led by Utopia Theatre and hosted by the Unicorn Theatre, culminating in two presentation events at Unicorn and Sheffield Theatres.

Pride in Me

The Blahs connected with Curious Arts and Homotopia to open up conversations with a broad range of LGBTQIA+ artists and companies to explore the grounds for making work collaboratively with/for children and young people. An initial conversation event was held online hosted by Queer Arts North, which led to a series of individual conversations with LGBTQIA+ artists, which the Blahs commissioned Curious Arts to undertake on its behalf. A short report was submitted distilling main themes from these conversations, which will be used to inform future artist commissioning strategies and to help shape structures for supporting associate artists.

Financial review

The net expenditure for the year was £32,285, including net expenditure of £19,701 on unrestricted funds and net expenditure of £12,584 on restricted funds.

Reserves policy

Trustees consider that the appropriate level of unrestricted reserves held by Theatre Company Blah Blah Blah should be a minimum of 3 and a maximum of 5 months expenditure. This is to allow the smooth operation of the charity and to sustain activity during a period of uncertainty due to the Covid-19 pandemic. This currently equates to between £6,800 and £11,300. The reserves policy will be kept under review on an annual basis or if risks to the company change.

The charity's free reserves, excluding fixed assets, at the year end were £55,697.

£44,397 of reserves are currently being held above the upper limit specified in the reserves policy. Trustees have agreed that this amount will be invested over the period April 2022 – March 2023 to support organisational development activity to move the company to a position where it can apply for core funding. By the end of March 2023, remaining reserves will be within the range of the policy.

The Theatre Company Blah Blah Blah!

Trustees' report (continued) for the year ended 31 March 2022

Statement of trustees' responsibilities

The trustees (who are also the directors for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the Trustees report and the financial statements in accordance with the applicable law and UK Accounting Standards.

Company law requires the trustees to prepare financial accounts for each financial year which 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 the income and expenditure, of the charitable company for the year. 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 UK accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;

- prepare the accounts on a going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charitable company will continue in operation.

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

This report has been prepared in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities (Charities SORP (FRS102)), and in accordance with the special provisions of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

Approved by the board of trustees on 13/12/2022

Linzi Tate (Trustee)

The Theatre Company Blah Blah Blah!

Independent examiner's report to the trustees of The Theatre Company Blah Blah Blah!

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the charitable company for the year ended 31 March 2022, which are set out on pages 7 to 12.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity's trustees of the charitable 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 charitable 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 ('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 material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

- 1 accounting records were not kept in respect of the company 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.

Simon Bostrom FCIE

21/12/2022

West Yorkshire Community Accountancy Service CIO

Stringer House
34 Lupton Street
Leeds
LS10 2QW

The Theatre Company Blah Blah Blah!
Statement of Financial Activities
(including summary income and expenditure account)
for the year ended 31 March 2022

	Notes	2022 Unrestricted funds £	2022 Restricted funds £	2022 Total funds £	2021 Total funds £
Income from:					
Grants and donations	(2)	8,640	26,799	35,439	54,734
Performance and workshop fees		2,775	-	2,775	1,792
Interest		245	-	245	246
Other income		-	-	-	3,960
Total income		11,660	26,799	38,459	60,732
Expenditure on:					
Salaries NICs and pensions	(3)	15,822	11,544	27,366	25,771
Motor, travel and tour costs		86	1,074	1,160	157
Rent and storage		-	-	-	555
Insurance		620	-	620	600
Telephone, internet and web support		384	-	384	858
Administrative costs		362	-	362	432
Advertising		-	2,624	2,624	1,260
Professional fees and consultancy		8,678	-	8,678	6,919
Memberships and subscriptions		-	-	-	72
Production costs		3,086	23,941	27,027	16,892
Depreciation		-	-	-	113
Independent examination		720	-	720	720
Legal and governance		698	-	698	169
Bad debts		783	-	783	-
Other expenditure		122	200	322	411
Total expenditure		31,361	39,383	70,744	54,929
Net income / (expenditure)		(19,701)	(12,584)	(32,285)	5,803
Fund balances brought forward		75,398	18,274	93,672	87,869
Fund balances carried forward	(4)	55,697	5,690	61,387	93,672

All incoming resources and resources expended derive from continuing activities.

The Theatre Company Blah Blah Blah!

Balance sheet

as at 31 March 2022

	2022	2022	2022	2021
	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total	Total
	£	£	£	£
Current assets				
Debtors and prepayments	(5) 1,065	1,600	2,665	7,067
Cash at bank and in hand	55,794	4,090	59,884	89,106
Total current assets	<u>56,859</u>	<u>5,690</u>	<u>62,549</u>	<u>96,173</u>
Current liabilities:				
amounts falling due within one year				
Creditors and accruals	(6) 1,162	-	1,162	2,501
Total current liabilities	<u>1,162</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,162</u>	<u>2,501</u>
Net current assets / (liabilities)	<u>55,697</u>	<u>5,690</u>	<u>61,387</u>	<u>93,672</u>
Net assets	<u>55,697</u>	<u>5,690</u>	<u>61,387</u>	<u>93,672</u>
Funds				
Unrestricted funds	55,697	-	55,697	75,398
Restricted funds	-	5,690	5,690	18,274
Total funds	<u>55,697</u>	<u>5,690</u>	<u>61,387</u>	<u>93,672</u>

For the year ending 31 March 2022 the charitable company was entitled to exemption from audit under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

The members have not required the charitable company to obtain an audit of its accounts for the year in question in accordance with section 476. The trustees (who also the directors for the purposes of company law) acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Act with respect to accounting records and the preparation of accounts.

These accounts have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies' regime and with FRS 102 (effective January 2019).

The financial statements were approved by the board of trustees on 13/12/2022

Linzi Tate (Trustee)

The Theatre Company Blah Blah Blah!

Notes to the accounts

for the year ended 31 March 2022

1 Accounting policies

Basis of accounting

These accounts have been prepared under the historical cost convention with items recognised at cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant note(s) to these accounts. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019) and with the Charities Act 2011.

The charity constitutes a public benefit entity as defined by FRS 102.

There has been no change to the accounting policies since last year.

No changes have been made to the accounts for previous years.

Going concern

The trustees are satisfied that there are no material uncertainties about the charity's ability to continue.

Incoming resources

All incoming resources are included in the Statement of Financial Activities (SOFA) when the charity becomes entitled to the resources, it is more likely than not that the trustees will receive the resources and the monetary value can be measured with sufficient reliability.

Grants and donations

Grants and donations are only included in the SOFA when the charity has unconditional entitlement to the resources.

Where grants are related to performance and specific deliverables, they are accounted for as the charity earns the right to consideration by its performance.

Expenditure and liabilities

Expenditure is recognised on an accrual basis as a liability is incurred. Liabilities are recognised where it is more likely than not that there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to pay out the resources and the amount of the obligation can be measured with reasonable certainty.

Taxation

As a charity the organisation benefits from rates relief and is generally exempt from income tax and capital gains tax but not from VAT. Irrecoverable VAT is included in the cost of those items to which it relates.

Tangible fixed assets

Tangible fixed assets are capitalised and included at cost including any incidental expenses of acquisition. Gifted assets are shown at the value to the charity on receipt.

Depreciation is provided on all tangible fixed assets at rates calculated to write off the cost on a straight line basis over their expected useful economic lives as follows:

Fixtures and fittings and equipment: over 5 years

Pensions

The charity operates a defined contribution scheme for the benefit of its employees. The costs of contributions are recognised in the year they are payable.

Fund accounting

Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of the general objectives of the charity.

Restricted funds are subjected to restrictions on their expenditure imposed by the donor or through the terms of an appeal.

Further explanation of the nature and purpose of each fund is included in the notes to the accounts.

The Theatre Company Blah Blah Blah!

Notes to the accounts continued

for the year ended 31 March 2022

2 Grants and donations	2022	2022	2022	2021
	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total funds	Total funds
	£	£	£	£
Arts Council England (ACE)	-	14,999	14,999	34,834
Leeds City Council Arts@Leeds	8,640	-	8,640	5,000
National Lottery Heritage Fund (NLHF)	-	-	-	14,900
Foyle Foundation	-	10,000	10,000	-
Leeds Inspired	-	1,000	1,000	-
Z-Arts	-	800	800	-
	<u>8,640</u>	<u>26,799</u>	<u>35,439</u>	<u>54,734</u>

3 Staff costs and numbers	2022	2021
	£	£
Gross salaries	26,829	25,202
Pensions	537	569
	<u>27,366</u>	<u>25,771</u>

The average number of employees during the year was 1.3, being an average of 0.5 full time equivalent (2021: 1, 0.4 FTE). There were no employees with emoluments above £60,000.

Defined contribution pension scheme	2022	2021
	£	£
Costs of the scheme to the charity for the year	537	569
Amount of any contributions outstanding at the year end	44	109

4 Restricted funds	Balance b/f	Incoming	Outgoing	Transfers	Balance c/f
	£	£	£	£	£
ACE R&D	14,999	-	14,999	-	-
NLHF	3,275	-	3,275	-	-
ACE SUTP	-	14,999	10,109	-	4,890
Foyle Foundation SUTP	-	10,000	10,000	-	-
Leeds Inspired SUTP	-	1,000	1,000	-	-
Z-Arts	-	800	-	-	800
	<u>18,274</u>	<u>26,799</u>	<u>39,383</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>5,690</u>

Fund name	Purpose of restriction
ACE R&D	Funding was awarded to engage in research and development activity for three new touring shows: Anna Hibiscus' Song, Guerrilla Gardening; Pride in Me.
NLHF	Funding was originally awarded as a contribution towards the Stirring up the Past project. Following disruptions to activity caused by the pandemic, funding was renegotiated to support the creation of enhanced digital resources and training for museum staff.
Foyle Foundation SUTP	Towards the Stirring up the Past project
Leeds Inspired SUTP	Towards the Stirring up the Past project
Z-Arts	Towards the Guerrilla gardening project

The Theatre Company Blah Blah Blah!

Notes to the accounts continued for the year ended 31 March 2022

5 Debtors and prepayments	2022	2021
	£	£
Debtors	800	3,828
Prepayments	265	250
Accrued income	1,600	2,989
	<u>2,665</u>	<u>7,067</u>

6 Creditors and accruals	2022	2021
	£	£
Creditors	338	1,311
Accruals	720	720
Taxation and social security	60	361
Other creditors	44	109
	<u>1,162</u>	<u>2,501</u>

5 Tangible assets	Fixtures and fittings	Total
<u>Cost</u>	£	£
At 1 April 2021	3,658	3,658
Additions	-	-
Disposals	(375)	(375)
At 31 March 2022	<u>3,283</u>	<u>3,283</u>
<u>Depreciation</u>		
At 1 April 2021	3,658	3,658
Depn reversed re. disposals	(375)	(375)
Charge for year	-	-
At 31 March 2022	<u>3,283</u>	<u>3,283</u>
<u>Net book value</u>		
At 31 March 2022	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
At 31 March 2021	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>

6 Related party transactions

Trustee expenses

During the year one trustee was paid a total of £113 in respect of travel and accommodation (previous year: £nil).

Trustee remuneration and benefits

No trustee received any remuneration or benefit during this or the previous year.

Remuneration and benefits received by key management personnel

The key management personnel of the charity include the trustees and Chief Officer. The total employee benefits received were £27,366 (previous year: £24,439).

No trustee received any remuneration or benefit in this capacity during this or the previous year.

The Theatre Company Blah Blah Blah!

Statement of Financial Activities including comparatives for all funds (including summary income and expenditure account) for the year ended 31 March 2022

	2022 Unrestricted funds £	2021 Unrestricted funds £	2022 Restricted funds £	2021 Restricted funds £	2022 Total funds £	2021 Total funds £
Income						
Grants and donations	8,640	5,000	26,799	49,734	35,439	54,734
Performance and workshop fees	2,775	1,792	-	-	2,775	1,792
Interest	245	246	-	-	245	246
Other income	-	3,960	-	-	-	3,960
Total income	11,660	10,998	26,799	49,734	38,459	60,732
Expenditure						
Salaries NICs and pensions	15,822	9,801	11,544	15,970	27,366	25,771
Motor, travel and tour costs	86	-	1,074	157	1,160	157
Rent and storage	-	-	-	555	-	555
Insurance	620	40	-	560	620	600
Phone, internet and web support	384	7	-	851	384	858
Administrative costs	362	56	-	376	362	432
Advertising	-	-	2,624	1,260	2,624	1,260
Professional fees and consultancy	8,678	183	-	6,736	8,678	6,919
Memberships and subscriptions	-	-	-	72	-	72
Production costs	3,086	525	23,941	16,367	27,027	16,892
Depreciation	-	113	-	-	-	113
Independent examination	720	170	-	550	720	720
Legal and governance	698	13	-	156	698	169
Bad debts	783	-	-	-	783	-
Other expenditure	122	-	200	411	322	411
Total expenditure	31,361	10,908	39,383	44,021	70,744	54,929
Net income / (expenditure)	(19,701)	90	(12,584)	5,713	(32,285)	5,803
Fund balances brought forward	75,398	75,308	18,274	12,561	93,672	87,869
Fund balances carried forward	55,697	75,398	5,690	18,274	61,387	93,672

THE THEATRE COMPANY BLAH BLAH BLAH

England & Wales - Charity number 1039935

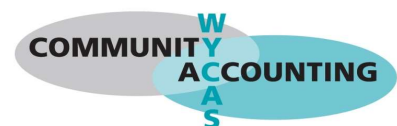
Accounts

The Theatre Company Blah Blah Blah!

Charity number 1039935

A company limited by guarantee number 02909605

Annual Report and Financial Statements for the year ended 31 March 2021



West Yorkshire Community Accounting Service

The Theatre Company Blah Blah Blah!

Annual Report and Financial Statements for the year ended 31 March 2021

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Prepared by West Yorkshire Community Accounting Service

The Theatre Company Blah Blah Blah!

Trustees' report for the year ended 31 March 2021

Reference and administrative details of the charity, its trustees and advisors

The trustees during the financial year and up to and including the date the report was approved were:

Name	Position	Dates
Pamela Storr	Chair of the board	
Anne Lloyd		
Gillian Morley		
Lauren Huxley		
Neil McCallum		
Madeleine Thorne		
Inderjeet Bell		Appointed June 2021
Job Kabamba		Appointed June 2021
Linzi Tate		Appointed June 2021

Charity number 1039935 Registered in England and Wales

Company number 02909605 Registered in England and Wales

Registered and principal address	Bankers	
Interplay Theatre	HSBC Bank Plc	Monmouthshire Building Society
Armley Ridge Road	Leeds University	Monmouthshire House
Leeds	27 Blenheim Terrace	John Frost Square
LS12 3LE	Woodhouse Lane	Newport
	Leeds University	South Wales NP20 1PX
	LS2 9HE	

Independent examiner

Simon Bostrom FCIE

West Yorkshire Community Accounting Service

Stringer House
34 Lupton Street
Leeds
LS10 2QW

Structure, governance and management

The charity is a company limited by guarantee and was formed on 17 March 1994. It is governed by a memorandum and articles of association as amended by special resolution on 24 June 1994 and amended on 4 January 2019 and 23 July 2020. The liability of the members in the event of the company being wound up is limited to a sum not exceeding £1.

Method of recruitment and appointment of trustees

The trustees of the charity are also the directors for the purposes of company law and are appointed by the members at the AGM.

The Theatre Company Blah Blah Blah!

Trustees' report (continued) for the year ended 31 March 2021

Objectives and activities

The charity's objects

To advance the education of children and young people in the appreciation and practice of the arts, in particular theatre, drama and the performing arts.

The charity's main activities

The usual activity of Theatre Company Blah Blah Blah is to create original theatre performances and drama workshops primarily for and with children and young people, but also their teachers and families, with the purpose of engaging them in learning about the art form, themselves and the world. The charity carries out this work in schools, community settings and theatre venues.

Public benefit statement

In setting our objectives and planning our activities our Trustees have given serious consideration to the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit and in particular the advancement of education of children and young people and the appreciation and practice of the arts.

Achievements and performance

Introduction

This year, the global pandemic has had a significant impact on the performing arts sector, severely limiting live, face to face work in educational, community and theatre settings. The Blahs has had to be adaptable in the face of huge uncertainty and change, which has at times put the company under considerable pressure.

The planned programme for the year consisted of a tour of *The Vultures Song* to regional theatre and community venues; activity to develop new relationships to establish the company's small-scale touring profile; and creating a new piece of site-specific theatre for schools and family audiences at the Leeds Discovery Centre – *Stirring up the Past*. The latter also included plans to create accompanying digital resources for teachers to be hosted on Leeds Museum's My Learning site.

As the pandemic took hold early in the year, it became increasingly evident that these activities would not be able to go ahead in their original form, and so the first of several periods of review, re-forecasting, negotiating with partners and funders and adapting project activity was initiated, to reshape the company's programme to respond to the shifting external landscape.

Despite these issues, the Blahs has proved itself to be resilient, continuing to create high quality work for children, young people, their families and teachers throughout the year and sustaining momentum on developing its profile and practice as a touring company.

By re-purposing existing funding already in place from the Arts Council of England (ACE), Leeds Inspired and National Lottery Heritage Fund (NLHF), and by securing additional funding through the Arts Council's Emergency Response and Project Funds, the company was able to deliver the following activities:

The Vultures' Song

The Vultures' Song is a moving tale of one girl forced to flee her home in search of safety, inspired by the stories of the Partition of India and told by a chorus of comical vultures. Created for children aged 9+, their families and teachers, it was shortlisted for Best Play for Young Audiences by the Writers Guild of Great Britain 2019 and received an extremely positive reception during tours in 2018/19:

"Ingenious, witty, wonderful"

"Fantastic...it was engaging and explored some really interesting issues."

"A very unique and special performance...better than we expected – exceptional!"

Audience members

The Theatre Company Blah Blah Blah!

Trustees' report (continued) for the year ended 31 March 2021

Early in March 2020 after just three performances and following the closure of theatre venues, The Vultures' Song tour was cancelled. However we were able to negotiate with the main funders to use their funding to pay all freelance staff associated with the project in full.

Following cancellation of the tour, we made the decision to make a filmed version of the performance and a range of accompanying online activities available for free through the company's website, to support home schooling and enable continued engagement whilst venues remained closed. These would originally have been accessible only to those buying tickets. The film and resources were kept live for the full year to cover the various periods of lockdown, resulting in high levels of engagement - a total of 4,070 watched the performance online and 1,482 downloaded the accompanying resources.

We also worked with C&T to reactivate and update interactive digital resources created using their Prospero App. These had originally been developed to accompany a school's tour of The Vultures' Song in 2018 and were again made available for free to support home schooling, with 455 teachers signing up.

Sectoral research

Despite restrictions, we were able to complete research initiated last year into the touring theatre ecology for children between the ages of 8 and 13 years, and publish a report by Dr El Stannage. A number of companies and venues who make and programme work for young audiences participated in the research, and initial responses were positive, with many feeling that the report articulates some of the main challenges of working with what is perceived to be a 'hard to reach' age group. Discussions are ongoing about how best to share the report and act on its findings.

Stirring up the Past

As The Discovery Centre remained closed to the public for much of the year, it was not possible to proceed with the planned site-specific performance. This was to focus on bringing to life and telling the stories of diverse historical figures behind some of the artefacts in the collections, supported by online learning materials. As we had already secured some funding, we were able to renegotiate project activity, splitting it into two phases – the first to create enhanced 'stand-alone' digital resources for Leeds Museums' My Learning site based on narrative film and audio content that we were able to record remotely or in a Covid secure manner; and the second to develop a family-friendly, city-centre audio walk.

Phase 1: Digital resources

Most of the work for this phase was carried out between September 2020 and March 2021 by a diverse creative team working closely with education and curatorial staff from Leeds Museums. Focussing on a real-life artefact – a shabti figurine – four accessible audio and film stories were created following the exciting journey of the shabti, from the workshops of the Valley of the Kings over three thousand years ago, to display at Leeds City Museum today.

Inspired by real people and events, the four stories immerse children in the past and present life of the shabti, enabling them to follow in the footsteps of Ipi, the apprentice who made the Shabti, the Victorian collectors who brought the shabti to Leeds, and a modern-day curator as she considers what other ancient objects to accept into the museum's collections. We also hear from the shabti himself as he reflects on the people and events that have shaped his destiny.

The four stories are accompanied by extensive learning materials that have been co-created with a group of 8 primary school teachers, who met regularly online with members of the project team and were supported by a programme of CPD. These materials support cross-curricular learning for key stage two, as well as engagement with ethical and philosophical questions relating to issues such as ownership. The resources are due to go live on the My Learning site in June 2021.

"Working with teachers from other schools on the project has provided a network of support and ideas and has encouraged me to innovate my teaching and learning further to respond to the different needs, interests and abilities of all our children."

Teacher

The Theatre Company Blah Blah Blah!

Trustees' report (continued) for the year ended 31 March 2021

Alongside this phase of activity we commissioned Dr Maddy Irwin to carry out a piece of research mapping digital learning provision across the arts and heritage sectors and use *Stirring up the Past* as a case study to enable the company to consider its future digital policy and how we might use 'blended' approaches to engage, develop and support audiences. This will be completed by Summer 2021.

Phase 2: City centre audio walk

We are currently applying for the final tranche of funding to support a city centre audio walk to replace the site-specific performance due to take place at the Discovery Centre. We have been able to negotiate with the Foyle Foundation to retain £10,000 originally awarded in July 2021 for the performance and reassign it to the walk.

The walk will follow a route through central Leeds bringing to life diverse local figures from history and highlighting places associated with them to tell the story of Leeds as a vibrant, multicultural city. Featuring people such as Pablo Fanque, a nineteenth century circus proprietor of African heritage and Michael Marks, a Jewish sanctuary-seeker, who went on to become one half of Marks and Spencer; the walk will inspire, educate and excite children aged 9 and above, exploring themes of identity and place. A series of facilitated walks will launch the project in October 2021 after which school and family groups will be able to access the walk for free using simple mobile phone technology.

"I am very excited about the prospect of completing the audio walk with our Year 5 Classes; offering the children new learning experiences by providing the opportunity to explore and make connections about what's around them, uncover stories, inspire and develop their questioning, interests and imagination and bring their local area to life!"

Teacher

R&D activity

Building on some of the findings of the report commissioned by Dr El Stannage, we successfully secured funding from the Arts Council in January 2021 to carry out R&D activity for three new touring shows:

Guerrilla Gardening – working title

A new touring work for small scale theatre and community venues about urban gardening and the restorative effects of growing for children age 3 to 6 and their families. We will work in partnership with Trees For Cities through their Edible Playgrounds initiative, engaging children in the early stages of development, alongside work with a small, diverse creative team.

Anna Hibiscus' Song

An adaptation of a delightful children's story by Atinuke that explores happiness, and a Co-Production with Sheffield-based Utopia Theatre for children age 3 to 7. We will hold short residencies in two Early Years' settings in Leeds and Sheffield to develop material with children before moving into the studio to work with a creative team at the Unicorn Theatre in London. Unicorn and Sheffield Theatres will host sharing events at the end of the R&D process for local audiences.

Pride in Me – working title

We will hold playdates to explore early ideas for a new touring production for older children (age 8 to 13) exploring gender and identity, working with artists who have lived experience in relation to the themes and questions being explored.

Little Live Stories for Leeds

Responding to the closure of venues and digital poverty experienced in some communities, a number of Leeds-based companies who make work for young audiences came together in July 2020 to offer outdoor, socially-distanced performances at seven sites across the city for local families. The Blahs created a new interactive, storytelling workshop - *Mustacha's Apprentice* - that was performed at Interplay in Armley.

The Theatre Company Blah Blah Blah!

Trustees' report (continued) for the year ended 31 March 2021

The great storyteller Mustacha is a no-show and his apprentice is left to pick up the pieces with the help of the audience.

"I liked it because you could tell your own story."

Audience member

A total of 13 families attended on the day, and audience responses across the four sites were recorded and edited into a feature that was broadcast on Chapel FM. The event was funded by Leeds 2023.

Other activity

The Blahs' Artistic Director was the subject of a podcast recorded in January, part of a series focussing on applied theatre practice and those working in the field. 100 people listened to the podcast during February and March.

Between January and March, the company engaged in a recruitment process for new trustees, with a particular focus on under represented groups. Three new Board members were recruited and formally joined the Board in June 2021.

Staff

The freelance workforce has been especially hard hit by the pandemic this year and despite the challenges the company has faced, the Blahs have been able to provide 182 days employment for freelance artists and support-staff. The reliance on an expert and flexible associate staffing structure is one factor that has enabled the company to weather the pandemic and the following freelance staff have been invaluable in supporting the company to develop high quality work under difficult circumstances:

Stirring up the Past digital resources

Mary Cooper (writer); Gerry Smith (sound designer and composer); Rhys Aaron Lewis (filmmaker); Hannah Sibai (designer); Valeria Luongo (photographer); Ali Rafaie (actor); Alyce Liburd (actor); Luke Dickson (actor); Sarah Naughton (actor); Louise Clarke (drama practitioner); Jael Edwards (heritage education consultant); Dr Maddy Irwin (researcher).

Little Live Stories for Leeds

Anthony Haddon (devisor); Natasha Holmes (actor-facilitator).

Company operations

Ben Rothera (associate producer); Andrew Procter (bookkeeping and finance support); James Whittle and Niamh Bryson (administrative support), Suzanne Wynne (marketing support).

Other

Dr El Stannage (researcher), Tessa Gordziejko (consultant/facilitator)

Financial review

The net income for the year was £5,803, including net income of £90 on unrestricted funds and net income of £5,713 on restricted funds.

Reserves policy

Trustees consider that the appropriate level of unrestricted reserves held by Theatre Company Blah Blah Blah should be a minimum of 3 and a maximum of 5 months core expenditure. This is to allow the smooth operation of the charity and to sustain activity during a period of uncertainty due to the Covid-19 pandemic. This currently equates to between £8,052 and £13,420 based on budgeted core expenditure of £32,209. The reserves policy will be kept under review on an annual basis or if risks to the company change.

The charity's free reserves, excluding fixed assets, at the year end were £75,398.

£61,978 of reserves are currently being held above the upper limit specified in the reserves policy. Trustees have agreed that this amount will be invested over the period April 2021 – March 2023 to support organisational development activity to move the company to a position where it can apply for core funding. By the end of March 2023, remaining reserves will be around the upper limit of the policy.

The Theatre Company Blah Blah Blah!

Trustees' report (continued) for the year ended 31 March 2021

Statement of trustees' responsibilities

The trustees (who are also the directors for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the Trustees report and the financial statements in accordance with the applicable law and UK Accounting Standards.

Company law requires the trustees to prepare financial accounts for each financial year which 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 the income and expenditure, of the charitable company for the year. 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 UK accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;

- prepare the accounts on a going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charitable company will continue in operation.

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

This report has been prepared in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities (Charities SORP (FRS102)), and in accordance with the special provisions of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

Signed on behalf of the board of trustees on 27/09/2021

Anne Lloyd (Trustee)

The Theatre Company Blah Blah Blah!

Independent examiner's report to the trustees of The Theatre Company Blah Blah Blah!

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the charitable company for the year ended 31 March 2021, which are set out on pages 9 to 15.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity's trustees of the charitable 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 charitable 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 ('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 material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

- 1 accounting records were not kept in respect of the company 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.

Simon Bostrom FCIE

26/11/2021

West Yorkshire Community Accounting Service

Stringer House
34 Lupton Street
Leeds
LS10 2QW

The Theatre Company Blah Blah Blah!
Statement of Financial Activities
(including summary income and expenditure account)
for the year ended 31 March 2021

	Notes	2021 Unrestricted funds £	2021 Restricted funds £	2021 Total funds £	2020 Total funds £
Income from:					
Grants and donations	(2)	5,000	49,734	54,734	53,458
Performance and workshop fees		1,792	-	1,792	2,000
Interest		246	-	246	262
Other income		3,960	-	3,960	415
Total income		<u>10,998</u>	<u>49,734</u>	<u>60,732</u>	<u>56,135</u>
Expenditure on:					
Salaries NICs and pensions	(3)	9,801	15,970	25,771	18,957
Motor, travel and tour costs		-	157	157	2,376
Rent and storage		-	555	555	2,170
Insurance		40	560	600	525
Telephone, internet and web support		7	851	858	883
Administrative costs		56	376	432	797
Advertising		-	1,260	1,260	5,073
Professional fees and consultancy		183	6,736	6,919	8,360
Subscriptions		-	72	72	66
Production costs		525	16,367	16,892	13,855
Depreciation		113	-	113	150
Independent examination		170	550	720	720
Legal and governance		13	156	169	741
Other expenditure		-	411	411	829
Total expenditure		<u>10,908</u>	<u>44,021</u>	<u>54,929</u>	<u>55,502</u>
Net income / (expenditure)		<u>90</u>	<u>5,713</u>	<u>5,803</u>	<u>633</u>
Fund balances brought forward		<u>75,308</u>	<u>12,561</u>	<u>87,869</u>	<u>87,236</u>
Fund balances carried forward	(4)	<u>75,398</u>	<u>18,274</u>	<u>93,672</u>	<u>87,869</u>

All incoming resources and resources expended derive from continuing activities.

The Theatre Company Blah Blah Blah!

Balance sheet

as at 31 March 2021

	2021	2021	2021	2020
	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total	Total
	£	£	£	£
Fixed assets				
Tangible assets	(5) -	-	-	113
Total fixed assets	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>113</u>
Current assets				
Debtors and prepayments	(6) 4,077	2,990	7,067	8,876
Cash at bank	73,822	15,284	89,106	81,706
Total current assets	<u>77,899</u>	<u>18,274</u>	<u>96,173</u>	<u>90,582</u>
Current liabilities:				
amounts falling due within one year				
Creditors and accruals	(7) 2,501	-	2,501	2,826
Total current liabilities	<u>2,501</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>2,501</u>	<u>2,826</u>
Net current assets / (liabilities)	<u>75,398</u>	<u>18,274</u>	<u>93,672</u>	<u>87,756</u>
Net assets	<u>75,398</u>	<u>18,274</u>	<u>93,672</u>	<u>87,869</u>
Funds				
Unrestricted funds	75,398	-	75,398	75,308
Restricted funds	-	18,274	18,274	12,561
Total funds	<u>75,398</u>	<u>18,274</u>	<u>93,672</u>	<u>87,869</u>

For the year ending 31 March 2021 the charitable company was entitled to exemption from audit under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

The members have not required the charitable company to obtain an audit of its accounts for the year in question in accordance with section 476. The trustees (who also the directors for the purposes of company law) acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Act with respect to accounting records and the preparation of accounts.

These accounts have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies' regime and with FRS 102 (effective January 2019).

The financial statements were approved by the board of trustees on 27/09/2021

Anne Lloyd (Trustee)

The Theatre Company Blah Blah Blah!

Notes to the accounts

for the year ended 31 March 2021

1 Accounting policies

Basis of accounting

These accounts have been prepared under the historical cost convention with items recognised at cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant note(s) to these accounts. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019) and with the Charities Act 2011.

The charity constitutes a public benefit entity as defined by FRS 102.

There has been no change to the accounting policies since last year.

No changes have been made to the accounts for previous years.

Going concern

The trustees are satisfied that there are no material uncertainties about the charity's ability to continue.

Incoming resources

All incoming resources are included in the Statement of Financial Activities (SOFA) when the charity becomes entitled to the resources, it is more likely than not that the trustees will receive the resources and the monetary value can be measured with sufficient reliability.

Grants and donations

Grants and donations are only included in the SOFA when the charity has unconditional entitlement to the resources.

Where grants are related to performance and specific deliverables, they are accounted for as the charity earns the right to consideration by its performance.

Expenditure and liabilities

Expenditure is recognised on an accrual basis as a liability is incurred. Liabilities are recognised where it is more likely than not that there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to pay out the resources and the amount of the obligation can be measured with reasonable certainty.

Taxation

As a charity the organisation benefits from rates relief and is generally exempt from income tax and capital gains tax but not from VAT. Irrecoverable VAT is included in the cost of those items to which it relates.

Tangible fixed assets

Tangible fixed assets are capitalised and included at cost including any incidental expenses of acquisition. Gifted assets are shown at the value to the charity on receipt.

Depreciation is provided on all tangible fixed assets at rates calculated to write off the cost on a straight line basis over their expected useful economic lives as follows:

Fixtures and fittings and equipment: over 5 years

Pensions

The charity operates a defined contribution scheme for the benefit of its employees. The costs of contributions are recognised in the year they are payable.

Fund accounting

Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of the general objectives of the charity.

Restricted funds are subjected to restrictions on their expenditure imposed by the donor or through the terms of an appeal.

Further explanation of the nature and purpose of each fund is included in the notes to the accounts.

The Theatre Company Blah Blah Blah!

Notes to the accounts continued

for the year ended 31 March 2021

2 Grants and donations	2021 Unrestricted funds £	2021 Restricted funds £	2021 Total funds £	2020 Total funds £
Arts Council England (ACE)	-	34,834	34,834	44,985
Leeds City Council Arts @ Leeds	5,000	-	5,000	5,000
National Lottery Heritage Fund (NLHF)	-	14,900	14,900	-
Leeds Inspired	-	-	-	3,473
Other donations	-	-	-	-
	<u>5,000</u>	<u>49,734</u>	<u>54,734</u>	<u>53,458</u>

3 Staff costs and numbers	2021 £	2020 £
Gross salaries	25,202	18,647
Pensions	569	310
	<u>25,771</u>	<u>18,957</u>

The average number employees during the year was 1.4, being an average of 0.4 full time equivalent (2020: 2.2, 0.5 FTE). There were no employees with emoluments above £60,000.

Defined contribution pension scheme	2021 £	2020 £
Costs of the scheme to the charity for the year	569	310
Amount of any contributions outstanding at the year end	109	97
Amount of any contributions prepaid at the year end		

4 Restricted funds	Balance b/f £	Incoming £	Outgoing £	Transfers £	Balance c/f £
ACE (Vultures' Song)	12,561	4,998	17,559	-	-
ACE (Emergency Response)	-	14,837	14,837	-	-
ACE R&D	-	14,999	-	-	14,999
NLHF	-	14,900	11,625	-	3,275
	<u>12,561</u>	<u>49,734</u>	<u>44,021</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>18,274</u>

Fund name

ACE (Vultures' Song)

Purpose of restriction

Arts Council funding was awarded to fund a tour of The Vultures' Song, delivering eleven performances in nine theatre and community venues. Activity also included In- depth audience development in partnership with venues, and sectoral research into touring for the 8-13 age group. The project was designed to facilitate the company's strategic aims of developing new partnerships and audiences to build its small scale touring; shifting away from working primarily with schools.

Due to the Covid-19 crisis, the tour was cancelled following three performances. Agreement was reached with ACE to use its funding to ensure full payment of all staff associated with the project (despite the cancellation of most of the tour) and to co- ordinate a response to the crisis e.g. moving some activity online.

The Theatre Company Blah Blah Blah!

Notes to the accounts continued

for the year ended 31 March 2021

4 Restricted funds - continued

Fund name	Purpose of restriction
ACE (Emergency Response)	Funding was awarded in the early stages of the pandemic to support re-negotiating/staffing enhanced online project activity on Stirring up the Past. Also to provide capacity for Board and leadership to review business and fundraising plans and to carry out research into company's emerging digital practice.
ACE R&D	Funding was awarded to engage in research and development activity for three new touring shows: Anna Hibiscus' Song, Guerrilla Gardening; Pride in Me.
NLHF	Funding was originally awarded as a contribution towards the Stirring up the Past project (site-specific performance, accompanying digital resources, engagement of local audiences, training for museum staff, work placements for students). Following disruptions to activity caused by the pandemic, funding was renegotiated to support the creation of enhanced digital resources (what is referred to as phase 1 activity in the trustees report), and training for museum staff.

5 Tangible assets

	Fixtures and fittings	Total
<u>Cost</u>	£	£
At 1 April 2020	3,658	3,658
Additions / (disposals)	-	-
At 31 March 2021	<u>3,658</u>	<u>3,658</u>
<u>Depreciation</u>		
At 1 April 2020	3,545	3,545
Charge for year	113	113
At 31 March 2021	<u>3,658</u>	<u>3,658</u>
<u>Net book value</u>		
At 31 March 2021	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
At 31 March 2020	<u>113</u>	<u>113</u>

6 Debtors and prepayments

	2021	2020
	£	£
Debtors	6,817	8,626
Prepayments	250	250
	<u>7,067</u>	<u>8,876</u>

7 Creditors and accruals

	2021	2020
	£	£
Creditors	1,781	2,106
Accruals	720	720
	<u>2,501</u>	<u>2,826</u>

The Theatre Company Blah Blah Blah!
Notes to the accounts continued
for the year ended 31 March 2021

8 Related party transactions

Trustee expenses

During the year no trustees were paid expenses (previous year: £nil).

Trustee remuneration and benefits

No trustee received any remuneration or benefit during this or the previous year.

Remuneration and benefits received by key management personnel

The key management personnel of the charity include the trustees and Artistic Director. The total benefits received by the Artistic Director were £24,439 (previous year: £16,836).

No trustee received any remuneration or benefit in this capacity during this or the previous year.

There were no other related party transactions during this year or the previous year.

The Theatre Company Blah Blah Blah!

Statement of Financial Activities including comparatives for all funds (including summary income and expenditure account) for the year ended 31 March 2021

	2021 Unrestricted funds £	2020 Unrestricted funds £	2021 Restricted funds £	2020 Restricted funds £	2021 Total funds £	2020 Total funds £
Income						
Grants and donations	5,000	5,000	49,734	48,458	54,734	53,458
Performance and workshop fees	1,792	2,000	-	-	1,792	2,000
Interest	246	262	-	-	246	262
Other income	3,960	415	-	-	3,960	415
Total income	10,998	7,677	49,734	48,458	60,732	56,135
Expenditure						
Salaries NICs and pensions	9,801	9,315	15,970	9,642	25,771	18,957
Motor, travel and tour costs	-	79	157	2,297	157	2,376
Rent and storage	-	1,080	555	1,090	555	2,170
Insurance	40	225	560	300	600	525
Telephone, internet and web support	7	626	851	257	858	883
Administrative costs	56	417	376	380	432	797
Advertising	-	-	1,260	5,073	1,260	5,073
Professional fees and consultancy	183	5,880	6,736	2,480	6,919	8,360
Subscriptions	-	66	72	-	72	66
Production costs	525	-	16,367	13,855	16,892	13,855
Depreciation	113	150	-	-	113	150
Independent examination	170	210	550	510	720	720
Legal and governance	13	728	156	13	169	741
Other expenditure	-	829	411	-	411	829
Total expenditure	10,908	19,605	44,021	35,897	54,929	55,502
Net income / (expenditure)	90	(11,928)	5,713	12,561	5,803	633
Fund balances brought forward	75,308	87,236	12,561	-	87,869	87,236
Fund balances carried forward	75,398	75,308	18,274	12,561	93,672	87,869