

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.

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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.

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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.

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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)

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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 Unrestricted funds £	2022 Restricted funds £	2022 Total funds £	2021 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

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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