

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	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

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 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/carers/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.

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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	Restricted	Total	Total
	funds	funds	funds	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

ACE Guerrilla Gardening
SW Yorkshire P/ship NHS
ACE SUTP
NLCF Awards for All
Mind the Gap
Z-Arts

Purpose of restriction

Towards the Guerrilla gardening project.
Towards the Heartbeats project.
Towards the Stirring up the Past project.
Towards the Guerrilla gardening project.
Towards the Guerrilla gardening project.
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 Unrestricted funds £	2022 Unrestricted funds £	2023 Restricted funds £	2022 Restricted funds £	2023 Total funds £	2022 Total 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