

Registered Number: 3002661  
Charity Number: 1044532  
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**The Actors of Dionysus**  
**(A Company limited by guarantee)**

**TRUSTEES' REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**For the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2023**

THE ACTORS OF DIONYSUS (A Company limited by guarantee)

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(A Company limited by guarantee)

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**LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION**  
**For the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2023**

Trustees

Brian Beaton  
David G. G. Bullen  
Steve Cowton  
Michael Edwin Dixon  
Olga Gekht  
Katherine Harloe (resigned July 2023)  
Fiona Macintosh  
Shelley Warren  
Catherine Livesey (resigned July 2023)  
Andy Powell (Chairman)

Secretary

Maria Athini

Company Registered Number	3002661
Charity Registered Number	1044532
Registered Office	25 St Luke's Road Brighton BN2 9ZD
Accountants	R Kennedy t/a Brayhaven Limited Lower Ickneild Way, Marsworth, Tring, Herts, HP23 4LN
Bankers	Lloyds Bank North Street Brighton BN1 1GL

THE ACTORS OF DIONYSUS

TRUSTEES REPORT

For the year end 31<sup>st</sup> December 2023

The Trustees, who are directors of the charity for the purposes of the Companies Act, submit their annual report and the financial statements of Actors of Dionysus (**aod**) Limited (the charitable company) for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2023. The Trustees confirm that the annual report and financial statements of the charitable company comply with current statutory requirements, the requirements of the charitable company's governing document and the provisions of the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) 'Accounting and Reporting by charities' revised 2019.

**Method of appointment or election of trustees**

The management of the charitable company is the responsibility of the Trustees who are elected and co-opted under the terms of the Articles of Association.

**Charitable Objectives**

The continuation of the performance of new adaptations of ancient Greek drama and new writings inspired by myth. The company intends to maintain its strong outreach programme with workshops and talks, published education materials including; resources, adaptations, and books of essays, DVDs, audio-CDs, digital material, as well as its highly physical, visual and poetic performance style. The company intends to maintain its strong events programme, working on a variety of high-end events to attract funding and increase the profile of the company.

**Review of activities and future development**

**1. Summary of 2023**

The main performance/new writing projects of 2023 were the further development of our Arts Council England funded *Black Voices in Myth* project, the beginning of a new Associate Director relationship with King's College London, working closely with the Classics department on their 70th anniversary *King's College Greek Play* and continuing performance work on our *Wonder Women of the World* series.

We kicked off the year in January with a board meeting to lay out our plans and share progress to date on all of these projects, as well updating on our cash flow and education work within schools.

**Projects in brief**

- i) *Black Voices in Myth* (Arts Council England funded) spanned from Jan to October and presented a number of artistic and collaborative challenges, precipitated by the fact that our chosen director had to pull out mid-January (for personal reasons) and our own Artistic Director, Tamsin Shasha, was coincidentally working on

another separate new writing project at the same time. This meant that we had to advertise for a new Director for BViM at the last minute, affecting both our schedule and the artistic continuity of the project. Despite these difficulties in personnel the project fulfilled its brief, a new script was developed and a sharing of work in progress took part at Chickenshed on March 17<sup>th</sup> to an invited audience of special guests and VIPs including Prof Katherine Harloe, Academic Consultant on the project. Feedback was positive. Subsequent sharings that further developed our *Black Voices in Myth* project took place in June (at Brighton Book Festival) and October (at Chickenshed) under the headings *It's All Greek to Me* and *Andromeda & other Black Icons* respectively. The latter involved Dr Mai Musié, alongside performers Ben Scheck and Leda Douglas (the latter who was an integral member of BViM 1 and curated this content). It was decided that *Black Voices in Myth*, if it were to be developed, would be working under Mai's supervision and ideally working with Ben and Leda, subject to funding and to their availability.

- ii) In May 2023 we performed the second part of our *Wonder Women of the Ancient World* series, *Atalanta the Adventurer* written by Lucy Ruddiman from the original staging idea developed by Bee in My Beanie. We intend for this show to be the second in a series of three, each exploring the story of a different female hero of Greek mythology for children in Key Stage 2 of their education. We were able to utilise the funding we had received from the D'Oyly Carte Charitable trust to pay for the writing and rehearsal and help stage the performances at Brighton Fringe. We also used this production to deliver our first ever workshop in a Primary school in June of 2023 at Aldrington Primary School in Hove. We were also invited to perform the show at Eldeflower Festival at the end of May 2023. All performances were very well received. We have been invited back to both Aldrington Primary and the Elderflower Festival to perform in 2024.
- iii) Also in May we presented another show at Brighton Fringe, *Lionhouse Cabaret*, a showcase of local performers across a variety of disciplines and styles, including music and comedy, primarily showcasing the talents of comedic duo Dyball and Kerr. This was performed at The Brighton Open Air Theatre.
- iv) From January to June 2023 we took on our role as Executive Directors of the annual Greek Play at Kings College London, following the introduction provided to us by our Trustee David Bullen in 2022. This role saw **aod** acting as professional consultants on the production, helping with the audition process and mentoring the students to achieve their artistic ambitions for the production. The play based on the myth of Iphigenia was very well received and **aod** has been invited to act as Executive Directors again for 2024. As part of this role **aod** now has access to an office on KCL Campus in the Strand in London. As of December 2023 **aod** has held interviews with potential student directors and have selected a team who will be creating a new piece of theatre for 2024 based on Aristophanes' *Lysistrata*. We have also employed on a limited freelance basis the student director of the 2023 production, Amalia Costa, to act on **aod**'s behalf to provide much need continuity for the project.

## 2. New Appointments and Resignations

**Staff:** We were sorry to lose our General Manager Lucy Ruddiman in 2023. Lucy joined us as a university work experience placement and was a great asset to the company. She continues her academic work at University of Bristol and remains a dedicated member of our education team. We were delighted to welcome Cambridge Classics student Izzy Grout on board in September '23. Izzy joins us as part time Administrator and Assistant Education Officer and brings with her a wealth of skills including copyrighting, academic insight and a network of neurodiverse connections.

**Trustees:** We had no new trustee appointments in 2023 but we had two resignations from Catherine Livesey and Katherine Harloe, the latter who has agreed to continue with us as Academic Consultant for relevant projects, including Black Voices in Myth should we chose to develop it.

2024 will bring new trustees and a skills audit is underway. Our plan is to attract fresh blood, encourage new expertise and expand our networks.

### **3. Training, Awards and Conferences**

We completed our Digital Mentoring programme run by The Space (an organisation that supports the arts, culture and heritage sectors to create and enhance digital content and experiences) in Feb 2023. Our mentor Dominic Kennedy has been leading targeted sessions developing different aspects of our digital presence. This has enabled us to more effectively use our digital presence to reach audiences interested in our work. This work was led in main by Lucy Ruddiman, our part time General Manager and Assistant Education Officer.

As part of Tamsin's involvement in Black Voices in Myth she was invited to contribute to Dr Mai Musié's research project at ICA (Institute of Classical Studies) on *Forced Migration and Exile in Northeast African diaspora communities through ancient Greek Stories*. This participation will take place in 2024.

### **4. Education**

Education Officer Mark Katz continues to deliver workshops in schools and colleges across the UK including throughout Scotland. His workshops regularly receive 10/10 feedback along with positive comments from teachers and pupils. Although Lucy Ruddiman no longer acts as General Manager she is still helping to deliver occasional workshops. We hope that this will increase the number of workshops we are able to deliver.

We delivered our first full workshop to a Primary School in 2023 and we plan to expand this in 2024. The provision of paid workshops continues to be an effective method of generating revenue for the company.

*"I thought the workshop you gave on Friday the 13th October 2023 was excellent and connected very well to the students assignment. Both informative and educational in a creative and engaging manner."*

- Teacher Chichester College

## **5. #MiniMyth**

Our #MiniMyth series continued and our social media was given a well needed boost by Lucy Ruddiman, who, alongside Tamsin and Mark, participated in the Space's Digital Mentoring Programme (2022- 23) to support arts companies expand their digital presence. This was a fantastic course and we were lucky to be one of the selected companies able to participate.

## **6. Funding**

**Actors of Dionysus** received the following pots of funding in 2023: £27,000 from Arts Council England Black Voices in Myth (granted in 2022, to be paid in 2023); £3000 - D'Oyly Carte Charitable Trust, toward Atalanta the Adventurer; £6500 - Fonthill Foundation toward core costs.

We also received ongoing gift aided support from **aod**'s Friends and Supporters.

## **Risk Management**

The Trustees have assessed the major risks to which the Company is exposed, in particular those related to the operations and finances of the Company and are satisfied that systems are in place to mitigate the Company's exposure to the major risks.

## **Trustees' responsibilities**

Company and charity law applicable to charities in England and Wales requires the Trustees to prepare financial statement for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company and of the surplus or deficit of the charitable company for that period. In preparing those financial statements the Trustees have:

1. Selected suitable accounting policies and applied them constantly;
2. Made judgments and estimates that are fair and reasonable;
3. Stated whether applicable accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and
4. Prepared the financial statements on a going concern basis (unless it is inappropriate to presume that the Trust will continue in operation)

The Trustees have overall responsibility for ensuring that the charitable company has an appropriate system of controls, financial and otherwise. They are also responsible for keeping proper accounting records, which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charitable company and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act, 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charitable company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the detection and prevention of fraud and other irregularities.

THE ACTORS OF DIONYSUS (A Company limited by guarantee)

9th May 2024

This report was approved by the board on 9th May 2024 and signed on its behalf by

*Shelley Warren*

.....  
Shelley Warren - Trustee



# THE ACTORS OF DIONYSUS

## INCOME & EXPENDITURE ACCOUNTS for the year ended 31 December 2023

	Note	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	2023 Total £	2022 Total £
<b>INCOME</b>					
From Generated Funds					
Voluntary Income	2	2139	43293	45432	10240
Activities for generating funds	3	10651	0	10651	3237
		<u>12790</u>	<u>43293</u>	<u>56083</u>	<u>13477</u>
From Charitable Activity					
Workshops		10173	0	10173	11828
Other Income					
Sundry Income/Interest		166	0	166	253
Theatre Tax Relief		14182	0	14182	4299
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>		<u>37311</u>	<u>43293</u>	<u>80604</u>	<u>29857</u>
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>					
Costs of generating Voluntary Income		0	0	0	0
Cost of Goods Sold and other costs	4	25398	40569	65967	49832
From Charitable Activity					
Workshops		0	0	0	0
Governance costs	5	584	0	584	434
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE</b>		<u>25982</u>	<u>40569</u>	<u>66551</u>	<u>50266</u>
<b>NET INCOME/(DEFICIT) FOR THE YEAR</b>		11329	2724	14053	(20,409)
<b>FUND BALANCES B/FWDS</b>		21205	1719	22924	43333
<b>FUND BALANCES C/FWDS</b>		<u>32534</u>	<u>4443</u>	<u>36977</u>	<u>22924</u>

# THE ACTORS OF DIONYSUS

## BALANCE SHEET At December 31st 2023

	Note	£ <u>2023</u>	£ <u>2022</u>	£ <u>2021</u>
TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS	1	64	86	115
CURRENT ASSETS				
Stock	1	0	0	0
Debtors	7	15570	4299	9958
Cash at Bank and in Hand		21693	18889	33644
subtotal		<u>37263</u>	<u>23188</u>	<u>43602</u>
CREDITORS				
falling due within 1 year	8	(350)	(350)	(384)
NET CURRENT ASSETS		<u>36,913</u>	<u>22838</u>	<u>43218</u>
NET ASSETS		<u><u>36,977</u></u>	<u><u>22924</u></u>	<u><u>43333</u></u>
Represented By:				
Restricted Funds		4443	1719	8051
Unrestricted Funds		15550	21205	35283
		<u><u>36,977</u></u>	<u><u>22924</u></u>	<u><u>43333</u></u>

In preparing these accounts:

(a) For the year ended 31 December 2023 the company is entitled to the exemption from audit under Section 477(2) of the Companies Act 2006;

(b) Members have not required the company to obtain an audit in accordance with Section 476 of the Companies Act 2006, and;

(c) The directors acknowledge their responsibility for complying with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 with respect to accounting records and the preparation of accounts.

(d) These accounts have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies' regime.

The financial statements were approved by the Board on 08-May-24

*Shelley Warren*

Signed  
Shelley Warren  
Trustee

# THE ACTORS OF DIONYSUS

## NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS for the year ended 31 December 2023

### 1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

#### Basis of Preparation of Financial Statements

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention.

#### Company Status

The Charitable Company is a company limited by guarantee. The members of the company are the Trustees named on page I. In the event of the charitable company being wound up the liability in respect of the guarantee is limited to £10 per member of the charitable company.

#### Fund Accounting

General funds are unrestricted funds which are available for use at the discretion of the Trustees in furtherance of the general objectives of the Charitable Company and which have not been designated for other purposes.

Restricted funds are funds which are to be used accordance with specific instructions imposed by the donors which have been raised by the Trustees for particular purposes.

#### Income

All incoming resources are included in the Income & Expenditure Account when the Charitable company is legally entitled to the income and the amount can be quantified with reasonable accuracy.

#### Expenditure

All expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been included under expense categories that aggregate all costs for allocation to activities. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular activities, they have been allocated on a basis consistent With the use of the resources. Overheads have been allocated on the basis of charity expenditure

#### Cash Flow

The company has taken advantage of the exemption from the requirement to produce a cash flow statement on the grounds that it is a small charitable company.

#### Turnover

Turnover comprises the invoiced value of the goods and services supplied by the company. The company is not registered for Value Added Tax.

#### Stocks

Stocks are valued at the lower of cost and market value, after making due allowance for obsolete and slow - moving items.

#### Tangible Fixed Assets

Office Equipment is written off on a 25% reducing balance basis.

	<u>Cost</u>	<u>Depreciation</u>	<u>2022 Net Book Value</u>
Balance at 1 January 2023	912	826	86
Additions during the year	0		0
Charge during the year		<u>22</u>	<u>-22</u>
Balance at 31 December 2023	<u>912</u>	<u>848</u>	<u>64</u>

# THE ACTORS OF DIONYSUS

## NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS for the year ended 31 December 2023

INCOME	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	2023 Total £	2022 Total £
2 - Voluntary Income				
Membership Fees	811	0	811	738
Donations	510	13846	14356	5938
Grants	0	29447	29447	1500
Gift Aid Tax Repayment	818	0	818	2064
	<u>2139</u>	<u>43293</u>	<u>45432</u>	<u>10240</u>
3 - Activities for Generating Funds				
Publications	0	0	0	0
Workshop Income	10173	0	10173	
Venue Income	10651	0	10651	3237
	<u>20824</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>20824</u>	<u>3237</u>
EXPENDITURE				
4 - Cost of Goods Sold and other costs				
Production costs and purchases	1445	0	1445	3875
Staff costs	57825	0	57825	41182
Miscellaneous	1372	0	1372	911
Postage	184	0	184	166
Staff Expenses & Travel	2100	0	2100	1823
Stationery	0	0	0	41
Computer Costs	0	0	0	0
Phone/Internet	509	0	509	489
Depreciation	22	0	22	29
Publicity	168	0	168	0
Repairs & Renewals	46	0	46	0
Hire of Space	1480	0	1480	550
Insurance	816	0	816	766
Expenditure Allocated to restricted funds	-40569	40569	0	0
Training	0	0	0	0
	<u>25398</u>	<u>40569</u>	<u>65967</u>	<u>49832</u>
5 - Governance				
Accountancy	350	0	350	350
Consultancy	150	0	150	0
Claiming Theatre Tax Relief	0	0	0	0
Bank Charges	84	0	84	84
	<u>584</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>584</u>	<u>434</u>
6 - Trustees Remuneration & Expenses				
No Trustee received any remuneration or reimbursement of expenses during the year. (2022 £nil)				
7 - Debtors				
Trading Debtors			0	0
Gift Aid Repayment			0	0
Theatre Tax Relief			15570	4299
			<u>15570</u>	<u>4299</u>
8 - Creditors				
Trade			0	0
Loan			0	0
Accruals			350	350
			<u>350</u>	<u>350</u>

THE ACTORS OF DIONYSUS

Accountant's Report

Accounts for the year ended 31 December 2023

In accordance with instructions received I have prepared, without carrying out an audit, the accounts set out on pages 1 to 4 from the accounting records of The Actors of Dionysus and from the information and explanations supplied to me.

R Kennedy FCMA

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Timbers House,  
Lower Icknield Way,  
Marsworth,  
Tring,  
Herts,  
HP23 4LN

## Restricted Funds Analysis

	2023	2022
Opening Balance		
Received During Year		
Sussex Community Foundation	0	0
The Big Give	2996	3438
Arts Council England (ACE)	29447	1500
Fonthill Foundation	0	0
Cultural Recovery Fund	0	0
Foyle Foundation	6500	0
Doyly Carte	3000	0
University of London	1350	0
Chalk Cliff funding	0	0
subtotal	43293	4938
Carried Forwards from prior year		
The Big Give	1719	5062
Fonthill Foundation	0	2989
Cultural Recovery Fund	0	0
subtotal	1719	8051
Carried Forwards to 2024		
The Big Give	1498	1719
Arts Council England (ACE)	2945	0
Fonthill Foundation	0	0
Cultural Recovery Fund	0	0
subtotal	4443	1719
Used in 2023	40569	11270

THE ACTORS OF DIONYSUS

Accountant's Report

Accounts for the year ended 31 December 2023

In accordance with instructions received I have prepared, without carrying out an audit, the accounts set out on pages 1 to 4 from the accounting records of The Actors of Dionysus and from the information and explanations supplied to me.



R Kennedy FCMA

Date: 13/05/2024

Timbers House,  
Lower Icknield Way,  
Marsworth,  
Tring,  
Herts,  
HP23 4LN