

UNITY THEATRE

England & Wales · Charity number 1062463

Details

Status	Registered
Legal form	Charitable company
Company number	03333987
Registered	1997-05-19
Register	View on the Charity Commission register

Contact

Address	Unity Theatre 1 Hope Place Liverpool L1 9BG
Phone	01517096502
Email	info@unitytheatre.co.uk
Website	www.unitytheatreliverpool.co.uk

Activities

Objects: TO ADVANCE THE EDUCATION OF THE PUBLIC IN ALL ASPECTS OF THE ART OF DRAMA, DANCE, MIME AND MUSIC.TO PROVIDE AND MANAGE A THEATRE.TO PROMOTE ALL OTHER OBJECTS FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE COMMUNITY WHICH NOW OR HEREAFTER MAY BE DEEMED BY LAW TO BE CHARITABLE.

Activities: Providing an annual programme of professional and community arts activities, including shows, artform & artist development, workshops, training, advocacy & mentoring.

Classification

- **How:** Provides Buildings/facilities/open Space, Provides Advocacy/advice/information
- **What:** Arts/culture/heritage/science
- **Who:** The General Public/mankind

Geography

- Liverpool City

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-03-31	£174,279	£548,894	£1,742,699	24
2024-03-31	£507,593	£570,297	£1,661,830	13
2023-03-31	£478,103	£648,416	-	-
2022-03-31	£492,022	£630,636	-	-
2021-03-31	£786,256	£493,389	£2,033,462	40

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Peter Mearns	Chair	2024-07-31
Berta Maia		2025-06-19
Daniel Bye		2025-06-19
Daniel Sebuyange		2022-01-27
Ezequiel Serrano Perez		2025-06-19
Helen Jeffery		2024-07-31
Laura Charlotte Tellwright		2024-07-31
Michael Cavanagh		2025-06-19
Samantha Birkett		2025-06-19
Uzair Patel		2025-06-19

UNITY THEATRE

England & Wales - Charity number 1062463

Accounts

Company Registration Number - 03333987

The Charity Registration Number is :- 1062463

Unity Theatre
Report and Accounts
31 March 2025

Unity Theatre

Report and accounts for the year ended 31 March 2025

Contents

	Page
Charity information	1
Trustees' Annual Report	1
Statement of directors' responsibilities	13
Independent Examiner's Report	15
<i>Funds Statements:-</i>	
Statement of Financial Activities	17
Statement of Financial Activities - Prior Year statement	18
Movements in funds	19
Revenue Funds	19
Fixed Asset funds	19
Income and Expenditure account	20
Balance sheet	21
Cash flow statement	22
Notes to the accounts	23

Unity Theatre

Company Registration Number - 03333987

Trustees' Annual Report for the year ended 31 March 2025

The Trustees present their Report and Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2025, which also comprises the Directors' Report required by the Companies Act 2006.

Reference and administrative details

The charity name.

The legal name of the charity is:- Unity Theatre.

The charity's areas operation and UK charitable registration.

The charity is registered in England & Wales with the Charity Commission in England & Wales (CCEW) with charity number 1062463.

The charity does not operate in any overseas jurisdictions.

Legal structure of the charity

The charity is constituted as a company limited by guarantee, registered under the Companies Acts . The governing document of the charity is the Memorandum and Articles of Association establishing the company under company legislation.

There are no restrictions in the governing documents on the operation of the Charity or on its investment powers other than those imposed by Charity Law.

By operation of law all, trustees are directors under the Companies Act 2006 and all directors are trustees under Charities legislation and have responsibilities, as such, under both company and charity legislation.

The trustees are all individuals.

The principal operating address, telephone number, email and web addresses of the charity are:-

1 Hope Place

Liverpool, L1 9BG

Telephone 01517094988

Email Address info@unitytheatre.co.uk Web address www.unitytheatreliverpool.co.uk

The registered office of the charity for Companies Act purposes is the same as the operating address shown above.

The Trustees in office on the date the report was approved were:-

S Birkett (appointed 19 June 2025)

D Bye (appointed 19 June 2025)

M Cavanagh (appointed 19 June 2025)

E Edwards

H Jeffery (appointed 31 July 2024)

B Maia (appointed 19 June 2025)

P Mearns (appointed 31 Jul 2024)

U Patel (appointed 19 June 2025)

E Perez (appointed 19 June 2025)

D Sebuyange

LC Tellwright (appointed 31 July 2024)

Unity Theatre

Company Registration Number - 03333987

Trustees' Annual Report for the year ended 31 March 2025

The following persons served as Trustees during the year ended 31 March 2025 :-

Trustees who also served during the period and their dates of resignation during the year were

Name

L Clark (resigned 7 July 2025)

S Jones (resigned 23 September 2024)

A Marshall (resigned 23 September 2024)

L Mooney (resigned 19 June 2025)

A Perera (resigned 11 February 2025)

All the trustees are also members of the charity.

Objects and activities of the charity

The purposes of the charity as set out in its governing document.

"To advance the education of the public in all aspects of the art of drama, dance, mime and music and to develop the public appreciation of such art and to provide and manage a theatre within the postal district of Liverpool without distinction of age, sex, race, political or religious or other opinions, by associating with statutory authorities, voluntary organisations, institutions and inhabitants and to promote all or any objects for the benefit of the community which now or hereafter may be deemed by law to be charitable."

The main activities undertaken in relation to those purposes during the year and to further the charity's purpose for the public benefit.

Unity Theatre aims to:

- Advance the education of the public in all aspects of the art of drama, dance, mime, and music.
- Provide and manage a theatre; to promote all other objects for the benefit of the community which now or hereafter may be deemed by law to be charitable.

Our purpose is to share the stories of diverse individuals, working across three core areas:

- Providing high quality creative experiences
- Developing and supporting local artists
- Platforming and celebrating local communities

Unity Theatre

Company Registration Number - 03333987

Trustees' Annual Report for the year ended 31 March 2025

The short term and longer term aims and objectives and the charity's strategies for achieving its aims and objectives in the future including the resources used in the activities undertaken.

To achieve these objects in 2024/25, Unity:

- Presented a year-round programme of live theatre, performance and associated arts, with a strong emphasis on local and under-represented artists.
- Provided creative development opportunities for emerging and early-career artists, including workshops, mentoring, scratch nights and an annual new work festival.
- Delivered participation and learning projects with children, young people, disabled people, LGBTQIA+ communities, refugees and other groups who face barriers to the arts.
- Offered affordable space for rehearsals, meetings, professional development and community use.
- Developed heritage and capital projects to safeguard its historic building and improve accessibility, environmental performance and audience experience.

The Trustees confirm that they have had due regard to the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit when planning the charity's activities, setting objectives and reviewing achievements for the year.

Unity's long-term vision is that people from communities who are under-represented in the arts can create, share and experience theatre in Liverpool and beyond.

For the 2024–2030 period, the Board has agreed strategic priorities which provide the framework for this report and Unity's future development. These include:

- Establishing a year-round, inclusive youth theatre and creative offer for children and young people who face barriers to participation.
- Producing at least one in-house Unity production each year that reflects the stories and voices of Unity's communities.
- Growing organisational capacity, including securing at least one additional funded post to support delivery.
- Rebuilding unrestricted reserves to at least £200,000 over the life of the strategy.
- Investing in the theatre's historic building to improve accessibility, environmental performance and resilience.

The main achievements and performance of the charity during the year, how the achievements during the year measure up to the objectives set and the degree to which the achievements and performance during the year have benefited wider society and the beneficiaries of the charity.

Headline impact

Between April 2024 and March 2025 Unity:

- Reached 10,027 audience members through its live programme.
- Hosted 130 shows, with 90 of these presented by local artists and companies.
- Worked with 764 participants across workshops, projects and participation activity.
- Gifted 800 free tickets to children from schools in low socio-economic areas to attend Unity's Christmas show.

These figures demonstrate both the scale of Unity's programme and its commitment to ensuring that people who face barriers to the arts can still access high-quality creative experiences.

Unity Theatre

Company Registration Number - 03333987

Trustees' Annual Report for the year ended 31 March 2025

Artistic programme and audiences

Unity delivered a diverse programme of 130 shows during the year, spanning new writing, physical theatre, comedy, family work, festivals, scratch nights and late-night events. 90 of these performances were presented by local artists and companies, reflecting Unity's role as a home for Liverpool's creative community.

The year began with an Open House event which brought over 300 people through the building to share what they wanted from Unity's future. Key messages included a desire for the return of family work, a clearer Unity identity, more opportunities for local artists and activity celebrating the building's heritage. These community priorities directly informed programming and project development for the rest of the year.

Programme highlights included:

- Hosting work and partnerships with companies and festivals such as Ugly Bucket, RAWD, 20 Stories High Youth Theatre, Liverpool Improvisation Festival, Liverpool Arab Arts Festival, DaDa, LEAP Dance, LatinX (Luma Creations), KAYD Somali Arts and Culture, Liverpool Irish Festival, Teatro Pomodoro and others.
- Presenting an ACE-funded production of Krapp's Last Tape with former Unity Artistic Director Graeme Phillips, which attracted around 300 audience members over two days and reconnected many long-term supporters with the theatre.

Audience demand rebuilt strongly over the year. During the Autumn season (September–November), overall audience levels averaged approximately 67% of capacity across the programme, supported by increased website traffic and online engagement at the time of the season launch.

Accessibility remained central to the programme. The Autumn season included nine captioned shows, six BSL-interpreted performances and five shows with audio description, alongside relaxed performances and targeted ticket offers.

Unity pursued an affordability agenda throughout the year, combining:

- low-cost tickets,
- pay-what-you-can events,
- community allocations and
- free tickets for specific groups, particularly children and families in low-income communities.

Audience and artist feedback consistently described Unity as:

"a hotspot for new, exciting, experimental work, a place to meet with the creative community, open to everyone"

"the theatre that I love – quirky, diverse and highly imaginative"

"a place where audiences discover rare, thought-provoking shows not available elsewhere in the city"

Unity Theatre

Company Registration Number - 03333987

Trustees' Annual Report for the year ended 31 March 2025

Artist development and sector support

Supporting local, under-represented and early-career artists remained core to Unity's mission.

- Unity supported 32 artists and companies through development programmes and platforms.
- It ran 21 scratch nights, offering a low-risk space for artists to test new ideas in front of an audience.
- It supported 22 artists through the Up Next festival, providing mentoring, rehearsal space, marketing and technical support.

CreativePool workshops

- Across Summer and Autumn 2024 Unity hosted over 20 affordable workshops for local artists, led by local and visiting practitioners.
- An Autumn series alone delivered 14 workshops, reaching 220 participants, covering directing, producing, movement, clowning, access and more, giving artists an accessible route to build skills and networks.

Scratch nights and advice sessions

- Monthly scratch nights continued to be oversubscribed, with a waiting list of artists seeking slots. At least 35 artists shared work-in-progress during the Autumn series alone.
- Unity also hosted Arts Council England advice sessions for local artists, reflecting strong demand for support in navigating funding, touring and project development.

Up Next festival

- In March 2025, Unity presented the Up Next festival, supporting 22 artists to present new work for the first time.
- Participants received one-to-one mentoring, rehearsal space, a professional performance slot and four group sessions on funding, touring, technical production and marketing.
- The festival attracted around 820 audience members over three days, including performances, play readings and discussions.

Two MA students completed placements during the festival, contributing to sector workforce development and gaining valuable practical experience.

Artist feedback across the year underlined that Unity is a place where:

- new work can safely move from "page to stage"
- affordable workshops and scratch nights support risk-taking and experimentation; and
- a sense of community and shared purpose helps disabled, queer and global majority artists feel that their voices are valued in a sector where they are often under-represented.

Community, participation and learning

Unity's participation and community programme engaged 764 participants across the year.

Key strands included:

Targeted workshops and free ticket schemes

With support from Merseyside Arts Friends, Unity delivered free workshops and show tickets for global majority writers, queer creatives and female-identifying/non-binary LGBTQIA+ participants, linked to relevant productions. Participants reported increased confidence, skills and a sense of safety when trying new artforms, including those with additional needs such as dyspraxia.

Unity Theatre

Company Registration Number - 03333987

Trustees' Annual Report for the year ended 31 March 2025

Get Creative – family programme

The Get Creative summer programme, funded by the LCVS Community Fund, offered four days of free workshops and shows for children and families:

- 17 local artists and companies were involved.
- 122 people attended workshops and 350 attended performances.
- 50% of attendees were visiting Unity for the first time.

Over 100 evaluation forms showed that 70% of families could only attend because the activity was free, illustrating how cost-of-living pressures limit access to culture. Parents described theatre as “a luxury” but “every child’s right” and stressed that free sessions were a “massive help” for families on low incomes or those returning from maternity leave.

Unity also hosted further family-friendly activity across the year, including free illustration workshops with Gill Smith and circus skills workshops with Teatro Pomodoro, designed to be accessible for children with additional needs.

KIND schools' performances

Through a partnership with KIND, Unity offered around 900 free tickets for school performances of the Christmas show Star of Wonder, targeted at schools in areas of deprivation and special schools, including an audio-described performance for the Royal School for the Blind.

Space to Create – Barnardo’s young carers

Unity developed Space to Create with Barnardo’s, offering a series of workshops for up to 25 young carers aged 5–18. Participants explored writing, directing, music, movement, film, photography, sound, lighting and marketing, culminating in a final sharing performance. For many, this was their first visit to a professional theatre. Barnardo’s feedback highlighted the transformative impact of attending both workshops and performances for young people with limited access to cultural activity.

British Council – Rising / Piki Ake

The Artistic Director secured a British Council “Connections through Culture” grant for Rising – Piki Ake, a cross-continental youth project with Hawkes Bay Youth Theatre in New Zealand. In Spring 2025 Unity ran weekly sessions with 14 young people in Liverpool, working with a writer and physical practitioner to create original work in “call and response” with their New Zealand peers, exploring climate crisis, water and shared coastal identities.

Unity Theatre

Company Registration Number - 03333987

Trustees' Annual Report for the year ended 31 March 2025

Unity as a community hub

The year also saw more community and partner groups using Unity as a base, including Women in Action, Blackburne House groups, All Things Considered mentoring, RAWD, 20 Stories High, Cheshire Dance, Pagoda Youth Orchestra and others. This created a more vibrant, year-round community presence in the building. Participants and group leaders often described Unity as “home” and spoke about being “made to feel like it is our home”, deepening their engagement with the arts.

Inclusive practice and the RAWD partnership

Unity's long-standing partnership with RAWD (Realising Arts Worthwhile for Disabled people) remained central to its inclusive practice.

- Unity and RAWD supported 23 disabled artists in 40 sessions at Unity, providing regular creative opportunities and a consistent base.
- RAWD led creative projects, workshops and performances, including a summer show and Unity's variety night fundraiser, which raised over £2,000 for artist development and re-engaged many people with the theatre.

Disabled participants frequently describe Unity as “home” and speak of feeling part of a creative family beyond their immediate networks. This sense of belonging, combined with practical support such as accessible performances, free tickets and tailored workshops, is central to Unity's public benefit.

Heritage Lottery Fund project

During the year Unity developed, and after year-end successfully secured, a grant from the National Lottery Heritage Fund for a multi-faceted heritage project celebrating:

- the building's history as the former Liverpool Reform Synagogue, and
- Unity's role in the wider Unity Theatre movement.

The project will include a community theatre production, collaboration with professional artists and community groups, cataloguing and digitising the archive with Liverpool John Moores University, oral histories, talks and the reinstatement of original stained-glass features within the building.

Capital and infrastructure planning

Alongside artistic and participation work, Unity progressed a capital improvements programme to address urgent building needs (including flooring, roof and access), improve environmental performance and enhance audience experience, preparing for an application to Arts Council England's Creative Foundations Fund.

Reputation, digital presence and income generation

The Autumn season launch saw a 44% increase in website users compared to August, with strong pre-sales and engagement, reflecting renewed confidence and interest in Unity's programme. A new digital screen for the front window, funded by Merseyside Arts Friends, improved visibility of events. Initiatives including the Christmas cabaret, increased hires from local organisations and targeted fundraising events contributed to income generation and financial resilience.

Overall, 2024/25 marked a significant period of regrowth and repositioning for Unity: rebuilding audiences, re-engaging artists and communities after a period of uncertainty, and putting in place the partnerships, projects and infrastructure needed to sustain its impact in the years ahead.

Unity Theatre

Company Registration Number - 03333987

Trustees' Annual Report for the year ended 31 March 2025

Structure, governance and management of the charity

The methods used to recruit and appoint and for induction of new charity trustees.

New Trustees are recruited to ensure the Board maintains an appropriate mix of skills, experience and diversity. Vacancies are identified through regular skills audits and succession planning. Potential Trustees are recruited via open advertisement, targeted approaches and sector networks.

Prospective Trustees are interviewed by the Chair and/or a small panel and recommended to the Board. Appointments are made by the Board and subsequently ratified by the members at the next Annual General Meeting, in line with the Articles of Association.

New Trustees receive an induction pack containing key documents including the governing document, recent Board minutes, the strategic plan, latest management accounts and relevant policies. They are offered an induction meeting with the Chair and Executive Director and are invited to attend performances and events to gain insight into Unity's work.

The charity's organisational structure.

The charity is a company limited by guarantee governed by its Memorandum and Articles of Association dated 11th March 1997, as amended by special resolutions dated 1st May 1997 and September 27 2016. It is a registered charity with the Charity Commission.

The members of the company are the directors and any other persons or organisations admitted to membership by the directors. Currently the only members of the company are the directors.

The Board meets at least 6 times per year to set strategy, approve budgets and policies, monitor performance and oversee risk. Certain responsibilities are delegated to sub-committees and working groups, which report back to the full Board. These include:

Finance Committee – monitors financial performance, audit, risk register, reserves and financial policies.

Artistic Advisory group – supports artistic strategy, sector engagement and partnerships.

Trustees give their time voluntarily and receive no remuneration for their role. Out-of-pocket expenses are reimbursed in line with the charity's policy.

How the charity makes decisions and how decisions are delegated.

Day-to-day management is delegated to the Executive Director and Artistic Director, who together form the Senior Management Team. They are responsible for implementing the strategy agreed by the Board, managing the staff team, overseeing delivery of the artistic and participation programme and ensuring compliance with statutory and regulatory requirements.

Senior management personnel to whom day to day management is delegated.

The Trustees consider the Executive Director and Artistic Director to be the key management personnel of the charity. Remuneration for these posts is set by the Board, taking into account sector benchmarks, affordability, responsibilities and the need to attract and retain appropriately skilled and experienced staff.

Unity Theatre

Company Registration Number - 03333987

Trustees' Annual Report for the year ended 31 March 2025

Financial review of the position at the reporting date, 31 March 2025 .

Total income for the year was £629,763 (2023/24: £507,593).

Total expenditure was £548,894 (2023/24: £570,297), resulting in a net movement in funds of £80,869 (2023/24: negative £62,704).

At 31 March 2025 the charity held total funds of £1,742,699, of which £99,650 were restricted and £1,643,279 were unrestricted or designated.

Policies on reserves.

The Board reviews Unity's reserves policy annually. The aim is to maintain sufficient unrestricted "free reserves" (those not tied up in fixed assets or designated funds) to:

- cover short-term fluctuations in income;
- manage cash flow risks associated with project funding; and
- protect the organisation in the event of unforeseen downturns or emergencies.

In line with the 2025–2030 strategic plan, the Trustees have adopted a long-term target of building free reserves to at least £200,000, broadly equivalent to a minimum of around three months' operating costs.

At 31 March 2025, free reserves stood at negative £30k (2024: negative £37k)

The Board is committed to moving towards the target through a combination of income growth, careful cost control, surplus budgeting where possible and disciplined monitoring.

Going Concern

The Trustees have considered the charity's budgets, cash flow forecasts and funding pipeline for at least 12 months from the date of signing these financial statements. Key assumptions include:

- continuation of funding from Arts Council England as a National Portfolio Organisation to March 2028;
- confirmed funding from Liverpool City Council to March 2027; and
- realistic projections for ticket income, trading income and fundraising.

While the wider arts and cultural sector continue to face economic and cost-of-living pressures, the Trustees are satisfied that Unity Theatre has adequate resources and a credible plan to continue operations for the foreseeable future. Accordingly, the financial statements have been prepared on a going concern basis.

Availability and adequacy of assets of each of the funds

The board of trustees is satisfied that the charity's assets in each fund are available and adequate to fulfil its obligations in respect of each fund.

Significant events which have affected the financial performance and the financial position.

There were no financial effects of significant events.

Unity Theatre

Company Registration Number - 03333987

Trustees' Annual Report for the year ended 31 March 2025

The major risks to which the Charity is exposed and reviews and systems to mitigate them.

The Board maintains a risk register which is regularly reviewed by Trustees and by the Finance Committee. Major risks identified include:

Financial and funding risk

- Reliance on a small number of major funders and on grant income in a competitive funding environment.
- Pressure on ticket sales and trading income due to cost-of-living impacts on audiences.

Mitigation: scenario planning, active fundraising strategy, diversification of income streams, close monitoring of monthly management accounts and early intervention where performance is off track.

Building and infrastructure risk

- An ageing building with known issues (including roof, flooring and systems) and the risk of unplanned closures or expensive repairs.

Mitigation: capital planning, professional advice from architects and engineers, prioritised maintenance, pursuit of dedicated capital funding and staged works where possible.

People and capacity risk

- A relatively small staff team delivering a broad artistic, participation and building programme can be vulnerable to sickness, burnout or staff turnover.

Mitigation: workload planning, clear HR policies and procedures, investment in staff development and wellbeing, and exploration of additional funded posts to increase capacity.

Compliance and governance risk

- Ensuring ongoing compliance with health and safety, safeguarding, data protection, employment law, charity law and funder requirements.

Mitigation: up-to-date policies, regular training, external professional advice where needed, and governance work including the establishment of a Finance Committee and ongoing Board recruitment to address skills gaps.

The Trustees are satisfied that appropriate systems and procedures are in place to manage risks to an acceptable level and continue to review and enhance these arrangements.

Factors likely to affect future financial performance .

There were no such factors.

Unity Theatre

Company Registration Number - 03333987

Trustees' Annual Report for the year ended 31 March 2025

Principal funding sources in the year and how these support the key objectives of the charity.

Unity's core activity during the year was supported by:

- Arts Council England (National Portfolio Organisation funding), with funding confirmed to March 2028.
- Liverpool City Council Cultural Fund, with funding confirmed to March 2027.
- Grants from trusts and foundations including
- Ticket sales and trading income from the bar and hospitality.
- Income from creative and commercial hires.

The Trustees are grateful to all funders, partners, donors and audiences for their continued support, without which Unity's impact would not be possible.

Plans for future periods.

Looking ahead to 2025/26 and beyond, the Trustees intend to:

- Develop Unity's inclusive youth theatre and children and families programme, building on Get Creative, Space to Create and international youth projects, with a focus on children and young people who face barriers to participation.
- Produce at least one in-house Unity production each year, rooted in the stories of local communities and the theatre's radical heritage, and explore longer-term producing models.
- Deliver the National Lottery Heritage Fund project, including archive and oral history work, a heritage-inspired theatre production, and the reinstatement of stained-glass features, in partnership with Liverpool John Moores University and community groups.
- Progress the capital improvement programme, including essential works to stage floors, roof, access and environmental performance, and pursue external capital funding to safeguard the building.
- Strengthen governance and organisational infrastructure, including the work of the Finance Committee, a refreshed corporate governance framework, improved CRM and data systems, and ongoing Board development.
- Move steadily towards the reserves target, by controlling costs, growing earned income (box office, bar and hires), and securing new and renewed funding from trusts, foundations, public funders and individual donors.

These plans are aligned with Unity's 2025–2030 strategy and the Arts Council England Investment Principles, ensuring that artistic quality, inclusivity, environmental responsibility and strong leadership remain at the heart of the organisation.

Details of The Independent Examiner

Matthew Brown
Member of CIPFA
Bluecoat Chambers
College Lane
Liverpool
L1 3BX

Unity Theatre

Company Registration Number - 03333987

Trustees' Annual Report for the year ended 31 March 2025

Statement of the Directors' and Trustees' Responsibilities

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the terms of the Companies Act 2006, the Charities Act 2011 and the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008. Notwithstanding the explicit requirement in the extant statutory regulations, the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008, to prepare the financial statements in accordance with the SORP 2005, in view of the fact that the SORP 2005 has been withdrawn, the Trustees determined to interpret this responsibility as requiring them to follow current best practice and prepare the accounts according to the FRS 102 SORP (Statement of Recommended Practice for Accounting and Reporting by Charities) 2019, applicable to all accounting periods beginning on or after 1st January 2019), (The SORP), .

In particular, the Companies Act 2006 and charity law require the Board of Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity as at the end of the financial year and of the surplus or deficit of the charity. In preparing those financial statements the Board is required to :-

- to prepare the accounts in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice (United Kingdom Accounting Standards and applicable law).
- select suitable accounting policies and apply them consistently;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in business;
- state whether applicable accounting standards and statements of recommended practice have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;

The law requires that the trustees must not approve the accounts unless they are satisfied that they give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of the surplus or deficit of the charity for the year.

The Trustees are also responsible for maintaining adequate accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and which are sufficient to show and explain the charity's transactions and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006 and comply with regulations made under the Charities Act. 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.

The Trustees are also responsible for the contents of the Trustees' report, and the statutory responsibility of the Independent Examiner in relation to the Trustees' report is limited to examining the report and ensuring that , on the face of the report, there are no material inconsistencies with the figures disclosed in the financial statements.

Unity Theatre

Company Registration Number - 03333987

Trustees' Annual Report for the year ended 31 March 2025

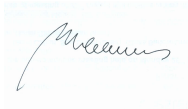
Method of preparation of accounts - Small company provisions

The financial statements are set out on pages 17 to 39.

The financial statements have been prepared implementing the FRS 102 SORP (Statement of Recommended Practice for Accounting and Reporting by Charities) 2019, applicable to all accounting periods beginning on or after 1st January 2019), (The SORP), and in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard 102, (effective 1st January 2016)

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions in Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006. applicable to companies subject to the small companies regime.

This report was approved by the board of trustees on 12 January 2026.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Mearns', is positioned above the name of the signatory.

PETER MEARNNS
Director and Trustee

Unity Theatre

Report of the Independent Examiner to the Trustees of the charitable company on the accounts for the year ended 31 March 2025

I report to the Trustees on my examination of the financial statements of the charitable company on pages 17 to 39 for the year ended 31 March 2025 which have been prepared in accordance with the Charities Act 2011 (the Act) and with the Financial Reporting Standard 102, (effective 1st January 2016) as modified by FRS 102 SORP (Statement of Recommended Practice for Accounting and Reporting by Charities) 2019, applicable to all accounting periods beginning on or after 1st January 2019), (The SORP), published by the Charity Commission in England & Wales (CCEW) , and under the historical cost convention and the accounting policies set out on page 23.

Respective responsibilities of the Trustees and the Independent Examiner and the basis of the report

As described on page 13, you, the charitable company's Trustees, who are also the Directors of the Company for the purposes of Company law, are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements in accordance with the Companies Act 2006, the Charities Act 2011 and all other applicable law and with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice, applicable to smaller entities, and for being satisfied that the financial statements give a true and fair view.

The Trustees consider that the audit requirement of Section 144(1) of the Charities Act 2011 (the Act) does not apply, and that there is no requirement in the memorandum and articles of the charity for the conducting of an audit, and that the accounts do not require an audit in accordance with Part 16 of the Companies Act 2006 and that no member or members have requested an audit pursuant to Section 476 of the Companies Act 2006. As a consequence, the Trustees have elected that the financial statements be subject to independent examination.

Having satisfied myself that the financial statements are not required to be audited under any legal provision, or otherwise, and are eligible for independent examination, it is my responsibility to:-

- a) examine the financial statements of the charity under Section 145 of the Act;
- b) follow the applicable procedures in the Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Basis of Independent Examiner's Statement and scope of work undertaken

Since the charitable company's gross income exceeded £250,000, the charitable company's examiner must be a member of a body listed in section 145 of the Act. I confirm that I am qualified to undertake the examination because I am an authorised member of CIPFA, which is one of the listed bodies.

I report in respect of my examination of the charity's financial statements carried out under s145 of the Act. In carrying out my examination, I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act setting out the duties of an independent examiner in relation to the conducting of an independent examination. An independent examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charitable company and of the accounting systems employed by the charitable company and a comparison of the financial statements presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the financial statements, and seeking explanations from you, as Trustees, concerning such matters. The purpose of the examination is to establish as far as possible that there have been no breaches of charity legislation and that, on a test basis of evidence relevant to the amounts and disclosures made, the financial statements comply with the SORP.

The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and information supplied by the Trustees in the course of the examination is not subjected to audit tests or enquiries and does not cover all the matters that an auditor would consider in arriving at an opinion. The planning and conduct of an audit goes beyond the limited assurance that an independent examination can provide

Consequently, I do not express an audit opinion on the view given by the financial statements, and in particular, I express no opinion as to whether the financial statements give a true and fair view of the affairs of the charity, and my report is limited to the matters set out in the statement below.

I planned and performed my examination so as to satisfy myself that the objectives of the independent examination are achieved and before finalising the report I obtained written assurances from the Trustees of all material matters.

Unity Theatre

Independent Examiner's Statement, Report and Opinion

Subject to the limitations upon the scope of my work as detailed above, I have completed my examination: and can confirm that:-

The accounts of this charitable company are not required to be audited under Part 16 of the Companies Act 2006;

The gross income of the charitable company in the year ended 31 March 2025 appears to exceed the sum specified in Section 145(3) of the Act, namely £250000, and that I am qualified to act as Independent Examiner in accordance with that section by virtue of my being a qualified member of CIPFA;

This is a report in respect of an examination carried out under 145 of the Act and in accordance with Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act which may be applicable;

and that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:-

accounting records were not kept in respect of the charity as required by Section 386 of the Companies Act 2006 and Section 130 of The Charities Act 2011;

the financial statements do not accord with those records; or

the financial statements do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in section 396 of the Companies Act 2006 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;

have not been prepared in accordance with the methods and principles set out in the FRS 102 SORP (Statement of Recommended Practice for Accounting and Reporting by Charities) 2019, applicable to all accounting periods beginning on or after 1st January 2019), (The SORP).

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 financial statements to be reached.

Signed:-



Matthew Brown - Independent Examiner
CIPFA
Bluecoat Chambers
College Lane
Liverpool
L1 3BX

This report was signed on 12 January 2026

Unity Theatre - Statement of Financial Activities for the year ended 31 March 2025

Statement of Financial Activities (including the Income and Expenditure Account for the year ended 31 March 2025, as required by the Companies Act 2006)

	Current year Unrestricted Funds	Current year Restricted Funds	Current year Total Funds	Prior Year Total Funds
	2025	2025	2025	2024
	£	£	£	£
Income & Endowments from:				
Donations & Legacies	328,794	135,479	464,273	397,324
Charitable activities	165,490	-	165,490	110,269
Total income	494,284	135,479	629,763	507,593
Expenditure on:				
Charitable activities	512,835	36,059	548,894	570,297
Total expenditure	512,835	36,059	548,894	570,297
Net income for the year	(18,551)	99,420	80,869	(62,704)
Net income after transfers	(18,551)	99,420	80,869	(62,704)
Net movement in funds	(18,551)	99,420	80,869	(62,704)
Reconciliation of funds:-				
Total funds brought forward	1,661,830	-	1,661,830	1,724,534
Total funds carried forward	1,643,279	99,420	1,742,699	1,661,830

As required by paragraph 4.60 of the SORP, the brought forward and carried forward funds above have been agreed to the Balance Sheet.

A separate Statement of Total Recognised Gains and Losses is not required as this statement includes all recognised gains and losses.

All activities derive from continuing operations

The notes attached on pages 23 to 39 form an integral part of these accounts.

Unity Theatre - Statement of Financial Activities for the year ended 31 March 2025

Unity Theatre - Analysis of prior year total funds, as required by paragraph 4.2 of the SORP

	Prior Year Unrestricted Funds	Prior Year Restricted Funds	Prior Year Total Funds
	2024	2024	2024
	£	£	£
Income & Endowments from:			
Donations & Legacies	369,629	27,695	397,324
Charitable activities	110,269	-	110,269
Total income	479,898	27,695	507,593
Expenditure on:			
Charitable activities	501,352	46,108	570,297
Total expenditure	501,352	46,108	570,297
Net income for the year	(21,454)	(18,413)	(62,704)
Net income after transfers	(21,454)	(18,413)	(62,704)
Net movement in funds	(21,454)	(18,413)	(62,704)
Reconciliation of funds:-			
Total funds brought forward	1,683,284	41,250	1,724,534
Total funds carried forward	1,661,830	22,837	1,661,830

All activities derive from continuing operations

A separate Statement of Total Recognised Gains and Losses is not required as this statement includes all recognised gains and losses.'

The notes attached on pages 23 to 39 form an integral part of these accounts.

Unity Theatre - Statement of Financial Activities for the year ended 31 March 2025

Unity Theatre - Resources applied in the year ended 31 March 2025 towards fixed assets for Charity use:-

	2025 £	2024 £
Funds generated in the year as detailed in the SOFA	-	-
Resources applied on functional fixed assets	(12,411)	-
Other applications of funds	-	-
Net resources available to fund charitable activities	(12,411)	-

Movements in revenue and capital funds for the year ended 31 March 2025

Revenue accumulated funds

	Unrestricted Funds 2025 £	Restricted Funds 2025 £	Total Funds 2025 £	Last year Total Funds 2024 £
Accumulated funds brought forward	(37,693)	-	(37,693)	302
Recognised gains and losses before transfers	(18,551)	99,420	80,869	(62,704)
	(56,244)	99,420	43,176	(62,402)
(From)/To unrestricted revenue funds	11,346	-	11,346	24,709
Closing revenue funds	(44,898)	99,420	54,522	(37,693)

Fixed asset funds

	Designated Funds 2025 £	Restricted Funds 2025 £	Total Funds 2025 £	Last year Total Funds 2024 £
At 1 April	1,699,523	-	1,699,523	1,724,232
Transfer (to)/from revenue funds	(11,346)	-	(11,346)	(24,709)
At 31 March	1,688,177	-	1,688,177	1,699,523

The purposes of the transfers to fixed asset funds are described in Note 21 to the accounts .

Summary of funds

	Unrestricted and Designated funds 2025 £	Restricted Funds 2025 £	Total Funds 2025 £	Last Year Total Funds 2024 £
Revenue accumulated funds	(44,898)	99,420	54,522	(37,693)
Fixed asset funds	1,688,177	-	1,688,177	1,699,523
Total funds	1,643,279	99,420	1,742,699	1,661,830

The notes attached on pages 23 to 39 form an integral part of these accounts.

Unity Theatre - Statement of Financial Activities for the year ended 31 March 2025

Unity Theatre Income and Expenditure Account for the year ended 31 March 2025 as required by the Companies Act 2006

	2025	2024
	£	£
Income		
Income from operations	626,314	507,593
Refunds from HMRC on gift aided donations	3,449	-
Gross income in the year before exceptional items	629,763	507,593
Gross income in the year including exceptional items	629,763	507,593
Expenditure		
Charitable expenditure, excluding depreciation and amortisation	521,208	542,904
Depreciation and amortisation	23,755	24,709
Governance costs	3,931	2,635
Interest payable	-	49
Total expenditure in the year	548,894	570,297
Net income before tax in the financial year	80,869	(62,704)
Tax on surplus on ordinary activities	-	-
Net income after tax in the financial year	80,869	(62,704)
Retained surplus for the financial year	80,869	(62,704)

All activities derive from continuing operations

In accordance with the provisions of the Companies Act 2006, the headings and subheadings used in the Income and Expenditure account have been adapted to reflect the special nature of the charity's activities.

The notes attached on pages 23 to 39 form an integral part of these accounts.

Unity Theatre - Balance Sheet as at 31 March 2025

	Notes	2025 £	2024 £
Fixed assets			
Tangible assets	11	1,688,177	1,699,521
Current assets			
Stocks		2,998	1,647
Debtors	13	14,333	33,936
Cash at bank and in hand		80,572	23,300
Total current assets		<u>97,903</u>	<u>58,883</u>
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	14	<u>(43,381)</u>	<u>(96,574)</u>
Net current assets		54,522	(37,691)
The total net assets of the charity		<u>1,742,699</u>	<u>1,661,830</u>
The total net assets of the charity are funded by the funds of the charity, as follows:-			
Restricted funds			
Restricted Revenue Funds	18	99,420	-
		99,420	-
Unrestricted Funds			
Unrestricted Revenue Funds	18	(44,898)	(37,693)
		(44,898)	(37,693)
Designated Funds			
Designated Fixed Asset Funds	18	<u>1,688,177</u>	<u>1,699,523</u>
		<u>1,688,177</u>	<u>1,699,523</u>
Total charity funds		<u>1,742,699</u>	<u>1,661,830</u>

As required by paragraph 4.60 of the SORP, the brought forward and carried forward funds above have been agreed to the SOFA..

The directors are satisfied that the company is entitled to exemption from the requirement to obtain an audit under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006.

The member has not required the company to obtain an audit in accordance with section 476 of the Act.

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

The charity is subject to Independent Examination under charity legislation, and the report of the Independent Examiner is on page 16.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions in Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006, applicable to companies subject to the small companies regime.



PETER MEARNS

Trustee

Approved by the board of trustees on 12 January 2026

The notes attached on pages 23 to 39 form an integral part of these accounts.

Unity Theatre

Cash Flow Statement for the year ended 31 March 2025

	2025 £	2024 £	
Cash flows from operating activities			
Net cash provided by operating activities as shown below	69,683	(33,858)	
Cash flows from investing activities			
Purchase of property, plant and equipment	(12,411)	-	
Overall cash provided by all activities	<u>57,272</u>	<u>(33,858)</u>	
Cash movements			
Change in cash and cash equivalents from activities in the year ended 31 March 2025	57,272	(33,858)	
Cash and cash equivalents at 1 April	23,300	57,158	
Cash at bank and in hand less overdrafts at 31 March	<u>80,572</u>	<u>23,300</u>	
Reconciliation of net income to net cash flow from operating activities			
Net income as shown in the Statement of Financial Activities	80,869	(62,704)	
Adjustments for :-			
Depreciation charges	23,755	24,709	
Decrease in stocks	(1,351)	-	
Decrease in debtors	19,603	(7,813)	
Increase in creditors, excluding loans	(53,193)	11,950	
Net cash provided by operating activities	<u>69,683</u>	<u>(33,858)</u>	
Analysis of cash and cash equivalents			
	2025 £	2024 £	
Cash in hand at for the year ended 31 March 2025	80,572	23,300	
Total cash and cash equivalents	<u>80,572</u>	<u>23,300</u>	
Analysis of change in net debt			
	At start of year	Cash Flows	At end of year
Cash	23,300	57,272	80,572
Deferred income	(24,943)	8,411	(16,532)
Total	<u>(1,643)</u>	<u>65,683</u>	<u>64,040</u>

Unity Theatre

Notes to the Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2025

1 Accounting policies

Policies relating to the production of the accounts.

Basis of preparation and accounting convention

The accounts have been prepared on the accruals basis, under the historical cost convention, and in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard 102, (effective 1st January 2016) and 'FRS 102 SORP (Statement of Recommended Practice for Accounting and Reporting by Charities) 2019, applicable to all accounting periods beginning on or after 1st January 2019), (The SORP), published by the Charity Commission in England & Wales (CCEW) , and in accordance with all applicable law in the charity's jurisdiction of registration, except that the charity has prepared the financial statements in accordance with the FRS 102 SORP (Statement of Recommended Practice for Accounting and Reporting by Charities) 2019, applicable to all accounting periods beginning on or after 1st January 2019), (The SORP), in preference to the previous SORP, the SORP 2005, which has been withdrawn, notwithstanding the fact that the extant statutory regulations, the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 refer explicitly to the SORP 2005. This has been done to accord with current best practice.

Going Concern

There are no uncertainties about going concern.

Risks and future assumptions

The charity is a public benefit entity.

Policies relating to categories of income and income recognition.

Nature of income

Gross income represents the value, net of value added tax and discounts, of goods provided to customers and work carried out in respect of services provided to customers.

Categories of Income

Income is categorised as income from exchange transactions (contract income) and income from non-exchange transactions (gifts), investment income and other income.

Income from exchange transactions is received by the charity for goods or services supplied under contract or where entitlement is subject to fulfilling performance related conditions. The income the charity receives is approximately equal in value to the goods or services supplied by the charity to the purchaser.

Income from a non-exchange transaction is where the charity receives value from the donor without providing equal value in exchange, and includes donations of money, goods and services freely given without giving equal value in exchange.

Income recognition

Income, whether from exchange or non exchange transactions, is recognised in the statement of financial activities (SOFA) on a receivable basis, when a transaction or other event results in an increase in the charity's assets or a reduction in its liabilities and only when the charity has legal entitlement, the income is probable and can be measured reliably.

Income subject to terms and conditions which must be met before the charity is entitled to the resources is not recognised until the conditions have been met.

All income is accounted for gross, before deducting any related fees or costs.

Unity Theatre

Notes to the Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2025

Accounting for deferred income and income received in advance

Where terms and conditions relating to income have not been met or uncertainty exists as to whether the charity can meet any terms or conditions otherwise within its control, income is not recognised but is deferred as a liability until it is probable that the terms or conditions imposed can be met.

Any grant that is subject to performance-related conditions received in advance of delivering the goods and services required by that condition, or is subject to unmet conditions wholly outside the control of the recipient charity, is accounted for as a liability and shown on the balance sheet as deferred income. Deferred income is released to income in the reporting period in which the performance-related or other conditions that limit recognition are met.

When income from a grant or donation has not been recognised due to the conditions applying to the gift not being wholly within the control of the recipient charity, it is disclosed as a contingent asset if receipt of the grant or donation is probable once those conditions are met.

Where time related conditions are imposed or implied by a funder, then the income is apportioned to the time periods concerned, and, where applicable, is accounted for as a liability and shown on the balance sheet as deferred income. When grants are received in advance of the expenditure on the activity funded by them, but there are no specific time related conditions, then the income is not deferred.

Any condition that allows for the recovery by the donor of any unexpended part of a grant does not prevent recognition of the income concerned, but a liability to any repayment is recognised when repayment becomes probable.

Policies relating to expenditure on goods and services provided to the charity.

Recognition of liabilities and expenditure

A liability, and the related expenditure, is recognised when a legal or constructive obligation exists as a result of a past event, and when it is more likely than not that a transfer of economic benefits will be required in settlement, and when the amount of the obligation can be measured or reliably estimated..

Liabilities arising from future funding commitments and constructive obligations, including performance related grants, where the timing or the amount of the future expenditure required to settle the obligation are uncertain, give rise to a provision in the accounts, which is reviewed at the accounting year end. The provision is increased to reflect any increases in liabilities, and is decreased by the utilisation of any provision within the period, and reversed if any provision is no longer required. These movements are charged or credited to the respective funds and activities to which the provision relates.

Allocating costs to activities

Direct costs that are specifically related to an activity are allocated to that activity. Shared direct costs and support costs are apportioned between activities.

The basis for apportionment, which is consistently applied, and proportionate to the circumstances, is :-

Staffing - on a per capita basis, based on the number of people employed within any particular activity.

Premises related costs - on the proportion of floor area occupied by a particular activity.

Non specific support costs - on the basis of the usage of resources, in terms of time taken, capacity used, request made or other measures

Policies relating to assets, liabilities and provisions and other matters.

Tangible fixed assets

Tangible fixed assets are measured at their original cost value, or subsequent revaluation, or if donated, as described above. Cost value includes all costs expended in bringing the asset into its intended working condition.

Depreciation has been provided at the following rates in order to write off the assets to their anticipated residual value over their estimated useful lives.

Leasehold land & buildings	1 % straight line over the period of the lease
Fixtures and fittings	25 % straight line
Computers	33.33 % straight line

Unity Theatre

Notes to the Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2025

Stocks and work in progress

Stock is valued at the lower of cost and net realisable value.

Debtors

Debtors are measured at their recoverable amounts at the balance sheet date.

Creditors and provisions

Creditors are measured at their payable amounts at the balance sheet date.

Cash and bank balances

Cash held by the charity is included at the amount actually held and counted at the year end. Bank balances, whether in credit or overdrawn, are shown at the amounts properly reconciled to the bank statements.

Fund Accounting

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

Designated funds are unrestricted funds earmarked by the Trustees for particular purposes.

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

There are no endowment funds.

2 Liability to taxation

The Trustees consider that the charity satisfies the tests set out in Paragraph 1 Schedule 6 of the Finance Act 2010 for UK corporation tax purposes. Accordingly, the Charity is potentially exempt from taxation in respect of income or capital gains received within categories covered by chapter 3 part 11 of the Corporation Tax Act 2010 or Section 256 of the Taxation of Chargeable Gains Act 1992, to the extent that such income or gains are applied exclusively on the specific charitable objects of the charity and for no other purpose.

3 Winding up or dissolution of the charity

If upon winding up or dissolution of the charity there remain any assets, after the satisfaction of all debts and liabilities, the assets represented by the accumulated fund shall be transferred to some other charitable body or bodies having similar objects to the charity.

4 Significance of financial instruments to the charity's position

There are no significant implications of such matters.

5 Net surplus before tax in the financial year

	2025	2024
	£	£
The net surplus before tax in the financial year is stated after charging:-		
Depreciation of owned fixed assets	23,755	24,709
Pension costs	10,054	11,782
	<hr/>	<hr/>

Unity Theatre

Notes to the Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2025

6 Interest payable	2025	2024
	£	£
Interest payable	-	49

7 Staff costs and emoluments

Salary costs	2025	2024
	£	£
Gross Salaries excluding trustees and key management personnel	289,801	248,429
Employer's National Insurance for all staff	15,968	21,854
Employer's pension costs	5,409	6,372
Employer's operating costs of defined contribution pension schemes	4,645	5,410
Total salaries, wages and related costs	315,823	282,065

Average number of employees 2025	2025	2025	2025
	Part time	Full time	Total
Engaged on charitable activities	15	1	16
Engaged on management and administration	5	3	8
Total 2025	20	4	24

Average number of employees 2024	2024	2024	2024
	Part time	Full time	Total
Engaged on charitable activities	16	1	17
Engaged on management and administration	10	3	13
Total 2025	26	4	30

No employees received emoluments (excluding pension costs) in excess of £60,000 per annum.

8 Remuneration and payments to Trustees and persons connected with them

No trustees or persons connected with them received any remuneration from the charity, or any related entity.

9 Trustees' expenses

The expenses reimbursed to trustees, or paid directly to third parties, in the current or prior year, was as shown below.

	2025	2024
	£	£
The amount reimbursed to trustees including away day	1,556	260

The nature of the trustees' expenses was the reimbursement of travel expenses and the cost of trustee away day.

The number of trustees' to whom expenses were reimbursed was 2 (2024: 2)

Unity Theatre

Notes to the Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2025

10 Deferred income - Unrestricted and Designated funds

<i>Current Year</i>	Opening Deferrals	Released from prior years	Received less released in year	Deferred at year end
	£	£	£	£
Backstage Trust building works	24,943	(8,411)	-	16,532
Total	24,943	(8,411)	-	16,532
			2025	2024
			£	£
These deferrals are included in creditors			16,532	24,943
<i>Prior Year</i>	Opening Deferrals	Released from prior years	Received less released in year	Deferred at year end
	£	£	£	£
Backstage Trust Building Works and UPNEXT Festival	-	-	-	24,943
Total	-	-	-	24,943
			2024	2023
			£	£
These deferrals are included in creditors			24,943	-

11 Tangible fixed assets

<i>Current Year</i>	Leasehold Land and Buildings	Equipment & furniture	Computer equipment	Total
	£	£	£	£
Cost				
At 1 April 2024	2,057,677	267,290	8,950	2,333,917
Additions	-	12,411	-	12,411
At 31 March 2025	2,057,677	279,701	8,950	2,346,328
Depreciation				
At 1 April 2024	363,114	264,037	7,245	634,396
Charge for the year	20,577	1,474	1,704	23,755
At 31 March 2025	383,691	265,511	8,949	658,151
Net book value				
At 31 March 2025	1,673,986	14,190	1	1,688,177
At 31 March 2024	1,694,563	3,253	1,705	1,699,521

Unity Theatre

Notes to the Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2025

12 Stocks & Work in Progress	2025	2024
	£	£
Stocks before write downs	2,998	1,647
	<u>2,998</u>	<u>1,647</u>

13 Debtors	2025	2024
	£	£
Trade debtors	9,594	5,758
Prepayments and accrued income	1,642	20,595
Other debtors	3,097	7,583
	<u>14,333</u>	<u>33,936</u>

14 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	2025	2024
	£	£
Trade creditors	9,057	21,358
Accruals	5,284	18,686
Deferred Income - Unrestricted & designated funds	16,532	24,943
PAYE, NIC VAT and other taxes	9,758	25,983
Other creditors	2,750	5,604
	<u>43,381</u>	<u>96,574</u>

15 Income and Expenditure account summary	2025	2024
	£	£
At 1 April 2024	1,661,830	1,724,534
Surplus after tax for the year	80,869	(62,704)
At 31 March 2025	<u>1,742,699</u>	<u>1,661,830</u>

16 Related party transactions

There were no transactions with related parties in the year.

17 Particulars of how particular funds are represented by assets and liabilities

At 31 March 2025	Unrestricted	Designated	Restricted	Total
	funds	funds	funds	Funds
	£	£	£	£
Tangible Fixed Assets	-	1,688,177	-	1,688,177
Current Assets	(1,517)		99,420	97,903
Current Liabilities	(43,381)	-	-	(43,381)
	<u>(44,898)</u>	<u>1,688,177</u>	<u>99,420</u>	<u>1,742,699</u>

Unity Theatre

Notes to the Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2025

At 1 April 2024	Unrestricted funds £	Designated funds £	Restricted funds £	Total Funds £
Tangible Fixed Assets	(2)	1,699,523	-	1,699,521
Current Assets	58,883	-	-	58,883
Current Liabilities	(96,574)	-	-	(96,574)
	(37,693)	1,699,523	-	1,661,830

18 Change in total funds over the year as shown in Note 17, analysed by individual funds

	Funds brought forward from 2024 £	Movement in funds in 2025 £	Transfers between funds in 2025 £	Funds carried forward to 2026 £
		See Note 19	See Note 20	
		£	£	£
Unrestricted and designated funds:-				
Unrestricted Revenue Funds	(37,693)	(18,551)	11,346	(44,898)
Designated Fixed Asset Funds	1,699,523	-	(11,346)	1,688,177
Total unrestricted and designated funds	1,661,830	(18,551)	-	1,643,279
Restricted funds:-				
National Lottery Heritage Fund		51,290	-	51,290
Backstage Trust	-	19,630	-	19,630
Eleanor Rathbone Charitable Trust	-	2,000	-	2,000
The British Council	-	5,000	-	5,000
John Thaw Foundation	-	1,000	-	1,000
The Hemby Charitable Trust	-	2,000	-	2,000
Liverpool City Council UK Shared Prosperity Fund	-	10,000	-	10,000
The Granada Foundation	-	2,500	-	2,500
The 29th May 1961 Charitable Trust	-	5,000	-	5,000
Unity Theatre Trust	-	1,000	-	1,000
	-	-	-	-
Total restricted funds	-	99,420	-	99,420
Total charity funds	1,661,830	80,869	-	1,742,699

Unity Theatre

Notes to the Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2025

19 Analysis of movements in funds over the year as shown in Note 18

	Income	Expenditure		Movement in funds
	2025	2025		2025
	£	£		£
Unrestricted and designated funds:-				
Unrestricted Revenue Funds	494,284	(512,835)	-	(18,551)
Restricted funds:-				
Backstage Trust	18,443	(18,443)	-	-
National Lottery Heritage Fund	53,354	(2,064)	-	51,290
Backstage Trust	19,860	(230)	-	19,630
Eleanor Rathbone Charitable Trust	2,000	-	-	2,000
The British Council	5,000	-	-	5,000
John Thaw Foundation	1,000	-	-	1,000
Liverpool Council for Voluntary Services	2,982	(2,982)	-	-
The Hemby Charitable Trust	2,000	-	-	2,000
Liverpool City Council UK Shared Prosperity Fund	10,000	-	-	10,000
The Granada Foundation	4,500	(2,000)	-	2,500
The 29th May 1961 Charitable Trust	5,000	-	-	5,000
The Garrick Charitable Trust	2,000	(2,000)	-	-
Unity Theatre Trust	1,000	-	-	1,000
Onward Homes Limited	1,500	(1,500)	-	-
Arts Friends Merseyside	3,840	(3,840)	-	-
Patricia May Memorial Fund	3,000	(3,000)	-	-
	629,763	(548,894)	-	80,869

20 Details of transfers between funds

The transfers shown in note 18 above are:-

	2025
To/(from) Unrestricted Revenue Funds in accordance with the accounting policy 'Accounting for capital grants and fixed asset funds'.	11,346
To/(from) Designated Fixed Asset Funds	(11,346)
Net transfers	-

21 The purposes for which the funds as detailed in note 18 are held by the charity are:-

Unrestricted and designated funds:-

Unrestricted Revenue Funds	These funds are held for the meeting the objectives of the charity, and to provide reserves for future activities, and , subject to charity legislation, are free from all restrictions on their use.
Designated Fixed Asset Funds	Designated reserves have been established by the directors to represent funds committed to the acquisition of fixed assets. At the reporting date, the balance of designated reserves is sufficient to cover the net book value of the entity's fixed assets.

Unity Theatre

Notes to the Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2025

Restricted funds:-

Backstage Trust	Capital Improvements. This grant allowed urgent repair work to be undertaken with Unity's only lift, and secure mechanical parts that would improve its longevity and performance. Which is critical for a fully inclusive theatre space.
National Lottery Heritage Fund	A Radical Re-imagining. A multi-faceted heritage project celebrating Unity's 90yr history and the building's history as the former Liverpool Reform Synagogue. The project will include a community theatre production, and the cataloguing and digitising the archive with Liverpool John Moores University.
Eleanor Rathbone Charitable Trust	A Radical Re-imagining. A multi-faceted heritage project celebrating Unity's 90yr history and the building's history as the former Liverpool Reform Synagogue. The project will include a community theatre production, and the cataloguing and digitising the archive with Liverpool John Moores University.
The British Council	Rising / Piki Ake. A cross-continental youth theatre project with Hawkes Bay Youth Theatre in New Zealand. Which saw 14 young people in Liverpool working with HBYT to create an original work in response to the climate crisis, water, and shared coastal identities.
John Thaw Foundation	Space to Create (with Barnardo's young carers). Space to Create was a series of workshops, for young carers, exploring theatre making, writing, directing, sound and lighting. Culminating in a final sharing performance.
The Hemby Charitable Trust	Space to Create (with Barnardo's young carers). Space to Create was a series of workshops, for young carers, exploring theatre making, writing, directing, sound and lighting. Culminating in a final sharing performance.
Liverpool City Council UK Shared Prosperity Fund	Capital Improvements. Planning and works to improve and enhance audience experience at Unity Theatre, particularly the provision of a second bar.
The Granada Foundation	A Radical Re-imagining. A multi-faceted heritage project celebrating Unity's 90yr history and the building's history as the former Liverpool Reform Synagogue. The project will include a community theatre production, and the cataloguing and digitising the archive with Liverpool John Moores University.
The 29th May 1961 Charitable Trust	Afloat. A partnership with Afloat Theatre to provide theatre workshops, culminating in a showcase performance, at Unity, celebrating culture and diversity. All the participants of this project are individuals seeking asylum, refugees, and migrants.
Unity Theatre Trust	A Radical Re-imagining. A multi-faceted heritage project celebrating Unity's 90yr history and the building's history as the former Liverpool Reform Synagogue. The project will include a community theatre production, and the cataloguing and digitising the archive with Liverpool John Moores University.

22 Ultimate controlling party

The charity is under the control of its legal members.

Every member of the charity is obliged to contribute such amount as may be required not exceeding £1 to the assets of the company in the event of its being wound up while he or she is a member, or within one year after he or she ceases to be a member.

Unity Theatre

Detailed analysis of income and expenditure for the year ended 31 March 2025 as required by the SORP 2015

This analysis is classified by conventional nominal descriptions and not by activity.

23 Donations, Grants and Legacies

	Current year Unrestricted Funds 2025 £	Current year Restricted Funds 2025 £	Current year Total Funds 2025 £	Prior Year Total Funds 2024 £
Donations and gifts from individuals				
Small donations individually less than £1000	5,340	-	5,340	2,193
Refunds from HMRC on gift aided donations	3,449	-	3,449	-
Community Foundation for Merseyside	-	-	-	5,000
Bundobust	-	-	-	2,000
Total donations and gifts from individuals	8,789	-	8,789	9,193

	Current year Unrestricted Funds 2025 £	Current year Restricted Funds 2025 £	Current year Total Funds 2025 £	Prior Year Total Funds 2024 £
Revenue grants from government and public bodies				
Arts Council England	277,005	-	277,005	277,005
Liverpool City Council	43,000	-	43,000	80,000
Culture Liverpool	-	-	-	11,138
Liverpool City Council UK Shared Prosperity Fund	-	10,000	10,000	-
The National Lottery Heritage Fund	-	53,354	53,354	-
The British Council	-	5,000	5,000	-
Total public sector revenue grants	320,005	68,354	388,359	368,143

Revenue grants from government and public bodies - Prior Year analysis

	Prior Year Unrestricted Funds 2024 £	Prior Year Restricted Funds 2024 £	Prior Year Total Funds 2024 £
Prior Year	357,005	11,138	368,143

Unity Theatre

Detailed analysis of income and expenditure for the year ended 31 March 2025 as required by the SORP 2015

	Current year Unrestricted Funds 2025 £	Current year Restricted Funds 2025 £	Current year Total Funds 2025 £	Prior Year Total Funds 2024 £
Revenue grants and donations from non public bodies				
Art Friends Merseyside	-	3,840	3,840	-
Patricia May Memorial Fund	-	3,000	3,000	-
Culture Liverpool	-	-	-	16,557
Backstage Trust	-	38,303	38,303	-
Greg Greenidge Memorial Trust	-	-	-	2,431
Kirsten Scott Memorial Trust	-	-	-	1,000
The Granada Foundation	-	4,500	4,500	-
Eleanor Rathbone Charitable Trust	-	2,000	2,000	-
Garrick Charitable Trust	-	2,000	2,000	-
Unity Theatre Trust	-	1,000	1,000	-
Onward Homes Limited	-	1,500	1,500	-
The 29th May 1961 Charitable Trust	-	5,000	5,000	-
Liverpool Council for Voluntary Services	-	2,982	2,982	-
The Hemby Charitable Trust	-	2,000	2,000	-
John Thaw Foundation	-	1,000	1,000	-
Total private sector revenue grants	-	67,125	67,125	19,988

Revenue grants and donations from non public bodies (Include Gift Aid donations from subsidiaries) - Prior Year analysis

	Prior Year Unrestricted Funds 2024 £	Prior Year Restricted Funds 2024 £	Prior Year Total Funds 2024 £	
Prior Year	3,431	16,557	19,988	
Total Donations, Grants and Legacies	328,794	135,479	464,273	397,324
Prior year				
Total Donations, Grants and Legacies	369,629	27,695	397,324	

Unity Theatre

Detailed analysis of income and expenditure for the year ended 31 March 2025 as required by the SORP 2015

24 Income from charitable activities

<i>Current year</i>	Current year Unrestricted Funds	Current year Restricted Funds	Current year Total Funds	Prior Year Total funds
	2025	2025	2025	2024
	£	£	£	£
Primary purpose and ancillary trading				
Bar sales	35,173	-	35,173	20,802
Commercial hire and services	49,083	-	49,083	53,468
Creative event income	81,234	-	81,234	35,999
Total Primary purpose and ancillary trading	165,490	-	165,490	110,269

25 Total Income from charitable activities

<i>Current year</i>	Current year Unrestricted Funds	Current year Restricted Funds	Current year Total Funds	Prior Year Total Funds
	2025	2025	2025	2024
	£	£	£	£
Total income from charitable activities	165,490	-	165,490	110,269
Total from charitable activities	165,490	-	165,490	110,269

26 Expenditure on charitable activities - Direct spending

<i>Current Year</i>	Current year Unrestricted Funds	Current year Restricted Funds	Current year Total Funds	Prior Year Total Funds
	2025	2025	2025	2024
	£	£	£	£
Gross wages and salaries - charitable activities	81,662	-	81,662	71,642
Employers' NI - Charitable activities	2,150	-	2,150	1,279
Defined contribution pension costs - charitable activities	618	-	618	366
Bar stock and consumables	15,240	-	15,240	9,697
Community event expenditure	5,679	2,410	8,089	10,871
Creative event expenditure	32,308	4,930	37,238	27,934
Production costs and box office fees	10,019	-	10,019	27,624
Freelancers direct costs	263	-	263	559
Access costs	2,249	-	2,249	460
Direct costs transferred to restricted	(7,932)	7,932	-	-
Total direct spending	142,256	15,272	157,528	150,432

Unity Theatre

Detailed analysis of income and expenditure for the year ended 31 March 2025 as required by the SORP 2015

Prior Year	Prior Year Unrestricted Funds	Prior Year Restricted Funds	Prior Year Total Funds
	2024	2024	2024
	£	£	£
Gross wages and salaries - charitable activities	65,862	5,780	71,642
Total direct spending	121,815	5,780	150,432

27 Support costs for charitable activities

Current Year	Current year Unrestricted Funds	Current year Restricted Funds	Current year Total Funds	Prior Year Total Funds
	2025	2025	2025	2024
	£	£	£	£
Employee costs not included in direct costs				
Salaries - Administrative staff	185,169	2,064	187,233	218,158
Defined contribution pension cost - administrative staff	4,027	-	4,027	5,044
Employers' NI - Administrative staff	10,641	-	10,641	14,689
Training and welfare and health and safety	3,969	-	3,969	6,475
Travel and subsistence - staff	265	-	265	-
Freelancers overhead cost	25,481	-	25,481	2,961
Premises Expenses				
Rates and water charges	2,744	-	2,744	2,417
Light heat and power	15,905	-	15,905	15,919
Cleaning and waste management	17,133	-	17,133	12,009
Premises repairs, renewals and maintenance	13,725	18,493	32,218	30,601
Insurance	8,066	-	8,066	8,471
Administrative overheads				
Telephone, fax and internet	3,485	-	3,485	4,500
Office administration costs	1,963	-	1,963	1,485
Subscriptions, licence and servicing	1,216	-	1,216	6,185
Hire of equipment	5,206	-	5,206	933
Advertising and marketing	6,547	-	6,547	17,268
Irrecoverable VAT	4,431	-	4,431	-
PAYE prior year liability released	(5,880)	-	(5,880)	-
Professional fees paid to the Auditor or Independent Examiner in addition to audit and examination fees				
As detailed in Note 28	34,913	-	34,913	39,032

Unity Theatre

Detailed analysis of income and expenditure for the year ended 31 March 2025 as required by the SORP 2015

Professional fees paid to advisors other than the auditor or examiner

Other legal and professional	2,885	-	2,885	3,899
------------------------------	-------	---	-------	-------

Financial costs

Bank charges and other financial fees	1,232	-	1,232	2,426
Depreciation & Amortisation in total for the period	23,525	230	23,755	24,709
Interest payable	-	-	-	49

Support costs before reallocation	366,648	20,787	387,435	417,230
Total support costs - Current Year	366,648	20,787	387,435	417,230

Prior Year	Prior Year	Prior Year	Prior Year
	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total Funds
	Funds	Funds	Total Funds
	2024	2024	2024
	£	£	£

Employee costs not included in direct costs

Salaries - Administrative staff	201,295	16,863	218,158
Training and welfare and health and safety	6,419	56	6,475
Freelancers overhead cost	1,150	1,811	2,961

Premises Expenses

Premises repairs, renewals and maintenance	14,044	16,557	30,601
--	--------	--------	--------

Administrative overheads

Marketing salaries	(3,607)	3,607	-
Advertising and marketing	15,834	1,434	17,268

Support costs before reallocation	376,902	40,328	417,230
Total support costs - Prior Year	376,902	40,328	417,230

28 Other Expenditure - Governance costs

Current Year	Current year	Current year	Current year	Prior Year
	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total Funds	Total Funds
	Funds	Funds	Total Funds	Total Funds
	2025	2025	2025	2024
	£	£	£	£
Independent Examiner's fees	2,375	-	2,375	2,375
Trustees' expenses	1,556	-	1,556	260
Total Governance costs	3,931	-	3,931	2,635

Unity Theatre

Detailed analysis of income and expenditure for the year ended 31 March 2025 as required by the SORP 2015

Professional fees paid to the Auditor or Independent Examiner in addition to audit and examination fees

	Current year Unrestricted Funds 2025 £	Current year Restricted Funds 2025 £	Current year Total Funds 2025 £	Prior Year Total Funds 2024 £
Other financial services	34,913	-	34,913	39,032
Total additional fees included in support costs at Note 27	34,913	-	34,913	39,032

29 Total Charitable expenditure

	Current year Unrestricted Funds 2025 £	Current year Restricted Funds 2025 £	Current year Total Funds 2025 £	Prior Year Total Funds 2024 £
Total direct spending	142,256	15,272	157,528	150,432
Total support costs	366,648	20,787	387,435	417,230
Total Governance costs	3,931	-	3,931	2,635
Total charitable expenditure	512,835	36,059	548,894	570,297

	Prior Year Unrestricted Funds 2024 £	Prior Year Restricted Funds 2024 £	Prior Year Total Funds 2024 £
Total direct spending	121,815	5,780	150,432
Total support costs	376,902	40,328	417,230
Total Governance costs	2,635	-	2,635
Total charitable expenditure	501,352	46,108	570,297

Unity Theatre

Activity analysis of Income and expenditure for the for the year ended 31 March 2025

This analysis is classified by activity and not by conventional nominal descriptions.

30 Analysis of income by activity

	2025	2024
	£	£
Activity		
Income from charitable activities		
Charitable activities	165,490	110,269
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Summary of Total Income, including the items above		
Charitable activities	165,490	110,269
Donations & Legacies	464,273	397,324
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total income as shown in the SOFA	629,763	507,593
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Categories of income		
Income from exchange transactions	629,763	507,593
	<hr/>	<hr/>

31 Analysis of charitable expenditure by activity

Activity	Direct costs	Support costs	Total	Total
	2025	2025	2025	2024
	£	£	£	£
Charitable activities				
Direct costs	157,528	-	157,528	150,232
Employee costs not included in direct c	-	231,616	231,616	193,620
Premises expenses	-	76,066	76,066	69,417
Administrative overheads	-	16,968	16,968	84,538
Professional fees	-	37,798	37,798	42,931
Financial costs	-	24,987	24,987	27,184
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total Charitable activities	157,528	387,435	544,963	567,922
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Summary of charitable costs by activity				
	Direct costs	Support costs	Total	Total
	2025	2025	2025	2024
	£	£	£	£
Total Charitable activities	157,528	387,435	544,963	567,922
Total Governance costs as detailed in Note 28	-	3,931	3,931	2,375
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total charitable expenditure	157,528	391,366	548,894	570,297
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

Unity Theatre

Activity analysis of Income and expenditure for the for the year ended 31 March 2025

Analysis of support and governance costs by charitable activities

Activity	Governance	Finance	Human Resources	Other Overheads	Total
Charitable activities	3,931	24,987	231,616	130,832	391,366

32

Governance costs

	Governance costs 2025 £	Governance costs 2024 £
Other Expenditure - Governance costs as detailed in Note 28	3,931	2,635

33 Carrying value of work in progress analysed between activities

	2025 £	2024 £
Charitable activities	2,998	1,647

UNITY THEATRE

England & Wales - Charity number 1062463

Accounts

Company Registration Number - 03333987

The Charity Registration Number is :- 1062463

Unity Theatre
Report and Accounts
31 March 2024

Unity Theatre

Report and accounts for the year ended 31 March 2024

Contents

	Page
Charity information	1
Trustees' Annual Report	1
Statement of directors' responsibilities	10
Independent Examiner's Report	12
<i>Funds Statements:-</i>	
Statement of Financial Activities	14
Statement of Financial Activities - Prior Year statement	15
Movements in funds	16
Revenue Funds	16
Fixed Asset funds	16
Income and Expenditure account	17
Summary of funds	0
Balance sheet	18
Cash flow statement	20
Notes to the accounts	22

Unity Theatre

Company Registration Number - 03333987

Trustees' Annual Report for the year ended 31 March 2024

The Trustees present their Report and Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2024, which also comprises the Directors' Report required by the Companies Act 2006.

Reference and administrative details

The charity name.

The legal name of the charity is:- Unity Theatre.

The charity is also known by its operating name, Unity Theatre.

The charity's areas operation and UK charitable registration.

The charity is registered in England & Wales with the Charity Commission in England & Wales (CCEW) with charity number 1062463.

The charity does not operate in any overseas jurisdictions.

Legal structure of the charity

The charity is constituted as a company limited by guarantee, registered under the Companies Acts . The governing document of the charity is the Memorandum and Articles of Association establishing the company under company legislation.

There are no restrictions in the governing documents on the operation of the Charity or on its investment powers other than those imposed by Charity Law.

By operation of law all, trustees are directors under the Companies Act 2006 and all directors are trustees under Charities legislation and have responsibilities, as such, under both company and charity legislation.

The trustees are all individuals.

The principal operating address, telephone number, email and web addresses of the charity are:-

1 Hope Place

Liverpool, L1 9BG

Telephone 01517094988

Email Address info@unitytheatre.co.uk Web address www.unitytheatreliverpool.co.uk

The registered office of the charity for Companies Act purposes is the same as the operating address shown above.

The Trustees in office on the date the report was approved were:-

LA Clark

E Edwards

H Jeffrey (appointed 31 July 2024)

SJ Jones

A Marshall

PM Mearns (appointed 31 July 2024)

L Mooney

ARR Perera

D Sebuyange

LC Tellwright (appointed 31 July 2024)

Unity Theatre

Company Registration Number - 03333987

Trustees' Annual Report for the year ended 31 March 2024

The following persons served as Trustees during the year ended 31 March 2024 :-

The trustees who served as a trustee in the reporting period, and, if applicable, their dates of appointment or resignation during the year were:-

Name	Appointed	Resigned/Retired
LA Clark		
E Edwards		
DJ Fletcher		01 December 2023
SJ Jones		
A Marshall		
G Millar		05 January 2024
L Mooney		
ARR Perera		
D Sebuyange		

All the trustees are also members of the charity.

Objects and activities of the charity

The purposes of the charity as set out in its governing document.

"To advance the education of the public in all aspects of the art of drama, dance, mime and music and to develop the public appreciation of such art and to provide and manage a theatre within the postal district of Liverpool without distinction of age, sex, race, political or religious or other opinions, by associating with statutory authorities, voluntary organisations, institutions and inhabitants and to promote all or any objects for the benefit of the community which now or hereafter may be deemed by law to be charitable."

The main activities undertaken in relation to those purposes during the year and to further the charity's purpose for the public benefit.

Unity Theatre aims to:

- Advance the education of the public in all aspects of the art of drama, dance, mime, and music.
- Provide and manage a theatre; to promote all other objects for the benefit of the community which now or hereafter may be deemed by law to be charitable.

Our purpose is to share the stories of diverse individuals, working across three core areas:

- Providing high quality creative experiences
- Developing and supporting local artists
- Platforming and celebrating local communities

Unity Theatre

Company Registration Number - 03333987

Trustees' Annual Report for the year ended 31 March 2024

The short term and longer term aims and objectives and the charity's strategies for achieving its aims and objectives in the future.

A new Artistic Director, Elinor Randle, was appointed in February 2024, initially on an interim basis. This has brought a new energy to the charity and a new engagement with our audiences. In June we held an Open House event, gaining feedback on what the community wants to see happen at Unity, and over 300 people came through the doors.

In April 2024 we hosted the Up Next Festival. This reached 723 audience members and worked with 33 local artists.

In May we hosted Krapp's Last Tape- an ACE funded project working with Graeme Phillips (former AD of Unity) who is living in a care home with Parkinson. Over 2 days 300 audience members attended, many of whom hadn't engaged with the Unity for a long time.

Other programmed work between April/July included: Liverpool Improvisation festival, Ugly Bucket, 20 Stories High Youth Theatre show, RAWD summer show, and Liverpool Arab Arts Festival.

A new programme of work was launched in September 2024, which will include a Christmas show, Star of Wonder by Teatro Pomodoro, which was cancelled last year.

We are also delighted to announce a brand-new monthly scratch night this Autumn. At our Open House Session one of the biggest parts of feedback was that our community needed a place to come and test out new ideas, so we are delighted to be launching this new series for artists to come and experiment on the Unity stage.

A balanced budget has been set for 2024/25 and is being achieved so far. We have maintained the staff savings achieved in 2023/24, reviewed the costs of key contracts with suppliers, and refreshed the pricing of our sales also.

There is a refreshed impetus to our fundraising strategy, with a Variety Night Fundraiser held in July and a range of applications to trusts and foundations to support the new programme.

We have successfully appointed three new board members in June 2024, with further recruitment planned. We have restructured the senior management team to move to a joint-director model. With a refreshed board and a refreshed leadership team, we will take the appropriate time to develop a long-term strategy for the Unity theatre that achieves our charitable ambitions in a financially sustainable way.

Unity Theatre

Company Registration Number - 03333987

Trustees' Annual Report for the year ended 31 March 2024

Resources used in the activities undertaken during the year.

During the year, actions were taken to improve the financial position. This included a significant staff restructure that reduced permanent staffing levels down significantly. The winter programme was intentionally lighter in order to achieve cost savings, and this freed up space for additional community hires to take place.

In November 2023 Gordon Millar, the company's CEO, left the organisation. Matthew Brown from Adding Value Consultancy Ltd, the charity's finance and accountancy support provider, was appointed as Interim CEO at this time.

In January 2024 the charity was grateful to receive a grant of £35,000 from the Backstage Trust to improve the integrity of the building's roof and foyer, fire doors and emergency lighting.

We were grateful to the support of our core funder Liverpool City Council for bringing forward £17,000 of grant into January 2024 from the 2024/25 allocation to support the charity's cash flow.

The main achievements and performance of the charity during the year.

Unity remains integral to the communities, artists, audiences and participants of Liverpool. We have upheld our reputation as the region's leading combined performing arts organisation, promoting an accessible and supportive society.

The year started with an excellent creative period for Unity, most notably with an exceptional programme around Eurovision. Our focus was on celebrating modern day Ukraine for which we have received much critical praise and attention during a period of intense competition in the city.

The 'Place for Hope' programme consisted of a new production 'Maria', a revival of the acclaimed 'Ukrland' an evening of Ukrainian Poetry, a community meal and a panel discussion with leading figures in support of refugees. The BBC recorded a 30 minute documentary about the programme, of which a 10 minute version was also aired on Newsnight during Eurovision weekend. Other notable achievements included:

When All Is Said from Fuel Theatre, curated by Travis Alabanza, written by 5 black trans writers and performed down the telephone to audiences at home, work or wherever they may be.

Barely Visible by Rowena Gander returned as part of a tour of her dance piece about objectification and what it is to be gay. Barely Visible began life at Unity as a supported project and has since gone on to tour nationally.

Martha, Me and Mary by Saphena Azis told the story of migration of her parents and grandparents, with a concurrent story of a brief moment as a backing singer for Martha and the Vandella. This piece was part of Open Call and will tour nationally in 2024.

Past Life by Alice Christina-Corrigan, a multi-sensory experience by an exceptional artist expressing their lived experience of disability.

We Were Promised Honey by YesYesNoNo Theatre

Comedy Queers a new regularly evening of standup in Liverpool for queer comedians, in a secure and welcoming environment in response to a noticeable rise in homophobia in the city.

Unity Theatre

Company Registration Number - 03333987

Trustees' Annual Report for the year ended 31 March 2024

RAWD, our D/deaf Disabled led weekly sessions continued apace and included a performance of their latest production, Dancing in the Streets in June

The autumn highlights included an exceptional drama relating to addiction from Mark Thomas, England and Son, Global Majority community events with BlackFest, MILAP and Luma Creations and comedy from leading acts Nabil Abdulrashid, John Kearns and Sarah Millican.

November and December was full of activity with Homotopia, Dada Fest amongst others. Our talent development programme continued from strength to strength with the introduction of Actors Lab, a collaboration with 20 Stories High. This was a multi-week training programme for emerging actors culminating in a 3 week rehearsal period and production of new piece 'Who the f--- is Shakespeare?' This scheme provided 6 actors with a paid professional experience, enabling them to join 'Spotlight'.

During the year, actions were taken to improve the financial position. This included a significant staff restructure that reduced permanent staffing levels down significantly. The winter programme was intentionally lighter in order to achieve cost savings, and this freed up space for additional community hires to take place.

In January 2024 the charity was grateful to receive a grant of £35,000 from the Backstage Trust to improve the integrity of the building's roof and foyer, fire doors and emergency lighting.

We were grateful to the support of our core funder Liverpool City Council for bringing forward £17,000 of grant into January 2024 from the 2024/25 allocation to support the charity's cash flow.

How the achievements during the year measure up to the objectives set.

Access and excellence for all remain the pillars of our operation and we continued a range of initiatives designed to grow equality of opportunity for artists and audiences:

- 100% of our performances, both in person and online, were made accessible through BSL interpretation and captioning. This is a commitment we strive to continue as we welcome back full-capacity audiences to our building
- Gave 15% of our tickets away for free via community partners;
- Integrated community advocacy across our programmes, running targeted activity with key partners
- We grew 'Unity Online', our digital performance platform which features all our locally produced work, filmed in our spaces, and hosted online to bring Merseyside talent to a national audience.
- Our annual **Open Call** season opened our stages to the very best performance talent from across all six boroughs of Merseyside

Unity Theatre

Company Registration Number - 03333987

Trustees' Annual Report for the year ended 31 March 2024

- Our long-term partnership with **20 Stories High** co-provided their hugely successful Youth Theatre at Unity, inviting young people aged 14-21 to make plays that mash up dance, spoken word, music, song, street dance and puppetry
- Together with **RAWD**, a company who shares our dedication to providing opportunities in the arts, we co-provided a year round weekly creative sessions for learning disabled participants, leading to an annual performance on our main stage
- Our talent development programme **Creative Pool**, comprised workshops and events for creatives wanting to increase their producing skills. These have ranged from 1:1's held with our team and networking sessions involving over 20 local producers.
- Provided **ProPortal**, our free-to-access online library of touring work, promoted to 200+ programmers nationwide.

The degree to which the achievements and performance during the year have benefited wider society and the beneficiaries of the charity.

Unity exists for the communities of Liverpool – diversity is part of our history and remains at the heart of our ambitions to create excellent creative experiences. We have an industry-leading reputation for high-quality programming that is fully informed by the experience of our communities. Our approach to creation is dynamic and responsive. This in turn ensures relevancy for a broad range of audiences both in Merseyside and nationwide, who represent cultural, geographic, and socioeconomic diversity.

All of Unity's artistic offer is designed in close consultation with Merseyside creative communities, with strong feedback loops built in at all levels of planning. Close partnership work with organisations specialising in diversity and access ensures that our aim to see 70% of creatives involved in our programmes come from diverse backgrounds, is consistently met and exceeded. We remain committed to making our programme accessible to audiences, through:

- Low ticket prices, with 15% given free via partners, supported by our online streaming platform that allows anyone to access Unity wherever they live
- Developing integrated partnerships with those working with artists from diverse backgrounds
- A commitment to 100% accessible productions in-person (BSL/captioned/relaxed/audio-described) and online (captioned/audio-described)
- Integrated community advocacy, running targeted activity with key partners (The Spider Project, Wirral; Knowsley Carers).

The trustees have been consulted in compliance with the Charity Commission guidance on public benefit, in determining the fees for performances.

Unity Theatre

Company Registration Number - 03333987

Trustees' Annual Report for the year ended 31 March 2024

Structure, governance and management of the charity

The methods used to recruit and appoint new charity trustees.

The directors, who are the trustees of the charity, are appointed by the members in general meeting. The Directors have the power to co-opt to fill a casual vacancy and such persons hold office until the next AGM. The directors are appointed initially for a three-year term and are eligible for re-election for a second consecutive three-year term. In extraordinary circumstances a director may be, with the Board's approval, appointed for a third consecutive three-year term but not beyond that.

Only retiring directors or those proposed by the Board are eligible for election at the general meeting unless due notice has been given by a member of their intention to propose someone

The policies and procedures for the induction and training of trustees.

All new Trustees receive an induction prior to starting their first term, led by a member of the Risk and Compliance Committee and/or Executive Director. This induction covers the history of the organisation, its current work and the role and expectations required of a Trustee. Shortly after the election of a new group of Trustees, a training session is arranged covering governance and current charity legislation, run by an external consultant.

The charity's organisational structure.

The charity is a company limited by guarantee governed by its Memorandum and Articles of Association dated 11th March 1997, as amended by special resolutions dated 1st May 1997 and September 27 2016. It is a registered charity with the Charity Commission.

The members of the company are the directors and any other persons or organisations admitted to membership by the directors. Currently the only members of the company are the directors.

The Board, which must be no less than three and not more than 15 people, meets as required and normally 4 times per year.

How the charity makes decisions and how decisions are delegated.

Day to day management of the charity is delegated to the Chief Executive and the other members of the Senior management team who together with the directors constitute the key management personnel of the charity.

The Chief Executive Officer and other senior management personnel to whom day to day management is delegated

In November 2023 Gordon Millar, the company's CEO, left the organisation. Matthew Brown from Adding Value Consultancy Ltd, the charity's finance and accountancy support provider, was appointed as Interim CEO at this time, until October 2024.

A new Artistic Director, Elinor Randle, was appointed in February 2024, initially on an interim basis. Executive Director Eleanor Manson-Sawko served throughout the year.

Setting pay and remuneration of key management personnel

All roles are formally reviewed prior to each vacancy being advertised, with adjustments made to ensure our structure meets the business' current and future needs. Where there is a vacancy in our senior team, pay and remuneration packages are benchmarked against a minimum of three regional peer venues and advertised within a range to remain competitive.

Staff pay at all levels of the organisation is reviewed annually to achieve fair salary bands and avoid discrimination.

Unity Theatre

Company Registration Number - 03333987

Trustees' Annual Report for the year ended 31 March 2024

The charity as a part of a wider network.

Unity is regularly funded by Arts Council England and Liverpool City Council.

Across our networks we foster a commitment to diversity and the employment of local creatives within communities. We are core members of The Culture Network LCR CIC, Liverpool Arts Regeneration Consortium and Shift sustainability network, plus Hope Street CIC, and the Future Arts Centres Network. Regular local creative partners include Homotopia, DaDa Fest and 20 Stories High. We work closely with Liverpool's Everyman and Playhouse and Royal Court to strengthen the city's creative ecology

Bankers The Cooperative Bank, PO Box 101, 1 Balloon Street, Manchester, M60 4EP
Accountants Adding Value Consultancy Limited, Bluecoat Chambers, School Lane, Liverpool

Financial review

The charity's financial position at the end of the year ended 31 March 2024

The financial position of the charity at 31 March 2024 and comparatives for the prior period, as more fully detailed in the accounts, can be summarised as follows:-

	2024	2023
	£	£
Net income	(62,704)	(170,314)
Unrestricted Revenue Funds available for the general purposes of the charity	(37,693)	(40,948)
Designated Fixed Asset Funds	1,699,523	1,724,232
Total Unrestricted Funds	1,661,830	1,683,284
Restricted Revenue Funds	-	41,250
Total Funds	1,661,830	1,724,534

Financial review of the position at the reporting date, 31 March 2024 .

The trustees consider the financial performance by the charity during the year to have been satisfactory. Plans to improve the financial position are outlined under strategies for the future.

Policies on reserves.

Unity has set a target for free reserves (unrestricted funds not invested in fixed assets or otherwise designated) for the charity of 12 weeks operating costs, judged to be £136k. This takes account of the funding and trading environment in which the charity operates, and of its strategic plans. The unprecedented circumstances during Covid, with the sector crisis and ongoing fragility of the economy since then, have been severely challenging to trade in. As of March 2024, free reserves were negative £37k (2023: negative £40k)

Plans to improve the reserves position are outlined under strategies for the future.

Unity Theatre

Company Registration Number - 03333987

Trustees' Annual Report for the year ended 31 March 2024

Going Concern

The financial statements have been prepared on a going concern basis. The Trustees have considered the level of funds held and the expected level of income and expenditure for the twelve months from authorising these accounts. The Trustees assess the charity to be a going concern based on the plans to improve the financial position outlined under Future Plans below, review of financial performance of the 24/25 year to date, the management accounts forecast for the remainder of 24/25, the rolling cash flow forecast, and future funding commitments. As a result, the trustees are confident about the financial future of the charity and satisfied that these accounts and prepared on a going concern basis.

Availability and adequacy of assets of each of the funds

The board of trustees is satisfied that the charity's assets in each fund are available and adequate to fulfil its obligations in respect of each fund.

Significant events which have affected the financial performance and the financial position.

There were no financial effects of significant events.

The major risks to which the Charity is exposed and reviews and systems to mitigate them.

The risks faced by the organisation are reviewed regularly throughout the year. A comprehensive risk register encompassing all areas of the business is kept and updated regularly by the CEO and Executive Director and is scrutinised at every Risk and Compliance Sub-Committee before going to Board each quarter.

Our risk management policy is supported by wider organisational policies including finance, fundraising, HR, and safeguarding. Risk management is factored into all organisational decisions including business planning, artistic programming, audit, finance management and commercial and fundraising opportunities. Risks are split into five key categories:

- **Artistic Reputation** – including consideration of Unity's standing within the sector regarding programming and participation activities; the continued understanding of trends in performance and presentation; the standard and risks associated with artistic partnerships.
- **Financial Diversity** – including the range and variety of income streams coming into the organisation; Unity's relationships with key funders; strength of financial controls; progress against reserves policy; external factors such as current government policy.
- **Audience Development** – considering quality of communications and strength of brand; strength of engagement with current audience and participants; size and growth of engaged database; audience engagement in the face of external factors such as the pandemic and a cost-of-living crisis.
- **Staffing and Governance** – including regular review of expertise held within Board of Trustees, Senior Management, and wider staff base; staff retention rates; review of diversity of Board and staff team ensuring they reflect organisation equality and diversity policies.
- **Organisational** – encompassing wider business considerations such as health and safety and data

Factors likely to affect future financial performance .

There were no such factors.

Unity Theatre

Company Registration Number - 03333987

Trustees' Annual Report for the year ended 31 March 2024

Principal funding sources in the year and how these support the key objectives of the charity.

Key funders for our core activity in the period were Arts Council England and Liverpool City Council. We have secured funding from the Esmée Fairbairn Foundation to support the development of our Creative 'Pool talent development programme until December 2023.

The Senior Management team are working to further diversify our income streams in the coming year through private fundraising and commercial opportunities.

Details of The Independent Examiner

Malcolm Wright FCA
Member of ICAEW
13 Village Road
Higher Bebington
Wirral
CH63 8PP

Statement of the Directors' and Trustees' Responsibilities

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the terms of the Companies Act 2006, the Charities Act 2011 and the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008. Notwithstanding the explicit requirement in the extant statutory regulations, the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008, to prepare the financial statements in accordance with the SORP 2005, in view of the fact that the SORP 2005 has been withdrawn, the Trustees determined to interpret this responsibility as requiring them to follow current best practice and prepare the accounts according to the FRS 102 SORP (Statement of Recommended Practice for Accounting and Reporting by Charities) 2019, applicable to all accounting periods beginning on or after 1st January 2019), (The SORP), .

In particular, the Companies Act 2006 and charity law require the Board of Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity as at the end of the financial year and of the surplus or deficit of the charity. In preparing those financial statements the Board is required to :-

- to prepare the accounts in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice (United Kingdom Accounting Standards and applicable law).
- select suitable accounting policies and apply them consistently;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in business;
- state whether applicable accounting standards and statements of recommended practice have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;

Unity Theatre

Company Registration Number - 03333987

Trustees' Annual Report for the year ended 31 March 2024

The law requires that the trustees must not approve the accounts unless they are satisfied that they give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of the surplus or deficit of the charity for the year. The Trustees are also responsible for maintaining adequate accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and which are sufficient to show and explain the charity's transactions and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006 and comply with regulations made under the Charities Act. 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.

The Trustees are also responsible for the contents of the Trustees' report, and the statutory responsibility of the Independent Examiner in relation to the Trustees' report is limited to examining the report and ensuring that, on the face of the report, there are no material inconsistencies with the figures disclosed in the financial statements.

Method of preparation of accounts - Small company provisions

The financial statements are set out on pages 14 to 39.

The financial statements have been prepared implementing the FRS 102 SORP (Statement of Recommended Practice for Accounting and Reporting by Charities) 2019, applicable to all accounting periods beginning on or after 1st January 2019), (The SORP), and in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard 102, (effective 1st January 2016)

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions in Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006. applicable to companies subject to the small companies regime.

This report was approved by the board of trustees on 16 December 2024.



PETER MEARNIS
Director and Trustee

Unity Theatre

Report of the Independent Examiner to the Trustees of the charitable company on the accounts for the year ended 31 March 2024

I report to the Trustees on my examination of the financial statements of the charitable company on pages 14 to 39 for the year ended 31 March 2024 which have been prepared in accordance with the Charities Act 2011 (the Act) and with the Financial Reporting Standard 102, (effective 1st January 2016) as modified by FRS 102 SORP (Statement of Recommended Practice for Accounting and Reporting by Charities) 2019, applicable to all accounting periods beginning on or after 1st January 2019), (The SORP), published by the Charity Commission in England & Wales (CCEW) , and under the historical cost convention and the accounting policies set out on page

Respective responsibilities of the Trustees and the Independent Examiner and the basis of the report

As described on page 10, you, the charitable company's Trustees, who are also the Directors of the Company for the purposes of Company law, are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements in accordance with the Companies Act 2006, the Charities Act 2011 and all other applicable law and with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice, applicable to smaller entities, and for being satisfied that the financial statements give a true and fair view.

The Trustees consider that the audit requirement of Section 144(1) of the Charities Act 2011 (the Act) does not apply, and that there is no requirement in the memorandum and articles of the charity for the conducting of an audit, and that the accounts do not require an audit in accordance with Part 16 of the Companies Act 2006 and that no member or members have requested an audit pursuant to Section 476 of the Companies Act 2006. As a consequence, the Trustees have elected that the financial statements be subject to independent examination.

Having satisfied myself that the financial statements are not required to be audited under any legal provision, or otherwise, and are eligible for independent examination, it is my responsibility to:-

- a) examine the financial statements of the charity under Section 145 of the Act;
- b) follow the applicable procedures in the Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Basis of Independent Examiner's Statement and scope of work undertaken

Since the charitable company's gross income exceeded £250,000, the charitable company's examiner must be a member of a body listed in section 145 of the Act. I confirm that I am qualified to undertake the examination because I am an authorised member of ICAEW, which is one of the listed bodies.

I report in respect of my examination of the charity's financial statements carried out under s145 of the Act. In carrying out my examination, I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act setting out the duties of an independent examiner in relation to the conducting of an independent examination. An independent examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charitable company and of the accounting systems employed by the charitable company and a comparison of the financial statements presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the financial statements, and seeking explanations from you, as Trustees, concerning such matters. The purpose of the examination is to establish as far as possible that there have been no breaches of charity legislation and that, on a test basis of evidence relevant to the amounts and disclosures made, the financial statements comply with the SORP.

The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and information supplied by the Trustees in the course of the examination is not subjected to audit tests or enquiries and does not cover all the matters that an auditor would consider in arriving at an opinion. The planning and conduct of an audit goes beyond the limited assurance that an independent examination can provide

Consequently, I do not express an audit opinion on the view given by the financial statements, and in particular, I express no opinion as to whether the financial statements give a true and fair view of the affairs of the charity, and my report is limited to the matters set out in the statement below.

I planned and performed my examination so as to satisfy myself that the objectives of the independent examination are achieved and before finalising the report I obtained written assurances from the Trustees of all material matters.

Unity Theatre

Independent Examiner's Statement, Report and Opinion

Subject to the limitations upon the scope of my work as detailed above, I have completed my examination: and can confirm that:-

The accounts of this charitable company are not required to be audited under Part 16 of the Companies Act 2006;

The gross income of the charitable company in the year ended 31 March 2024 appears to exceed the sum specified in Section 145(3) of the Act, namely £250000, and that I am qualified to act as Independent Examiner in accordance with that section by virtue of my being a qualified member of ICAEW;

This is a report in respect of an examination carried out under 145 of the Act and in accordance with Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act which may be applicable;

and that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:-

accounting records were not kept in respect of the charity as required by Section 386 of the Companies Act 2006 and Section 130 of The Charities Act 2011;

the financial statements do not accord with those records; or

the financial statements do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in section 396 of the Companies Act 2006 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;

have not been prepared in accordance with the methods and principles set out in the FRS 102 SORP (Statement of Recommended Practice for Accounting and Reporting by Charities) 2019, applicable to all accounting periods beginning on or after 1st January 2019), (The SORP).

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 financial statements to be reached.

Signed:-



Malcolm Wright FCA - Independent Examiner

ICAEW

13 Village Road
Higher Bebington
Wirral
CH63 8PP

This report was signed on 16 December 2024

Unity Theatre - Statement of Financial Activities for the year ended 31 March 2024

Statement of Financial Activities (including the Income and Expenditure Account for the year ended 31 March 2024, as required by the Companies Act 2006)

	SORP Ref	Current year Unrestricted Funds	Current year Restricted Funds	Current year Total Funds	Prior Year Total Funds
		2024	2024	2024	2023
		£	£	£	£
Income & Endowments from:					
Donations & Legacies	A1	369,629	16,557	386,186	369,814
Charitable activities	A2	110,269	11,138	121,407	108,252
Investments	A4	-	-	-	37
Total income	A	479,898	27,695	507,593	478,103
Expenditure on:					
Charitable activities	B2	501,352	68,945	570,297	648,417
Total expenditure	B	501,352	68,945	570,297	648,417
Net income for the year		(21,454)	(41,250)	(62,704)	(170,314)
Net income after transfers	A-B-C	(21,454)	(41,250)	(62,704)	(170,314)
Net movement in funds		(21,454)	(41,250)	(62,704)	(170,314)
Reconciliation of funds:-					
Total funds brought forward		1,683,284	41,250	1,724,534	1,894,848
Total funds carried forward		1,661,830	-	1,661,830	1,724,534

The 'SORP Ref' indicated above is the classification of income set out in the formal SORP documents. As required by paragraph 4.60 of the SORP, the brought forward and carried forward funds above have been agreed to the Balance Sheet.

A separate Statement of Total Recognised Gains and Losses is not required as this statement includes all recognised gains and losses.

All activities derive from continuing operations

The notes attached on pages 22 to 39 form an integral part of these accounts.

Unity Theatre - Statement of Financial Activities for the year ended 31 March 2024

Unity Theatre - Analysis of prior year total funds, as required by paragraph 4.2 of the SORP

	SORP Ref	Prior Year Unrestricted Funds 2023 £	Prior Year Restricted Funds 2023 £	Prior Year Total Funds 2023 £
Income & Endowments from:				
Donations & Legacies	A1	369,814	-	369,814
Charitable activities	A2	93,252	15,000	108,252
Other trading activities	A3	-	-	-
Investments	A4	37	-	37
Other	A5	-	-	-
Total income	A	463,103	15,000	478,103
Expenditure on:				
Raising funds	B1	-	-	-
Charitable activities	B2	610,061	38,356	648,417
Other	B3	-	-	-
Tax on surplus on ordinary activities	B3	-	-	-
Other taxation	B3	-	-	-
Total expenditure	B	610,061	38,356	648,417
Net gains on investments	B4	-	-	-
Net income for the year		(146,958)	(23,356)	(170,314)
Transfers between funds	C	-	-	-
Net income after transfers		(146,958)	(23,356)	(170,314)
Net movement in funds		(146,958)	(23,356)	(170,314)
Reconciliation of funds:-				
Total funds brought forward	E	1,830,242	64,606	1,894,848
Total funds carried forward		1,683,284	41,250	1,724,534

All activities derive from continuing operations

A separate Statement of Total Recognised Gains and Losses is not required as this statement includes all recognised gains and losses.'

The notes attached on pages 22 to 39 form an integral part of these accounts.

Unity Theatre - Statement of Financial Activities for the year ended 31 March 2024

Unity Theatre - Resources applied in the year ended 31 March 2024 towards fixed assets for Charity use:-

	2024 £	2023 £
Funds generated in the year as detailed in the SOFA	-	-
Resources applied on functional fixed assets	-	(4,820)
Other applications of funds	-	-
Net resources available to fund charitable activities	-	(4,820)

Movements in revenue and capital funds for the year ended 31 March 2024

Revenue accumulated funds

	Unrestricted Funds 2024 £	Restricted Funds 2024 £	Total Funds 2024 £	Last year Total Funds 2023 £
Accumulated funds brought forward	(40,948)	41,250	302	150,873
Recognised gains and losses before transfers	(21,454)	(41,250)	(62,704)	(170,314)
	(62,402)	-	(62,402)	(19,441)
(From)/To unrestricted revenue funds	24,709	-	24,709	19,743
Closing revenue funds	(37,693)	-	(37,693)	302

Fixed asset funds

	Designated Funds 2024 £	Restricted Funds 2024 £	Total Funds 2024 £	Last year Total Funds 2023 £
At 1 April	1,724,232	-	1,724,232	1,743,975
Transfer (to)/from revenue funds	(24,709)	-	(24,709)	(19,743)
At 31 March	1,699,523	-	1,699,523	1,724,232

The purposes of the transfers to fixed asset funds are described in Note 21 to the accounts and under the accounting policy 'Accounting for capital grants and fixed asset funds'.

Summary of funds

	Unrestricted and Designated funds 2024 £	Restricted Funds 2024 £	Total Funds 2024 £	Last Year Total Funds 2023 £
Revenue accumulated funds	(37,693)	-	(37,693)	302
Fixed asset funds	1,699,523	-	1,699,523	1,724,232
Total funds	1,661,830	-	1,661,830	1,724,534

The notes attached on pages 22 to 39 form an integral part of these accounts.

Unity Theatre - Statement of Financial Activities for the year ended 31 March 2024

Unity Theatre Income and Expenditure Account for the year ended 31 March 2024 as required by the Companies Act 2006

	2024 £	2023 £
Income		
Income from operations	507,593	478,066
Investment income and interest		
Interest receivable	-	37
Gross income in the year before exceptional items	507,593	478,103
Gross income in the year including exceptional items	507,593	478,103
Expenditure		
Charitable expenditure, excluding depreciation and amortisation	543,164	621,219
Depreciation and amortisation	24,709	24,563
Governance costs	2,375	2,635
Interest payable	49	-
Realised losses on disposals of social investments which are programme related	-	-
Total expenditure in the year	570,297	648,417
Net income before tax in the financial year	(62,704)	(170,314)
Tax on surplus on ordinary activities	-	-
Net income after tax in the financial year	(62,704)	(170,314)
Retained surplus for the financial year	(62,704)	(170,314)

All activities derive from continuing operations

In accordance with the provisions of the Companies Act 2006, the headings and subheadings used in the Income and Expenditure account have been adapted to reflect the special nature of the charity's activities.

The notes attached on pages 22 to 39 form an integral part of these accounts.

Unity Theatre - Balance Sheet as at 31 March 2024

	Notes	SORP Ref	2024 £	2023 £
Fixed assets		A		
Tangible assets	11	A2	1,699,521	1,724,230
Current assets		B		
Stocks		B1	1,647	1,647
Debtors	13	B2	33,936	26,123
Cash at bank and in hand		B4	23,300	57,158
Total current assets			<u>58,883</u>	<u>84,928</u>
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	14	C1	<u>(96,574)</u>	<u>(84,624)</u>
Net current assets			(37,691)	304
The total net assets of the charity			<u><u>1,661,830</u></u>	<u><u>1,724,534</u></u>

The total net assets of the charity are funded by the funds of the charity, as follows:-

Restricted funds

Restricted Revenue Funds	18	D2	-	41,250	41,250
--------------------------	----	----	---	--------	--------

Unrestricted Funds

Unrestricted Revenue Funds	18	D3	(37,693)	(40,948)	(40,948)
----------------------------	----	----	----------	----------	----------

Designated Funds

Designated Fixed Asset Funds	18	D3	<u>1,699,523</u>	<u>1,724,232</u>	
			<u>1,699,523</u>	<u>1,724,232</u>	
Total charity funds			<u><u>1,661,830</u></u>	<u><u>1,724,534</u></u>	

The 'SORP Ref' indicated above is the classification of Balance Sheet items as set out in the formal SORP documents. As required by paragraph 4.60 of the SORP, the brought forward and carried forward funds above have been agreed to the SOFA..

The directors are satisfied that the company is entitled to exemption from the requirement to obtain an audit under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006.

The member has not required the company to obtain an audit in accordance with section 476 of the Act.

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

The charity is subject to Independent Examination under charity legislation, and the report of the Independent Examiner is on page 13.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions in Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006, applicable to companies subject to the small companies regime.



PETER MEARNES

Trustee

Approved by the board of trustees on 16 December 2024

The notes attached on pages 22 to 39 form an integral part of these accounts.

Unity Theatre

Cash Flow Statement for the year ended 31 March 2024

	2024 £	2023 £
Cash flows from operating activities		
Net cash provided by operating activities as shown below	A <u>(33,858)</u>	<u>(145,788)</u>
Cash flows from investing activities		
Interest received	-	37
Purchase of property, plant and equipment	-	(4,820)
Net cash provided by investing activities	B <u>-</u>	<u>(4,783)</u>
Cash flows from financing activities		
Net cash provided by financing activities	C <u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Overall cash provided by all activities	A+B+C <u>(33,858)</u>	<u>(150,571)</u>
Cash movements		
Change in cash and cash equivalents from activities in the year ended 31 March 2024	(33,858)	(150,571)
Cash and cash equivalents at 1 April 2023	57,158	-
Change in cash and cash equivalents due to exchange rate movements	-	-
Cash at bank and in hand less overdrafts at 31 March	<u>23,300</u>	<u>(150,571)</u>

Unity Theatre

Cash Flow Statement for the year ended 31 March 2024

Unity Theatre

Cash Flow Statement for the year ended 31 March 2024 - Continued

Reconciliation of net income to net cash flow from operating activities

Net income as shown in the Statement of Financial Activities	(62,704)	(170,314)
Adjustments for :-		
Depreciation charges	24,709	24,563
Write downs of investments	-	-
Net unrealised losses on investment assets	-	-
Dividends, interest and rents from investments	-	(37)
Decrease in debtors	(7,813)	-
Increase in creditors, excluding loans	11,950	-
Net cash provided by operating activities	A	
	<u>(33,858)</u>	<u>(145,788)</u>

Analysis of cash and cash equivalents

	2024	2023
	£	£
Cash in hand at for the year ended 31 March 2024	23,300	57,158
Notice deposits - (less than 3 months)	-	-
Total cash and cash equivalents	<u>23,300</u>	<u>57,158</u>

Analysis of change in net debt

	<i>At start of year</i>	<i>Cash Flows</i>	<i>At end of year</i>
Cash	57,158	(33,858)	23,300
		(33,858)	(33,858)
Total	<u>57,158</u>	<u>(33,858)</u>	<u>(33,858)</u>

Unity Theatre

Notes to the Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2024

1 Accounting policies

Policies relating to the production of the accounts.

Basis of preparation and accounting convention

The accounts have been prepared on the accruals basis, under the historical cost convention, and in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard 102, (effective 1st January 2016) and 'FRS 102 SORP (Statement of Recommended Practice for Accounting and Reporting by Charities) 2019, applicable to all accounting periods beginning on or after 1st January 2019), (The SORP), published by the Charity Commission in England & Wales (CCEW) , and in accordance with all applicable law in the charity's jurisdiction of registration, except that the charity has prepared the financial statements in accordance with the FRS 102 SORP (Statement of Recommended Practice for Accounting and Reporting by Charities) 2019, applicable to all accounting periods beginning on or after 1st January 2019), (The SORP), in preference to the previous SORP, the SORP 2005, which has been withdrawn, notwithstanding the fact that the extant statutory regulations, the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 refer explicitly to the SORP 2005. This has been done to accord with current best practice.

Going Concern

There are no uncertainties about going concern.

Risks and future assumptions

The charity is a public benefit entity.

Policies relating to categories of income and income recognition.

Nature of income

Gross income represents the value, net of value added tax and discounts, of goods provided to customers and work carried out in respect of services provided to customers.

Categories of Income

Income is categorised as income from exchange transactions (contract income) and income from non-exchange transactions (gifts), investment income and other income.

Income from exchange transactions is received by the charity for goods or services supplied under contract or where entitlement is subject to fulfilling performance related conditions. The income the charity receives is approximately equal in value to the goods or services supplied by the charity to the purchaser.

Income from a non-exchange transaction is where the charity receives value from the donor without providing equal value in exchange, and includes donations of money, goods and services freely given without giving equal value in exchange.

Income recognition

Income, whether from exchange or non exchange transactions, is recognised in the statement of financial activities (SOFA) on a receivable basis, when a transaction or other event results in an increase in the charity's assets or a reduction in its liabilities and only when the charity has legal entitlement, the income is probable and can be measured reliably.

Income subject to terms and conditions which must be met before the charity is entitled to the resources is not recognised until the conditions have been met.

All income is accounted for gross, before deducting any related fees or costs.

Unity Theatre

Notes to the Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2024

Accounting for deferred income and income received in advance

Where terms and conditions relating to income have not been met or uncertainty exists as to whether the charity can meet any terms or conditions otherwise within its control, income is not recognised but is deferred as a liability until it is probable that the terms or conditions imposed can be met.

Any grant that is subject to performance-related conditions received in advance of delivering the goods and services required by that condition, or is subject to unmet conditions wholly outside the control of the recipient charity, is accounted for as a liability and shown on the balance sheet as deferred income. Deferred income is released to income in the reporting period in which the performance-related or other conditions that limit recognition are met.

When income from a grant or donation has not been recognised due to the conditions applying to the gift not being wholly within the control of the recipient charity, it is disclosed as a contingent asset if receipt of the grant or donation is probable once those conditions are met.

Where time related conditions are imposed or implied by a funder, then the income is apportioned to the time periods concerned, and, where applicable, is accounted for as a liability and shown on the balance sheet as deferred income. When grants are received in advance of the expenditure on the activity funded by them, but there are no specific time related conditions, then the income is not deferred.

Any condition that allows for the recovery by the donor of any unexpended part of a grant does not prevent recognition of the income concerned, but a liability to any repayment is recognised when repayment becomes probable.

Policies relating to expenditure on goods and services provided to the charity.

Recognition of liabilities and expenditure

A liability, and the related expenditure, is recognised when a legal or constructive obligation exists as a result of a past event, and when it is more likely than not that a transfer of economic benefits will be required in settlement, and when the amount of the obligation can be measured or reliably estimated..

Liabilities arising from future funding commitments and constructive obligations, including performance related grants, where the timing or the amount of the future expenditure required to settle the obligation are uncertain, give rise to a provision in the accounts, which is reviewed at the accounting year end. The provision is increased to reflect any increases in liabilities, and is decreased by the utilisation of any provision within the period, and reversed if any provision is no longer required. These movements are charged or credited to the respective funds and activities to which the provision relates.

Allocating costs to activities

Direct costs that are specifically related to an activity are allocated to that activity. Shared direct costs and support costs are apportioned between activities.

The basis for apportionment, which is consistently applied, and proportionate to the circumstances, is :-

Staffing - on a per capita basis, based on the number of of people employed within any particular activity.

Premises related costs - on the proportion of floor area occupied by a particular activity.

Non specific support costs - on the basis of the usage of resources, in terms of time taken, capacity used, request made or other measures

Policies relating to assets, liabilities and provisions and other matters.

Tangible fixed assets

Tangible fixed assets are measured at their original cost value, or subsequent revaluation, or if donated, as described above. Cost value includes all costs expended in bringing the asset into its intended working condition.

Depreciation has been provided at the following rates in order to write off the assets to their anticipated residual value over their estimated useful lives.

Leasehold premises	1 % straight line
Fixtures and fittings	25 % straight line
Computers	33.33 % straight line

Unity Theatre

Notes to the Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2024

Stocks and work in progress

Stock is valued at the lower of cost and net realisable value.

Debtors

Debtors are measured at their recoverable amounts at the balance sheet date.

Creditors and provisions

Creditors are measured at their payable amounts at the balance sheet date.

Cash and bank balances

Cash held by the charity is included at the amount actually held and counted at the year end. Bank balances, whether in credit or overdrawn, are shown at the amounts properly reconciled to the bank statements.

Fund Accounting

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

Designated funds are unrestricted funds earmarked by the Trustees for particular purposes.

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

There are no endowment funds.

2 Liability to taxation

The Trustees consider that the charity satisfies the tests set out in Paragraph 1 Schedule 6 of the Finance Act 2010 for UK corporation tax purposes. Accordingly, the Charity is potentially exempt from taxation in respect of income or capital gains received within categories covered by chapter 3 part 11 of the Corporation Tax Act 2010 or Section 256 of the Taxation of Chargeable Gains Act 1992, to the extent that such income or gains are applied exclusively on the specific charitable objects of the charity and for no other purpose.

3 Winding up or dissolution of the charity

If upon winding up or dissolution of the charity there remain any assets, after the satisfaction of all debts and liabilities, the assets represented by the accumulated fund shall be transferred to some other charitable body or bodies having similar objects to the charity.

4 Significance of financial instruments to the charity's position

There are no significant implications of such matters.

5 Net surplus before tax in the financial year

	2024	2023
	£	£
The net surplus before tax in the financial year is stated after charging:-		
Depreciation of owned fixed assets	24,709	24,563
Pension costs	5,409	6,372
	<hr/>	<hr/>

Unity Theatre

Notes to the Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2024

6 Interest payable

	2024	2023
	£	£
Interest payable	49	-

7 Staff costs and emoluments

Salary costs

	2024	2023
	£	£
Gross Salaries excluding trustees and key management personnel	289,801	248,429
Employer's National Insurance for all staff	15,968	21,854
Employer's pension costs	5,409	6,372
Total salaries, wages and related costs	311,178	276,655

Numbers of full time employees or full time equivalents

	2024	2023
The average number of total staff employed in the year was	37	25
The average number of part time staff employed in the year was	29	-
The average number of full time staff employed in the year was	8	-
The estimated full time equivalent number of all staff employed in the year was	13	25

The estimated equivalent number of full time staff deployed in different activities in the year was:-

Engaged on charitable activities	3	25
Engaged on publicity activities	3	-
Engaged on management and administration	7	-
The estimated full time equivalent number of all staff employed as above	13	25

No employees received emoluments (excluding pension costs) in excess of £60,000 per annum.

8 Remuneration and payments to Trustees and persons connected with them

No trustees or persons connected with them received any remuneration from the charity, or any related entity.

9 Trustees' expenses

The expenses reimbursed to trustees, or paid directly to third parties, in the current or prior year, was as shown below.

	2024	2023
	£	£
The amount reimbursed to trustees	-	260

The nature of the trustees' expenses was the reimbursement of travel expenses.

The number of trustees' to whom expenses were reimbursed was nil (2023: 2)

Unity Theatre

Notes to the Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2024

10 Deferred income - Restricted funds

<i>Current Year</i>	Opening Deferrals	Released from prior years	Received less released in year	Deferred at year end
	£	£	£	£
Backstage Trust	-	-	-	18,443
Patricia May Memorial Fund	-	-	-	3,000
The Granada Foundation	-	-	-	2,000
Onward Community Foundation	-	-	-	1,500
Total	-	-	-	24,943
			2024	2023
			£	£
These deferrals are included in creditors			24,943	-

11 Tangible fixed assets

<i>Current Year</i>	Land and Buildings	Equipment & furniture	Computer equipment	Total
	£	£	£	£
Cost				
At 1 April 2023	2,057,677	267,290	8,950	2,333,917
At 31 March 2024	2,057,677	267,290	8,950	2,333,917
Depreciation				
At 1 April 2023	342,537	262,888	4,262	609,687
Charge for the year	20,577	1,149	2,983	24,709
At 31 March 2024	363,114	264,037	7,245	634,396
Net book value				
At 31 March 2024	1,694,563	3,253	1,705	1,699,521
At 31 March 2023	1,715,140	4,402	4,688	1,724,230

12 Stocks & Work in Progress

	2024	2023
	£	£
Stocks before write downs	1,647	1,647

13 Debtors

	2024	2023
	£	£
Trade debtors	5,758	9,046
Prepayments and accrued income	20,595	17,077
Other debtors	7,583	-
	33,936	26,123

Unity Theatre

Notes to the Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2024

14 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	2024	2023
	£	£
Trade creditors	21,358	59,505
Accruals	18,686	2,589
Deferred Income - Restricted funds	24,943	-
PAYE, NIC VAT and other taxes	25,983	20,861
Other creditors	5,604	1,669
	96,574	84,624

15 Income and Expenditure account summary	2024	2023
	£	£
At 1 April 2023	1,724,534	1,894,848
Surplus after tax for the year	(62,704)	(170,314)
At 31 March 2024	1,661,830	1,724,534

16 No related party transactions

There were no transactions with related parties in the year.

17 Particulars of how particular funds are represented by assets and liabilities

At 31 March 2024	Unrestricted funds	Designated funds	Restricted funds	Total Funds
	£	£	£	£
Tangible Fixed Assets	(2)	1,699,523	-	1,699,521
Current Assets	58,883	-	-	58,883
Current Liabilities	(96,574)	-	-	(96,574)
	(37,693)	1,699,523	-	1,661,830

At 1 April 2023	Unrestricted funds	Designated funds	Restricted funds	Total Funds
	£	£	£	£
Tangible Fixed Assets	(2)	1,724,232	-	1,724,230
Current Assets	43,678	-	41,250	84,928
Current Liabilities	(84,624)	-	-	(84,624)
	(40,948)	1,724,232	41,250	1,724,534

Unity Theatre

Notes to the Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2024

18 Change in total funds over the year as shown in Note 17 , analysed by individual funds

	Funds brought forward from 2023	Movement in funds in 2024	Transfers between funds in 2024	Funds carried forward to 2025
	£	See Note 19 £	See Note 20 £	£
Unrestricted and designated funds:-				
Unrestricted Revenue Funds	(40,948)	(21,454)	24,709	(37,693)
Designated Fixed Asset Funds	1,724,232	-	(24,709)	1,699,523
Total unrestricted and designated funds	1,683,284	(21,454)	-	1,661,830
Restricted funds:-				
Esmee Fairbairn Foundation	26,250	(26,250)	-	-
Culture Liverpool	15,000	(15,000)	-	-
Total restricted funds	41,250	(41,250)	-	-
Total charity funds	1,724,534	(62,704)	-	1,661,830

19 Analysis of movements in funds over the year as shown in Note 18

	Income	Expenditure	Other Gains & Losses	Movement in funds
	2024	2024	2024	2024
	£	£	£	£
Unrestricted and designated funds:-				
Unrestricted Revenue Funds	479,898	(501,352)	-	(21,454)
Restricted funds:-				
Esmee Fairbairn Foundation	-	(26,250)	-	(26,250)
Culture Liverpool	11,138	(26,138)	-	(15,000)
Backstage Trust	16,557	(16,557)	-	-
	507,593	(570,297)	-	(62,704)

20 Details of transfers between funds

The transfers shown in note 18 above are:-

	2024
	£
To/(from) Unrestricted Revenue Funds in accordance with the accounting policy 'Accounting for capital grants and fixed asset funds'.	24,709
To/(from) Designated Fixed Asset Funds	(24,709)
Net transfers	-

Unity Theatre

Notes to the Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2024

21 The purposes for which the funds

Unrestricted and designated funds:-

Unrestricted Revenue Funds

These funds are held for the meeting the objectives of the charity, and to provide reserves for future activities, and , subject to charity legislation, are free from all restrictions on their use.

Designated Fixed Asset Funds

The purpose of these funds is described under the accounting policy 'Accounting for capital grants and fixed asset funds'.

Restricted funds:-

Esmee Fairbairn Foundation

This funds "Creative Pool", Unity's programme for development of creative opportunities. The trustees have agreed to fund part of the expenses from the general fund.

Culture Liverpool

The Culture Liverpool Grant was to deliver the Eurovision programme in May 2023, where Unity hosted performances from Ukrainian artists.

-

22 Ultimate controlling party

The charity is under the control of its legal members.

Every member of the charity is obliged to contribute such amount as may be required not exceeding £1 to the assets of the company in the event of its being wound up while he or she is a member, or within one year after he or she ceases to be a member.

Unity Theatre

Detailed analysis of income and expenditure for the year ended 31 March 2024 as required by the SORP 2015

This analysis is classified by conventional nominal descriptions and not by activity.

23 Donations, Grants and Legacies

	Current year Unrestricted Funds 2024 £	Current year Restricted Funds 2024 £	Current year Total Funds 2024 £	Prior Year Total Funds 2023 £
Donations and gifts from individuals				
Small donations individually less than £1000	2,193	-	2,193	14,409
Community Foundation for Merseyside	5,000	-	5,000	-
Bundobust	2,000	-	2,000	-
Total donations and gifts from individuals	9,193	-	9,193	14,409

	Current year Unrestricted Funds 2024 £	Current year Restricted Funds 2024 £	Current year Total Funds 2024 £	Prior Year Total Funds 2023 £
Revenue grants from government and public bodies				
Arts Council England	277,005	-	277,005	277,005
Liverpool City Council	80,000	-	80,000	74,400
Total public sector revenue grants	357,005	-	357,005	351,405

	Current year Unrestricted Funds 2024 £	Current year Restricted Funds 2024 £	Current year Total Funds 2024 £	Prior Year Total Funds 2023 £
Revenue grants and donations from non public bodies				
Culture Liverpool	-	16,557	16,557	-
Greg Greenidge Memorial Trust	2,431	-	2,431	-
Kirsten Scott Memorial Trust	1,000	-	1,000	-
Onward Community Foundation	-	-	-	250
Patrick May Memorial Fund	-	-	-	3,750
Total private sector revenue grants	3,431	16,557	19,988	4,000

Unity Theatre

Detailed analysis of income and expenditure for the year ended 31 March 2024 as required by the SORP 2015

Revenue grants and donations from non public bodies (Include Gift Aid donations from subsidiaries) - Prior Year analysis

		Prior Year Unrestricted Funds	Prior Year Restricted Funds	Prior Year Total Funds	
		2023	2023	2023	
		£	£	£	
Total Donations, Grants and Legacies	A1	369,629	16,557	386,186	369,814

24 Income from charitable activities - Trading Activities

<i>Current year</i>		Current year Unrestricted Funds	Current year Restricted Funds	Current year Total Funds	Prior Year Total funds
		2024	2024	2024	2023
		£	£	£	£
Primary purpose and ancillary trading					
Bar sales		20,802	-	20,802	25,385
Commercial hire and services		53,468	-	53,468	24,766
Creative event income		35,999	-	35,999	43,101
Total Primary purpose and ancillary trading		110,269	-	110,269	93,252

		Current year Unrestricted Funds	Current year Restricted Funds	Current year Total Funds	Prior Year Total Funds
		2024	2024	2024	2023
		£	£	£	£
Performance related grants from public bodies to fund charitable activities					
Culture Liverpool		-	11,138	11,138	15,000
Total performance related grants from public bodies		-	11,138	11,138	15,000

Unity Theatre

Detailed analysis of income and expenditure for the year ended 31 March 2024 as required by the SORP 2015

Performance related grants from public bodies to fund charitable activities - Prior Year analysis

	Prior Year Unrestricted Funds 2023 £	Prior Year Restricted Funds 2023 £	Prior Year Total Funds 2023 £	
Prior Year	-	15,000	15,000	
	Unrestricted Funds 2024 £	Restricted Funds 2024 £	Total Funds 2024 £	Prior Year Total Funds 2023 £
Total Charitable income from funders:-				
Current year - income from funders	-	11,138	11,138	15,000
<i>Prior year</i>				
	Prior Year Unrestricted Funds 2023 £	Prior Year Restricted Funds 2023 £	Prior Year Total Funds 2023 £	
Prior Year - Income from funders	-	15,000	15,000	
25 Total Income from charitable activities				
	Current year Unrestricted Funds 2024 £	Current year Restricted Funds 2024 £	Current year Total Funds 2024 £	Prior Year Total Funds 2023 £
Total income from charitable trading	110,269	-	110,269	93,252
Income from funders	-	11,138	11,138	15,000
Total from charitable activities A2	110,269	11,138	121,407	108,252

Unity Theatre

Detailed analysis of income and expenditure for the year ended 31 March 2024 as required by the SORP 2015

Income from charitable activities - Prior Year analysis

<i>Prior year</i>	Prior Year	Prior Year	Prior Year
	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total Funds
	Funds	Funds	
	2023	2023	2023
	£	£	£
Total income from charitable trading	93,252	-	93,252
Income from funders	-	15,000	15,000
	93,252	15,000	108,252

26 Investment income

		Current year	Current year	Current year	Prior Year
		Unrestricted	Restricted	Total Funds	Total Funds
		Funds	Funds		
		2024	2024	2024	2023
		£	£	£	£
Bank Interest Receivable		-	-	-	37
Total investment income	A4	-	-	-	37

27 Expenditure on charitable activities - Direct spending

<i>Current Year</i>		Current year	Current year	Current year	Prior Year
		Unrestricted	Restricted	Total Funds	Total Funds
		Funds	Funds		
		2024	2024	2024	2023
		£	£	£	£
Gross wages and salaries - charitable activities		67,507	5,780	73,287	90,733
Bar stock and consumables		9,697	-	9,697	11,936
Community event expenditure		10,871	-	10,871	11,159
Creative event expenditure		22,015	5,919	27,934	61,849
Production costs and box office fees		10,706	16,918	27,624	8,916
Freelancers direct costs		819	-	819	-
Access costs		-	-	-	5,665
Total direct spending	B2a	121,615	28,617	150,232	190,258
<i>Prior Year</i>		Prior Year	Prior Year	Prior Year	
		Unrestricted	Restricted	Total Funds	
		Funds	Funds		
		2023	2023	2023	
		£	£	£	

Gross wages and salaries - charitable activities		82,136	8,597	90,733	
--	--	--------	-------	--------	--

Total direct spending	B2a	181,661	8,597	190,258	
------------------------------	------------	----------------	--------------	----------------	--

Unity Theatre

Detailed analysis of income and expenditure for the year ended 31 March 2024 as required by the SORP 2015

28 Support costs for charitable activities

<i>Current Year</i>	Current year Unrestricted	Current year Restricted	Current year	Prior Year
	Funds	Funds	Total Funds	Total Funds
	2024	2024	2024	2023
	£	£	£	£
<i>Employee costs not included in direct costs</i>				
Salaries - Administrative staff	167,321	16,863	184,184	192,939
Training and welfare and health and safety	6,419	56	6,475	12,233
Freelancers overhead cost	1,150	1,811	2,961	1,991
<i>Premises Expenses</i>				
Rates and water charges	2,417	-	2,417	2,129
Light heat and power	15,919	-	15,919	21,839
Cleaning and waste management	12,009	-	12,009	14,698
Premises repairs, renewals and maintenance	14,044	16,557	30,601	18,494
Insurance	8,471	-	8,471	7,498
<i>Administrative overheads</i>				
Telephone, fax and internet	4,500	-	4,500	4,222
Office administration costs	1,485	-	1,485	12,789
Subscriptions, licence and servicing	6,185	-	6,185	45
Hire of equipment	933	-	933	4,632
Marketing salaries	50,100	3,607	53,707	76,964
Advertising and marketing	16,294	1,434	17,728	23,606
<i>Professional fees paid to the Auditor or Independent Examiner in addition to audit and examination fees</i>				
As detailed in Note 29	39,032	-	39,032	29,237
<i>Professional fees paid to advisors other than the auditor or examiner</i>				
Accountancy fees other than examination or audit fees	-	-	-	2,570
Other legal and professional	3,899	-	3,899	4,625
<i>Financial costs</i>				
Bank charges and other financial fees	2,426	-	2,426	450
Depreciation & Amortisation in total for the period	24,709	-	24,709	24,563
Interest payable	49	-	49	-
Support costs before reallocation	377,362	40,328	417,690	455,524
Total support costs - Current Year	377,362	40,328	417,690	455,524

The basis of allocation of costs between activities is described under accounting policies

Unity Theatre

Detailed analysis of income and expenditure for the year ended 31 March 2024 as required by the SORP 2015

	Current year	Current year	Prior Year
	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total Funds
	Funds	Funds	Total Funds
Prior Year	2024	2024	2023
	£	£	£
Employee costs not included in direct costs			
Salaries - Administrative staff	174,196	18,743	192,939
Premises Expenses			
Premises repairs, renewals and maintenance	15,108	3,386	18,494
Administrative overheads			
Marketing salaries	71,694	5,270	76,964
Advertising and marketing	21,246	2,360	23,606
Support costs before reallocation	425,765	29,759	455,524
Total support costs - Prior Year	425,765	29,759	455,524

The basis of allocation of costs between activities is described under accounting policies

29 Other Expenditure - Governance costs

	Current year	Current year	Current year	Prior Year
	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total Funds	Total Funds
	Funds	Funds	Total Funds	Total Funds
Current Year	2024	2024	2024	2023
	£	£	£	£
Independent Examiner's fees	2,375	-	2,375	2,375
Trustees' expenses	-	-	-	260
Total Governance costs	2,375	-	2,375	2,635

Professional fees paid to the Auditor or Independent Examiner in addition to audit and examination fees

	Current year	Current year	Current year	Prior Year
	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total Funds	Total Funds
	Funds	Funds	Total Funds	Total Funds
	2024	2024	2024	2023
	£	£	£	£
Other financial services	39,032	-	39,032	29,237
Total additional fees included in support costs at Note 28	39,032	-	39,032	29,237

Unity Theatre

Detailed analysis of income and expenditure for the year ended 31 March 2024 as required by the SORP 2015

30 Total Charitable expenditure

		Current year	Current year	Current year	Prior Year
		Unrestricted	Restricted	Total Funds	Total Funds
<i>Current Year</i>		Funds	Funds		
		2024	2024	2024	2023
		£	£	£	£
Total direct spending	B2a	121,615	28,617	150,232	190,258
Total support costs	B2d	377,362	40,328	417,690	455,524
Total Governance costs	B2e	2,375	-	2,375	2,635
Total charitable expenditure	B2	501,352	68,945	570,297	648,417
<i>Prior Year</i>		Prior Year	Prior Year	Prior Year	
		Unrestricted	Restricted	Total Funds	
		Funds	Funds		
		2023	2023	2023	
		£	£	£	
Total direct spending	B2a	181,661	8,597	190,258	
Total support costs	B2d	425,765	29,759	455,524	
Total Governance costs	B2e	2,635	-	2,635	
Total charitable expenditure	B2	610,061	38,356	648,417	

Unity Theatre

Activity analysis of Income and expenditure for the for the year ended 31 March 2024

This analysis is classsified by activity and not by conventional nominal descriptions.

31 Analysis of income by activity

	SOFA ref	2024 £	2023 £
Activity			
Income from charitable activities			
Primary purpose and ancillary trading		121,407	108,252
Summary of Total Income, including the items above			
Charitable activities	A2	121,407	108,252
Donations & Legacies	A1	386,186	369,814
Investment income	A4	-	37
Total income as shown in the SOFA	A	507,593	478,103
Categories of income			
Income from exchange transactions		507,593	478,103

32 Analysis of charitable expenditure by activity

Activity	Direct costs	Support costs	Grant funding of activities	Total	Total
	2024 £	2024 £	2024 £	2024 £	2023 £
Primary purpose and ancillary trading					
Direct costs	150,232	-	-	150,232	190,258
Employee costs not included in direct c	-	193,620	-	193,620	207,163
Premises expenses	-	69,417	-	69,417	64,658
Administrative overheads	-	84,538	-	84,538	122,258
Professional fees	-	42,931	-	42,931	36,432
Financial costs	-	27,184	-	27,184	25,013
Total Primary purpose and ancillary trading	150,232	417,690	-	567,922	645,782

Unity Theatre

Activity analysis of Income and expenditure for the for the year ended 31 March 2024

Summary of charitable costs by activity

	Direct costs	Support costs	Grant funding of activities	Total	Total
	2024	2024	2024	2024	2023
	£	£	£	£	£
Total Primary purpose and ancillary tra	150,232	417,690	-	567,922	645,782
Total Governance costs as detailed in Note 29	-	2,375	-	2,375	2,635
Total charitable expenditure	150,232	420,065	-	570,297	648,417

The basis of allocation of costs between activities is described under accounting policies

The breakdown of this expenditure by type of spending (ie nominal classification) is detailed in note 30

Analysis of support and governance costs by charitable activities

Activity	Governance	Finance	Human Resources	Other Overheads	Total
Primary purpose and ancillary trading	2,375	27,184	193,620	196,886	420,065

33

Governance costs

	Governance costs 2024	Governance costs 2023
	£	£
Other Expenditure - Governance costs as detailed in Note 29	2,375	2,635

34 Carrying value of work in progress analysed between activities

	2024	2023
	£	£
Primary purpose and ancillary trading	1,647	1,647

UNITY THEATRE

England & Wales - Charity number 1062463

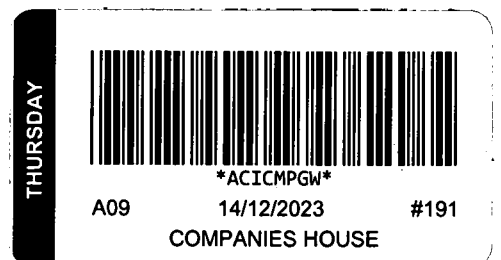
Accounts

UNITY THEATRE

INDEPENDENTLY EXAMINED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 March 2023

Company Number: 03333987
Charity Number: 1062463

Unity Theatre
1 Hope Place
Liverpool
L1 9BG



**UNITY THEATRE
ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023**

**FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023**

TRUSTEES

Mr L Clark
Ms E Edwards
Mr D. Fletcher
Ms S Jones
Ms A Marshall
Mr G Millar
Ms L Mooney
Ms A Perera
Mr D Sebuyange
Ms G Buttoo (resigned 9th February 2023)

SECRETARY

Ms E Manson-Sawko (appointed 6th December 2022)
Ms R Palmer (resigned 6th December 2022)

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Mr G Millar

REGISTERED OFFICE

Unity Theatre
1 Hope Place
Liverpool
L1 9BG

COMPANY NUMBER

03333987

CHARITY NUMBER

1062463

BANKERS

The Co-Operative Bank

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER

Matthew Brown, CPFA
Adding Value Consultancy Ltd
Studio 6, Bluecoat Chambers
School Lane
Liverpool
L1 3BX

**UNITY THEATRE
ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023**

CONTENTS

	Page
Chairs Report	3
Report of the Trustees	5-17
Independent Examiner's Statement	18
Statement of Financial Activities	19
Balance Sheet	20
Notes to the Accounts	21-29

UNITY THEATRE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

CHAIR'S REPORT

Reflecting on the last 12 months, I am incredibly proud of the hard work and commitment that has gone into ensuring Unity's resilience in what has continued to be extremely challenging circumstances. The economic crisis and long tail of the pandemic has had a crushing effect on many combined arts venues like our own, yet our exceptionally dedicated and skilled team of staff, freelancers and trustees have remained steadfast in their commitment in delivering on Unity's core charitable aims to benefit and enrich the lives of our local audiences, creatives and communities.

Despite the challenges in the sector, we have been able to deliver a diverse and exciting programme, that upholds our value of promoting an accessible and supportive society, with a string of new successful projects and initiatives supporting our community in Liverpool, and beyond.

Highlights of these included the ever growing success of our Youth Theatre in association with 20 Stories High, acclaimed national touring productions, co-productions with local companies and our critical partners Disabled Artist led festival, DadaFest, and Queer Arts Festival, Homotopia. Our Talent Development programme, 'Creative Pool' funded by Esmée Fairbairn Foundation has proved rapidly successful despite the devastating impact of the pandemic upon touring creative productions.

The aim of the programme is to train creatives in producing skills so as to enable them to tour their work nationally. To date 85% of supported artists have embarked upon national tours. Our community artist programme Open Call again supported over 20 individual companies, each receiving a guaranteed income, rehearsal space, technical support and mentoring from our team. All of these have had their work filmed so as to appear on Unity's sector leading 'ProPortal' database for venues to programme work from.

I am most pleased that we are the only known theatre to make all of their programme 100% accessible either through BSL interpretation, captioning, audio description or streamed production. This is a commitment we set out to achieve two years ago and one we have steadfastly held onto.

I want to give personal thanks to Liz Edwards our former stand in Chair, who I succeeded at the 2022 AGM. Liz remains a valued member alongside other outstanding board members who make a significant contribution to Unity. I would like to extend my thanks to them all for their increased their support as we navigate a financial mitigation plan, and new strategy to ensure we strengthening our reputation as a national theatre with a safe and creative space to work.

Unity could not survive without its Members and supporters, we are extremely grateful for your continued support and donations which has enabled us to build on our programme. I want to give particular thanks to those that have continued to fund Unity's work in an increasingly challenging environment, most significantly Arts Council England for their continued commitment to Unity's ambitions for the future and regular funding and Cultural Recovery Funds, Liverpool City Council, Esmée Fairbairn Foundation, The Garfield Weston Foundation and The Granada Foundation.

**UNITY THEATRE
ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023**

Unity has a bright future ahead. The past two years have been the most economically difficult we have sustained, alongside many of our sector partners. But the board has developed a revolutionary and robust strategy, that will lead to an economically stable future, that will best serve Liverpool's audiences, participants, communities and artists.

Sarah Jones
Chair

UNITY THEATRE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

TRUSTEES REPORT

The trustees present their report and financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 March 2023.

The accounts have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in note 1 to the accounts and comply with the charity's memorandum and articles of association, the Companies Act 2006 and "Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (as amended for accounting periods commencing from 1 January 2016)". The charity is a Public Benefit Entity as defined by FRS 102.

Objectives and activities

The charitable objectives are:

"To advance the education of the public in all aspects of the art of drama, dance, mime and music and to develop the public appreciation of such art and to provide and manage a theatre within the postal district of Liverpool without distinction of age, sex, race, political or religious or other opinions, by associating with statutory authorities, voluntary organisations, institutions and inhabitants and to promote all or any objects for the benefit of the community which now or hereafter may be deemed by law to be charitable."

Unity Theatre aims to:

- Advance the education of the public in all aspects of the art of drama, dance, mime, and music.
- Provide and manage a theatre; to promote all other objects for the benefit of the community which now or hereafter may be deemed by law to be charitable.
- Our purpose is to share the stories of diverse individuals, working across three core areas:
 - Providing high quality creative experiences
 - Developing and supporting local artists
 - Platforming and celebrating local communities
- The trustees have paid due regard to guidance issued by the Charity Commission in deciding what activities the charity should undertake.

Public benefit

Unity exists for the communities of Liverpool — diversity is part of our history and remains at the heart of our ambitions to create excellent creative experiences. We have an industry-leading reputation for high-quality programming that is fully informed by the experience of our communities. Our approach to creation is dynamic and responsive. This in turn ensures relevancy for a broad range of audiences both in Merseyside and nationwide, who represent cultural, geographic, and socio-economic diversity.

UNITY THEATRE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

TRUSTEES REPORT (continued)

All of Unity's artistic offerings are designed in close consultation with Merseyside creative communities, with strong feedback loops built in at all levels of planning. Close partnership work with organisations specialising in diversity and access ensures that our aim to see 70% of creatives involved in our programmes come from diverse backgrounds, is consistently met and exceeded. We remain committed to making our programme accessible to audiences, through:

- Low ticket prices, with 15% given free via partners, supported by our online streaming platform that allows anyone to access Unity wherever they live
- Developing integrated partnerships with those working with artists from diverse backgrounds
- A commitment to 100% accessible productions in-person (BSI-captioned/relaxed/audio-described) and online (captioned/audio-described)
- Integrated community advocacy, running targeted activity with key partners (The Spider Project, Wirral; Knowsley Carers).
- The trustees have been consulted in compliance with the Charity Commission guidance on public benefit, in determining the fees for performances

Achievements and performance

Unity remains integral to the communities, artists, audiences and participants of Liverpool. We have upheld our reputation as the region's leading combined performing arts organisation, promoting an accessible and supportive society. Post pandemic has left the sector in a state of crisis. Unity has not been immune to the challenges faced across the economy but is proving resilient and has adapted to a new partnership model which will ensure the future of the venue moving forward.

Our creative programme welcomed audiences to our building to celebrate diverse storytelling from talented companies from across the country. Creatives featured in our programme this year have included David Hoyle, Leo and Hyde, and numerous popular comedians that challenge the status quo. With a sharp post pandemic decline in national touring work, we had a greater emphasis on local artists. This was coupled with collaboration with Liverpool-based acclaimed festivals Homotopia and DaDa Fest. We also collaborated on 20 Stories High's touring production of, 'Touchy', charting the journey of six characters as they navigated young adulthood, which won the 2022 OnComm Award.

Access and excellence for all remain the pillars of our operation and we continued a range of initiatives designed to grow equality of opportunity for artists and audiences:

UNITY THEATRE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

TRUSTEES REPORT (continued)

- 100% of our performances, both in person and online, were made accessible through BSL interpretation and captioning. This is a commitment we strive to continue as we welcome back full-capacity audiences to our building
- Gave 15% of our tickets away for free via community partners; 96% of those on our 'Community Ticket Programme' were first-time attendees
- Integrated community advocacy across our programmes, running targeted activity with key partners (The Spider Project, Wirral, Knowsley Carers)
- We grew 'Unity Online', our digital performance platform which features all our locally produced work, filmed in our spaces, and hosted online to bring Merseyside talent to a national audience. 30%+ of those engaging with paid online content were from outside north-west England, and 5+% were watching internationally
- Our second 'Associate Producer' (funded by the Esmée Fairbairn Foundation) George Soave joined Unity in January 2022 and has been integral in building our programme of support for artists, as well as strengthening relationships with creatives and organisations across the city.

Through Open Call, we ensured the continued support and survival of 80+ local artists

"Working with Unity has been a revelation. They always go the extra mile to make theatre more accessible to underserved communities and we can't wait to come back to Merseyside." – Matt Woodhead, LUNG

Whilst the programme was still seriously hampered by Covid, the programme that emerged from the pandemic has matured and led to some excellent outcomes for artists, community members, audiences and participants:

- Our annual **Open Call** season opened our stages to the very best performance talent from across all six boroughs of Merseyside
- Our long-term partnership with **20 Stories High** co-provided their hugely successful Youth Theatre at Unity, inviting young people aged 14-21 to make plays that mash up dance, spoken word, music, song, street dance and puppetry
- Together with **RAWD**, a company who shares our dedication to providing opportunities in the arts, we co-provided a year round weekly creative sessions for learning disabled participants, leading to an annual performance on our main stage
- Our talent development programme **Creative Pool** comprised over 120 workshops and events for creatives wanting to increase their producing skills. These have ranged from 1:1's held with our team and networking sessions involving over 20 local producers. Over 600 artists from across Merseyside have engaged so far, with 56% being new to the creative industry

UNITY THEATRE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

TRUSTEES REPORT (continued)

- Provided **ProPortal**, our free-to-access online library of touring work (Wise Children, Complicite, emerging companies) promoted to 200+ programmers nationwide (V&A Museum, Slung Low, Manchester Royal Exchange).

Over the year, Creative Pool and ProPortal have directly supported over 20 tours including:

- Multidisciplinary artist Dorcas Seb's Vice Versa (co-produced with HOME and Eclipse Theatre)
- Physical theatre company Ugly Bucket's Good Grief (supported by Slung Low)
- Dance artist Fabiola Santana's A Home for Grief (co-produced with Contact).

The Impact of the economic downturn

Despite an abundance of successful projects and initiatives to support our communities, creatives, and audiences this period has continued to be an unprecedented challenge off the back of the pandemic and the economic impact of higher costs and lower income experienced across many industries and households.

We have attracted 45% fewer audiences as a result of the economic uncertainty. This is slowly rising, but the loss of ticket income and secondary spend at the bar has been substantial. More noticeably, because other charities are facing significant drops in income, we are facing greater competition for attracting grants from Trusts and foundations than ever before and this has caused the largest dent to our funds. Such is the case that the board of Trustees has fashioned a new model to be more appealing but less reliant on Trusts and Foundations, and to grow audiences, through partnerships.

Despite these challenges, the structural changes we had made in 2020 alongside our reserves levels have allowed us to continue with our commitment to deliver a high-quality artistic experience and truly accessible community work that speaks to the people of Liverpool. Our outsourced finance function continues to strengthen our work in this area, with current processes across budget setting, bookkeeping and payroll. More transparent financial reporting has allowed members of our team from across the business to feel more empowered in making financial decisions, supported by robust checks and balances.

We have had to adapt our business model in light on the last few years and are confident that our business model is fully sustainable, with the hard work put in place over the last two years meaning that our reputation for presenting and supporting ground-breaking creative experiences only continues to grow. What's more we are proud that this work has empowered a new generation of diverse Merseyside artists to develop ambitious work that tells their own unique stories, seen by an increasingly national audience.

**UNITY THEATRE
ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023**

TRUSTEES REPORT (continued)

Ensuring Financial and Business Sustainability

Unity's Board of Trustees meets quarterly with separate financial and risk management quarterly meetings.

Our current Chair, Sarah Jones, started her tenure in 2022, replacing Liz Edwards, who has remained a valued member of the board. Apart from a Committee Chair, membership is rolling with all trustees attending twice annually at minimum to govern and interrogate the core operations. Additional working groups are formed when required (major policy change, funding applications, business planning etc).

FINANCIAL REVIEW

Overview

Unity has a successful future ahead but is temporarily experiencing financial challenges, alongside nearly every building-based arts organisation in the country, this is due to continuing unprecedented economic, societal and sector change. Resultantly, Unity will adapt 2023/24 plans for a considered, inspiring and sustainable model from 2024/25 onwards.

In the midst of ongoing unprecedented economic times, Unity, like many organisations has suffered serious financial setbacks. Unity ended the 2022/23 financial year with an unrestricted general fund deficit of £40,948.

- We are experiencing the challenges of radically increased:
 - o operating costs
 - o production costs
- whilst simultaneously income is lower due to:
 - o charitable sector giving to venues of our scale has decreased
 - o individual giving has decreased due to the cost crisis
 - o secondary spend has decreased due to the cost crisis
 - o sector standstill ACE funding
 - o city wide reduction in Local Authority funding.

- So, the board has dynamically reacted now to generate a new model fit for these economic times, to ensure we remain vital and relevant to participants, audiences and artists. We are capable of this. We achieved it with our pandemic response to the extent that we were acknowledged as Liverpool City Region Cultural Organisation of the Year. We can achieve it again.
- Details of the plan are outlined in future plans below

**UNITY THEATRE
ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023**

TRUSTEES REPORT (continued)

Risk management

The risks faced by the organisation are reviewed regularly throughout the year. A comprehensive risk register encompassing all areas of the business is kept and updated regularly by the CEO and Executive Director and is scrutinised at every Risk and Compliance Sub-Committee before going to Board each quarter.

Our risk management policy is supported by wider organisational policies including finance, fundraising, HR, and safeguarding. Risk management is factored into all organisational decisions including business planning, artistic programming, audit, finance management and commercial and fundraising opportunities. Risks are split into five key categories:

- **Artistic Reputation** – including consideration of Unity’s standing within the sector regarding programming and participation activities; the continued understanding of trends in performance and presentation; the standard and risks associated with artistic partnerships.
- **Financial Diversity** – including the range and variety of income streams coming into the organisation; Unity’s relationships with key funders; strength of financial controls; progress against reserves policy; external factors such as current government policy.
- **Audience Development** – considering quality of communications and strength of brand; strength of engagement with current audience and participants; size and growth of engaged database; audience engagement in the face of external factors such as the pandemic and a cost-of-living crisis.
- **Staffing and Governance** – including regular review of expertise held within Board of Trustees, Senior Management, and wider staff base; staff retention rates; review of diversity of Board and staff team ensuring they reflect organisation equality and diversity policies.
- **Organisational** – encompassing wider business considerations such as health and safety and data management.

Principal funding sources

Key funders for our core activity in the period were Arts Council England and Liverpool City Council. We have secured funding from the Esmée Fairbairn Foundation to support the development of our Creative ‘Pool talent development programme until December 2023.

UNITY THEATRE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

TRUSTEES REPORT (continued)

The Senior Management team are working to further diversify our income streams in the coming year through private fundraising and commercial opportunities.

Investment policy and review

Due to the current percentage of income received from statutory sources and fundraising, the appetite for investment risk is judged as low. This appetite is reviewed annually by the Board and may change as income streams continue to diversify. All future investments will be agreed between the AD/CEO and Chair of Finance Committee, signed off at Board level. Unity currently holds all funds in accounts connected with HSBC, split between standard current accounts and a deposit account. To aid with petty cash spending, the team have introduced purchasing cards to key budget holders; individual debit cards have a fixed monthly spend cap, imbursement from the organisation's main bank account.

Reserves

Unity has set a target for free reserves (unrestricted funds not invested in fixed assets or otherwise designated) for the charity of 12 weeks operating costs, judged to be £103k. This takes account of the funding and trading environment in which the charity operates, and of its strategic plans. The unprecedented circumstances of 2020 – 2023, with the sector crisis and ongoing fragility of the economy, have been severely challenging to trade in. As of March 2023, free reserves were at a deficit level of £40,948 equivalent to -40% of the target level.

Going concern

These financial statements have been prepared on a going concern basis.

Unity has a successful future ahead but has experienced considerable financial challenges, due to continuing, unprecedented economic, social and sector change. The sector is experiencing an existential crisis unlike any in memory. Unity no longer has reserves, is in a deficit position and would be at risk were it to have continued with a previously successful but now defunct operating model. So, the trustees have reacted dynamically to build back reserves by:

- Undertaking a financial mitigation plan
- Reducing overheads to sustainable levels
- Shaping a programme model that is:
 - o not reliant on Trusts and Foundation but rather partnerships, which have been secured
 - o Can flex up or down
- Seeking working capital to assist with the cashflow
- Acquiring funds to cover essential building works

Unity retains sizeable funding and support from Arts Council England and Liverpool City Council.

UNITY THEATRE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

TRUSTEES REPORT (continued)

The Trustees have considered the level of deficit held and the expected level of income and expenditure for the twelve months from authorising these accounts. The Trustees assess the charity to be a going concern based on review of financial performance of the 23/24 year to date, the management accounts forecast for the remainder of 23/24, the rolling cash flow forecast, future funding commitments, the financial mitigation plans, the levels of existing funding and the implementation of a sustainable model. As a result, the trustees are confident about the financial future of the charity and satisfied that these accounts and prepared on a going concern basis.

FUTURE PLANS

Our team and Board have interrogated a new model for implication in 2024 onwards that speaks to our core aims of:

- Promoting an accessible and supportive society through
- High quality creative experiences
- Developing and supporting local artists
- Platforming and celebrating local communities
- Ensuring financial and organisation viability.

To achieve this the Board believe a new model is required that still delivers on the aims of our core funder, Arts Council England and Liverpool City Council but can attract new funding and unlock new possibilities across our aims.

NEW MODEL

The Board is most confident that the following new model delivers financial certainty, is considerably more appealing to all those we already serve with distinction, and has capacity to benefit the lives of people we do not currently engage.

- For 24/25 onwards, once existing programming commitments have been honoured, Unity requires a new model.
- 24/25 will be divided into 7 seasons, that are based on a theme, containing programme of 3-4 weeks each. Each 'season' will have various streams that would deliver all aspects of our programme.
- This model will deliver Unity's inclusive, diverse programme for audiences, artists and participants, be sustainable from the outset.
- It will enable Unity to build back a secure level of reserves.
- It combines aspects of our programme into fundable groupings.
- The model is dynamically flexible and allows Unity to deliver its programme but not over commit when finance is not available.
- It will not assume funding but will attract funding ahead of time.
- Unity's output is appealing to funders, but the existing model needs to change from a sporadic and divergent programme to a collated model that matches funder requirements in a competitive market.
- This model can respond when new funds emerge, e.g., City Council project funds or monies raised by the new Liverpool City Region Culture Network

**UNITY THEATRE
ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023**

TRUSTEES REPORT (continued)

- The work will be much more appealing and marketable to audiences and participants, with cross over opportunities throughout each season
- Between seasons the venue is available to hire for commercial and community purposes.

24/25 Financial Model Fixed Costs

Fixed Annual Income	Amount
Arts Council England and Local Authority	£340,000
Commercial Income (net of costs)	£50,000
Sub Total	£390,000
Fixed Annual Expenditure	Amount
Operational and Salaries	£351,000
Sub Total	£351,000
Total	£39,000*

*The surplus would contribute to the rebuilding of reserves until such time as this is met. All costs of the programme would be secured through other income sources outlined below.

24/25 Programme

The creative programme will be six or seven seasons of three to four weeks each, focussing on a theme of importance. The streams will be:

- **Combined Arts**
 - o Our diverse and inclusive performance programme of local and national touring work, onsite, offsite and online
- **Artists of the Future**
 - o Comprised of local Children and Young People, local Universities, Open Call for local creatives and our producer/talent development programme "Creative Pool"
- **Unity Community**
 - o This will provide opportunities for the groups we currently work with on a weekly basis to be deeper embedded in the organisation by performing or programming or hosting workshops in each season. These groups are:
 - RAWD (D/deaf Disabled company)
 - 20 Stories High (with whom we partner on Youth Theatre)

**UNITY THEATRE
ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023**

TRUSTEES REPORT (continued)

- o We will host community events around performances that encourage interaction between divergent groups.

The annual cost of the programme would be £160,950. These costs would be covered by the following income sources.

Stream	Annual / long term Income	One off grant / sponsorship	Ticket Income	Donations (in-venue / online)
Combined Arts		£12,000	£28,500	£1,200
Artists of the Future	£36,000			
- CYP		£1,500		£450
- Higher Education	£15,000			£450
- Open Call		£3,750	£3,900	£450
- Creative Pool		£3,750		
Unity Community	£36,000			
- Community Experiences		£3,250		£450
- D/deaf Disabled Programme		£6,500	£2,750	£450
- Youth Theatre		£1,500	£2,750	£450
TOTAL	£87,000	£32,250	£37,900	£3,900

- **Annual / Long term Income** is in the process of being completed through combination of HE funding and Trusts/Foundation
- **One off grants and sponsorship** are in the process of being secured
- **Ticket Income** has been set conservatively in line with current sales trends
- **Donations in venue / online** will include 'pay extra if you can' and the introduction of digital donation stations in the venue

**UNITY THEATRE
ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023**

TRUSTEES REPORT (continued)

STRUCTURE GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Governing document

The charity is a company limited by guarantee governed by its Memorandum and Articles of Association dated 11th March 1997, as amended by special resolutions dated May 1 1997 and September 27 2016. It is a registered charity with the Charity Commission.

Members of the company

The members of the company are the directors and any other persons or organisations admitted to membership by the directors. Currently the only members of the company are the directors.

Appointment of trustees

The directors, who are the trustees of the charity, are appointed by the members in general meeting. The Directors have the power to co-opt to fill a casual vacancy and such persons hold office until the next AGM. The directors are appointed initially for a three-year term and are eligible for re-election for a second consecutive three-year term. In extraordinary circumstances a director may be, with the Board's approval, appointed for a third consecutive three-year term but not beyond that.

Only retiring directors or those proposed by the Board are eligible for election at the general meeting unless due notice has been given by a member of their intention to propose someone.

Trustee induction and training

All new Trustees receive an induction prior to starting their first term, led by a member of the Risk and Compliance Committee and/or Executive Director. This induction covers the history of the organisation, its current work and the role and expectations required of a Trustee.

Shortly after the election of a new group of Trustees, a training session is arranged covering governance and current charity legislation, run by an external consultant.

We have meaningfully improved diversity in the last 5 years, particularly around disability and cultural representation, and age has dropped significantly — with ages spanning 26-49 - meaning lived experiences fully reflect our communities. Though core skillsets of creative industry, HR, finance, fundraising and digital are all represented, we prioritise curating a diverse range of viewpoints and experience, with our Chair creating a supportive culture to aid collective problem-solving.

**UNITY THEATRE
ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023**

TRUSTEES REPORT (continued)

Organisation

The Board, which must be no less than three and not more than 15 people, meets as required and normally 4 times per year. Day to day management of the charity is delegated to the Chief Executive and the other members of the Senior management team who together with the directors constitute the key management personnel of the charity.

Pay and remuneration for senior staff

All roles are formally reviewed prior to each vacancy being advertised, with adjustments made to ensure our structure meets the business' current and future needs. Where there is a vacancy in our senior team, pay and remuneration packages are benchmarked against a minimum of three regional peer venues and advertised within a range to remain competitive.

Staff pay at all levels of the organisation is reviewed annually to achieve fair salary bands and avoid discrimination.

Co-operation with other organisations/charities

Unity is regularly funded by Arts Council England and Liverpool City Council.

Across our networks we foster a commitment to diversity and the employment of local creatives within communities. We are core members of the Liverpool Arts Regeneration Consortium and Shift sustainability network, plus Big Imaginations, Dance Consortium Northwest and Venues North. Regular local creative partners include Homotopia, DaDa Fest and 20 Stories High. We work closely with Liverpool's Everyman and Playhouse and Royal Court to strengthen the city's creative ecology.

**UNITY THEATRE
ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023**

Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities

The trustees, who are also the directors of Unity Theatre for the purpose of company law, are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

Company Law requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the charitable company for that year.

In preparing these financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then 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; and
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in operation.

The trustees are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity 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 charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Small company provisions

This report has been prepared in accordance with the special provisions relating to small companies within Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006.

The trustees' report was approved by the Board of Trustees.


S Jones

Trustee

Date: 4 December 2023.

**UNITY THEATRE
ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023**

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES

I report to the trustees on our examination of the accounts for the year ended 31 March 2023.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity trustees of the Trust you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act'). The trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Act and that an independent examination is needed.

I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 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 Trust as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 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.

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.



Matthew Brown, CPFA
Adding Value Consultancy Ltd
Accountants and Financial Management Consultants

Date: 4/12/23

**UNITY THEATRE
ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023**

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

<u>Income From:</u>	Notes	Unrestricted funds general 2023 £	Unrestricted funds designated 2023 £	Restricted funds 2023 £	Total funds 2023 £	Total funds 2022 £
Donations and legacies	3	369,814	0	15,000	384,814	418,968
Charitable activities	4	68,445	0	0	68,445	63,681
Other Trading Activities	5	24,766	0	0	24,766	9,209
Other Income	6	77	0	0	77	164
Total Income		463,103	0	15,000	478,103	492,022
Expenditure On:						
Raising Funds	7	37,931	0	0	37,931	18,484
Charitable Activities	8	547,567	24,563	38,356	610,485	612,152
Total Expenditure		585,498	24,563	38,356	648,416	630,636
Net income (expenditure) and Net movement in funds		(122,395)	(24,563)	(23,356)	(170,314)	(138,614)
Transfers between funds		(4,820)	4,820	0	0	0
Net movement in funds	16	(127,215)	(19,743)	(23,356)	(170,314)	(138,614)
Fund balances brought forward		86,267	1,743,975	64,606	1,894,848	2,033,462
Fund balances carried forward		(40,948)	1,724,232	41,250	1,724,534	1,894,848

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year.

All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities.

The statement of financial activities also complies with the requirements for an income and expenditure account under the Companies Act 2006.

**UNITY THEATRE
ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023**

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 MARCH 2023


		2023		2022	
	Notes	£	£	£	£
FIXED ASSETS					
Tangible Assets	12		1,724,230		1,743,973
CURRENT ASSETS					
Stocks	13	1,647		1,811	
Debtors	14	26,123		85,656	
Cash at Bank and in hand		57,158		105,892	
		<u>84,928</u>		<u>193,359</u>	
CREDITORS					
Amounts falling due within one year	15	<u>(84,624)</u>		<u>(42,484)</u>	
NET CURRENT ASSETS			<u>304</u>		<u>150,875</u>
TOTAL NET ASSETS			<u>1,724,535</u>		<u>1,894,848</u>
FUNDS					
Restricted Funds	16		41,250		64,606
Unrestricted Funds - designated			1,724,232		1,743,975
Unrestricted Funds - general			(40,948)		86,267
TOTAL FUNDS			<u>1,724,535</u>		<u>1,894,848</u>

For the year ending 31 March 2023 the company was entitled to exemption under section 477 of the Companies Act relating to small companies. The members have not required the company to obtain an audit in accordance with section 476 of the Companies Act 2006.

The directors 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.

Approved by the board of trustees on and signed on their behalf:


 S Jones
 Trustee
 Date: 24 December 2023.

**UNITY THEATRE
ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023**

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

1. Accounting Policies

Charity information

Theatre is a private company limited by guarantee incorporated in England and Wales. In the event of the charity being wound up, the liability in respect of the guarantee is limited to £1 per member of the charity. The registered office is 1 Hope Place, Liverpool, LI 9BG.

1.1 Accounting Convention

The accounts have been prepared in accordance with the charity's governing document, the Companies Act 2006 and "Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102)" (as amended for accounting periods commencing from 1 January 2016). The charity is a Public Benefit Entity as defined by FRS 102.

The financial statements are prepared in sterling, which is the functional currency of the charity. Monetary amounts in these financial statements are rounded to the nearest £. The accounts have been prepared under the historical cost convention. The principal accounting policies adopted are set out below.

1.2 Going Concern

At the time of approving the accounts and as detailed in the Trustees' report the Trustees have considered the recent economic environmental challenges on the charity and the Trustees have a reasonable expectation that the charity has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. Thus, the Trustees continue to adopt the 'going concern' basis of accounting in preparing the accounts.

1.3 Charitable funds

Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of their charitable objectives.

Designated funds comprise funds which have been set aside at the discretion of the trustees for specific purposes. The purposes and uses of the designated funds are set out in the notes to the financial statements.

Restricted funds are subject to specific conditions by donors as to how they may be used. The purposes and uses of the restricted funds are set out in the notes to the financial statements.

**UNITY THEATRE
ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023**

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

1. Accounting Policies (continued)

1.4 Income

Income is recognised when the charity is legally entitled to it after any performance conditions have been met, the amounts can be measured reliably, and it is probable that income will be received.

Cash donations are recognised on receipt. Other donations are recognised once the charity has been notified of the donation, unless performance conditions require deferral of the amount. Income tax recoverable in relation to donations received under Gift Aid or deeds of covenant is recognised at the time of the donation.

Legacies are recognised on receipt or otherwise if the charity has been notified of an impending distribution, the amount is known, and receipt is expected. If the amount is not known, the legacy is treated as a contingent asset.

Income from trading activities includes income earned from fundraising events and trading activities to raise funds for the charity. Income is received in exchange for supplying goods and services in order to raise funds and is recognised when entitlement has occurred.

1.5 Expenditure

Expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to make a payment to a third party, it is probable that the settlement will be required, and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. Expenditure is classified under the following activity headings:

Costs of raising funds: including those associated with fundraising activities.

Charitable activities: costs of undertaking the work of the Charity.

The Charity is registered for VAT and can recover all input tax charged. Costs are stated exclusive of VAT where charged.

Support costs are those that assist the work of the charity but do not directly represent charitable activities and include office costs, governance costs, administrative payroll costs. They are incurred directly in support of expenditure on the objects of the charity and include project management carried out at Headquarters. Where support costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings they have been allocated to cost of raising funds and expenditure on charitable activities on a basis consistent with use of the resources

**UNITY THEATRE
ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023**

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

1. Accounting Policies (continued)

1.6 Tangible fixed assets

Tangible fixed assets are initially measured at cost and subsequently measured at cost or valuation, net of depreciation and any impairment losses.

Depreciation is recognised so as to write off the cost or valuation of assets less their residual values over their useful lives on the following bases:

Leasehold land and buildings	Over the period of the lease
Fixtures & fittings	25% straight line basis
Computers	Over 7 years

The gain or loss arising on the disposal of an asset is determined as the difference between the sale proceeds and the carrying value of the asset and is recognised in net income/(expenditure) for the year.

1.7. Impairment of fixed assets

At each reporting end date, the charity reviews the carrying amounts of its tangible assets to determine whether there is any indication that those assets have suffered an impairment loss. If any such indication exists, the recoverable amount of the asset is estimated in order to determine the extent of the impairment loss (if any).

1.8. Stocks

Stocks are stated at the lower of cost and estimated selling price less costs to complete and sell. Cost comprises direct materials and, where applicable, direct labour costs and those overheads that have been incurred in bringing the stocks to their present location and condition. Items held for distribution at no or nominal consideration are measured the lower of replacement cost and cost.

Net realisable value is the estimated selling price less all estimated costs of completion and costs to be incurred in marketing, selling and distribution.

1.9. Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents include cash in hand, deposits held at call with banks, and bank overdrafts. Bank overdrafts are shown within borrowings in current liabilities.

1.10 Financial instruments

The charity has elected to apply the provisions of Section 1 1 'Basic Financial Instruments' and Section 12 'Other Financial Instruments Issues' of FRS 102 to all of its financial instruments.

Financial instruments are recognised in the charity's balance sheet when the charity becomes party to the contractual provisions of the instrument.

**UNITY THEATRE
ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023**

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

1. Accounting Policies (continued)

Financial assets and liabilities are offset, with the net amounts presented in the financial statements, when there is a legally enforceable right to set off the recognised amounts and there is an intention to settle on a net basis or to realise the asset and settle the liability simultaneously.

Derecognition of financial liabilities

Financial liabilities are derecognised when the charity's contractual obligations expire or are discharged or cancelled.

1.11 Employee benefits

When employees have rendered services to the charity, short term employee benefits to which the employees are entitled are recognised at the undiscounted amount expected to be paid in exchange for that service.

2 Critical accounting estimates and judgements

In the application of the charity's accounting policies, the trustees are required to make judgements, estimates and assumptions about the carrying amount of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. The estimates and associated assumptions are based on historical experience and other factors that are considered to be relevant. Actual results may differ from these estimates.

The estimates and underlying assumptions are reviewed on an ongoing basis. Revisions to accounting estimates are recognised in the period in which the estimate is revised where the revision affects only that period, or in the period of the revision and future periods where the revision affects both current and future periods.

**UNITY THEATRE
ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023**

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

3. Donations and legacies

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total funds 2023	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total funds
	2023	2023		2022	2022	2022
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Donations and gifts	14,409	0	14,409	2,052	0	2,052
Revenue Grants	355,405	15,000	370,405	373,316	43,600	416,916
	<u>369,814</u>	<u>15,000</u>	<u>384,814</u>	<u>375,368</u>	<u>43,600</u>	<u>418,968</u>
Revenue Grants						
Arts Council England	277,005	0	277,005	277,005	0	277,005
Liverpool City Council - CAIP	74,400	0	74,400	74,400	0	74,400
Cultural Recovery Fund	0	0	0	0	38,057	38,057
Liverpool City Council	0	0	0	8,000	0	8,000
Coronavirus Job Recovery Scheme	0	0	0	11,244	0	11,244
Other	0	0	0	2,667	5,543	8,210
Big Imaginations	250	0	250	0	0	0
Esmée Fairbairn	3,750	0	3,750	0	0	0
Culture Liverpool	0	15,000	15,000	0	0	0
	<u>355,405</u>	<u>15,000</u>	<u>370,405</u>	<u>373,316</u>	<u>43,600</u>	<u>416,916</u>

4. Charitable activities

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total Funds	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total Funds
	2023	2023	2023	2022	2022	2022
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Box Office	43,060	0	43,060	43,437	0	43,437
Ancillary Hospitality Sales	25,385	0	25,385	20,244	0	20,244
Sales within charitable activities	<u>68,445</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>68,445</u>	<u>63,681</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>63,681</u>

5 Other trading activities

	Unrestricted funds general	Unrestricted funds general
	2023	2022
	£	£
Trading activity Income	<u>24,766</u>	<u>9,209</u>

Included within these balances are commercial hire sales income for £24,566 (2022: £8,627).

**UNITY THEATRE
ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023**

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

6 Other Income

	Unrestricted funds general 2023 £	Unrestricted funds general 2022 £
Other Income	<u>77</u>	<u>164</u>

7 Raising Funds

	Unrestricted funds general 2023 £	Unrestricted funds general 2022 £
Direct Costs	9,933	3,755
Support Costs	<u>27,998</u>	<u>14,729</u>
Fundraising and Publicity	<u>37,931</u>	<u>18,484</u>

8 Charitable activities

	Unrestricted Funds 2023 £	Designated Funds 2023 £	Restricted Funds 2023 £	Total, Theatre 2023 £	Total Theatre 2022 £
Staff costs	202,648	0	19,085	221,733	212,577
Direct costs	<u>77,056</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>14,527</u>	<u>91,583</u>	<u>133,303</u>
	279,704	0	33,612	313,316	345,880
Share of support costs (see note 9)	260,863	24,563	4,744	290,170	234,790
Share of governance costs (see note 9)	<u>7,000</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>7,000</u>	<u>31,532</u>
	<u>547,567</u>	<u>24,563</u>	<u>38,356</u>	<u>610,485</u>	<u>266,322</u>

**UNITY THEATRE
ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023**

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

9 Support costs

	Support Costs 2023	Governance Costs 2023	Total 2023	Support Costs 2022	Governance Costs 2022	Total 2022
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Staff Costs	61,940	0	61,940	68,967	0	68,967
Depreciation	24,563	0	24,563	30,174	0	30,174
Staff related costs	12,233	0	12,233	5,571	0	5,571
Marketing salaries	76,964	0	76,964	72,751	0	72,751
Marketing costs	23,605	0	23,605	30,322	0	30,322
BO system & other subs	66,059	0	66,059	10,228	0	10,228
Insurance	7,498	0	7,498	8,495	0	8,495
Office & other support costs	12,791	0	12,791	10,942	0	10,942
Bank & other charges	450	0	450	3,118	0	3,118
Trustee expenses	260	0	260	189	0	189
Other	0	0	0	8,762	0	8,762
Accountancy and Independent Exam fees	31,807	2,375	34,182	0	29,415	29,415
Legal and professional	0	4,625	4,625	0	2,067	2,067
	<u>318,168</u>	<u>7,000</u>	<u>325,168</u>	<u>249,519</u>	<u>31,482</u>	<u>281,001</u>
Analysed between:						
Fundraising	27,998	0	27,998	14,729	-	14,729
Charitable activities	<u>290,170</u>	<u>7,000</u>	<u>297,170</u>	<u>234,790</u>	<u>31,482</u>	<u>266,272</u>
	<u>318,168</u>	<u>7,000</u>	<u>325,168</u>	<u>249,519</u>	<u>31,482</u>	<u>281,001</u>

Governance costs includes payments for independent examination fees of £2,375 (2022: £4,500 for audit fees).

10 Trustees and related party transactions

None of the trustees (or any persons connected with them) received any remuneration during the year for their role as trustee. Trustees were reimbursed for expenses to the value of £260 during the year (2022: £189)

The key management of the charity comprise of the trustees and senior staff.
The remuneration of key management personnel is as follows:

	2023	2022
	£	£
Aggregate remuneration	<u>108,052</u>	<u>127,028</u>

On February 4th 2020 the Chief Executive Officer G Millar was appointed as a trustee and director of the company. He did not receive any remuneration for acting as a trustee. His employment benefits in the year were £51,555 (2022: £53,618)

**UNITY THEATRE
ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023**

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

11 Employees

The Average monthly number of employees during the year was:

	2023 Number	2022 Number
Average no. of employees	<u>25</u>	<u>27</u>
	2022 £	2021 £
Employment costs		
Wages and salaries	248,429	328,319
Social security costs	21,854	22,773
Other pension costs	6,372	5,480
	<u>276,655</u>	<u>356,572</u>

There were no employees whose annual remuneration was £60,000 or more.

12 Tangible fixed assets

	Leasehold land and buildings £	Fixtures and fittings £	Computers £	Total £
Cost				
At 1 April 2022	2,057,677	262,470	8,950	2,329,097
Additions	0	4,820		4,820
At 1 April 2023	<u>2,057,677</u>	<u>267,290</u>	<u>8,950</u>	<u>2,333,917</u>
Depreciation and impairment				
At April 2022	321,960	261,885	1,279	585,124
Depreciation charged for the year	20,577	1,003	2,983	24,563
At 31 March 2023	<u>342,537</u>	<u>262,888</u>	<u>4,262</u>	<u>609,687</u>
Carrying amount				
At 31 March 2023	<u>1,715,140</u>	<u>4,402</u>	<u>4,688</u>	<u>1,724,230</u>
At 31 March 2022	<u>1,735,717</u>	<u>585</u>	<u>7,671</u>	<u>1,743,973</u>

13 Stocks

	2023 £	2022 £
Finished goods and goods for sale	<u>1,647</u>	<u>1,995</u>

**UNITY THEATRE
ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023**

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

14 Debtors

	2023	2022
	£	£
Amounts falling due within one year:		
Trade debtors	9,046	1,444
Other debtors	0	845
Prepayments and accrued income	17,077	83,367
	<u>26,123</u>	<u>85,656</u>

15 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2023	2022
	£	£
Other taxation and social security	21,620	9302
Trade Creditors	59,504	12243
Other Creditors	910	0
Accruals and deferred income	2,589	20,939
	<u>84,624</u>	<u>42,484</u>

16 Restricted Funds

	Incoming Resources 2022	Resources Expended 2022	Transfers between Funds 2022	Balance at 31 March 2022	Incoming Resources 2023	Resources Expended 2023	Transfers between Funds 2023	Balance at 31 March 2023
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Opencall Programme	0	-20,210	10,210	0	0	0	0	0
Esmee Fairbairn Foundation	0	-38,763	0	64,606	0	38,356	0	26,250
Granada Foundation	0	-4,047	47	0	0	0	0	0
ACE CRF2	38,057	-38,057	0	0	0	0	0	0
National M&G	5,543	-5,543	0	0	0	0	0	0
Culture Liverpool	0	0	0	0	15,000	0	0	15,000
	<u>43,600</u>	<u>-106,620</u>	<u>10,257</u>	<u>64,606</u>	<u>15,000</u>	<u>38,356</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>41,250</u>

- Esme Fairbairn Foundation: This funds "Creative Pool", Unity's programme for development of creative opportunities. The trustees have agreed to fund part of the expenses from the general fund.
- Culture Liverpool: The Culture Liverpool Grant was to deliver the Eurovision programme in May 2023, where Unity hosted performances from Ukranian artists.

17 Analysis of net assets between funds

Fund balances at 31 March 2023 are represented by:

	Unrestricted funds 2023	Designated funds 2023	Restricted funds 2023	Total 2023	Unrestricted funds 2022	Designated funds 2022	Restricted funds 2022	Total 2022
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Tangible assets	0	1,724,230	0	1,724,230	0	1,743,973	0	1,743,973
Current assets/(liabilities)	-48,386	0	41,250	-7,136	86,269	0	64,606	150,875
	<u>-48,386</u>	<u>1,724,230</u>	<u>41,250</u>	<u>1,717,094</u>	<u>86,269</u>	<u>1,743,973</u>	<u>64,606</u>	<u>1,894,848</u>

UNITY THEATRE

England & Wales - Charity number 1062463

Accounts

Charity Registration No. 1062463

Company Registration No. 03333987 (England and Wales)

UNITY THEATRE

ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

UNITY THEATRE

LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Trustees	Ms G Buttoo Mr L Clark Ms E Edwards Mr D Fletcher Ms S Jones Ms A Marshall Mr G Millar Ms L Mooney Ms A Perera Mr D Sebuyange	(Appointed 13 July 2021) (Appointed 13 July 2021) (Appointed 13 July 2021) (Appointed 13 July 2021) (Appointed 13 July 2021) (Appointed 13 July 2021) (Appointed 13 July 2021) (Appointed 13 July 2021) (Appointed 13 July 2021) (Appointed 27 January 2022)
Secretary	R Palmer E Manson - Sawko	(Resigned 6 December 2022) (Appointed 6 December 2022)
Chief Executive Officer	Gordon Millar	
Charity number	1062463	
Company number	03333987	
Registered office	1 Hope Place Liverpool L1 9BG	
Auditor	MHA Moore and Smalley Richard House 9 Winckley Square Preston PR1 3HP	
Title of property	The property is registered as Unity Theatre.	

UNITY THEATRE

CONTENTS

	Page
Chair's statement	1 - 2
Trustees' report	3 - 12
Statement of trustees' responsibilities	13
Independent auditor's report	14 - 16
Statement of financial activities	17
Balance sheet	18
Notes to the financial statements	19 - 31

UNITY THEATRE

CHAIR'S STATEMENT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

Chair's Report 2021/2022

Reflecting on the last 12 months, I am incredibly proud of the hard work and commitment that has gone into ensuring Unity's resilience in what has continued to be extremely challenging circumstances. The long tail of the COVID 19 pandemic has had a crushing effect on many combined arts venues like our own, yet our exceptionally dedicated and skilled team of staff, freelancers and trustees have remained unwavering in their commitment to delivering on Unity's core charitable aims to benefit and enrich the lives of our local audiences, creatives, and communities.

Despite the challenges in the sector, we have been able to deliver a diverse and exciting programme, that upholds our value of promoting an accessible and supportive society, with a string of new successful projects and initiatives supporting our community in Liverpool, and beyond. Highlights of these included the return of our Youth Theatre in association with 20 Stories High, the dance production 'Little Murmur' with musical supervision from Nitin Sawhney, acclaimed national touring productions from Graeae, Vamos and Actors Touring Company, co-productions with local companies Ugly Bucket and All Things Considered and the return of Disabled Artist led festival, DadaFest, and Queer Arts Festival, Homotopia. Our Talent Development programme, 'Creative Pool' funded by Esmée Faribairn Foundation started its second year and has proved rapidly successful despite devastating impact of the pandemic upon touring creative productions. The aim of the programme is to train creatives in producing skills so as to enable them to tour their work nationally. To date 85% of supported artists have embarked upon national tours. Our community artist programme Open Call again supported over 20 individual companies, each receiving a guaranteed income, rehearsal space, technical support and mentoring from our team. All of these have had their work filmed so as to appear on Unity's sector leading 'ProPortal' database for venues to programme work from. I am most pleased that we are the only known theatre to make all of their programme 100% accessible either through BSL interpretation, captioning, audio description or streamed production. This was a significant learning for Unity during the pandemic and one we have steadfastly held onto. We were also delighted to receive regional recognition as winners of the Liverpool City Region Arts Organisation of the Year in March which reflects the scale of positive impact Unity has had on our community during the challenges of recent years and the high regard in which our organisation is held locally.

This level and quality of output throughout a period when the landscape has remained precarious is a remarkable achievement and can be directly attributed to the efforts of the wonderfully talented staff team at Unity. Our Unity team members have had to adapt to working within a leaner structure post-pandemic, but have remained fully committed, continuing to drive innovative and creative ideas forward and delivering outcomes for the benefit of our stakeholders.

Despite these successes and whilst the organisation has remained focussed on our strategic aims, we have observed fluctuation in audience numbers since reopening the building which has impacted on our forecasted income in some areas. We understand that this is in line with the industry as a whole and are pleased that we have been able to largely offset discrepancies against forecast with additional income in other areas such as venue hire. However, this does mean that we fall short of our target for financial reserves at year end and whilst we are still in a comfortable position, endeavour to address this in the coming financial year by pursuing additional avenues of income.

At this point, it feels appropriate to give thanks to our long-standing trustee and chair, Chris Bliss, who stepped down in October 2021, leaving behind the legacy of a strong executive team supported by an engaged and proficient board. Whilst I stand as Acting Chair, until the AGM 2022, I would also like to extend my thanks to my fellow trustees who have continued to be generous with their time, knowledge and in giving their diverse perspectives. Their support has been invaluable as we have re-adapted post-pandemic to ensure we continue to add value to the organisation in strategic and generative governance modes, as well as providing our guidance on operational matters as required.

UNITY THEATRE

CHAIR'S STATEMENT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

Unity could not survive without its members and supporters, and we remain extremely grateful for their ongoing support and donations which has enabled us to reopen the doors and build on our programme for the public benefit. I want to give particular thanks to those that have continued to fund Unity's work in an increasingly challenging environment, most significantly Arts Council England for regular funding and Cultural Recovery Funds, Liverpool City Council, Esmée Fairbairn Foundation, Garfield Weston, and Granada.

In the coming months, I look forward to welcoming our new chair and continuing on the board as a proud trustee of Unity Theatre, providing ongoing governance and support with my fellow board members to help the organisation deliver on its strategic commitments. I anticipate the upcoming programme with excitement as we welcome back our much-valued partner organisations including: RAWD; 20 Stories High, Graeae Theatre Company; Tamasha Theatre Company; Paines Plough; and LUNG, along with our diversity-led festival partners: Homotopia; DaDa Fest; Liverpool Arab Arts Festival; and Physical Fest.



Liz Edwards

Acting Chair, October 2021- December 2022

UNITY THEATRE

TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

The trustees present their report and financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2022.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland issued in October 2019, the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102), the Charities Act 2011, the Companies Act 2006 and UK Generally Accepted Accounting Practice.

Objectives and activities

The charitable objectives are:

“To advance the education of the public in all aspects of the art of drama, dance, mime and music and to develop the public appreciation of such art and to provide and manage a theatre within the postal district of Liverpool without distinction of age, sex, race, political or religious or other opinions, by associating with statutory authorities, voluntary organisations, institutions and inhabitants and to promote all or any objects for the benefit of the community which now or hereafter may be deemed by law to be charitable.”

Unity Theatre aims to:

- Advance the education of the public in all aspects of the art of drama, dance, mime, and music.
- Provide and manage a theatre; to promote all other objects for the benefit of the community which now or hereafter may be deemed by law to be charitable.

Our purpose is to share the stories of diverse individuals, working across three core areas:

- Providing high quality creative experiences
- Developing and supporting local artists
- Platforming and celebrating local communities

The trustees have paid due regard to guidance issued by the Charity Commission in deciding what activities the charity should undertake.

Public benefit

Unity exists for the communities of Liverpool – diversity is part of our history and remains at the heart of our ambitions to create excellent creative experiences. We have an industry-leading reputation for high-quality programming that is fully informed by the experience of our communities. Our approach to creation is dynamic and responsive. This in turn ensures relevancy for a broad range of audiences both in Merseyside and nationwide, who represent cultural, geographic, and socio-economic diversity.

All of Unity's artistic offerings are designed in close consultation with Merseyside creative communities, with strong feedback loops built in at all levels of planning. Close partnership work with organisations specialising in diversity and access ensures that our aim to see 70% of creatives involved in our programmes come from diverse backgrounds, is consistently met and exceeded. We remain committed to making our programme accessible to audiences, through:

- Low ticket prices, with 15% given free via partners, supported by our online streaming platform that allows anyone to access Unity wherever they live
- Developing integrated partnerships with those working with artists from diverse backgrounds
- A commitment to 100% accessible productions in-person (BSL/captioned/relaxed/audio-described) and online (captioned/audio-described)
- Integrated community advocacy, running targeted activity with key partners (The Spider Project, Wirral; Knowsley Carers).

The trustees have been consulted in compliance with the Charity Commission guidance on public benefit, in determining the fees for performances.

UNITY THEATRE

TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT) (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

Achievements and performance

We re-opened our venue on Hope Place in May 2021, 13 months after closing during the first national lockdown. It was poignant that the first event held in our spaces after reopening was an open day for 20 local creatives featured in our Open Call season; this celebration of Merseyside talent offered those taking part generous box office deals and in-kind support to get their work back on a stage post-pandemic. The resulting productions and projects were seen by over 5,717 audience members in person, and a further 1,243 online. Many of the artists featured were unknown to us but have since become integral members of our creative community.

We have worked hard to build back our creative programme, welcoming audiences back to our building to celebrate diverse storytelling from talented companies from across the country. Creatives featured in our programme this year have included Graeae, Vamos, Paines Plough and Actors Touring Theatre, as well as Liverpool-based acclaimed festivals Homotopia and DaDa Fest. We also collaborated on 20 Stories High's online film series, Touchy, charting the journey of six characters as they navigated young adulthood, which won the 2022 OnComm Award.

During the pandemic we realigned our work, so that it fully reflected access and excellence for all, and the reopening of our building was supported by range of initiatives designed to grow equality of opportunity for artists and audiences:

- 100% of our performances, both in person and online, were made accessible through BSL interpretation and captioning. This is a commitment we strive to continue as we welcome back full-capacity audiences to our building
- Gave 15% of our tickets away for free via community partners; 96% of those on our 2022 **Community Ticket Pilot** were first-time attendees
- Integrated community advocacy across our programmes, running targeted activity with key partners (The Spider Project, Wirral, Knowsley Carers)
- We launched **Unity Online**, our digital performance platform which features all our locally produced work, filmed in our spaces, and hosted online to bring Merseyside talent to a national audience. 32% of those engaging with paid online content were from outside north-west England, and 7% were watching internationally
- Our first **Associate Producer** (funded by the Esmée Fairbairn Foundation) Kirsten Peters Roebuck joined Unity in January 2021 and has been integral in building our programme of support for artists, as well as strengthening relationships with creatives and organisations across the city.

Through Open Call and other lockdown projects, we ensured the survival of over 90 local artists by investing £55,000 in their work and development. This led to us being awarded Liverpool City Region Arts Organisation of the Year 2021.

"Working with Unity has been a revelation. They always go the extra mile to make theatre more accessible to underserved communities and we can't wait to come back to Merseyside." – Matt Woodhead, LUNG

Developed in consultation with our artists and community members, during the year we have:

- Made our **Open Call** season an annual initiative, aiming to open our stages to the very best performance talent from across all six boroughs of Merseyside
- Began a long-term partnership with our friends at **20 Stories High** to host their hugely successful Youth Theatre at Unity, inviting young people aged 14-21 to make plays that mash up dance, spoken word, music, song, street dance and puppetry
- Given **RAWD**, a company who shares our dedication to providing opportunities in the arts, a Liverpool home to run year-round weekly creative sessions for learning disabled participants, leading to an annual performance on our main stage
- Run the first full year of our talent development programme **Creative Pool**, comprising over 120 workshops and events for creatives wanting to increase their producing skills. These have ranged from 1:1's held with our team and networking sessions involving over 20 local producers. Over 600 artists from across Merseyside have engaged so far, with 56% being new to the creative industry
- Launched **ProPortal**, our free-to-access online library of touring work (Wise Children, Complicite, emerging companies) promoted to 200+ programmers nationwide (V&A Museum, Slung Low, Manchester Royal Exchange).

UNITY THEATRE

TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT) (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

Over the year, Creative Pool and ProPortal have directly supported over 20 tours including:

- Multidisciplinary artist Dorcas Seb's Vice Versa (co-produced with HOME and Eclipse Theatre)
- Physical theatre company Ugly Bucket's Good Grief (supported by Slung Low)
- Dance artist Fabiola Santana's A Home for Grief (co-produced with Contact).

The Impact of Covid

Despite an abundance of successful projects and initiatives to support our communities, creatives, and audiences this period has continued to be a huge challenge in the face of the global pandemic.

With a huge team effort, we were able to reopen our spaces in May, ensuring that the safety of our audiences and staff remained the priority throughout with clear communications and a substantial investment in PPE. Although we were able to welcome back many audiences and artists, a reduced capacity remained in place for the remainder of the year and an additional national lockdown cancelled most of our festive season. This resulted in our box office income reflecting only 28% of that achieved in a normal year. The additional staffing required to run a socially distanced venue alongside our commitment to honouring staff pay during show cancellations also resulted in considerable, and unanticipated, expense in these areas.

Despite these challenges, the structural changes we had made in 2020 alongside our reserve's levels have allowed us to continue with our commitment to deliver a high-quality artistic experience and truly accessible community work that speaks to the people of Liverpool. A move to outsource our finance function has greatly strengthened our work in this area, with our newly appointed consultants 'Adding Value' bringing in modernised processes across budget setting, bookkeeping and payroll. More transparent financial reporting has allowed members of our team from across the business to feel more secure and empowered in making financial decisions, supported by robust checks and balances.

We remain confident that our business model is fully sustainable, with the hard work put in place over the last two years meaning that our reputation for presenting and supporting ground-breaking creative experiences only continues to grow. What's more we are proud that this work has empowered a new generation of diverse Merseyside artists to develop ambitious work that tells their own unique stories, seen by an increasingly national audience.

Ensuring Financial and Business Sustainability

Throughout lockdown, our Board increased frequency of meetings from quarterly to monthly to offer support to the staff team as they navigated the changing covid and financial landscape. With the theatre reopening in May 2021, the Board reverted to the quarterly structure though remained meeting remotely until January 2022.

Our Chair Chris Bliss extended his tenure during the period to ensure continuity before stepping down in October 2021, after seven years of service. At the 2021 AGM, HR consultant and existing Board member Liz Edwards was elected Acting Chair and is leading on a permanent Chair recruitment, we are approaching internal and external candidates for election in December 2022. As part of her tenure, Liz has reviewed our committee meeting structure to allow Board meetings to focus on strategy, consolidating into one quarterly meeting that reviews finance, risk and staffing in detail. Apart from a Committee Chair, membership is rolling with all trustees attending annually at minimum to encourage interrogation of core operations. Additional working groups are formed when required (major policy change, funding applications, business planning etc).

UNITY THEATRE

TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT) (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

Financial review

Overview

Unity's prompt and considered action in 2020/21 to reduce overheads whilst maintaining a talented and dedicated core team of staff, proved pivotal in 2021/22. 2021/22 was the hardest year ever experienced as our organisation. We relied upon the reserves built up in the year prior to survive the further lengthy closures, reduced trading, reduced capacities, higher operating costs and frequent covid related cancellations. We continue to face the widely felt impact of political uncertainties and economic fall out of the pandemic. We have been sustained by our reduced overheads and more agile approach, supported by achievable, yet ambitious income targets across the board including growing opportunities in fundraising and commercial income.

Thanks to the efforts in 2020/21 to secure funds to enable us to survive through the ongoing challenges of 2021/22 without emergency support, we end the year with unrestricted funds of £86,267 and plans to build further unrestricted funds to ensure ongoing sustainability.

Reserves

Unity has set a target for free reserves (unrestricted funds not invested in fixed assets or otherwise designated) for the charity of 12 weeks operating costs, judged to be £123k. This takes account of the funding and trading environment in which the charity operates, and of its strategic plans. The unprecedented circumstances of 2021/22, with the ongoing pandemic and economic fallout have been severely challenging to trade in. As of March 2022, free reserves were £86,267 equivalent to 70% of the target level.

Principal funding sources

Key funders for our core activity in the period were Arts Council England and Liverpool City Council. We have secured funding from the Esmée Fairbairn Foundation to support the development of our Creative 'Pool talent development programme until December 2023.

The Senior Management team are working to further diversify our income streams in the coming year through private fundraising and commercial opportunities. They are supported by our Business Development Manager (who looks after individual and corporate giving alongside box office income and communications strategy) and a freelance Fundraising Consultant who works with our Executive Director to develop funding bids.

Investment policy and review

Due to the current percentage of income received from statutory sources and fundraising, the appetite for investment risk is judged as low. This appetite is reviewed annually by the Board and may change as income streams continue to diversify. All future investments will be agreed between the AD/CEO and Chair of Finance Committee, signed off at Board level. Unity currently holds all funds in accounts connected with HSBC, split between standard current accounts and a deposit account. To aid with petty cash spending, the team have introduced SOLDO pre-payment cards to key budget holders; individual debit cards have a fixed monthly spend cap, imburged from the organisation's main bank account.

UNITY THEATRE

TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT) (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

Risk management

The risks faced by the organisation are reviewed regularly throughout the year. A comprehensive risk register encompassing all areas of the business is kept and updated regularly by the CEO and Executive Director and is scrutinised at every Risk and Compliance Sub-Committee before going to Board each quarter.

Our risk management policy is supported by wider organisational policies including finance, fundraising, HR, and safeguarding. Risk management is factored into all organisational decisions including business planning, artistic programming, audit, finance management and commercial and fundraising opportunities. Risks are split into five key categories:

- **Artistic Reputation** – including consideration of Unity's standing within the sector regarding programming and participation activities; the continued understanding of trends in performance and presentation; the standard and risks associated with artistic partnerships.
- **Financial Diversity** – including the range and variety of income streams coming into the organisation; Unity's relationships with key funders; strength of financial controls; progress against reserves policy; external factors such as current government policy.
- **Audience Development** – considering quality of communications and strength of brand; strength of engagement with current audience and participants; size and growth of engaged database; audience engagement in the face of external factors such as the pandemic and a cost-of-living crisis.
- **Staffing and Governance** – including regular review of expertise held within Board of Trustees, Senior Management, and wider staff base; staff retention rates; review of diversity of Board and staff team ensuring they reflect organisation equality and diversity policies.
- **Organisational** – encompassing wider business considerations such as health and safety and data management.

Going concern

The financial statements have been prepared on a going concern basis. The organisation has been able to successfully negotiate the economic disruption caused by Covid-19 pandemic through careful management of costs, obtaining funding commitments from core funders, together with fundraising and cash flow management. The trustees have considered the level of funds held and the expected level of income and expenditure for the twelve months from authorising these accounts. The trustees assess the charity to be a going concern based on review of financial performance of the 202/23 year to date, the management accounts forecast for the remainder of 22/23, the rolling cash flow forecast, and future funding commitments. As a result, the trustees are confident about the financial future of the charity and satisfied that these accounts and prepared on a going concern basis.

UNITY THEATRE

TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT) (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

FUTURE PLANS

Our team and Board have interrogated our work over the last 5 years, bringing together learnings on community representation, accessible creative experiences and developing diverse artists; as Covid forced us to strip down our work to its essentials, we realised the vital role these elements play in our work. It has pushed us to consider who our work is for and how we grow the diverse and geographic representation of our audience and artists.

High Quality Creative Experiences

Over the next 18 months, we look forward to welcoming back regular collaborators including Graeae, Tamasha, 20 Stories High and Paines Plough, alongside diversity-led festival partners Homotopia, DaDa Fest, Arab Arts Festival and Physical Fest. As ever our productions will be further explored through a programme of exhibitions, workshops, and events, seeking to explore their themes and bring them to a wider audience.

We will:

- Continue our commitment to showcasing diverse and relatable narratives, with a minimum 70% of work on stages featuring artists and creatives from diverse backgrounds, alongside a commitment to ensuring 50% of the work we programme is by artists from Merseyside.
- Grow our online and digital activity, including featuring approx. 70% of work programmed in our venue on our online platform Unity Online, introducing national audiences to our innovative programming.
- Strengthen the quality and quantity of productions and creative experiences available to Merseyside families, specifically children and young people aged 12 and under. We will work with festival partners to source family productions that explore a range of societal themes, alongside supporting local talent to grow their ambitions and knowledge around family touring.
- Work with long-term partners Homotopia to develop wraparound activity for the LGBTQIA+ community, including our monthly Queer Creative Meet Up

All locally produced work will feature on our online platform - Unity Online and be featured on ProPortal our library of touring work promoted to national programmers.

Develop and Support Local Artists

Our work with Merseyside artists and creatives will continue to grow dynamically, with a core priority of seeing local artists playing a leading role in the strengthening of the Liverpool performance ecology. We will support promising work to tour to partners across the country, putting Merseyside talent front and centre of England's excellent cultural offer.

At the centre of this ambition will remain our Creative Pool programme, funded by the Esmée Fairbairn Foundation, and featuring entry-level courses and masterclasses through to intensive training and paid shadowing opportunities. Our artist support initiatives will continue to be run and managed by our Associate Producer – our second placement will start in the summer of 2022, with a mid-career producer joining the team to build on the successes of our first Associate, Kirsten Peters Roebuck.

We will also:

- Host a further 20 Merseyside artists through our Open Call season across full programming slots, a new works festival and co-created community activity.
- Strengthen partnerships with John Moore University and LIPA, offering their students essential hands-on learning throughout their BA and MA courses through guest lecturing, hosting student and graduate performances alongside mentoring support.
- Develop our ProPortal platform, building a library of high-quality touring work made by talented artists, accessible to 200+ programmers from venues and festivals from across the country.

UNITY THEATRE

TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT) (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

Platform and Celebrate Local Communities

Post-lockdown we have re-evaluated how we strengthen community ownership of our building through:

- Community programme - community groups and charities supported to run activities and workshops (dementia-friendly socials; parent-and-baby groups)
- Social-themed programming – across events, workshops, and exhibitions
- Offsite performance and activity - visiting community spaces across all 6 Merseyside boroughs

We will increase repeat engagement and the number of first-time visitors to our venue, with a focus on geographic representation, through:

- Growth of Community Ticket Schemes and associated community partners
- Community-focused online campaigns featuring artists and audiences from all 6 Merseyside boroughs
- Commissions for national touring artists to develop co-created community projects
- Growing digital resources and engagement, seeing 20% of in-venue audiences interacting with our Unity Online offer
- Joint audience campaigns with Everyman and Playhouse and the Royal Court

We will grow our commitment to D/deaf, disabled and neurodivergent creatives and audiences, strengthening our reputation as a recognised safe space to see and create work.

Take Your Seat (with HOME) will bring together global majority creatives across Manchester and Liverpool via free tickets for productions and masterclasses, building on our collaboration on Eclipse's Slate programme.

Youth Theatre with 20 Stories High

Unity has joined forces with 20 Stories High to deliver a weekly Youth Theatre for working class and culturally diverse young people aged 14-21 who meet at Unity to make challenging plays with a difference. The young people are given the opportunity to tell their stories through a mash up of dance, spoken word, music, song, street dance and puppetry.

RAWD Liverpool

Following a successful 2022 pilot, RAWD, a company who shares our dedication to providing opportunities in the arts, will run year-round weekly creative sessions for learning disabled participants, leading to an annual performance on our main stage.

Ensuring Financial and Organisational Viability

Our structure empowers all staff to co-create work that responds directly to community and artist needs. Everyone is given time to work on specific projects, motivating them to take responsibility for the ethos of the company. Our projects speak to multiple objectives rather than having one team for community work, another for artistic and so on. This way of working affords adaptability for dynamic change.

After 4 years at Unity our previous Executive Director left in June 2022, this role was replaced in December 2022. Following a review of organisation needs, we took the opportunity to review reporting structures into the executive team streamlining them so that our full fundraising function reports into the new Executive Director, whilst the Artistic Director/CEO continues to manage all artistic and commercial facing roles. This allows a wider scope for each team, evaluating the full range of opportunities within these two crucial areas.

The Executive Director continues to work closely with financial consultants 'Adding Value' to provide support and financial clarity to budget holders and our board Risk and Compliance Sub-Committee. As part of the continued modernising of financial practices, during the 2022-26 business planning process, we identified key financial drivers across the business to allow for more efficient budget and target setting which are ambitious but still achievable. Monthly meetings with all budget holders will allow for these to be fine-tuned to continue strengthening financial sustainability for future years.

UNITY THEATRE

TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT) (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

Structure, governance and management

Governing document

The charity is a company limited by guarantee governed by its Memorandum and Articles of Association dated March 11 1997, as amended by special resolutions dated May 1 1997 and September 27 2016. It is a registered charity with the Charity Commission.

The trustees, who are also the directors for the purpose of company law, and who served during the year and up to the date of signature of the financial statements were:

Ms G Buttoo	
Mr L Clark	(Appointed 13 July 2021)
Ms E Edwards	
Mr D Fletcher	(Appointed 13 July 2021)
Ms M Jennings	(Resigned 26 October 2021)
Ms S Jones	
Ms A Marshall	(Appointed 13 July 2021)
Mr G Millar	
Ms L Mooney	(Appointed 13 July 2021)
Mr G Pengelly	(Resigned 6 December 2022)
Ms A Perera	(Appointed 13 July 2021)
Ms Y Bottomley	(Retired 13 July 2021)
Mr M Cavanagh	(Retired 13 July 2021)
Mr D Sebuyange	(Appointed 27 January 2022)

Appointment of trustees

The directors, who are the trustees of the charity, are appointed by the members in general meeting. The Directors have the power to co-opt to fill a casual vacancy and such persons hold office until the next AGM. The directors are appointed initially for a three-year term and are eligible for re-election for a second consecutive three-year term. In extraordinary circumstances a director may be, with the Board's approval, appointed for a third consecutive three-year term but not beyond that.

Only retiring directors or those proposed by the Board are eligible for election at the general meeting unless due notice has been given by a member of their intention to propose someone.

None of the trustees has any beneficial interest in the company. All of the trustees are members of the company and guarantee to contribute £1 in the event of a winding up.

UNITY THEATRE

TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT) (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

Trustee induction and training

All new Trustees receive an induction prior to starting their first term, led by a member of the Risk and Compliance Committee and/or Executive Director. This induction covers the history of the organisation, its current work and the role and expectations required of a Trustee.

Shortly after the election of a new group of Trustees, a training session is arranged covering governance and current charity legislation, run by an external consultant.

We have meaningfully improved diversity in the last 5 years, particularly around disability and cultural representation, and age has dropped significantly – our Chair is 34, with ages spanning 26-49 - meaning lived experiences fully reflect our communities. Though core skillsets of creative industry, HR, finance, fundraising and digital are all represented, we prioritise curating a diverse range of viewpoints and experience, with our Chair creating a supportive culture to aid collective problem-solving.

Organisation

The Board, which must be no less than three and not more than 15 people, meets as required and normally 4 times per year. Day to day management of the charity is delegated to the Chief Executive and the other members of the Senior management team who together with the directors constitute the key management personnel of the charity.

Pay and remuneration for senior staff

All roles are formally reviewed prior to each vacancy being advertised, with adjustments made to ensure our structure meets the business' current and future needs. Where there is a vacancy in our senior team, pay and remuneration packages are benchmarked against a minimum of three regional peer venues and advertised within a range to remain competitive.

Staff pay at all levels of the organisation is reviewed annually to achieve fair salary bands and avoid discrimination.

Co-operation with other organisations/charities

Unity is regularly funded by Arts Council England and Liverpool City Council.

Across our networks we foster a commitment to diversity and the employment of local creatives within communities. We are core members of the Liverpool Arts Regeneration Consortium and Shift sustainability network, plus Big Imaginations, Dance Consortium Northwest and Venues North. Regular local creative partners include Homotopia, DaDa Fest and 20 Stories High. We work closely with Liverpool's Everyman and Playhouse and Royal Court to strengthen the city's creative ecology.

Related parties

We have no related parties that we require to be disclosed.

Auditor

MHA Moore and Smalley were appointed as auditor to the company during the year.

This report has been prepared in accordance with special provisions of Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

UNITY THEATRE

TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT) (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

Disclosure of information to auditor

Each of the trustees has confirmed that there is no information of which they are aware which is relevant to the audit, but of which the auditor is unaware. They have further confirmed that they have taken appropriate steps to identify such relevant information and to establish that the auditor is aware of such information.

The trustees' report was approved by the Board of Trustees.



Ms E Edwards

Trustee

Dated: 21 December 2022

UNITY THEATRE

STATEMENT OF TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

The trustees, who are also the directors of Unity Theatre for the purpose of company law, are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

Company Law requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the charitable company for that year.

In preparing these financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then 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; and
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in operation.

The trustees are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity 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 charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

UNITY THEATRE

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF UNITY THEATRE

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Unity Theatre (the 'charity') for the year ended 31 March 2022 which comprise the statement of financial activities, the balance sheet and the notes to the financial statements, including significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including FRS 102 *The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland* (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion, the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charitable company's affairs as at 31 March 2022 and of its incoming resources and application of resources, for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006.

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the *Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements* section of our report. We are independent of the charity in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Conclusions relating to going concern

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the charity's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the trustees with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

Other information

The other information comprises the information included in the annual report other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. The trustees are responsible for the other information contained within the annual report. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon. Our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the course of the audit, or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether this gives rise to a material misstatement in the financial statements themselves. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

UNITY THEATRE

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT (CONTINUED)

TO THE TRUSTEES OF UNITY THEATRE

Opinions on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2006

In our opinion, based on the work undertaken in the course of our audit:

- the information given in the trustees' report, which includes the directors' report prepared for the purposes of company law, for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements; and
- the directors' report included within the trustees' report has been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

In the light of the knowledge and understanding of the charity and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the directors' report included within the trustees' report.

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the Companies Act 2006 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- adequate accounting records have not been kept, or returns adequate for our audit have not been received from branches not visited by us; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- certain disclosures of trustees' remuneration specified by law are not made; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit; or
- the trustees were not entitled to prepare the financial statements in accordance with the small companies regime and take advantage of the small companies' exemptions in preparing the trustees' report and from the requirement to prepare a strategic report.

Responsibilities of trustees

As explained more fully in the statement of trustees' responsibilities, the trustees, who are also the directors of the charity for the purpose of company law, are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error. In preparing the financial statements, the trustees are responsible for assessing the charity's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the trustees either intend to liquidate the charitable company or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

UNITY THEATRE

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT (CONTINUED)

TO THE TRUSTEES OF UNITY THEATRE

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We design procedures in line with our responsibilities, outlined above, to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud. The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud, is detailed below.

- Enquiry of management, those charged with governance around actual and potential litigation and claims.
- Enquiry of entity staff in tax and compliance functions to identify any instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations.
- Reviewing minutes of meetings of those charged with governance.
- Reviewing financial statement disclosures and testing to supporting documentation to assess compliance with applicable laws and regulations.
- Auditing the risk of management override of controls, including through testing journal entries and other adjustments for appropriateness, and evaluating the business rationale of significant transactions outside the normal course of business'.

We identified the following areas as those most likely to have a material impact on the financial statements: Health and Safety; Theatres and Premises Licensing Act; Safeguarding, Independent Theatre Council contracting and payment for Creatives; employment law (including the Working Time Directive); anti-bribery and corruption; and compliance with the UK Companies Act and Charity Commission rules.

Because of the inherent limitations of an audit, there is a risk that we will not detect all irregularities, including those leading to a material misstatement in the financial statements or non-compliance with regulation. This risk increases the more that compliance with a law or regulation is removed from the events and transactions reflected in the financial statements, as we will be less likely to become aware of instances of non-compliance. The risk is also greater regarding irregularities occurring due to fraud rather than error, as fraud involves intentional concealment, forgery, collusion, omission or misrepresentation.

A further description of our responsibilities is available on the Financial Reporting Council's website at: <https://www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities>. This description forms part of our auditor's report.

Use of our report

This report is made solely to the charitable company's members, as a body, in accordance with Chapter 3 of Part 16 of the Companies Act 2006. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charitable company's members those matters we are required to state to them in an auditors' report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charitable company and the charitable company's members as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

Nicola Mason

Nicola Mason (Senior Statutory Auditor)
for and on behalf of MHA Moore and Smalley

21/12/2022
.....

Chartered Accountants
Statutory Auditor

Richard House
9 Winckley Square
Preston
PR1 3HP

UNITY THEATRE

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES INCLUDING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

	Notes	Unrestricted funds general 2022 £	Unrestricted funds designated 2022 £	Restricted funds 2022 £	Total 2022 £	Unrestricted funds general 2021 £	Unrestricted funds designated 2021 £	Restricted funds 2021 £	Total 2021 £
<u>Income and endowments from:</u>									
Donations and legacies	3	375,368	-	43,600	418,968	525,427	-	137,297	662,724
Charitable activities	4	63,681	-	-	63,681	3,097	-	116,825	119,922
Other trading activities	5	9,209	-	-	9,209	3,586	-	-	3,586
Other income	6	164	-	-	164	24	-	-	24
Total income		448,422	-	43,600	492,022	532,134	-	254,122	786,256
<u>Expenditure on:</u>									
Raising funds	7	18,484	-	-	18,484	15,240	-	-	15,240
Charitable activities	8	475,358	30,174	106,620	612,152	374,393	32,003	71,752	478,148
Total resources expended		493,842	30,174	106,620	630,636	389,633	32,003	71,752	493,388
Gross transfers between funds		10,169	(20,426)	10,257	-	32,730	32,270	(65,000)	-
Net movement in funds		(35,251)	(50,600)	(52,763)	(138,614)	175,231	267	117,370	292,868
Fund balances at 1 April 2021		121,518	1,794,575	117,369	2,033,462	(53,714)	1,794,308	-	1,740,594
Fund balances at 31 March 2022		86,267	1,743,975	64,606	1,894,848	121,517	1,794,575	117,370	2,033,462

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year.

All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities.

The statement of financial activities also complies with the requirements for an income and expenditure account under the Companies Act 2006.

UNITY THEATRE

BALANCE SHEET

AS AT 31 MARCH 2022

	Notes	2022		2021	
		£	£	£	£
Fixed assets					
Tangible assets	12		1,743,973		1,764,574
Current assets					
Stocks	13	1,811		1,995	
Debtors	14	85,656		113,466	
Cash at bank and in hand		105,892		220,345	
		<u>193,359</u>		<u>335,806</u>	
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	15	<u>(42,484)</u>		<u>(66,918)</u>	
Net current assets			150,875		268,888
Total assets less current liabilities			<u>1,894,848</u>		<u>2,033,462</u>
Income funds					
Restricted funds	16		64,606		117,370
Unrestricted funds - designated			1,743,975		1,794,575
Unrestricted funds - general			86,267		121,517
			<u>1,894,848</u>		<u>2,033,462</u>

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies regime.

The financial statements were approved by the Trustees on 21 December 2022



Ms E Edwards
Trustee

Company Registration No. 03333987

UNITY THEATRE

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

1 Accounting policies

Charity information

Unity Theatre is a private company limited by guarantee incorporated in England and Wales. In the event of the charity being wound up, the liability in respect of the guarantee is limited to £1 per member of the charity. The registered office is 1 Hope Place, Liverpool, L1 9BG.

1.1 Accounting convention

The charity constitutes a public benefit entity as defined by FRS 102. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland issued in October 2019, the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102), the Charities Act 2011, the Companies Act 2006 and UK Generally Accepted Accounting Practice.

The financial statements are prepared in sterling, which is the functional currency of the charity. Monetary amounts in these financial statements are rounded to the nearest £.

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

The principal accounting policies adopted are set out below.

1.2 Going concern

The financial statements have been prepared on a going concern basis as the trustees believe that no material uncertainties exist. The trustees have considered the level of funds held and the expected level of income and expenditure for 12 months from authorising these financial statements. The budgeted income and expenditure is sufficient with the level of reserves for the charity available to continue as a going concern.

1.3 Charitable funds

Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of their charitable objectives.

Designated funds comprise funds which have been set aside at the discretion of the trustees for specific purposes. The purposes and uses of the designated funds are set out in the notes to the financial statements.

Restricted funds are subject to specific conditions by donors as to how they may be used. The purposes and uses of the restricted funds are set out in the notes to the financial statements.

1.4 Income

Income is recognised when the charity is legally entitled to it after any performance conditions have been met, the amounts can be measured reliably, and it is probable that income will be received.

Cash donations are recognised on receipt. Other donations are recognised once the charity has been notified of the donation, unless performance conditions require deferral of the amount. Income tax recoverable in relation to donations received under Gift Aid or deeds of covenant is recognised at the time of the donation.

Legacies are recognised on receipt or otherwise if the charity has been notified of an impending distribution, the amount is known, and receipt is expected. If the amount is not known, the legacy is treated as a contingent asset.

UNITY THEATRE

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

1 Accounting policies

(Continued)

Income from trading activities includes income earned from fundraising events and trading activities to raise funds for the charity. Income is received in exchange for supplying goods and services in order to raise funds and is recognised when entitlement has occurred.

1.5 Expenditure

Expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to make a payment to a third party, it is probable that the settlement will be required, and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. Expenditure is classified under the following activity headings:

Costs of raising funds: including those associated with fundraising activities.

Charitable activities: costs of undertaking the work of the Charity.

The Charity is registered for VAT and can recover all input tax charged. Costs are stated exclusive of VAT where charged.

Support costs are those that assist the work of the charity but do not directly represent charitable activities and include office costs, governance costs, administrative payroll costs. They are incurred directly in support of expenditure on the objects of the charity and include project management carried out at Headquarters. Where support costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings they have been allocated to cost of raising funds and expenditure on charitable activities on a basis consistent with use of the resources

1.6 Tangible fixed assets

Tangible fixed assets are initially measured at cost and subsequently measured at cost or valuation, net of depreciation and any impairment losses.

Depreciation is recognised so as to write off the cost or valuation of assets less their residual values over their useful lives on the following bases:

Leasehold land and buildings	Over the period of the lease
Fixtures and fittings	25% straight line
Computers	Over 7 years

The gain or loss arising on the disposal of an asset is determined as the difference between the sale proceeds and the carrying value of the asset, and is recognised in net income/(expenditure) for the year.

1.7 Impairment of fixed assets

At each reporting end date, the charity reviews the carrying amounts of its tangible assets to determine whether there is any indication that those assets have suffered an impairment loss. If any such indication exists, the recoverable amount of the asset is estimated in order to determine the extent of the impairment loss (if any).

1.8 Stocks

Stocks are stated at the lower of cost and estimated selling price less costs to complete and sell. Cost comprises direct materials and, where applicable, direct labour costs and those overheads that have been incurred in bringing the stocks to their present location and condition. Items held for distribution at no or nominal consideration are measured the lower of replacement cost and cost.

Net realisable value is the estimated selling price less all estimated costs of completion and costs to be incurred in marketing, selling and distribution.

UNITY THEATRE

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

1 Accounting policies

(Continued)

1.9 Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents include cash in hand, deposits held at call with banks, and bank overdrafts. Bank overdrafts are shown within borrowings in current liabilities.

1.10 Financial instruments

The charity has elected to apply the provisions of Section 11 'Basic Financial Instruments' and Section 12 'Other Financial Instruments Issues' of FRS 102 to all of its financial instruments.

Financial instruments are recognised in the charity's balance sheet when the charity becomes party to the contractual provisions of the instrument.

Financial assets and liabilities are offset, with the net amounts presented in the financial statements, when there is a legally enforceable right to set off the recognised amounts and there is an intention to settle on a net basis or to realise the asset and settle the liability simultaneously.

Derecognition of financial liabilities

Financial liabilities are derecognised when the charity's contractual obligations expire or are discharged or cancelled.

1.11 Employee benefits

When employees have rendered services to the charity, short term employee benefits to which the employees are entitled are recognised at the undiscounted amount expected to be paid in exchange for that service.

2 Critical accounting estimates and judgements

In the application of the charity's accounting policies, the trustees are required to make judgements, estimates and assumptions about the carrying amount of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. The estimates and associated assumptions are based on historical experience and other factors that are considered to be relevant. Actual results may differ from these estimates.

The estimates and underlying assumptions are reviewed on an ongoing basis. Revisions to accounting estimates are recognised in the period in which the estimate is revised where the revision affects only that period, or in the period of the revision and future periods where the revision affects both current and future periods.

UNITY THEATRE

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

3 Donations and legacies

	Unrestricted funds general 2022 £	Restricted funds 2022 £	Total 2022 £	Unrestricted funds general 2021 £	Restricted funds 2021 £	Total 2021 £
Donations and gifts	2,052	-	2,052	7,376	10,124	17,500
Revenue & Covid Funding	373,316	43,600	416,916	518,051	127,173	645,224
	<u>375,368</u>	<u>43,600</u>	<u>418,968</u>	<u>525,427</u>	<u>137,297</u>	<u>662,724</u>
Revenue & Covid funding						
Arts Council England	277,005	-	277,005	277,005	-	277,005
Liverpool City Council	74,400	-	74,400	74,400	-	74,400
Austin & Hope Pickington Trust	-	-	-	1,000	-	1,000
Garfield Weston Foundation	-	-	-	40,000	-	40,000
ACE Emergency funding	-	-	-	-	62,173	62,173
ACE CRF1	-	-	-	-	65,000	65,000
ACE CRF2	-	38,057	38,057	-	-	-
Liverpool City Council	8,000	-	8,000	104,215	-	104,215
HMRC - CJRS	11,244	-	11,244	2,000	-	2,000
Granada Foundation	-	-	-	19,431	-	19,431
Other	2,667	5,543	8,210	-	-	-
	<u>373,316</u>	<u>43,600</u>	<u>416,916</u>	<u>518,051</u>	<u>127,173</u>	<u>645,224</u>

UNITY THEATRE

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

4 Charitable activities

	Theatre	Ancillary	Total	Theatre	Projects &	Total
	2022	2022	2022	2021	Outreach	2021
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Sales within charitable activities	43,437	20,244	63,681	597	119,325	119,922
Details:						
Box office	43,437	-	43,437	597	-	597
Bar sales	-	20,244	20,244	-	-	-
Esmee Fairbairn Foundation	-	-	-	-	112,825	112,825
Granada Foundation	-	-	-	-	4,000	4,000
Participation activity	-	-	-	-	2,500	2,500
	43,437	20,244	63,681	597	119,325	119,922
Analysis by fund						
Unrestricted funds - general	43,437	20,244	63,681	597	2,500	3,097
Restricted funds	-	-	-	-	116,825	116,825
	43,437	20,244	63,681	597	119,325	119,922

5 Other trading activities

	Unrestricted funds general 2022 £	Unrestricted funds general 2021 £
Trading activity income	9,209	3,586

Included within these balances are commercial hire sales income for £8,627 (2021: £4,000)

UNITY THEATRE

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

6 Other income

	Unrestricted funds general 2022 £	Unrestricted funds general 2021 £
Other income	164	24

7 Raising funds

	Unrestricted funds general 2022 £	Unrestricted funds general 2021 £
<u>Fundraising and publicity</u>		
Direct costs	3,755	4,272
Support costs	14,729	10,968
	<u>18,484</u>	<u>15,240</u>
Fundraising and publicity	18,484	15,240

UNITY THEATRE

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

8 Charitable activities

	Theatre & performance 2022 £	Project costs 2022 £	Ancillary trading 2022 £	Total 2022 £	Theatre & performance 2021 £	Project costs 2021 £	Ancillary trading 2021 £	Total 2021 £
Staff costs	115,352	61,795	35,430	212,577	129,268	36,277	-	165,545
Direct costs	73,011	48,693	11,599	133,303	31,518	10,002	425	41,945
Project costs	(43,600)	43,600	-	-	(62,173)	62,173	-	-
	<u>144,763</u>	<u>154,088</u>	<u>47,029</u>	<u>345,880</u>	<u>98,613</u>	<u>108,452</u>	<u>425</u>	<u>207,490</u>
Share of support costs (see note 9)	183,089	26,164	25,537	234,790	226,468	11,563	-	238,031
Share of governance costs (see note 9)	22,038	4,722	4,722	31,482	29,365	1,631	1,631	32,627
	<u>349,890</u>	<u>184,974</u>	<u>77,288</u>	<u>612,152</u>	<u>354,446</u>	<u>121,646</u>	<u>2,056</u>	<u>478,148</u>
Analysis by fund								
Unrestricted funds - general	319,716	78,354	77,288	475,358	322,443	49,894	2,056	374,393
Unrestricted funds - designated	30,174	-	-	30,174	32,003	-	-	32,003
Restricted funds	-	106,620	-	106,620	-	71,752	-	71,752
	<u>349,890</u>	<u>184,974</u>	<u>77,288</u>	<u>612,152</u>	<u>354,446</u>	<u>121,646</u>	<u>2,056</u>	<u>478,148</u>

UNITY THEATRE

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

9 Support costs

	Support costs	Governance costs	2022	Support costs	Governance costs	2021
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Staff costs	68,967	-	68,967	107,943	-	107,943
Depreciation	30,174	-	30,174	32,003	-	32,003
Staff related costs	5,571	-	5,571	1,268	-	1,268
Marketing salaries	72,751	-	72,751	51,644	-	51,644
Marketing costs	30,322	-	30,322	29,827	-	29,827
BO system & other subs	10,228	-	10,228	1,557	-	1,557
Insurance	8,495	-	8,495	8,246	-	8,246
Office & other support costs	10,942	-	10,942	9,517	-	9,517
Bank & other charges	3,118	-	3,118	6,994	-	6,994
Trustees expenses	189	-	189	-	-	-
Other	8,762	-	8,762	-	-	-
Audit fees	-	29,415	29,415	-	26,761	26,761
Legal and professional	-	2,067	2,067	-	3,866	3,866
Support salaries	-	-	-	-	2,000	2,000
	<u>249,519</u>	<u>31,482</u>	<u>281,001</u>	<u>248,999</u>	<u>32,627</u>	<u>281,626</u>
Analysed between						
Fundraising	14,729	-	14,729	10,968	-	10,968
Charitable activities	234,790	31,482	266,272	238,031	32,627	270,658
	<u>249,519</u>	<u>31,482</u>	<u>281,001</u>	<u>248,999</u>	<u>32,627</u>	<u>281,626</u>

Governance costs includes payments to the auditors of £4,500 (2021- £3,100) for audit fees.

10 Trustees

Trustees expenses

None of the trustees (or any persons connected with them) received any remuneration during the year for their role as trustee. Trustees were reimbursed for expenses the value of £189 during the year. (2021: none)

UNITY THEATRE

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

11 Employees

The average monthly number of employees during the year was:

	2022	2021
	Number	Number
Average no of employees	27	40

Employment costs

	2022	2021
	£	£
Wages and salaries	328,319	281,157
Social security costs	22,773	14,979
Other pension costs	5,480	5,439
	<u>356,572</u>	<u>301,575</u>

There were no employees whose annual remuneration was £60,000 or more.

12 Tangible fixed assets

	Leasehold land and buildings	Fixtures and fittings	Computers	Total
	£	£	£	£
Cost				
At 1 April 2021	2,057,677	261,846	-	2,319,523
Additions	-	624	8,950	9,574
	<u>2,057,677</u>	<u>262,470</u>	<u>8,950</u>	<u>2,329,097</u>
At 31 March 2022	2,057,677	262,470	8,950	2,329,097
Depreciation and impairment				
At 1 April 2021	301,383	253,566	-	554,949
Depreciation charged in the year	20,577	8,319	1,279	30,175
	<u>321,960</u>	<u>261,885</u>	<u>1,279</u>	<u>585,124</u>
At 31 March 2022	321,960	261,885	1,279	585,124
Carrying amount				
At 31 March 2022	<u>1,735,717</u>	<u>585</u>	<u>7,671</u>	<u>1,743,973</u>
At 31 March 2021	<u>1,756,294</u>	<u>8,280</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,764,574</u>

13 Stocks

	2022	2021
	£	£
Finished goods and goods for resale	1,811	1,995

UNITY THEATRE

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

14 Debtors	2022	2021
	£	£
Amounts falling due within one year:		
Trade debtors	1,444	5,579
Other debtors	845	11,328
Prepayments and accrued income	83,367	96,559
	<u>85,656</u>	<u>113,466</u>
	<u><u>85,656</u></u>	<u><u>113,466</u></u>
15 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	2022	2021
	£	£
Other taxation and social security	9,302	1,742
Trade creditors	12,243	7,334
Other creditors	-	5,142
Accruals and deferred income	20,939	52,700
	<u>42,484</u>	<u>66,918</u>
	<u><u>42,484</u></u>	<u><u>66,918</u></u>

There is no deferred income at the year end (2021: £32,462). Last years comprised of £2,462 of room hire paid in advance and a £30,000 advance payment of a Arts Council of England grant.

UNITY THEATRE

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

16 Restricted funds

The income funds of the charity include restricted funds comprising the following unexpended balances of donations and grants held on trust for specific purposes:

	Movement in funds				Movement in funds			
	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Transfers £	Balance at 1 April 2021 £	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Transfers £	Balance at 31 March 2022 £
ACE Emergency fund	62,173	(62,173)	-	-	-	-	-	-
ACE CRF1	65,000	-	(65,000)	-	-	-	-	-
Opencall Programme	10,124	(124)	-	10,000	-	(20,210)	10,210	-
Esmee Fairbairn Foundation	112,825	(9,455)	-	103,369	-	(38,763)	-	64,606
Granada Foundation	4,000	-	-	4,000	-	(4,047)	47	-
ACE CRF2	-	-	-	-	38,057	(38,057)	-	-
National M&G	-	-	-	-	5,543	(5,543)	-	-
	<u>254,122</u>	<u>(71,752)</u>	<u>(65,000)</u>	<u>117,369</u>	<u>43,600</u>	<u>(106,620)</u>	<u>10,257</u>	<u>64,606</u>

- ACE Emergency: This was to cover costs associated with sustaining Unity following the financial and operational impact of the pandemic.
- ACE CRF 1: This was to cover costs associated with sustaining Unity following the financial and operational impact of the pandemic.
- Opencall Programme: This was to provide Liverpool and City Region Artists with paid creative opportunities. The trustees have agreed to fund part of the expenses from the general fund.
- Esmee Fairbairn Foundation: This funds "Creative Pool", Unity's programme for development of creatives, including the salary of our Associate Producer.
- Granada Foundation: Contribution towards our Theatre Access programme, to enable our performances to be captioned, BSL interpreted or audio described.
- ACE CRF2: This was to cover costs associated with sustaining Unity following the financial and operational impact of the pandemic.
- National M&G: This was for the benefit of one Kick Start position.

UNITY THEATRE

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

17 Analysis of net assets between funds

	Unrestricted funds 2022 £	Designated funds 2022 £	Restricted funds 2022 £	Total 2022 £	Unrestricted funds 2021 £	Designated funds 2021 £	Restricted funds 2021 £	Total 2021 £
Fund balances at 31 March 2022 are represented by:								
Tangible assets	-	1,743,973	-	1,743,973	-	1,764,574	-	1,764,574
Current assets/(liabilities)	86,269	-	64,606	150,875	121,519	30,000	117,369	268,888
	<u>86,269</u>	<u>1,743,973</u>	<u>64,606</u>	<u>1,894,848</u>	<u>121,519</u>	<u>1,794,574</u>	<u>117,369</u>	<u>2,033,462</u>

UNITY THEATRE

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

18 Operating lease commitments

Lessee

Amounts recognised in profit or loss as an expense during the period in respect of operating lease arrangements are as follows:

	2022	2021
	£	£
Minimum lease payments under operating leases	-	278
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

19 Capital commitments

The Charity had no capital commitments at the year end (2021: none).

20 Related party transactions

Remuneration of key management personnel

The key management of the charity comprise of the trustees and senior staff.

The remuneration of key management personnel is as follows.

	2022	2021
	£	£
Aggregate compensation	127,028	88,251
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

No trustees received remuneration for their services as trustees.

On February 4 2020, the Chief Executive Officer G Millar was appointed as a trustee and director of the Company. He did not receive any remuneration for acting as a trustee. His employment benefits in the year were £53,618 (2021: £53,393).

UNITY THEATRE

England & Wales - Charity number 1062463

Accounts

UNITY THEATRE
ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR
THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31 2021

**UNITY THEATRE
CHAIR'S FOREWORD
FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31 2021**

INDEX

Chair's foreword	1
Administrative information	2
Trustees' and Directors' annual report	3 – 10
Auditors' report	11 – 13
Statement of financial activities	14
Balance sheet	15
Statement of cash flows	16
Notes to the financial statements	17 – 27

**UNITY THEATRE
CHAIR'S FOREWORD
FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31 2021**

As I look back at the last 12 months and the many challenges and achievements that have been met, I want to start my forward by once again thanking everyone that makes up the team at Unity for all that they do. It has, and continues to be, one of the most difficult periods in the history of the organisation, but the strong position in which Unity finishes this year – both financially and creatively - is testament to the remarkable dedication the staff team and my fellow Trustees give to their roles here. I want to offer a huge thanks to them all for their invaluable time, ideas, thoughts, and passion which have got us where we are today and puts us in the best place to meet the challenges no doubt yet to come.

When planning our response to the pandemic, the Unity team ensured that freelance artists and creatives were central in the discussion from the very beginning; like their peers across the country, the pandemic has had an immeasurable impact on the Merseyside freelance community, with projects grounding to a halt and paid work disappearing overnight. Following many conversations with artists and partners, in May 2020 the team launched an emergency response programme which over the next 18 months supported over 600 individual artists with funding, mentoring, rehearsal space and performance opportunities.

In recent months it has been inspirational to see the Unity staff team bring our building on Hope Place back to life after a year being closed to the public, with the team continually thriving when able to do what they do best, providing high-quality creative experiences for and with the people of Merseyside. Our Open Call season was a wonderful example of this, featuring 22 performances by local artists and companies. Each company received a fee of up to £1250, technical support, rehearsal space and mentoring from our team. We programmed the season through a call-out for practitioners of all kinds which proved so popular that we received 16 times the number of applications than there were performance slots available. A Crowdfunder fundraising campaign was launched in early 2021 to allow even more artists to be supported through the programme - over 370 individual supporters gave to the campaign, many of them local creatives themselves, raising over £10,000. It was incredibly special to be able to offer a programme for local artists, supported by their peers, and we are hugely grateful for the opportunity.

My sincere thanks to all our supporters and friends who have given so much to ensure Unity can continue surviving and growing. I want to thank our core funders, Arts Council England and Liverpool City Council for both their ongoing support as well as their flexible and rapid response to the pandemic, supporting Unity through their Emergency Grants programmes. 2021 marked the first year of our Creative 'Pool programme, greatly expanding opportunities for Merseyside creatives to produce and tour work nationally, which has been made possible by the support of the Esmée Fairbairn Foundation through a three-year grant. During 2020 we also secured funding from the Garfield Weston Foundation, a key donor of our Build Unity Better capital campaign, to continue delivering our core programmes during the pandemic and work towards financial stability.

These funding successes, alongside a difficult but necessary organisational review in the summer of 2020, has allowed us to build back our reserves to levels that meet our policies, and start making exciting plans for the future. The latter includes investment in our digital ambitions and infrastructure which will allow Unity to remove many financial, geographical and access barriers faced by artists and audiences, and continue offering ground-breaking creative experiences.

This is my last chairs report as my term of office comes to an end in October 2021. It feels appropriate to take a brief moment to reflect on Unity's journey over the past seven years. It is quite incredible how much change to both the building and the business has taken place (in some very challenging circumstances) for the better and yet still Unity continues to deliver its main aim in providing high quality creative experiences to the people of Liverpool. The changes are immense, the building is now more flexible, more accessible and more sustainable, the business is more resilient both in terms of finance and governance. There is a strong leadership team in place with a wide experienced committed board along with two very supportive core funding organisation of Liverpool City Council and Arts Council England, plus a growing base of supporters.

I would like to express my sincere thanks to everyone involve with Unity over my term of office that has supported and enabled me to carry out my role as chair, I am extremely proud of everything that we have collectively achieved, and I know the business is in a very strong position for the future.

I wish the team, the board, our artists and of course our audiences all the very best and I look forward to watching in the wings the further developments that undoubtedly will unfold in the near future.

C J Bliss - Chair

**UNITY THEATRE
ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION
FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31 2021**

DIRECTORS & TRUSTEES

C J Bliss
Y M Bottomley
G Buttoo
M J Cavanagh
R Cobban
E Edwards
C Hewitson
M Jennings
S Jones
G Millar
G M Pengelly

Chair
Finance Committee Chair

(resigned 7/07/21)

(resigned 7/07/21)

COMPANY SECRETARY

R M Palmer

SENIOR MANAGEMENT TEAM

G Millar
R M Palmer

Chief Executive
Executive Director

**REGISTERD OFFICE AND
PRINCIPAL PLACE OF BUSINESS**

Unity Theatre
1 Hope Place
Liverpool L1 9BG

AUDITORS & ACCOUNTANTS

HGA Accountants & Financial Consultants Ltd t/a Chittenden Horley
Chartered Accountants
456 Chester Road
Old Trafford
Manchester M16 9HD

BANKERS

HSBC Bank Plc
99 Lord Street
Liverpool L31 2LZ

**UNITY THEATRE
TRUSTEES' AND DIRECTORS' ANNUAL REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31 2021**

The trustees present their annual report together with the financial statements of the charity for the year ended March 31 2021 which are also prepared to meet the requirements for a directors' report and accounts for Companies act purposes.

REPORTING FRAMEWORK

The financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011, the Companies Act 2006, the Memorandum and Articles of Association, and Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS102) (effective 1 January 2019), referred to as the Charities SORP (FRS 102) (second edition – October 2019).

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Charitable objects and aims

The charitable objectives are:

“To advance the education of the public in all aspects of the art of drama, dance, mime and music and to develop the public appreciation of such art and to provide and manage a theatre within the postal district of Liverpool without distinction of age, sex, race, political or religious or other opinions, by associating with statutory authorities, voluntary organisations, institutions and inhabitants and to promote all or any objects for the benefit of the community which now or hereafter may be deemed by law to be charitable.”

Unity Theatre aims to:

- Advance the education of the public in all aspects of the art of drama, dance, mime and music.
- Provide and manage a theatre; to promote all other objects for the benefit of the community which now or hereafter may be deemed by law to be charitable.

In the summer of 2020 Unity's Executive team and Trustees undertook an organisational review of our objectives, activities, staffing, methods of working and financial models. This chance to take stock has also seen the team embark on a renewed strategy, delivering on our core charitable aims through five new key objectives:

- Providing high quality creative experiences
- Developing and supporting local artists
- Platforming and celebrating local communities
- Promoting the need for an accessible, supportive society
- Ensuring long-term financial and organisational viability

Public benefit

Access, opportunity and diversity are core to what Unity is, influenced by our origins as the last surviving venue of the 1930s' unity theatre movement which presented work produced by and for working-class audiences. To this day, bringing people together from different backgrounds is what we are nationally known for, a method which drives how we plan and deliver all of our work.

All of Unity's artistic offer in 2020/21 was designed in close consultation with Merseyside creative communities, with strong feedback loops built in at all levels of planning. Close partnership work with organisations specialising in diversity and access ensures that our aim to see 70% of creatives involved in our programmes be from diverse backgrounds is consistently met and exceeded. We remain committed to making our programme accessible to audiences, and alongside outreach initiatives, our ticket prices are consistently more than 60% lower than our peers across the North West.

The trustees have had regard to the Charity Commission guidance on public benefit in determining the fees for performances.

**UNITY THEATRE
TRUSTEES' AND DIRECTORS' ANNUAL REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31 2021**

ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE

Although it was possibly the most difficult period in Unity's history, decisions made in the last 18 months have left the organisation in a far stronger position of long-term financial sustainability. The work done during this period will give us the best possible chance of weathering challenges that may be to come, both from the global pandemic and other associated external factors. We set and met ambitious objectives over the period which included:

- Increased financial reserves, during a time of heightened risk and financial uncertainty, meeting our reserves policy of 12 weeks operating costs.
- Continued building diverse funding streams that protected our core charitable objective of offering affordable, accessible performance and creative experiences.
- Strengthened the connections between our creative programme, talent development and community participation activity to ensure all have equal standing and offer opportunities for anyone who wants to take part.
- Developed a more agile business structure that can quickly respond to opportunities as and when they arise.

We have considerably reduced overheads, employing a core team to undertake core work and flexing up with personnel when we have income certainty. Additionally, we have invested in digital equipment and services that can be monetised and widen the exposure of Unity and its brand, making future funding applications more compelling.

Supporting Local Freelancers and Audiences

The pandemic had a critical impact on the creative freelance community in Merseyside. At the beginning of lockdown our staff met to discuss the best way of supporting local artists and creatives to continue developing their practice and most importantly bring in much needed income.

Unity Emergency Response Programme

Following consultations with local creatives, we launched an emergency response programme in mid-May which was described by Lyn Gardner on Twitter as 'the way to do it'. Alongside local creatives, the programme included session by the likes of Matthew Xia, Jess Thom (Touretteshero) and Scottee, all offering peer to peer support. Through the emergency response programme, we were able to offer:

- 152 individual artists and companies free space in our theatre to rehearse, develop and record their work
- 63 individual artists and companies support, proofing and feedback on funding applications
- 41 individual artists and companies one-to-one mentoring and project development
- 370 individuals live training, networking, and advice sessions through our online events programme
- 31 individual artists and companies additional income for creating work beyond our core programme
- 10,266 audience members free online events and productions to enjoy, both produced specifically for lockdown by Merseyside artists and from our library of recordings

Open Call Performance Season

When we commenced plans for reopening our building for performances – which marked over a year of being closed to the general public – we wanted to build on our work during lockdown and help the Merseyside freelance community get back on their feet after an incredibly tough period. Created to provide income and performance opportunity to local artists after a year without both, our Open Call programme as designed to celebrate Liverpool artists, their stories, communities and lives.

A call-out for applications in December 2020 was open to a wide range of people and practices including theatre companies, performers, community practitioners, musicians, devisers, comedians, puppeteers, digital artists & spoken word artists. The programme was so popular, we received 16 times the number of applications than there were performance slots available. A Crowdfunder was launched in early 2021 to allow even more artists to be supported through the programme – over 370 individual supporters gave to the campaign, many of them local creatives themselves.

In total, our 2021 performance programme featured 22 performances by local artists and companies, all receiving a fee of up to £1250, technical support, rehearsal space, mentoring and the opportunity to showcase their work nationally through our Programmers Portal. Alongside digital commissions, every in-venue production was also recorded and made available to watch online at a Pay What You Can rate.

**UNITY THEATRE
TRUSTEES' AND DIRECTORS' ANNUAL REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31 2021**

Creative 'Pool

With the recruitment of our first Associate Producer role in January 2021 (funded by the Esmée Fairbairn Foundation) we have been able to roll out a regular schedule of workshops and networking sessions through our Creative 'Pool programme. This builds on our lockdown artist support programme as well as our pilot activity from the previous two years and will continue to be shaped by and with the creatives taking part. Since we re-opened our building to the public in May 2021, regular activity has included:

- Monthly network sessions for Merseyside creatives focused on producing work, both with Homotopia (Queer Creative Meet Up) and the Everyman and Playhouse (Producer's Get Together)
- Nuts & Bolts - monthly workshops providing artists with the key skills and insights to help bring their creative projects to life.
- Coffee With Creatives - Peer to Peer sessions run by creatives featured in our artistic programme, sharing their processes and thoughts on their work
- Walk and Talk - weekly lunch hour networking walks with fellow creatives and Unity team

Building Financial Stability

In July 2020, following the retirement of our long-term Finance Officer, we contracted Liverpool-based Financial Consultants Adding Value to manage our finance functions, including management accounts, bookkeeping and payroll. The highly experienced team of finance specialists is led by Finance Director Matthew Brown and also work with Liverpool based arts organisations FACT and Bluecoat. Over the last 12 months the team have greatly modernised all areas of the financial process, including producing transparent financial reports that empower budget holders to make better decisions such as analysing supplier spend and identifying areas of saving.

Fundraising in the period included:

- Successful applications to the Arts Council Emergency Response Fund and two rounds of the DCMS Culture Recovery Fund (totalling £178,052) alongside emergency grant support from Liverpool City Council
- A Crowdfunder that raised over £10,000 from 378 donations, many of whom came directly from our creative community, with monies going directly to our work with local artists
- A £40,000 grant from the Garfield Weston Foundation (who previously donated to our capital redevelopment)
- Generous support from local companies and individuals who gave unsolicited throughout the pandemic to ensure Unity's survival

Thanks to this work we now have unrestricted reserves built up that match our policy levels and overheads that can be supported by achievable, yet ambitious income targets. The Trustees are now exploring setting up a restricted fund for ongoing capital needs, allowing us to undertake more in-depth maintenance of our building where required and pursue a greener policy to ensure long-term sustainability.

An Agile and Responsive Business Structure

A new organisational structure was designed in the summer of 2020 to maximise the skills and talent within our staff base, empowering them to develop work and projects that respond directly to our organisational and stakeholder needs. This new way of working meant streamlining the existing staff team, leading us to make several roles in the previous structure redundant. As a result, we now have a core team made up of eight permanent roles (two full time; six part-time, averaging four days a week) and a pool of experienced casual and freelance staff working predominantly across Front of House and Technical. In May 2021 we also reviewed the structure of our Executive team, introducing an Executive Director role (previously General Manager) to share more of the demands and responsibilities of organisational management with our CEO/Artistic Director.

As part of the process we identified that Unity has always been at its most successful when seeking a collaborative approach across departments, developing projects that are innovative not just in creative output but in the artists we work with and the audiences we attract. To this end we redesigned job descriptions to include 'core' responsibilities and ring-fenced period of time to develop standalone projects aiming to motivate the team to take responsibility for the ethos of the company and undertake a broader portfolio of tasks. This new method of working is being slowly embedded during the 2021/22 year with the target to have it fully adopted by the team in 2022/23.

We now have an experienced and supportive permanent staff team who represent a balance of creative and commercial skillsets, allowing us to continue delivering on our core aims whilst also exploring new projects. We can call on an equally knowledgeable freelance pool allowing us to remain fleet of foot and respond to opportunities when they are presented to us.

**UNITY THEATRE
TRUSTEES' AND DIRECTORS' ANNUAL REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31 2021**

FINANCIAL REVIEW

Overview

Through prompt and considered changes made at the beginning of 2020/21 Unity have emerged from the pandemic a more agile organisation able to respond to external factors as and when they arise. We have reduced overheads whilst maintaining a talented and dedicated core team of staff who continue to build an exciting programme of creative experiences for our surrounding communities. Our overheads are supported by achievable, yet ambitious income targets across the board including growing opportunities in fundraising and commercial income.

This work has left Unity in a strong position for the future, ending 2020/21 with a surplus on unrestricted funds of £175,231 and plans to build further unrestricted funds to ensure ongoing sustainability.

Risk management

The risks faced by the organisation are reviewed regularly throughout the year. A comprehensive risk register encompassing all areas of the business is kept and updated regularly by the AD/CEO and Executive Director and is scrutinised at every Financial Sub-Committee before going to Board each quarter (meetings were increased to monthly during the first 12 months of the pandemic). Our Executive team meet minimum weekly during the period to evaluate our position. We continue to invest in staff training where appropriate to ensure we meet best practice across the business, including in line with government guidance around Covid-19.

Our risk management policy is supported by wider organisational policies including finance, fundraising, HR and safeguarding. Risk management is factored into all organisational decisions including business planning, artistic programming, audit, finance management and commercial and fundraising opportunities. Risks are split into five key categories:

- **Artistic Reputation** – including consideration of Unity's standing within the sector in regard to programming and participation activities; the continued understanding of trends in performance and presentation; the standard and risks associated with artistic partnerships particularly in light of Covid-19.
- **Financial Diversity** – including the range and variety of income streams coming into the organisation; Unity's relationships with key funders; strength of financial controls; progress against reserves policy; external factors such as current government policy.
- **Audience Development** – considering quality of communications and strength of brand; strength of engagement with current audience and participants; size and growth of engaged database.
- **Staffing and Governance** – including regular review of expertise held within Board of Trustees, Senior Management and wider staff base; staff retention rates; review of diversity of Board and staff team ensuring they reflect organisation equality and diversity policies.
- **Organisational** – encompassing wider business considerations such as health and safety and data management.

Principal funding sources

Key funders for our core activity in the period were Arts Council England and Liverpool City Council. We have secured funding from the Esmée Fairbairn Foundation to support the development of our Creative 'Pool talent development programme until December 2023. During 2020 we secured funding from the Garfield Weston Foundation to continue delivering our core work during the pandemic and work towards financial stability.

The Senior Management team are working to further diversify our income streams in the coming year through private fundraising and commercial opportunities. They are supported by our Business Development Manager (who looks after individual and corporate giving alongside box office income and communications strategy) and a freelance Fundraising Consultant who works with our Executive Director to develop funding bids. Between them they raised over £250,000 of new fundraised income in the 2020/21 financial year.

Investment policy and review

Due to the current percentage of income received from statutory sources and fundraising, the appetite for investment risk is judged as low. This appetite is reviewed annually by the Board and may change as income streams continue to diversify. All future investments will be agreed between the AD/CEO and Chair of Finance Committee, signed off at Board level. Unity currently holds all funds in accounts connected with HSBC, split between standard current accounts and a deposit account. To aid with petty cash spending, the team have introduced SOLDO pre-payment cards to key budget holders; individual debit cards have a fixed monthly spend cap, imbursement from the organisation's main bank account.

Reserves

Following a review in early 2020/21, Unity has set a target for free reserves (unrestricted funds not invested in fixed assets or otherwise designated) for the charity of 12 weeks operating costs, which following an organisation restructure in 2020 is judged to be £123k. This takes account of the funding and trading environment in which the charity operates, and of its strategic plans.

As at March 31 2021 free reserves were in surplus by £121,518 (2021 deficit - to £53,713), just below the target level.

**UNITY THEATRE
TRUSTEES' AND DIRECTORS' ANNUAL REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31 2021**

Going concern

The financial statements have been prepared on a going concern basis. The organisation has been able to successfully negotiate the economic disruption caused by the Covid-19 pandemic through careful management of costs, obtaining funding commitments from core funders, together with additional fundraising and cash flow management.

The trustees have considered the level of funds held and the expected level of income and expenditure for the twelve months from authorising these financial statements. The trustees assess the charity to be a going concern based on review of financial performance of the 2021/22 year to date, the management accounts forecast for the remainder of 2021/22, the rolling cash flow forecast, and future funding commitments.

As a result, the trustees are confident about the financial future of the charity and satisfied that these accounts are prepared on a going concern basis.

FUTURE PLANS

What has emerged from our work over the last 18 months is a renewed commitment for Unity to provide space and opportunity for people to be creative, enjoy high quality entertainment and celebrate the communities of Liverpool. We want to continue to inspire creative risk and achieve a fairer, more accessible and supportive world.

From our origins as a theatre for working class audiences, access, opportunity and diversity remain core to our ethos. Unity is proud of its diverse audience, and artists and we work hard to grow it through providing a relevant and inclusive programme, on the stage, in our talent development programme and in communities. Each year we aim to see a minimum of 70% of our wider programme being created by and with artists from diverse backgrounds.

- **High Quality Creative Experiences**

The nationally produced productions featured in our programme are unique within Merseyside and a core part of what Unity is as an organisation. Providing covid infection rates continue a downward trajectory, a key artistic priority is to welcome back national touring companies to Liverpool as more of our peers in the sector begin to develop and tour work again. We will build on established relationships with touring companies (Paines Plough, Scottee, Told by an Idiot) whilst introducing audiences to new exciting talent from across the country. Alongside the theatre, dance and physical theatre offer that has become a mainstay of our national touring programme in recent years, we will continue to widen our comedy and music offer (to help build commercial income) and work for children and young people. This work will be shown both in our building on Hope Place and in community spaces in Liverpool including performances and wraparound activity for both our local communities and artists.

We have supported a predominantly local offer in our reopening seasons, and we will continue offering prime programming slots to Merseyside creatives ensuring their work has equal standing alongside established work from the national touring circuit. At least 20% of the local productions featured will be as part of our Takeover initiative where artists are chosen through an Open Call and receive 100% of box office profits plus in-kind producing and marketing support.

ProPortal

ProPortal – an online library of work available for tour - is our free platform for artists and programmers to connect and discover new work. Launched in September 2021, ProPortal houses established companies such as Wise Children, Improbable and Complicité and newer companies that are being developed through funded talent development programmes at various venues throughout the UK.

- **Develop and Support Local Artists**

We continue to develop our flagship Creative 'Pool programme for Merseyside creatives, tackling the lack of producing talent in Liverpool by equipping local artists and producers with the skills they need to develop high-quality work and grow sustainable careers. The offer will include:

- Workshops and networking opportunities (both online and in person) – responding to the needs of local artists, this changing programme includes regular producer meet ups, sessions on specific development areas such as finance fundraising and access, and peer to peer sessions run and developed by local artists themselves.
- Space to Create – free rehearsal and development space for local artists, with additional producing and mentoring support from our team. Offered on an Open Call basis.
- Creative Membership – access to free and subsidised tickets to our productions alongside fortnightly news and opportunities.

**UNITY THEATRE
TRUSTEES' AND DIRECTORS' ANNUAL REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31 2021**

As things open up further there will be a renewed focus on the touring element of the programme, increasing the number of Liverpool artists and companies producing successful tours outside of the North West:

- Level Up - a year of bespoke training for a cohort of creatives allowing them to upskill in producing and expand their ambitions around touring. The offering includes two intensive weekend residencies plus mentoring and support from our team.
- Away touring – through an Open Call, one Merseyside creative will be selected to have their work produced by Unity on a national mid-scale tour, receiving an intensive period of support and development. The company will work with Unity for a flexible seven-month period, including five weeks of in-kind space for further R&D, auditions and rehearsals.

Youth Theatre

Unity has joined forces with 20 Stories High to deliver a weekly Youth Theatre for working class and culturally diverse young people aged 14-21 who meet at Unity to make challenging plays with a difference. The young people are given the opportunity to tell their stories through a mash up of dance, spoken word, music, song, street dance and puppetry.

- **Platform and Celebrate Local Communities**

Unity has always existed for the broad communities of Liverpool – diversity is part of our history, beginning with our roots in the Unity Theatre movement of the 1930s that developed work with, by and for the working classes. We have made a shift in our programme in recent years to honour this legacy further, developing and programming work that is informed by the lived experience of our communities. We now want to build on these successes by going one step further by:

- Ensuring our building is welcoming and open to anyone to explore what 'creativity' means to them
Through a series of partnerships with community groups and Merseyside start-ups to run courses that seek to debunk what it means to be 'creative', leading to longer term, more meaningful engagement with those living in our surrounding communities as a result. We plan to programme regular community activity at our venue Monday – Wednesday each week, with hires offered at affordable rates for community partners. Courses offered do not need to explore a traditional creative discipline – for example they could be running a community radio, introducing people to computer coding, or a yoga class.
- Empowering local artists to develop work that empowers their communities
We will work with creatives - both those working locally and those touring to Unity from elsewhere - to create work that acts as a direct response to the issues and stories explored in our artistic programme. These projects will be developed outside of Unity in community spaces around Merseyside identified by us, the artists and our community partners. This will include a series of seed commissions (selected via an Open Call) for local creatives to run pilot programmes designed to benefit a community close to their own lived experience.

We will work with an external evaluator to ensure the above pilot work responds to the needs of our surrounding communities and supports Merseyside creatives.

- **An Accessible, Supportive Society**

Diversity is part of Unity's history. From our origins as a theatre for working class audiences, access, opportunity, and diversity remain core to our ethos. Unity is proud of its diverse audience, and artists and we work hard to grow it through providing a relevant and inclusive programme, on the stage, in our talent development programme and in communities. Each year we aim to see a minimum of 70% of our wider programme being created by and with artists from diverse backgrounds.

Access programme

In 2020 we made a commitment that 100% of Unity's programming in the reopening season would be fully accessible. As we work towards programming our building full-time at capacity, we are committed to building on this ambition and encouraging others to do the same. While Covid continues to be a national health concern we will work to ring-fence performances throughout our programme that are offered socially distanced with mask wearing encouraged to ensure our productions continue to be accessible for everyone in our community. We also want to explore potential partnerships in the local tech sector to further our digital access ambitions.

Ticket Prices

Maintaining affordable ticket prices is at the heart of Unity's ethos, and we are committed to maintaining a low, affordable ticket price that is consistently 60% lower than those offered by our peer venues across the North West. Targeted ticket schemes for local artists and community groups compliment this offer. This ambition has been built on further in the last 18 months through the expansion of our digital offer, with all streamed performances offered on a Pay What You Wish basis.

- **Ensure Financial and Organisational Viability**

As detailed above we have revisited our programming structure, expanding our reach to offer more creative experiences in community settings and online. Programming taking place in our building will be structured to both offer consistency to audiences and ring-fence targeted periods for hire of our building to higher education and commercial partners; income generated through this activity will be reverted to fund our creative ambitions.

Increased project work both inside and outside our building will help to generate a stronger case for support for future funding, both with our core funders Arts Council England and Liverpool City Council and with Charitable Trusts and corporate partners.

**UNITY THEATRE
TRUSTEES' AND DIRECTORS' ANNUAL REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31 2021**

STRUCTURE GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Governing document

The charity is a company limited by guarantee governed by its Memorandum and Articles of Association dated March 11 1997 as amended by special resolutions dated May 1 1997 and September 27 2016. It is a registered charity with the Charity Commission.

Members of the company

The members of the company are the directors and any other persons or organisations admitted to membership by the directors. Currently the only members of the company are the directors.

Appointment of trustees

The directors, who are the trustees of the charity, are appointed by the members in general meeting. The Directors have the power to co-opt to fill a casual vacancy and such persons hold office until the next AGM. The directors are appointed initially for a three year term and are eligible for re-election for a second consecutive three year term. In extraordinary circumstances a director may be, with the Board's approval, appointed for a third consecutive three year term but not beyond that.

Only retiring directors or those proposed by the Board are eligible for election at the general meeting, unless due notice has been given by a member of their intention to propose someone.

Trustee induction and training

All new Trustees receive an induction prior to starting their first term, led by a member of the HR Committee and/or Executive Director. This induction covers the history of the organisation, its current work and the role and expectations required of a Trustee.

Shortly after the election of a new group of Trustees, a training session is arranged covering governance and current charity legislation, run by an external consultant.

Organisation

The Board, which must be no less than three and not more than 15 people, meets as required and normally 4 times per year. Day to day management of the charity is delegated to the Chief Executive and the other members of the Senior management team who together with the directors constitute the key management personnel of the charity.

Pay and remuneration for senior staff

All roles are formally reviewed prior to each vacancy being advertised, with adjustments made in order to ensure our structure meets the business' current and future needs. Where there is a vacancy in our senior team, pay and remuneration packages are benchmarked against a minimum of three regional peer venues and advertised within a range in order to remain competitive.

Staff pay at all levels of the organisation is reviewed annually in order to achieve fair salary bands and avoid discrimination.

Related parties

We have no related parties that we require to be disclosed.

Co-operation with other organisations/charities

Unity is regularly funded by Arts Council England and Liverpool City Council.

Our Artistic Associates are organisations that partner with us to deliver our creative ambitions and strengthen the range of innovative opportunities available to the people of Merseyside to participate in the arts:

- DaDa Fest
- Homotopia
- 20 Stories High
- Action Transport Theatre
- Tmesis Theatre
- Travelled Companions
- Big Imaginations

**UNITY THEATRE
TRUSTEES' AND DIRECTORS' ANNUAL REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31 2021**

TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES IN RELATION TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

The trustees (who are also directors of Unity Theatre for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Annual Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

Company law requires the trustees to prepare financial statements 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 that period. In preparing these financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP (FRS 102) (second edition – October 2019);
- 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 financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charitable company will continue in operation.

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

STATEMENT OF DISCLOSURE TO AUDITORS

We, the directors of the company who held office at the date of approval of these Financial Statements as set out above each confirm, so far as we are aware, that:

- there is no relevant audit information of which the company's auditors are unaware; and
- we have taken all the steps that we ought to have taken as directors in order to make ourselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the company's auditors are aware of that information.

SMALL COMPANY PROVISIONS AND APPROVAL

This report has been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies entitled to the small companies exemption.

Approved by the Board of Trustees and signed on its behalf by:

C. J Bliss

C J BLISS – Director

Date: October 26 2021

**UNITY THEATRE
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES (including the income and expenditure account)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31 2021**

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Unity Theatre (the 'charitable company') for the year ended March 31 2021 which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, Balance Sheet, Statement of Cash Flow and notes to the financial statements, including significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102 *The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland* (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charitable company's affairs as at March 31 2021 and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006.

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the charitable company in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Conclusions relating to going concern

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the trustees with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

Other information

The other information comprises the information included in the trustees annual report², other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. The trustees are responsible for the other information contained within the annual report². Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon. Our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the course of the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether this gives rise to a material misstatement in the financial statements themselves. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

Opinions on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2006

In our opinion, based on the work undertaken in the course of the audit:

- the information given in the trustees' report (incorporating the directors' report) for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements; and
- the directors' report has been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

In the light of the knowledge and understanding of the charitable company and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the [strategic report and the]³ directors' report.

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the Companies Act 2006 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- adequate accounting records have not been kept, or returns adequate for our audit have not been received from branches not visited by us; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- certain disclosures of directors' remuneration specified by law are not made; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit ; or
- the trustees were not entitled to prepare the financial statements in accordance with the small companies' regime and]⁴ take advantage of the small companies' exemptions in preparing the directors' report and from the requirement to prepare a strategic report.

UNITY THEATRE
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES (including the income and expenditure account)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31 2021

Responsibilities of trustees

As explained more fully in the trustees' responsibilities statement, set out in the Directors' and Trustees' Report, the trustees (who are also the directors of the charitable company for the purposes of company law) are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the trustees are responsible for assessing the charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the trustees either intend to liquidate the charitable company or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We design procedures in line with our responsibilities, outlined above, to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud. The specific procedures for this engagement and the extent to which these are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud is detailed below.

Our approach to identifying and assessing the risks in respect of irregularities and non-compliance with laws and regulations, was as follows:

- the senior statutory auditor ensured that the engagement team collectively had the appropriate competence, capabilities and skills to identify or recognise non-compliance with applicable laws and regulations;
- we identified the laws and regulations applicable to the company through discussions with the directors and other management, and from our commercial knowledge and experience of the computer manufacturing and supply sector;
- We focused on specific laws and regulations which we considered may have a direct material effect on the financial statements or the operations of the company, including the Companies Act 2006, taxation legislation and data protection, anti-bribery, employment, environmental and health and safety legislation;
- we assessed the extent of compliance with the laws and regulations identified above through making enquiries of management and inspecting legal correspondence; and
- identified laws and regulations were communicated within the audit team regularly and the team remained alert to instances of non-compliance throughout the audit.

We assessed the susceptibility of the company's financial statement to material misstatement, including obtaining an understanding of how fraud might occur, by:

- making enquiries of management as to where they considered there was susceptibility to fraud, their knowledge of actual and alleged fraud;
- Considering the internal controls in place to mitigate risks of fraud and non-compliance with laws and regulations; and
- Understanding the design of the company's remuneration policies.

To address the risk of fraud through management bias and override of controls, we:

- performed analytical procedures to identify any unusual or unexpected relationships;
- tested journal entries to identify unusual transactions;
- assessed whether judgements and assumptions made in determining the accounting estimates were indicative of potential bias; and
- investigated the rationale behind significant or unusual transactions.

In response to the risk of irregularities and non-compliance with laws and regulations, we designed procedures which included, but were not limited to:

- agreeing the financial statement disclosures to underlying supporting documentation;
- reading the minutes of meetings of those charged with governance;
- enquiring of management as to the actual and potential litigation claims; and
- reviewing correspondence with the company's legal advisors.

No instances of material non-compliance were identified.

**UNITY THEATRE
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES (including the income and expenditure account)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31 2021**

Because of the inherent limitations of an audit, there is a risk that we will not detect all irregularities, including those leading to a material misstatement in the financial statements or non-compliance with regulation. This risk increases the more that compliance with a law or regulation is removed from the events and transactions reflected in the financial statements, as we will be less likely to become aware of instances of non-compliance. The risk is also greater regarding irregularities occurring due to fraud rather than error, as fraud involves intentional concealment, forgery, collusion, omission or misrepresentation.

A further description of our responsibilities is available on the Financial Reporting Council's website at: <https://www.frc.org.uk/Our-Work/Audit/Audit-and-assurance/Standards-and-guidance/Standards-and-guidance-for-auditors/Auditors-responsibilities-for-audit/Description-of-auditors-responsibilities-for-audit.aspx>. This description forms part of our auditor's report.

Use of our report

This report is made solely to the charitable company's members, as a body, in accordance with Chapter 3 of Part 16 of the Companies Act 2006. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charitable company's members those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charitable company and the charitable company's members as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

Peter Smith

Peter Smith BA FCA DChA

For and on behalf of:
HGA Accountants & Financial Consultants Ltd t/a Chittenden Horley
Chartered Accountants and Statutory Auditors

456 Chester Road
Old Trafford
Manchester M16 9HD

Date: October 26 2021



UNITY THEATRE
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES (including the income and expenditure account)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31 2021

	Notes	Unrestricted			Total 2021 £	Total 2020 £
		General	Designated	Restricted		
		Funds £	Funds £	Funds £		
INCOME						
Donations	2	525,427	-	137,297	662,724	373,894
Charitable activities	3	3,097	-	116,825	119,922	118,584
Other trading activities	4	3,586	-	-	3,586	13,453
Investment income - bank interest		24	-	-	24	170
TOTAL INCOME		<u>532,134</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>254,122</u>	786,256	<u>506,101</u>
EXPENDITURE						
Costs of raising funds	5	15,240	-	-	15,240	22,933
Expenditure on charitable activities	6	374,393	32,003	71,753	478,149	631,627
TOTAL EXPENDITURE		<u>389,633</u>	<u>32,003</u>	<u>71,753</u>	493,389	<u>654,560</u>
NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)						
BEFORE TRANSFERS		142,501	(32,003)	182,369	292,867	(148,459)
Transfers between funds	13	<u>32,730</u>	<u>32,270</u>	<u>(65,000)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS		175,231	267	117,369	292,867	(148,459)
TOTAL FUNDS:						
BROUGHT FORWARD	13	<u>(53,713)</u>	<u>1,794,308</u>	<u>-</u>	1,740,595	<u>1,889,054</u>
CARRIED FORWARD	13	<u>121,518</u>	<u>1,794,575</u>	<u>117,369</u>	2,033,462	<u>1,740,595</u>

The notes on pages 15 to 25 form part of these financial statements.

**UNITY THEATRE
BALANCE SHEET
AS AT MARCH 31 2021**

	Notes	2021 £	2021 £	2020 £	2020 £
FIXED ASSETS					
Tangible Assets	10		1,764,575		1,794,308
CURRENT ASSETS					
Stocks		1,994		1,994	
Debtors	11	113,466		56,667	
Cash at Bank and in Hand		<u>220,345</u>		<u>16,905</u>	
		335,805		75,566	
CREDITORS					
Amounts falling due in one year	12	<u>66,918</u>		<u>129,279</u>	
NET CURRENT ASSETS/(LIABILITIES)			<u>268,887</u>		<u>(53,713)</u>
NET ASSETS			<u><u>2,033,462</u></u>		<u><u>1,740,595</u></u>
FUNDS					
Unrestricted					
General fund	13		121,518		(53,713)
Designated funds	13		1,794,575		1,794,308
Restricted	13		<u>117,369</u>		<u>-</u>
TOTAL FUNDS			<u><u>2,033,462</u></u>		<u><u>1,740,595</u></u>

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies regime.

The notes on pages 15 to 25 form part of these financial statements

Approved by the Board of Directors and authorised for issue on: October 26 2021

C J Bliss

C J BLISS - DIRECTOR

Company registration number: 3333987

**UNITY THEATRE
STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS
AS AT MARCH 31 2021**

	notes	2021 £	2020 £
Cash used in operating activities	15	<u>205,686</u>	<u>(48,399)</u>
Cashflows from investing activities			
Interest and dividends		24	170
Purchase of tangible fixed assets		(2,270)	-
Proceeds of sale of fixed assets		-	-
Payments to acquire investments		-	-
Cash provided by/(used in) investing activities		<u>(2,246)</u>	<u>170</u>
Cashflows from financing activities			
Proceeds from new borrowings		-	-
Repayment of borrowing		-	-
Cash used in financing activities		<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Increase/(decrease) in cash & cash equivalents in the year		203,440	(48,229)
Cash and cash equivalents brought forward		16,905	65,134
Cash and cash equivalents carried forward		<u><u>220,345</u></u>	<u><u>16,905</u></u>
Cash and cash equivalents consist of:			
Cash at bank and in hand		220,345	16,905
		<u><u>220,345</u></u>	<u><u>16,905</u></u>

The notes on pages 15 to 25 form part of these financial statements

UNITY THEATRE
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31 2021

1 BASIS OF PREPARATION AND ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Basis of preparation

The financial statements have been prepared: under the historic cost convention; 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 (FRS102) effective January 1 2019 (second edition – October 2019); FRS102; and the Companies Act 2006. The charity constitutes a public benefit entity as defined by FRS102.

The accounts are prepared in £ sterling the functional currency of the charity.

Going Concern

To be drafted following the finance meeting

Judgements and key sources of estimation uncertainty

The preparation of the financial statements requires management to make judgements, estimates and assumptions that affect the amounts reported. These estimates and judgements are continually reviewed and are based on experience and other factors, including expectations of future events that are believed to be reasonable under the circumstances.

Income recognition

All income is recognised once the charity has entitlement to the income, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount of income receivable can be measured reliably. The following applies to particular types of income:

Grants, whether of a capital or revenue nature, are recognised when the charity has entitlement to the funds, any performance conditions have been met and it is probable that the income will be received.

Donations from individuals and other bodies (not being of the nature of a grant) are recognised when receivable.

Earned income is measured at the fair value of the consideration received or receivable for services and goods supplied, net of discounts and VAT.

Deferred income

Income is only deferred and included in creditors when:

- The income relates to a future accounting period
- A sales invoice has been raised ahead of the work being carried out and there is no contractual entitlement to the income until the work has been done
- Not all the terms and conditions of the grant have been met, including the incurring of expenditure and the grant conditions are such that unspent grant must be refunded

Expenditure and irrecoverable VAT

Expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to make a payment to a third party, it is probable that the settlement will be required and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. Expenditure is classified under the following activity headings:

Costs of raising funds including those associated with fundraising activities, managing investments and commercial trading by the subsidiary company.

Charitable activities costs of undertaking the work of the charity.

The charity is registered for VAT and can recover all input tax charged. Costs are stated exclusive of VAT were charged.

Allocation of support costs

Support costs are those functions which assist the work of the charity either by supporting the delivery of charitable activities or by supporting the generation of funds. They include staff costs, marketing, subscriptions, insurance, office and support costs, bank charges and depreciation. The basis of allocations is set out in note 7

Pension contributions

The charity operates a defined contribution pension scheme for its employees, agreeing the contribution rates with each individual. The contributions are paid to a third party who invests the contributions in a money purchase plan. Contributions are charged to the SoFA as they become payable.

UNITY THEATRE
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31 2021

1 BASIS OF PREPARATION AND ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)

Tangible fixed assets and depreciation

Individual fixed assets costing more than £1,000 are capitalised at cost and are depreciated over their estimated useful lives on a straight line basis as set out below.

Depreciation rates are as follows:

Leasehold land and buildings	Over the period of the lease
Furniture and equipment	25% pa straight line

Debtors

Trade and other debtors are recognised at the settlement amount due and prepayments are valued at the amount prepaid.

Cash at bank and in hand

Cash at bank and in hand includes cash and short term highly liquid investments with a short maturity of three months or less from the date of acquisition or opening of the deposit or similar account.

Creditors and provisions

Creditors and provisions are recognised where the charity has a present obligation resulting from a past event that will probably result in the transfer of funds to a third party and the amount due to settle the obligation can be measured or estimated reliably. Creditors and provisions are normally recognised at their settlement amount.

Financial instruments

The charity has only basic financial instruments which are initially recorded at cost subsequently measured at their settlement value.

UNITY THEATRE
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31 2021

	2021			2020		
	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total
	£	£	£	£	£	£
2 DONATIONS						
Revenue grants:						
Arts Council England	277,005	-	277,005	272,000	-	272,000
Liverpool City Council	74,400	-	74,400	80,000	-	80,000
Austin and Hope Pilkington Trust	1,000	-	1,000	-	-	-
Garfield Weston Foundation	40,000	-	40,000	-	-	-
ACE Catalyst: Evolve	-	-	-	721	-	721
	<u>392,405</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>392,405</u>	<u>352,721</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>352,721</u>
COVID funding						
ACE emergency Funding COVID19	-	62,173	62,173	-	12,822	12,822
ACE CRF1	-	65,000	65,000	-	-	-
Liverpool City Council	19,431	-	19,431	-	-	-
HMRC - CJRS	104,215	-	104,215	-	-	-
Granada Foundation	2,000	-	2,000	-	-	-
	<u>125,646</u>	<u>127,173</u>	<u>252,819</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>12,822</u>	<u>12,822</u>
Donations						
Unity Angels	1,649	-	1,649	1,820	-	1,820
Open Call Programme	-	10,124	10,124	-	-	-
General donations	5,727	-	5,727	6,531	-	6,531
	<u>7,376</u>	<u>10,124</u>	<u>17,500</u>	<u>8,351</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>8,351</u>
Total	<u>525,427</u>	<u>137,297</u>	<u>662,724</u>	<u>361,072</u>	<u>12,822</u>	<u>373,894</u>

UNITY THEATRE
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31 2021

2021			2020		
Unrestricted	Restricted	Total	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total
£	£	£	£	£	£

3 INCOME FROM CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

Theatre

Box office	597	-	597	58,492	-	58,492
Theatre hires	-	-	-	21,228	-	21,228
	<u>597</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>597</u>	<u>79,720</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>79,720</u>

Projects and outreach

Esmée Fairbairn Foundation	-	112,825	112,825	-	-	-
Granada Foundation	-	4,000	4,000	-	-	-
Participation activity	2,500	-	2,500	867	-	867
LCVS	-	-	-	-	2,000	2,000
Theatres Trust	-	-	-	-	5,000	5,000
Brabners	-	-	-	-	8,000	8,000
CHECK account	-	-	-	-	-	-
	<u>2,500</u>	<u>116,825</u>	<u>119,325</u>	<u>867</u>	<u>15,000</u>	<u>15,867</u>

Ancillary trading

Bar income	-	-	-	22,997	-	22,997
	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>22,997</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>22,997</u>

Total per Charity

	<u>3,097</u>	<u>116,825</u>	<u>119,922</u>	<u>103,584</u>	<u>15,000</u>	<u>118,584</u>
--	--------------	----------------	----------------	----------------	---------------	----------------

4 INCOME FROM OTHER TRADING ACTIVITIES

Rental and service income	3,586	-	3,586	13,453	-	13,453
Per charity	<u>3,586</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>3,586</u>	<u>13,453</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>13,453</u>

UNITY THEATRE
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31 2021

5 COSTS OF RAISING FUNDS	2021			2020		
	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Direct costs	4,272	-	4,272	12,198	-	12,198
Support costs	10,968	-	10,968	10,735	-	10,735
	<u>15,240</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>15,240</u>	<u>22,933</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>22,933</u>

6 CHARITABLE EXPENDITURE

Theatre and performance	416,620	-	416,620	523,570	-	523,570
Project costs	49,893	9,580	59,473	48,744	25,000	73,744
Ancillary trading	2,056	-	2,056	34,313	-	34,313
ACE emergency funding	(62,173)	62,173	-	(12,822)	12,822	-
	<u>406,396</u>	<u>71,753</u>	<u>478,149</u>	<u>593,805</u>	<u>37,822</u>	<u>631,627</u>

Expenditure in the charity is analysed as follows:

	Direct Costs	Direct Salaries	Support Costs	Total
	£	£	£	£
2020/21				
Theatre and performance	31,518	129,269	255,833	416,620
Project costs	10,002	36,277	13,194	59,473
Ancillary trading	425	-	1,631	2,056
	<u>41,945</u>	<u>165,545</u>	<u>270,658</u>	<u>478,149</u>
2019/20				
Theatre and performance	116,423	123,068	284,079	523,570
Project costs	18,555	39,441	15,748	73,744
Ancillary trading	8,545	10,020	15,748	34,313
	<u>143,523</u>	<u>172,529</u>	<u>315,575</u>	<u>631,627</u>

Depreciation of £32,003 (2020 - £32,049) has been charged to the designated fund representing the investment in fixed assets.

UNITY THEATRE
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31 2021

7 SUPPORT & GOVERNANCE COSTS

	Projects &				Total
	Theatre	participation	Ancillary	Fundraising	2021
2020/21	£	£	£	£	£
Support salaries costs	92,368	4,861	-	10,714	107,943
Staff related costs	951	63	-	254	1,268
Marketing salaries	49,062	2,582	-	-	51,644
Marketing costs	28,336	1,491	-	-	29,827
BO system and other subscriptions	1,479	78	-	-	1,557
Insurance costs	7,834	412	-	-	8,246
Office & other support costs	9,041	476	-	-	9,517
Bank and other charges	6,994	-	-	-	6,994
Depreciation	30,403	1,600	-	-	32,003
	226,468	11,563	-	10,968	248,999
Governance costs					
Support salaries costs	1,800	100	100	-	2,000
Professional fees	27,565	1,531	1,531	-	30,627
	255,833	13,194	1,631	10,968	281,626

2019/20

Support costs

Support salaries costs	111,978	6,801	6,801	10,448	136,029
Staff related costs	1,005	72	72	287	1,435
Marketing salaries	48,567	2,698	2,698	-	53,963
Marketing costs	51,256	2,848	2,848	-	56,951
BO system and other subscriptions	2,045	-	-	-	2,045
Insurance costs	7,179	399	399	-	7,977
Office & other support costs	12,929	718	718	-	14,365
Bank and other charges	9,288	-	-	-	9,288
Depreciation	28,844	1,602	1,602	-	32,049
	273,091	15,138	15,138	10,735	314,102
Governance costs					
Support salaries costs	-	-	-	-	-
Professional fees	10,988	610	610	-	12,209
	284,079	15,748	15,748	10,735	326,311

Support costs are allocated on the following basis:

Area	basis	comment
Marketing costs	estimate of usage	
Support salaries	estimate of time spent	

Other costs:

All other costs	estimate of usage/head count
Depreciation	estimate of usage

UNITY THEATRE
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31 2021

8 STAFF INFORMATION	2021	2020
	£	£
a Employees		
Salaries and wages	281,157	288,489
Pension costs	5,437	8,036
Employer's NI contributions	14,979	20,068
	<u>301,574</u>	<u>316,593</u>

No employees earned more than £60,000 p.a. In either year.

b Key management personnel

The key management of the charity comprise the trustees and senior staff (as set out on page1).

No trustees received remuneration for their services as trustees.

The total employee benefits of other key management were as follows:

	£	£
Total employment benefits	<u>88,251</u>	<u>91,644</u>

c Average staff numbers

The average number of employees, was as follows:-

	2021	2021	2020	2020
	Average	Average FTE	Average	average FTE
	number	number	number	number
	40	13	29	13
	<u>40</u>	<u>13</u>	<u>29</u>	<u>13</u>

9 NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE) BEFORE TRANSFERS

This is stated after charging/(crediting):	£	£
Auditors remuneration:-		
Audit fees	3,100	3,100
Accountancy fees	1,601	3,150
Advice/other services	-	1,027
Operating lease rentals	556	556
Depreciation of fixed assets	32,003	32,049
Loss on disposal	-	-
Trustees expenses	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Trustees claiming expenses	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>

UNITY THEATRE
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31 2021

10 TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

	Land & Buildings	Furniture & Equipment	Total
	£	£	£
Cost or valuation			
As at April 1 2020	2,057,678	259,576	2,317,254
Additions	-	2,270	2,270
As at March 31 2021	<u>2,057,678</u>	<u>261,846</u>	<u>2,319,524</u>
Depreciation			
As at April 1 2020	280,806	242,140	522,946
Charge for the year	20,577	11,426	32,003
As at March 31 2021	<u>301,383</u>	<u>253,566</u>	<u>554,949</u>
Net Book Value			
As at March 31 2021	<u>1,756,295</u>	<u>8,280</u>	<u>1,764,575</u>
As at March 31 2020	<u>1,776,872</u>	<u>17,436</u>	<u>1,794,308</u>

	2021	2020
	£	£
11 DEBTORS		
Trade debtors	5,579	15,171
VAT refundable	9,720	-
Grants and income receivable	88,906	25,330
Other debtors	8,929	150
Prepayments	332	16,016
	<u>113,466</u>	<u>56,667</u>

12 CREDITORS falling due within one year

Creditors	7,334	43,713
Other taxes and social security	1,742	2,807
Accruals	20,238	20,736
Income and grants in advance	32,462	60,415
Other creditors	5,142	1,608
	<u>66,918</u>	<u>129,279</u>

UNITY THEATRE
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31 2021

13 STATEMENT OF FUNDS

	2019/20				2020/21			
	as restated 01/04/2019 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers £	31/03/2021 £
Unrestricted funds:								
General fund	1,879,054	478,279	(584,689)	(1,826,357)	532,134	(389,633)	32,730	121,518
Designated funds:								
Development	-	-	-	-	-	-	30,000	30,000
Investment in fixed assets	-	-	(32,049)	1,826,357	-	(32,003)	2,270	1,764,575
	-	-	(32,049)	1,826,357	-	(32,003)	32,270	1,794,575
Total unrestricted funds	1,879,054	478,279	(616,738)	-	532,134	(421,636)	65,000	1,916,093
Restricted Funds:								
ACE emergency funding	-	12,822	(12,822)	-	62,173	(62,173)	-	-
ACE - CRF1	-	-	-	-	65,000	-	(65,000)	-
Open Call Programme	-	-	-	-	10,124	(124)	-	10,000
Esmée Fairbairn Foundation	-	-	-	-	112,825	(9,456)	-	103,369
Granada Foundation	-	-	-	-	4,000	-	-	4,000
LCVS	-	2,000	(2,000)	-	-	-	-	-
Theatres Trust	-	5,000	(5,000)	-	-	-	-	-
Brabners	-	8,000	(8,000)	-	-	-	-	-
One Ark	10,000	-	(10,000)	-	-	-	-	-
Total restricted funds	10,000	27,822	(37,822)	-	254,122	(71,753)	(65,000)	117,369
Total Funds	1,889,054	506,101	(654,560)	-	786,256	(493,389)	-	2,033,462

UNITY THEATRE
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31 2021

13 STATEMENT OF FUNDS (continued)

Transfers

A transfer has been made in respect of the CRF1 funding received to rebuild reserves of £65,000 from restricted to unrestricted funds, and from unrestricted funds to designate £30,000 of the Garfield Weston monies towards future development.

A transfer has been made to represent the investment in fixed assets in the year.

Restricted fund balances

Open Call Programme to support the open call programme in 21/22
 Esmée Fairbairn Foundation for talent development programme in 21/22 and 22/23.
 Granada Foundation for access and inclusion programme in 21/22.

14 ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS BETWEEN FUNDS

Fund balances at March 31 2021

are represented by:-

	Unrestricted funds		Restricted	Total
	General	Designated	Funds	
	£	£	£	£
Fixed assets	-	1,764,575	-	1,764,575
Net current assets	121,518	30,000	117,369	268,887
	<u>121,518</u>	<u>1,794,575</u>	<u>117,369</u>	<u>2,033,462</u>

Fund balances at March 31 2020

are represented by:-

Fixed assets	-	1,794,308	-	1,794,308
Net current assets	(53,713)	-	-	(53,713)
	<u>(53,713)</u>	<u>1,794,308</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,740,595</u>

	2021	2020
	£	£
Free Reserves:		
Net current assets/(liabilities)	<u>121,518</u>	<u>(53,713)</u>

15 RECONCILIATION OF NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS TO NET CASHFLOW FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES

Net income/(expenditure)	292,867	(148,459)
Add back depreciation	32,003	32,049
Deduct interest income shown in investing activities	(24)	(170)
Decrease/(increase) in stocks	-	-
Decrease/(increase) in debtors	(56,799)	21,519
Increase/(decrease) in creditors	<u>(62,361)</u>	<u>46,662</u>
Net cash generated from/(used in) operating activities	<u>205,686</u>	<u>(48,399)</u>

16 CONSTITUTION

The Company is limited by guarantee and does not have a share capital. In the event of the Company being wound up the members are committed to contributing £1 each.

UNITY THEATRE
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31 2021

17 TAXATION

The company is a registered charity and is entitled to claim annual exemption from UK corporation tax under sections 466 to 477 of the Corporation Tax Act 2010.

18 CAPITAL COMMITMENTS

The company had no capital commitments at the year end (2020 - none)

19 RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

On February 4 2020, the Chief Executive Officer G Millar was appointed as a trustee and director of the Company. He did not receive any remuneration for acting as a trustee. His employment benefits in the year were £53,393.

There are no other related party transactions that are required to be disclosed.

20 OPERATING LEASE COMMITMENTS

Minimum commitments under non-cancellable operating leases:

	2021	2020
	£	£
Operating leases which expire:		
Within one year	278	556
Between 2 and 5 years	<u>-</u>	<u>278</u>
	<u>278</u>	<u>834</u>