



CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Independent examiner's report on the accounts

Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees

Charity Name

KESTREL THEATRE COMPANY

On accounts for the year
ended

31st DECEMBER 2023

Charity no
(if any)

1073298

Set out on pages

3-4 (TOTAL SUBMISSION 12 PAGES)

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended 31/12/2023.

Responsibilities and
basis of report

As the charity's trustees, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act").

I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 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

~~[The charity's gross income exceeded £250,000 and I am qualified to undertake the examination by being a qualified member of [insert name of applicable listed body]]. Delete [] if not applicable.~~

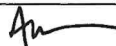
I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination (other than that disclosed below *) which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; or
- the accounts did not accord with the accounting records; or
- the accounts did 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.

* Please delete the words in the brackets if they do not apply.

Signed:

POR 

Date:

24th Jun 2024

Name:

PETER ANDERSON

Relevant professional
qualification(s) or body

FELLOW OF THE INSTITUTE OF CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS IN
ENGLAND & WALES

(if any):

Address: 11 MILL LANE IFFLEY
OXFORD
OX4 4ET

Section B

Disclosure

Only complete if the examiner needs to highlight material matters of concern (see CC32, Independent examination of charity accounts: directions and guidance for examiners).

Give here brief details of any items that the examiner wishes to disclose.



CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Charity Name

Kestrel Theatre Company

No (if any)

1073298

Receipts and payments accounts

CC16a

For the period
from

Period start date

01/01/2023

To

Period end date

31/12/2023

Section A Receipts and payments

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Endowment funds	Total funds	Last year
	to the nearest £	to the nearest £	to the nearest £	to the nearest £	to the nearest £
A1 Receipts					
Performance Fund Raising	9,091	-	-	9,091	3,395
Major Donations	18,359	68,106	-	86,465	36,500
Bulb Sale	3,953	-	-	3,953	4,678
Other	145	-	-	145	2,441
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total (Gross income for AR)	31,548	68,106	-	99,654	47,014
A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total receipts	31,548	68,106	-	99,654	47,014
A3 Payments					
Christmas Show Performances	4,166	15,695	-	19,861	14,037
Other Performance Activities	6,149	30,565	-	36,714	23,420
Performance Direction	10,000	-	-	10,000	7,500
Charity Management & Admin	1,146	-	-	1,146	1,108
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	21,461	46,260	-	67,721	46,065
A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total payments	21,461	46,260	-	67,721	46,065
Net of receipts/(payments)	10,087	21,846	-	31,933	949
A5 Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-	-
A6 Cash funds last year end	28,750	24,261	-	53,011	52,062
Cash funds this year end	38,837	46,107	-	84,944	53,011

Section B Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the period

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B1 Cash funds		38,837	46,107	-

		-	-	-	
		-	-	-	
	Total cash funds	38,837	46,107	-	
	(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))	OK	OK	OK	
		Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Endowment funds	
	Details	to nearest £	to nearest £	to nearest £	
B2 Other monetary assets		-	-	-	
		-	-	-	
		-	-	-	
		-	-	-	
		-	-	-	
		-	-	-	
	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)	
B3 Investment assets			-	-	
			-	-	
			-	-	
			-	-	
			-	-	
	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)	
B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use			-	-	
			-	-	
			-	-	
			-	-	
			-	-	
			-	-	
			-	-	
			-	-	
			-	-	
	Details	Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)	
B5 Liabilities	Retained Earnings	Restricted	46,107		
	Retained Earnings	Unrestricted	38,837		
			-		
			-		
			-		
Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees	Signature		Print Name		Date of approval
	Simon William Tennant		Simon William Tennant		1st April 2024

Signature

Print Name

Date of approval



Trustees' Annual Report for the period

From	Period start date			To	Period end date		
	Day 01	Mo 01	Year 2023		Day 31	Month 12	Year 2023

Section A Reference and administration details

Charity name

Other names charity is known by

Registered charity number (if any)

Charity's principal address

Names of the charity trustees who manage the charity

	Trustee name	Office (if any)	Dates acted if not for whole year	Name of person (or body) entitled to appoint trustee (if any)
1	James H White	Chair		
2	Judith RM Ptaszynski			
3	Simon W Tennant	Treasurer		
4	Peter DF Watson	Secretary		
5	Meketaye Mesfin			
6	Holly Race Rogan			
7	Marc Conway		01/01/23 – 13/02/2023	
8				
9				
10				
11				
12				
13				
14				
15				
16				
17				
18				
19				
20				

Names of the trustees for the charity, if any, (for example, any custodian trustees)

Name	Dates acted if not for whole year

Names and addresses of advisers (Optional information)

Type of adviser	Name	Address

Name of chief executive or names of senior staff members (Optional information)

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Section B Structure, governance and management

Description of the charity's trusts

Type of governing document
(eg. trust deed, constitution)

Memorandum and Articles of Association 22 September 1998

How the charity is constituted
(eg. trust, association, company)

Private Limited Company

Trustee selection methods
(eg. appointed by, elected by)

Election by majority of board of Trustees

Additional governance issues (Optional information)

You **may choose** to include additional information, where relevant, about:

- policies and procedures adopted for the induction and training of trustees;
- the charity's organisational structure and any wider network with which the charity works;
- relationship with any related parties;
- trustees' consideration of major risks and the system and procedures to manage them.

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Section C Objectives and activities

Summary of the objects of the charity set out in its governing document

To promote maintain improve and advance education particularly by the provision of training and vocational instruction and by the production of educational plays and the encouragement of the arts including the arts of drama ballet music singing literature sculpture and painting and to formulate prepare and establish schemes therefore provided that all the objects of the company shall be of a charitable nature.

Summary of the main activities undertaken for the public benefit in relation to these objects (include within this section the statutory declaration that trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit)

Kestrel works in the criminal justice system.

We believe the arts can play a positive role within the criminal justice system, in education, health, rehabilitation and reintegration. We work creatively with offenders, using theatre professionals, usually young artists, to facilitate original pieces of theatre, film and spoken word performance. The impacts are:

- in rehabilitation, helping to develop new skills and employment opportunities.
- in rediscovering self-worth and sense of identity and improving the ability to co-operate.
- in reconnecting with the outside world, in particular improving relationships with families and children.
- in enhancing health and wellbeing, including improved self- confidence, interpersonal skills and mental health.

Additional details of objectives and activities (Optional information)

You **may choose** to include further statements, where relevant, about:

- policy on grantmaking;
- policy programme related investment;
- contribution made by volunteers.

Summary of the main achievements of the charity during the year

2023 was the twenty fifth year in which Kestrel has been fulfilling its principal purpose, taking performance professionals into prisons to work with those inside to the highest of creative standards. In what turned out to be our busiest year yet, we took the Kestrel philosophy into six different prisons across the country, engaging with several hundred staff, prisoners and their families in the process. From February - April we ran Explore, at HMP Five Wells in Northamptonshire. In this ten week project, more than 20 prisoners were involved in two hour classes led by professionals from a variety of creative disciplines, including film making, screen acting and devising.

At the end of February we also ran a two day intensive film workshop in East London, working with four Kestrel alumni, and a team of film professionals. This was the development stage of our 'Saving Face' film project, funded by Second Growth. Working with restorative justice expert Jacob Dunne and improvising expert (RADA), the group work-shopped and performed scenes for an upcoming short film. Providing meaningful and high quality creative opportunities for the men we meet while incarcerated after they are released is now a crucial part of our practice.

That month we also worked in HMP Downview women's prison in Surrey. As part of the family day, we ran comedy and storytelling workshops for more than 20 - including some mothers and their children.

In May, our Artistic Director Eleanor Henderson was invited by the prestigious Central School of Speech and Drama to deliver a guest lecture to students explaining the Kestrel philosophy.

July saw the Ignite Project successfully run at HMP Elmley, on the Isle of Sheppey in Kent. The core purpose of this was to conceive, write and perform a play in a week. Run in conjunction with the prison's Head of Neurodiversity, the project involved a neurodiverse group of a dozen men. At the end of the week, the group performed a show to a hugely positive reception from an audience of more than 60 fellow prisoners and staff. After the performance, the Deputy Governor commented - "I spoke to all of the participants after the show and every one of them said what a positive experience it had been for them. They also said they'd almost given up at the start ... because they didn't have the self-belief...; but that the level of encouragement and belief in them was amazing...What a testament to the Kestrel Theatre

Company team."

In August, after securing funding from the Rothschild Foundation, we started a weekly Drama Club - 'Company' - in HMP Springhill, an open prison in Buckinghamshire. Each

week, theatre professionals would go there and lead a two hour session focussing on developing a wide range of different performance skills. Over the course of the ten week project more than 20 men participated.

Across the summer we also ran several workshops in collaboration with the National Literacy Trust. In September, at HMP Guy's Marsh in Dorset, we delivered two workshops on puppetry and storytelling, working with two groups of more than a dozen. And we were in Anawim Women's Centre in Birmingham, a place to support women with a range of complex needs, including experience of the criminal justice system. Here we ran a character creation workshop, with ten women taking part.

In September we undertook the next stage of one of our most ambitious projects to date: Building on the crucial February development workshops, *Saving Face* - the short film - was shot in south London, with a cast and crew of some 34. The idea was to mix experienced professionals with Kestrel alumni, both in front and behind the camera. This is at the apex of the Kestrel philosophy, making professional standard work with those who have experience of the criminal justice system. The ambition is to shift perceptions of what is possible for such people, looking to change outlooks, while also insisting on professional standard opportunities.

October saw us back in HMP Five Wells, with our third project there: *Magnify*. For this, we were asked to work with those occupying the prison's desegregated wing, a mixture of vulnerable and general prisoners. The fortnight long, intensive project was seen as an important part of therapeutic work on that wing.

The cast of 13, ranging in age from 19 to 65, spent two weeks full time every day working with two directors, a producer and playwright. Between them, they created an original half hour play from scratch, called *Connections*, exploring what lies at the heart of social interaction. It was performed to much acclaim to an audience of 80, made up of fellow prisoners, the Governor, prison staff and external theatre industry guests. The whole thing was filmed, offering a valuable opportunity for those involved to review what they had achieved. One of the men who took part said at the project's close - "I've been in this environment nearly twenty years and I've never felt as

free as what I feel right now". A moving testament to the power of the work.

In November, using a core of those who had participated in the weekly Drama Club, we began rehearsals for the seasonal winter show for families in HMP Springhill. In conjunction with the Irene Taylor Trust, the intention was to create, write and stage an original piece of musical theatre for a family audience, filled with drama, songs and laughs. A cast of eleven performed the show, with a further six singers and musicians forming the accompanying band. Four shows were staged in December, one for 50 staff members, from the prison's senior leadership to OMU, to officers. Another, played to a packed house, was for fellow prisoners, a third for outside supporters and guests, with the fourth undertaken on the prison's family day. This show was watched not only by children of cast members, but also other men and their families. Thus fulfilling the ambition of the programme not only to make an impact on those that take part, but to have a wider impact on the rest of the prison community.

One of the actors, also a member of the 10 week Drama Club project that ran prior to the winter show, shared on the final day that "It's changed my life. It's changed what I want my life to be outside of here. I'm a religious person and I believe this was meant to happen - I was meant to meet you guys here." And that was our year. Here's to an even busier, more impactful 2024.

Section E Financial review

Brief statement of the charity's policy on reserves

As before our policy remains simply to maintain always a sufficient reserve to fulfill projects we have agreed to deliver with the prisons in which we work. The reserves indicated in the financials below will comfortably cover the commitments of the present year 2024.

Details of any funds materially in deficit

Further financial review details (Optional information)

You **may choose** to include additional information, where relevant about:

- the charity's principal sources of funds (including any fundraising);
- how expenditure has supported the key objectives of the charity;
- investment policy and objectives including any ethical investment policy adopted.

Since the low point of the Covid prison lockdowns Kestrel's work has expanded, with work in new prisons, HMP Five Wells, HMP Elmley (Sheppey), HMP Guys Marsh, HMP Downview, as well as the Anawim Women's Centre in Birmingham, in addition to our "base" at HMP Springhill/Grendon. This has been achieved thanks to new and increased funding received. 2023 saw the highest income in the charity's history – practically all from philanthropic sources – of just under £100k, up from £47k in 2022 and the low point of £14k in 2020.

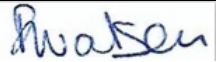
Most pleasing are two separate multi-year donations from Second Growth CIC and the Rothschild Foundation, as well as continued support from the Hilden Charitable Fund and first-time support from the Middle Way Trust. These grants have extended our planning horizon to two years and beyond, building continuity with the institutions and individuals we work to support

Section F Other optional information

Section G Declaration

The trustees declare that they have approved the trustees' report above.

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signature(s)		
Full name(s)	Peter Watson	James White
Position (eg Secretary, Chair, etc)	Secretary	Chair
Date	28 May 2024	