



Trustees' Annual Report for the period						
		Period start date			Period end date	
01	01	01	2024	To	31	12 2024

Section A

Reference and administration details

Charity name	KESTREL THEATRE COMPANY
Other names charity is known by	
Registered charity number (if any)	1073298
Charity's principal address	c/o Adler Shine
	Aston House, Cornwall Avenue
	LONDON
Postcode	N3 1LF

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		01/01/2024 – 05/09/2024	
3	Simon W Tennant	Treasurer		
4	Peter DF Watson	Secretary		
5	Meketaye Mesfin			
6	Holly Race Rogan			
7				
8				
9				
10				
11				
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17				
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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)

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

Kestrel enjoyed the busiest year in the charity's history in 2024, delivering projects across the country.

At Springhill prison in Buckinghamshire, the year began with another series of our long-standing Drama Club. Once a week between February and April, two theatre professionals went into the facility to oversee more than a dozen inmates engaging in theatrical workshops, learning key skills including projection and improvisation. At the end of the project, the regulars shared a short performance based on the ideas they had developed in front of an enthusiastic audience of fellow prisoners.

This project was also run at the prison between September and November with an even larger group of participants.

Twice in the year, our Artistic Director El Henderson, together with Kestrel alumnus Brian Murphy, were invited to give a keynote speech at conferences organised by Unlocked. This is the scheme which encourages recent university graduates into the prison service. And the audience was keen to hear how Kestrel's work can provide such an important boost to inmates, giving them wholly practical skills to help prepare for release.

In May, together with PACT, (Prison Advice and Care Trust) we worked in HMP Brinsford, a young offenders institution near Wolverhampton to produce an original short film.

That month, at a packed screening house in Soho, we showed *Saving Face*, a half hour filmed drama about redemptive justice. Directed by Dorothy Allen-Pickard, it stars the renowned film actress Sharon Duncan-Brewster, who starred in the movie *Dune*, alongside Ricardo Thomas, one of our alumni. It was given a rousing reception by those who recognised its quality and power. And the actors joined a panel question and answer session afterwards, talking about the creative process behind the film.

In June, we undertook two workshops at both HMP Elmley and HMP Swaleside on the Isle of Sheppey. In conjunction with the National Literacy Trust, the workshops proved hugely popular, involving more than 35 men at Elmley and 15 at Swaleside.

Also in June, in conjunction with Buckinghamshire Libraries, we unveiled a new project at Springhill. Called *Unbound*, it involved two directors and a filmmaker helping a group of men to create short filmed dramas which they were able to share with their families.

Then in September came another new Kestrel departure, called *Magnify*. We were invited by the Diorama Theatre in London to stage a new play, devised by a group of six Kestrel alumni, men who had worked with us while serving their sentences. Six men worked full time for a fortnight developing a half hour long drama. Paid equity rates for their work, through improvisation sessions at the Scrum Studios in Hammersmith, the cast workshoped

scenarios which were then coordinated by the playwright Simon Longman. In front of two packed houses, the men then performed the show, to huge acclaim. Such was the success of the project, the Diorama has asked us back to repeat the process with another group of men in August 2025.

In November we were invited by the new Garsington Opera Studios to use their recently opened multi-million pound facility for a fundraising evening. Together with Baco, the Buckinghamshire-based charity that offers men leaving prison practical assistance to ease their return to the outside world, we were able to invite nearly 250 people to enjoy an evening of film, performance and fine food in world-class surroundings. The films were those made with recently released prisoners by the acclaimed director Dorothy Allen-Pickard, talking about the issues they face trying to reintegrate into society. Together with spoken word performances from two Kestrel alumni and a panel discussion, we were able to give our supporters a first-hand insight into the work we do. Nearly £40,000 was raised during the course of the evening, a huge contribution to the work of the two organisations.

In December came the highlight of any Kestrel year: the annual pantomime at Springhill. Called this year A Cactus Short of Christmas, this was a show conceived by the cast and worked on during a fortnight of intensive rehearsals. Nine show performers, three other men who helped in the devising, plus six musicians working with professionals from the Irene Taylor Trust, were involved. They gave four triumphantly received shows to a variety of audiences, from staff and governors, through fellow prisoners, to their families and friends.

It provided a suitably uplifting finale to another packed year for Kestrel.

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 2025.

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.

For the first time in its history Kestrel's income exceeded £100k in 2024. Practically all is from philanthropic sources, including a small number of regular charitable trust supporters.

This allowed us to pursue our work in four main prisons, HMP Springhill, HMP Elmley, HMP Swalesdale, and for the first time HMP Brinsford in Staffordshire. Our work also continues beyond the prison gate to include activity with our alumni –with workshops films and performances involving them taking place at the Mill Screening Theatre and the New Diorama in London and at Garsington Opera's new Stokenchurch Studios near Oxford.

The Garsington event was also our first major fundraising event since the pandemic and in addition to the very welcome donations we were able to showcase Kestrel's work to over 200 people, many for the first time.

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

Date



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

01/01/2024

To

Period end date

31/12/2024

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	18,031	1,566	-	19,597	9,091
Major Donations	15,500	67,885	-	83,385	86,465
Sundry Donations	1,690	-	-	1,690	3,953
Other	199	-	-	199	145
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total (Gross income for AR)	35,420	69,451	-	104,871	99,654
A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total receipts	35,420	69,451	-	104,871	99,654
A3 Payments					
Christmas Show Performances	-	16,567	-	16,567	19,861
Other Performance Activities	1,353	35,956	-	37,309	36,714
Performance Direction	10,000	-	-	10,000	10,000
Charity Management & Admin	609	-	-	609	1,146
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	11,962	52,523	-	64,485	67,721
A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total payments	11,962	52,523	-	64,485	67,721
Net of receipts/(payments)	23,458	16,928	-	40,386	31,933
A5 Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-	-
A6 Cash funds last year end	38,837	46,107	-	84,944	53,011
Cash funds this year end	62,295	63,035	-	125,330	84,944

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

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Endowment funds
		to nearest £	to nearest £	to nearest £
B1 Cash funds		62,295	63,035	-

		-	-	-
		-	-	-
	Total cash funds	62,295	63,035	-
	(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	63,035	
	Retained Earnings	Unrestricted	62,295	
			-	
			-	
			-	
Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees	Signature	Print Name	Date of approval	
		Simon William Tennant	24th March 2025	



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 DEC 2024

Charity no
(if any)

1073298

Set out on pages

7-8

(number to include the page numbers of additional sheets)

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended **31 12 2024**

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 *And*

Date:

26/8/2025

Name:

PETER ANDERSON

Relevant professional
qualification(s) or body

Institute of Chartered Accountants in England & Wales (ICAEW) - Fellow.

(if any):

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Address:

11 MILL LANE

IFFLEY

OXFORD OX4 4EJ

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.

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