

Company registration number: 4322413

Charity registration number: 1091498

Midland Actors Theatre

(A company limited by guarantee)

Annual Report and Financial Statements

for the Year Ended 31 March 2025

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18/12/2025

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COMPANIES HOUSE

Bissell & Brown Birmingham Ltd
Chartered Accountants
12 Portman Rd
Birmingham
B13 0SL

Midland Actors Theatre

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Midland Actors Theatre

Reference and Administrative Details

Trustees	Jon Trevor
	Maretha Wallace
	Yi Ann Kok
	Gillian Adamson
	George Pearce
Charity Registration Number	1091498
Company Registration Number	4322413
Registered Office	The charity is incorporated in England & Wales.
	25 Merrishaw Rd
	Northfield
	Birmingham
	B31 3SL
Independent Examiner	Bissell & Brown Birmingham Ltd
	Chartered Accountants
	12 Portman Rd
	Birmingham
	B13 0SL

Midland Actors Theatre

Trustees' Report

The trustees, who are directors for the purposes of company law, present the annual report together with the financial statements and auditors' report of the charitable company for the year ended 31 March 2025.

Objectives and activities

Objects and aims

To advance education for the public benefit by the promotion of the arts, in particular but not exclusively, the art of drama.

Objectives, strategies and activities

In 2024-5, the company has continued its work in different fields, including ending one National Lottery Heritage-funded project, and beginning a new one. In these projects, we are working with groups based in schools in different parts of the region.

The Spitfire Over the Midlands project culminated in the launch of a film, incorporating interviews, drama scenes, and records of events. The launch took place at the Henry Sandon Hall in October 2024, with young people dressed in costume as people from WWII.

Our latest NLHF project is called "Fellowship with Nature": The Arboretum and Gardens Movement. We are working with five schools in the Midlands. In each school, participants take part in a range of activities including: learning about the history of the gardens movement; researching a local garden/site; creating visual materials, films, drama, etc. We have secured a grant of £48,712 for the project.

We have continued to work on a new play project with a team of three writers, and with input by practitioners and artists. The project is funded by a grant from Arts Council England. We are hoping to stage a production of the play in 2026-7.

MAT has also continued its work in educational contexts, and hosted the 4th annual Dorothy Heathcote Now conference at Goldsmiths, London, in November 2024. A special edition of the journal Drama Research, arising from the conference, was published in 2025.

We can celebrate a successful year, especially in educational work, which has raised our profile as a company, both nationally and internationally.

Public benefit

The trustees confirm that they have complied with the requirements of section 17 of the Charities Act 2011 to have due regard to the public benefit guidance published by the Charity Commission for England and Wales.

Trustees and officers

The trustees and officers serving during the year and since the year end were as follows:

Midland Actors Theatre

Trustees' Report

Trustees:	Jon Trevor
	Maretha Wallace
	Yi Ann Kok
	Gillian Adamson
	George Pearce
	Zak Hamza (Resigned 16 November 2025)
	Joanne Thackwray (resigned 16 November 2025)
	Iona Towler Evans (resigned 16 November 2025)

Structure, governance and management

Nature of governing document

Memorandum and Articles of Association, incorporated 14th November 2001, as amended by special resolution dated 18th September 2002.

The company was registered as a charity on 2nd April 2002.

Recruitment and appointment of trustees

Trustees retire by rotation every three years and are eligible for re-appointment.

Statement of trustees' responsibilities

The trustees (who are also the directors of Midland Actors Theatre for the purposes 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), including FRS 102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland".

Company law requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year. Under company law the trustees must not approve the financial statements unless they are satisfied that they 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 its 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 apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable accounting standards, comprising FRS 102 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 charitable company will continue in business.

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that can 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.

The trustees are responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the corporate and financial information included on the charitable company's website. Legislation governing the preparation and dissemination of financial statements may differ from legislation in other jurisdictions.

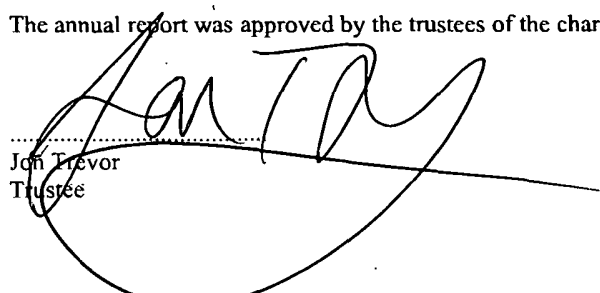
Midland Actors Theatre

Trustees' Report

Disclosure of information to auditor

Each trustee has taken steps that they ought to have taken as a trustee in order to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the charity's auditor is aware of that information. The trustees confirm that there is no relevant information that they know of and of which they know the auditor is unaware.

The annual report was approved by the trustees of the charity on 15/12/25 and signed on its behalf by:


Jon Trevor
Trustee

Midland Actors Theatre

Independent Examiner's Report to the trustees of Midland Actors Theatre ('the Company')

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Company for the year ended 31 March 2025.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity's trustees of the Company (and also its directors for the purposes of company law) you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 ('the 2006 Act').

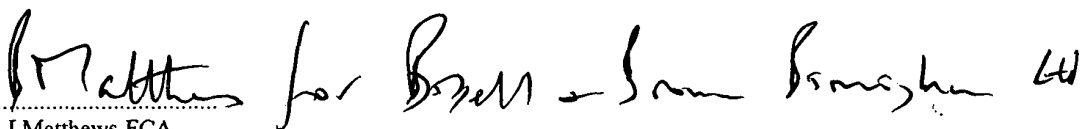
Having satisfied myself that the accounts of the Company are not required to be audited under Part 16 of the 2006 Act and are eligible for independent examination, I report in respect of my examination of your charity's accounts as carried out under section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 ('the 2011 Act'). In carrying out my examination I have followed the Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act.

Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of Midland Actors Theatre as required by section 386 of the 2006 Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do not comply with the accounting requirements of section 396 of the 2006 Act other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair view' which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination; or
4. the accounts have not been prepared in accordance with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice for accounting and reporting by charities [applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102)].

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



B J Matthews FCA
Chartered Accountants
Bissell & Brown Birmingham Ltd

12 Portman Rd
Birmingham
B13 0SL

Date: 15/12/2025

Midland Actors Theatre

Statement of Financial Activities for the Year Ended 31 March 2025 (Including Income and Expenditure Account and Statement of Total Recognised Gains and Losses)

	Note	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	Total 2025 £	Total 2024 £
Income and Endowments from:					
Charitable activities	3	14,670	28,497	43,167	51,096
Investment income		10	-	10	136
Total Income		<u>14,680</u>	<u>28,497</u>	<u>43,177</u>	<u>51,232</u>
Expenditure on:					
Charitable activities	4	<u>(16,271)</u>	<u>(29,725)</u>	<u>(45,996)</u>	<u>(75,171)</u>
Total Expenditure		<u>(16,271)</u>	<u>(29,725)</u>	<u>(45,996)</u>	<u>(75,171)</u>
Net expenditure		<u>(1,591)</u>	<u>(1,228)</u>	<u>(2,819)</u>	<u>(23,939)</u>
Net movement in funds		(1,591)	(1,228)	(2,819)	(23,939)
Reconciliation of funds					
Total funds brought forward		<u>17,204</u>	<u>9,382</u>	<u>26,586</u>	<u>50,525</u>
Total funds carried forward	9	<u><u>15,613</u></u>	<u><u>8,154</u></u>	<u><u>23,767</u></u>	<u><u>26,586</u></u>

All of the charity's activities derive from continuing operations during the above two periods.

Midland Actors Theatre

(Registration number: 4322413)
Balance Sheet as at 31 March 2025

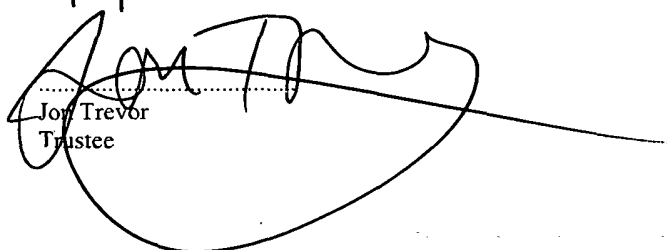
	Note	2025 £	2024 £
Current assets			
Debtors	7	25,481	28,310
Cash at bank and in hand		<u>136</u>	<u>26</u>
		25,617	28,336
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year	8	<u>(1,850)</u>	<u>(1,750)</u>
Net assets		<u>23,767</u>	<u>26,586</u>
Funds of the charity:			
Restricted income funds			
Restricted funds	9	8,154	9,382
Unrestricted income funds			
Unrestricted funds		<u>15,613</u>	<u>17,204</u>
Total funds	9	<u>23,767</u>	<u>26,586</u>

For the financial year ending 31 March 2025 the charity was entitled to exemption from audit under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

Directors' responsibilities:

- The members have not required the charity to obtain an audit of its accounts for the year in question in accordance with section 476; and
- The directors acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Act with respect to accounting records and the preparation of accounts.

The financial statements on pages 6 to 12 were approved by the trustees, and authorised for issue on 15/12/25 and signed on their behalf by:


Jon Trevor
Trustee

The notes on pages 8 to 12 form an integral part of these financial statements.

Midland Actors Theatre

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2025

1 Charity status

The charity is limited by guarantee, incorporated in England & Wales, and consequently does not have share capital. Each of the trustees is liable to contribute an amount not exceeding £1 towards the assets of the charity in the event of liquidation.

The address of its registered office is:

25 Merrishaw Rd
Northfield
Birmingham
B31 3SL

2 Accounting policies

Summary of significant accounting policies and key accounting estimates

The principal accounting policies applied in the preparation of these financial statements are set out below. These policies have been consistently applied to all the years presented, unless otherwise stated.

Statement of compliance

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 (FRS 102)) (issued in October 2019) - (Charities SORP (FRS 102)), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Companies Act 2006.

Basis of preparation

Midland Actors Theatre meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy notes.

Income and endowments

Expenditure

All expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to that expenditure, it is probable settlement is required and the amount can be measured reliably. All costs are allocated to the applicable expenditure heading that aggregate similar costs to that category. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings they have been allocated on a basis consistent with the use of resources, with central staff costs allocated on the basis of time spent, and depreciation charges allocated on the portion of the asset's use. Other support costs are allocated based on the spread of staff costs.

Charitable activities

Charitable expenditure comprises those costs incurred by the charity in the delivery of its activities and services for its beneficiaries. It includes both costs that can be allocated directly to such activities and those costs of an indirect nature necessary to support them.

Midland Actors Theatre

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2025

Taxation

The charity is considered to pass the tests set out in Paragraph 1 Schedule 6 of the Finance Act 2010 and therefore it meets the definition of a charitable company 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 to charitable purposes.

3 Income from charitable activities

	Unrestricted funds General £	Restricted funds £	Total 2025 £	Total 2024 £
Heritage Lottery Fund	-	28,497	28,497	16,562
Arts Council	-	-	-	21,755
Educational projects	14,070	-	14,070	11,179
Sir Barry Jackson	-	-	-	1,600
Baron Davenport's Trust	600	-	600	-
	<u>14,670</u>	<u>28,497</u>	<u>43,167</u>	<u>51,096</u>

Midland Actors Theatre

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2025

4 Expenditure on charitable activities

	Unrestricted funds General £	Restricted funds £	Total 2025 £	Total 2024 £
Project purchases	11,187	27,085	38,272	2,266
Research	104	-	104	459
Birmingham City Council	-	-	-	7,314
ACE project costs	-	-	-	12,372
DH Now	-	-	-	7,402
Erasmus direct costs	-	-	-	19,070
Travel, touring, accommodation	-	-	-	881
Admin	225	-	225	3,381
Heritage Lottery Fund costs	-	-	-	16,562
Utilities	-	1,358	1,358	1,906
Insurance	1,267	204	1,471	1,028
Telephone	522	1,003	1,525	1,192
Printing, postage, stationery	384	76	460	19
Sundry	-	-	-	399
Independent examination	1,192	-	1,192	900
Other legal & prof costs	15	-	15	-
P&L on exchange	1,373	-	1,373	-
Bank charges	-	-	-	18
	16,269	29,726	45,995	75,169

5 Trustees remuneration and expenses

No trustees, nor any persons connected with them, have received any remuneration from the charity during the year.

No trustees have received any reimbursed expenses from the charity during the year.

6 Taxation

The charity is a registered charity and is therefore exempt from taxation.

7 Debtors

Midland Actors Theatre

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2025

	2025 £	2024 £
Trade debtors	1,125	1,545
Accrued income	24,356	26,765
	<u>25,481</u>	<u>28,310</u>

8 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2025 £	2024 £
Accruals	1,850	1,750

9 Funds

	Balance at 1 April 2024 £	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Balance at 31 March 2025 £
Unrestricted funds				
<i>General</i>				
Unrestricted funds	17,204	14,680	(16,271)	15,613
Restricted funds				
Heritage Lottery Fund	-	28,497	(20,343)	8,154
Arts Council	9,382	-	(9,382)	-
Total restricted funds	<u>9,382</u>	<u>28,497</u>	<u>(29,725)</u>	<u>8,154</u>
Total funds	<u>26,586</u>	<u>43,177</u>	<u>(45,996)</u>	<u>23,767</u>

Midland Actors Theatre

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2025

	Balance at 1 April 2023 £	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Balance at 31 March 2024 £
Unrestricted funds				
<i>General</i>				
Unrestricted funds	24,141	12,915	(19,852)	17,204
Restricted				
Heritage Lottery Fund	-	16,562	(16,562)	-
British Council / Erasmus 4	19,070	-	(19,070)	-
Arts Council	-	21,755	(12,373)	9,382
Bham City Council	7,314	-	(7,314)	-
Total restricted funds	<u>26,384</u>	<u>38,317</u>	<u>(55,319)</u>	<u>9,382</u>
Total funds	<u><u>50,525</u></u>	<u><u>51,232</u></u>	<u><u>(75,171)</u></u>	<u><u>26,586</u></u>



MIDLAND ACTORS THEATRE

ANNUAL REPORT 2024-5



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Email: david@midlandactorstheatre.com
Website: www.midlandactorstheatre.com

MIDLAND ACTORS THEATRE

ANNUAL REPORT 2024-5

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1 Introduction

In 2024-5, the company has continued its work in different fields, including ending one National Lottery Heritage-funded project, and beginning a new one. In these projects, we are working with groups based in schools in different parts of the region.

The *Spitfire Over the Midlands* project culminated in the launch of a film, incorporating interviews, drama scenes, and records of events. The launch took place at the Henry Sandon Hall in October 2024, with young people dressed in costume as people from WWII.

Our latest NLHF project is called "*Fellowship with Nature*": *The Arboretum and Gardens Movement*. We are working with five schools in the Midlands. In each school, participants take part in a range of activities including: learning about the history of the gardens movement; researching a local garden/site; creating visual materials, films, drama, etc. We have secured a grant of £48,712 for the project.

We have continued to work on a new play project with a team of three writers, and with input by practitioners and artists. The project is funded by a grant from Arts Council England. We are hoping to stage a production of the play in 2026-7.

MAT has also continued its work in educational contexts, and hosted the 4th annual *Dorothy Heathcote Now* conference at Goldsmiths, London, in November 2024. A special edition of the journal *Drama Research*, arising from the conference, was published in 2025.

We can celebrate a successful year, especially in educational work, which has raised our profile as a company, both nationally and internationally.

2 National Lottery Heritage Fund



2a *Spitfire over the Midlands*

In October 2024, we concluded a three-year project funded by NLHF, working with groups of young people in different parts of the Midlands, to look at the impact of the Spitfire plane on people's lives. The project recruited a total of 175 participants between the ages of 8-20. Groups were based in five school venues: Tudor Grange Worcester; Tudor Grange Primary Academy Perdiswell; the Orchard Centre Wolverhampton; Holly Lodge High School College of Science; and Tudor Grange Academy Redditch.

Participants were involved in: research sessions; training sessions heritage project skills such as research, oral history, filmmaking, drama, music etc; visits to historic sites; filming oral history interviews; creating materials for website, etc. Key outcomes included:

- A project film, *Spitfire Over the Midlands*
- A three-day exhibition
- Oral History interviews
- Proposals for a future Spitfire Heritage Centre

The film *Spitfire Over the Midlands*, as well as shorter films, are showcased on the project website www.livingmuseums.co.uk. The film includes a record of project activities, short films, oral history interviews, etc. The final version of the complete film was given two public screenings at Henry Sandon Hall, Worcester on 23 October 2024. The event was attended by

Cllr. Matt Lamb, Deputy Mayor, Worcester; local councillors; and military veterans. A shorter version of the film was also shown 8 times as an outside broadcast in Cathedral Square, Worcester, on 8 June 2024, as part of WCC's programme of events to mark the 80th anniversary of D-Day, attracting over 1000 visitors.

One visitor at the film premiere, Colonel Stamford J. Cartwright, commented: "... what a triumph - I really enjoyed the presentation and the young women and men were simply magnificent. Very well done, what a wonderful project and result. A great evening, a great project, a great film. So very impressed."

Students from Tudor Grange Academy and Perdiswell Primary School in Worcester also took part in a D-Day event on 6 June 2024, performing a specially-written poem in the Cathedral Square. The event was part of commemorations organised by Worcester City Council.

2b *"Fellowship with Nature": The Arboretum and Gardens Movement*



Arboretums, botanical gardens and landscaped parks were created in England in the 19th and early 20th centuries, as part of an environmental, educational, social and aesthetic movement, to restore the "fellowship with nature." We believe that this is an opportune moment to explore the historic roots of the movement, and celebrate its environmental vision.

In this project, we are working with 5 groups of young people, aged 9-18, based in schools in different parts of the Midlands. The schools are: Robert Smyth Academy, Market Harborough; Eden Girls Leadership Academy, Birmingham; Tudor Grange Primary Academy Perdiswell; Tudor Grange Samworth Academy; and Wilson Stuart Special School, Birmingham. Each group will focus on a local arboretum/garden, to raise awareness of its value and role, as a public space for leisure, education, art and science, and for reuniting the human and natural worlds. In each school, participants take part in a range of activities including: *learning about the history of the gardens movement; researching a local garden / site; creating visual materials, films, drama, etc. that will be published on the project website; and presenting their work in a final project exhibition*

The project is funded by a grant from NLHF and is scheduled to last for two years.

3 New Play project

We have been awarded grants by Arts Council England, and the Sir Barry Jackson Trust, to commission a team of 3 writers - David Calcutt, Zainab Rao and Rajan Sharma - to develop a new play, based on the theme of war. We have also worked with groups of young people at George Dixon Academy, Birmingham; and these workshops have given us an idea for the overall form of the new play, as a kind of "museum," which will tell the story of a city through years of war, through scenes, film, dance, music, objects, etc. The audience will move through the space, in an immersive experience.

We hope to stage a production of the play in 2026-7.

4 Dorothy Heathcote Now

The Facebook group *The Commission Model of Teaching* was first launched in July 2020. It features daily posts on Dorothy Heathcote's work, and has grown to over 2000+ members. We have been active in other areas, in raising awareness of Dorothy's work:

- MAT was co-organiser with Goldsmiths University of London of the 4-day *Dorothy Heathcote Now* conference in November 2024. 75 delegates attended in person, and another 45

online. This was the fourth *DH Now* conference, and it has now become an annual event.

- In 2025-5, David has taught two 10-week online courses on *Mantle of the Expert*, for the Online School of Drama, with participants from around the world including India, Hong Kong and Thailand.

5 **Second Shepherd's Play**



MAT was funded by Tudor Grange Academy Trust to work with a group of 12 students from TGA Redditch, to rehearse and perform *The Second Shepherd's Play*, a medieval nativity play. The event was held in the town square (Church Green), Redditch, on December 11 2024. The event received coverage in the *Redditch Advertiser* and *Redditch Standard*. The aim was to raise awareness of the town's rich history, and increase young people's pride in their own heritage and identity.

Councillor Jane Spilsbury (Matchborough & Woodrow, Redditch Borough Council) stated: "It is great to see young people bringing theatre to the town centre and showcasing their talents."

The report in the *Redditch Advertiser* quoted MAT Artistic Director, David Allen: "It's been a great setting to do something like this. It feels like we have recovered something from Redditch's heritage. The students have adapted a 700-year-old version of the play and made it their own."



6 Funding

In 2024-5, we received funding from National Lottery Heritage Fund, the British Council (Erasmus Plus), Arts Council England, and Baron Davenport's Trust.

A full breakdown of income and expenditure can be found in our Financial Statements.

Appendix A

Artistic Policy

MAT is a "learning theatre" company. We are dedicated to:

- using drama and theatre as a way to help people learn
- breaking down the barriers that exist between different communities, cultures and traditions; and encouraging processes of dialogue, exchange, and learning
- helping disadvantaged groups

- developing our own understanding and expertise

There are three main strands to our work:

- Theatre productions
- Education
- Research and Communication

Appendix B

Company Members, 2024-5

Artistic Director

David Allen

Secretary

Maretha Wallace

Board of Directors

Gill Adamson

Zak Hamza

Yi Ann Kok

George Pearce

Jo Thackwray (Vice-Chair)

Iona Towler-Evans

Jon Trevor (Chair)

Writers

David Calcutt

Zainab Rao

Rajan Sharma

Filming

Maya Abbott, Roberta Luchini Boschi

Designer

John Bell

Accountant

Barry Matthews (Bissell & Brown Ltd.)

Historical Consultant

Professor Carl Chinn

Workshop Facilitators

David Allen
Roberta Luchini

Costume
Jo Thackwray

Music
Josh Herring