

Charity Reg No: 1124839

# **POLLYANNA TRAINING THEATRE**

Report of the Trustees and Unaudited Financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2025



**POLLYANNA TRAINING THEATRE**

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**for the Year Ended 31 March 2025**

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## POLLYANNA TRAINING THEATRE

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### Report of the Trustees For the Year Ended 31 March 2025

The trustees present their report with the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 March 2025. The trustees have adopted the provisions of the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) 'Accounting and Reporting by Charities' issued in March 2005.

#### REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

**Registered Charity Number**  
**1124839**

**Principal address**

Raine House  
Raine St  
London  
E1W 3RL

**Telephone number**  
07949 792570

**Trustees**

Ms Joann Condon  
Ms Amanda Day  
Ms Kaye Colman  
Ms Jody Dempsey  
Ms Aoife Tighe

**Independent Examiner**

Earl & Grey Accountants  
Suite 14/2G  
Docklands Business Centre  
10-16 Tiller Road  
London E14 8PX

#### STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

**Governing document**

The charity is controlled by its governing document, a deed of trust, and constitutes an unincorporated charity.

**Risk management**

The trustees have a duty to identify and review the risks to which the charity is exposed and to ensure appropriate controls are in place to provide reasonable assurance against fraud and error.

Approved by order of the board of trustees on 30/1/26.....and signed on its behalf by:



.....  
Trustee

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Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of Pollyanna Training Theatre

I report on the accounts for the year ended 31 March 2025 set out in pages three to seven.

**Respective responsibilities of trustee and examiner**

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year (under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act)) and that a independent examination is required.

It is my responsibility to:

- Examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act
- To follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commission (under Section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act); and
- To state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

**Basis of the independent examiner's report**

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosure in the accounts, and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair view' and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statements below.

**Independent Examiners' Statement**

In connection with my examination no matter has come to my attention:

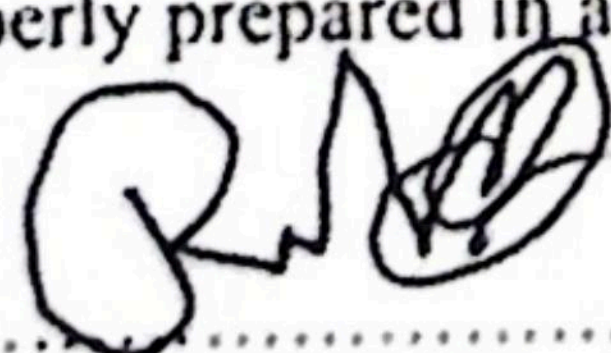
- (1) Which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements
- to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the 2011 Act; and
  - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and to comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 Act

have not been met; or

- (2) to which in our opinion attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

**Opinion**

In my opinion the financial statement as prepared give a true and fair view of the charity's state of affairs as at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023 and that the incoming resources and their application in the year then ended have been properly prepared in accordance with general direction given by the Charities Commissioner.

  
.....  
Razaul Kabir ACCA/IFA/MIPA  
Earl & Grey Accountants  
Suite 14/2G  
Docklands Business Centre  
10-16 Tiller Road  
London E14 8PX

Date: 30/01/26.



**POLLYANNA TRAINING THEATRE**  
**Income and Expense**  
 FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31ST MARCH 2025

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INCOME

unrestricted	£98,326.01	
restricted	£4,400.00	£102,726.01

EXPENSES

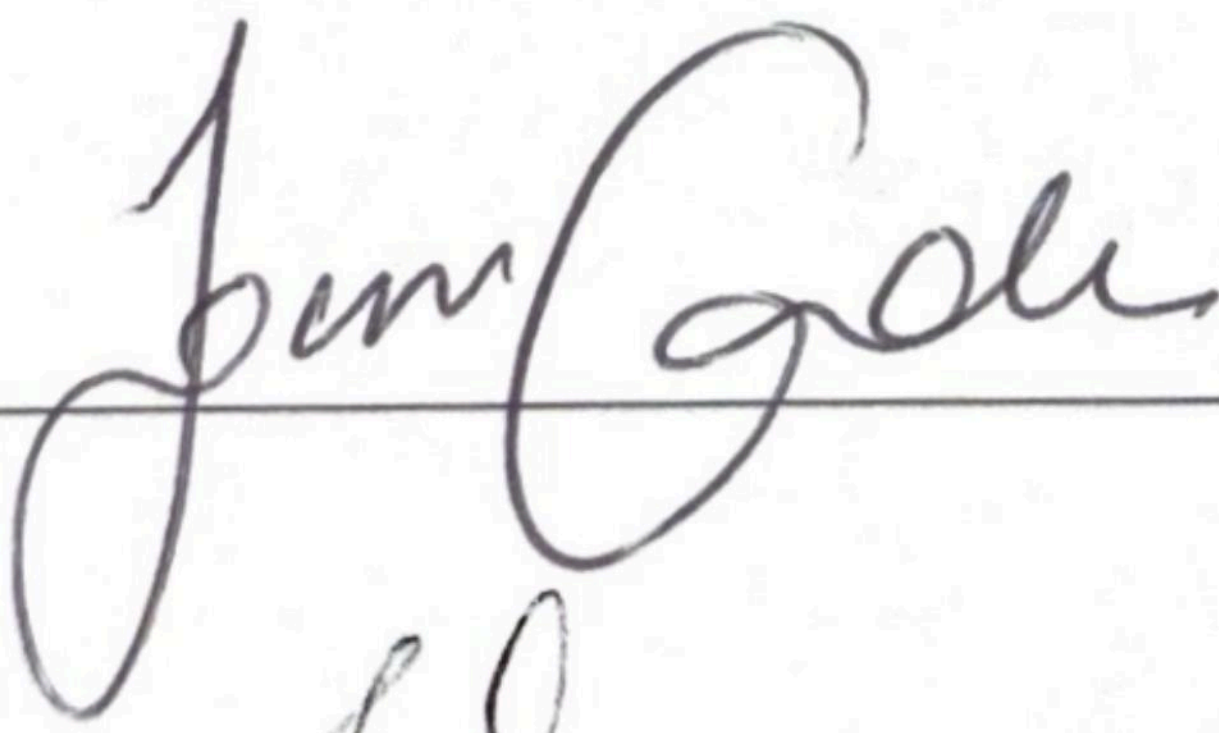
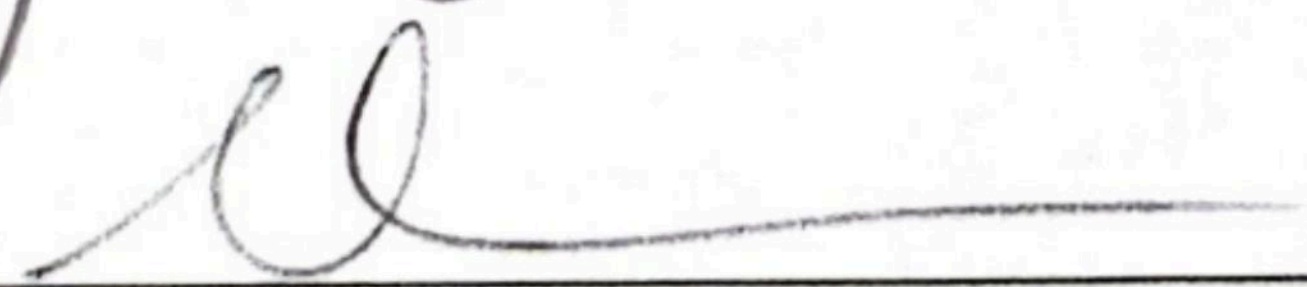
EQUIPMENTS	£16,325.25	
TRAVEL	£4,390.00	
WAGES	£65,770.49	
RENT	£273.82	
refund		£20.00
R&M	£2,883.00	
TELEPHONE	£4,509.66	
INSURANCE	£2,827.45	
ADVERTISING	£314.00	
ACCOUNTANCY	£1,275.00	
TRAINING	£90.00	
Legal	£1,014.00	
		£99,672.67
Surplus		£3,053.34



POLLYANNA TRAINING THEATRE

BALANCE SHEET  
FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31ST MARCH  
2025

	31-Mar-25	
	£	£
<b>Fixed Assets</b>		
<b>Tangible Fixed Assets</b>		-
<b>Current Assets</b>		
Debtors	-3,053	
Cash at bank and in hand	25,532	
	22,479	
<b>Creditors: amounts falling due within one year</b>	0	
<b>Net current assets/(liabilities)</b>		22,479
<b>Net Assets</b>		22,479
<b>Funds Represented by:</b>		
Excess of Income over Expenditure/(Surplus) for March 2025		-
Balance B/fwd		22,479
<b>Total funds C/fwd</b>		22,479

  
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Chairperson

Treasure  
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Approved on:



## Annual Report

### March 2025

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#### Annual Report     April 2024 to March 2025

##### Principal's Message

Classes and course are running at full capacity, we have places available with no charge for families who are in receipt of Universal Credit, this means we are operating in a 'needs aware' basis. We offer free courses in drama and musical theatre for young people aged 12-16 years.

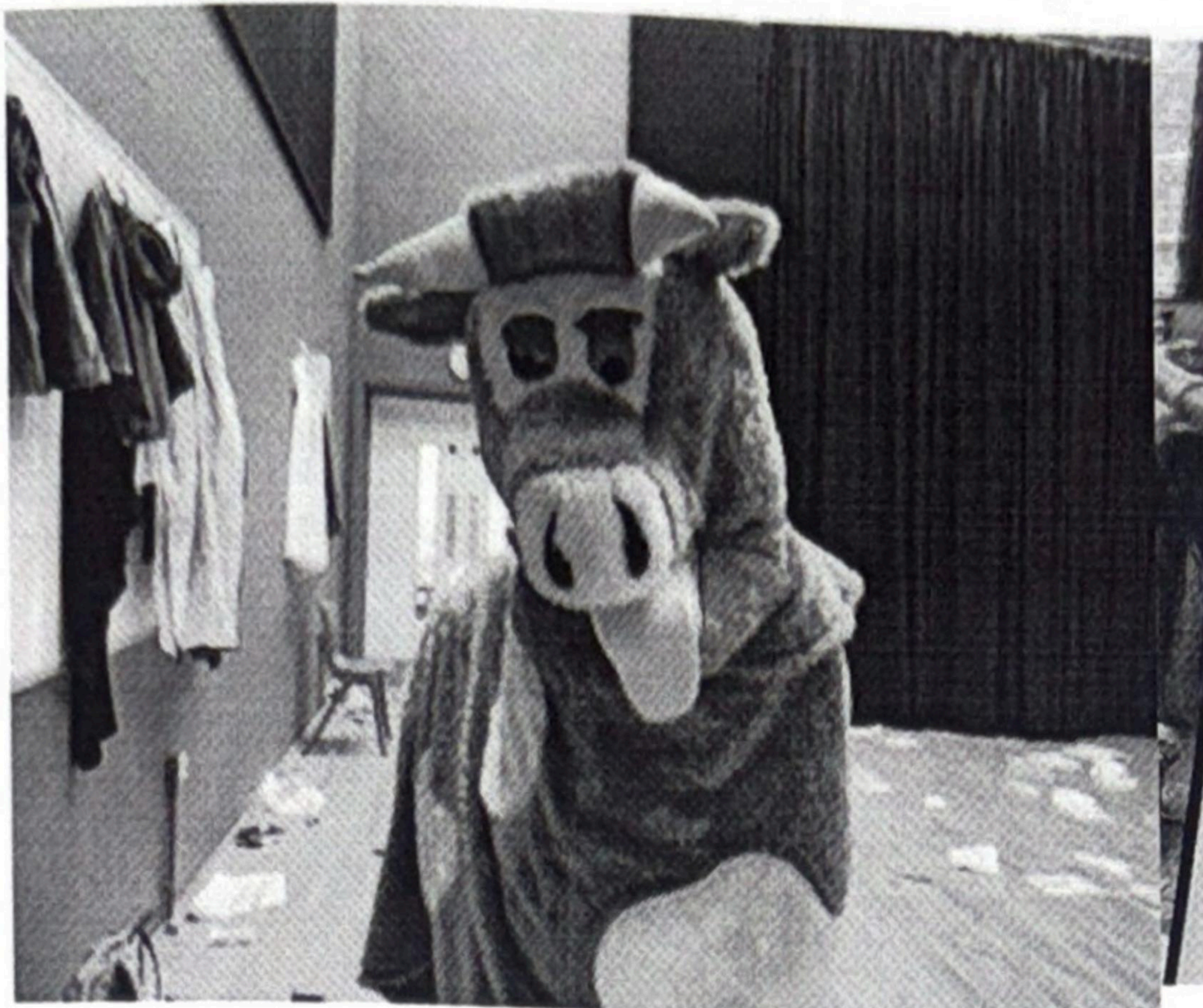
Our core funding arises from fees for our courses, however these are much lower than other organisations and are in place to cover our tutor costs and premises rental and building expenses.

We are also finding there is a huge rise in children being home schooled throughout all key stages. Post pandemic young people are suffering from anxiety and mental health issues, many children are incredibly anxious about school, feeling nervous, overwhelmed and unsettled resulting in poor attendance. Through our sessions we are focusing on confidence, self-esteem and emotional wellbeing through extensive improvisation work such as role play of different scenarios and how our decision making process can affect them, equipping our beneficiaries with tools to help them overcome day to day life and challenges.

The locality that we operate from is incredibly diverse in every way especially socio-economically, with over 60% of our beneficiaries from low income disadvantaged backgrounds, living in multigenerational overcrowded homes, struggling to make ends meet – our aim is *and* always has been that this should not be a barrier to accessing extracurricular education.

We have received notification the building we have used to store all our costumes and props is being renovated and we are required to vacate permanently, we are at present in communication with an organisation that offers free space to charities, we are fully registered with them and they are currently searching for a suitable venue for us. The likelihood is, this will be in a further part of London, as storage space is very costly, we are so happy to have been accepted by this organisation.





### Summary and purpose of Charity

Pollyanna teaches children from the ages of 3-18, in a range of classes run by industry professionals.

They believe that theatrical training is not only to develop a new generation of actors, singers and dancers, but also to; develop confidence & social skills, encourage children to feel a sense of achievement & most crucially, to have fun!

Pollyanna is unique, we are not part of a franchise, there has only ever has been one Pollyanna. This means we are able to tailor each class to the individual needs and the dynamic of the children attending rather than following a term plan that may not suit.

At Pollyanna one of the biggest things we foster is Confidence - It's no secret that children and young people are impressionable. They learn what they observe and what they are taught. As they grow up, they form opinions and beliefs about themselves and their place in the world. This is why it's so important to create a positive self-image for them from an early age. Children who have confidence and self-esteem develop a strong foundation for their future. They are more resilient and happier, which makes them better able to handle difficult situations. Performance arts can help children explore their creativity and develop new skills for life.

### Summary of activities

Highlights of this past year

Twenty full scale performances with children aged 4-11 years each playing to audiences of over 100 people. Our Teenage groups (age 11-16years) have taken part in various workshops with specialist visiting tutors and staged 6 full scale performances.

Our Summer courses for 5-11 years were themed around 'All Around the World' and 'Secret Spies' - each week the children devised and created their own piece of theatre, we then shared our performance with family and friends on the Friday afternoon of each week, alongside creating amazing artwork and designing our own T-shirts.

Our Teenage Summer Courses showcased a range of different performance arts activities – including comedy workshops, vocal technique, acting for film and tv, Improvisation. Our young people also had the opportunity to watch a performance of 'Guys and Dolls' at The Bridge Theatre.

We have held holiday clubs during every school holiday throughout the year, offering a safe environment for young people and children to learn new skills, gain confidence, channel enthusiasm and have fun.

We currently teach after school drama sessions at Hermitage School, St Peters London Dock School, St Annes and Guardian Angels School and English Martyrs RC School. This s is an essential part of our income stream and also a great way to reach and help other children through drama sessions.

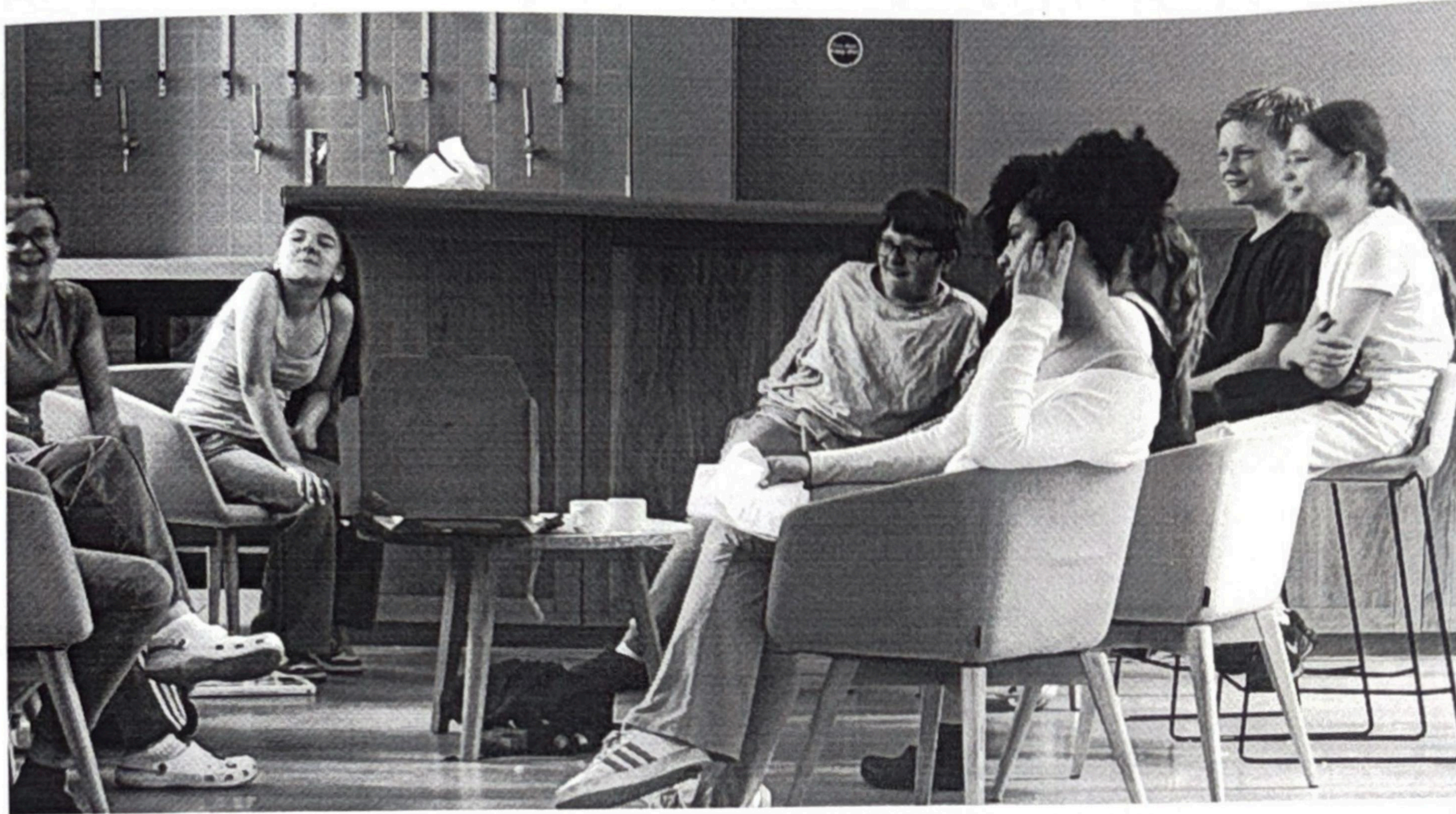


**Achievement of performance**

Our Summer performance was The Wizard of Oz – the beloved classic show. All students loved working towards this production and the excitement and energy during rehearsal and performances was palpable, many precious memories were created and being able to perform in front a live audience again was wonderful. Our Christmas performance was 'A Christmas Carol'. Our teenage courses performed 'Fame' & 'The Dream Collector'.

Over the past year we have worked directly with 1300 children and young people, providing 800 hours of tuition in drama and creative arts, in addition to this we have provided 252 hours of afterschool drama sessions within 4 primary schools in the London Borough of Tower Hamlets.





### **Our work in the Community and events**

Due to increasing costs we were unable to hold the Wapping Great Christmas Fair in 2024, The Wapping Tree Lighting, did go ahead and was a joyous community celebration with over 300 families and local people in attendance.

We were fortunate to have Christmas present donated to us from ELBA (East London Business Alliance) and held a Christmas Party including a Father Christmas Grotto and presents for all children.





Our  
new  
Open  
Mic  
night  
was  
hugely

successful and offered the opportunity for local people to share their talents, this varied from singing, to stand up comedy and impressions, a really social evening for the whole family, we aim to hold our next Open Mic event in early Spring 2024.

Monday and Tuesday stay and play group for 0-5 years, a safe play environment for parents and children, free weekly sessions.

### **Volunteer Support**



We are fortunate to have a small group of regular volunteers, who are able to assist during events and performances, these consist of parents ex-students who are all subject to volunteer DBS checks.







### **Description of charities trustees**

Trustees:

Joann Condon – Chairperson

Joann is a respected actress working in tv, film and theatre for over 30 years, alongside this Joann is also a qualified counsellor, she has lived in London's East end all her life, and has in depth knowledge of the area, she understands the diversity, strengths, weaknesses and challenges that are faced by our community.

Kaye Colman - Trustee

Kaye is a licensed children's chaperone working in the entertainment industry – she is also a native east ender and works extensively within the City of London corporation.

Amanda Day - Trustee



Amanda has worked in the third sector community for the past 15 years, she has comprehensive knowledge of policies, legislation and event management, she is an active local stakeholder and well respected for her charitable work within the community.

Aoife Sanchez Tighe - Trustee

Aoife works extensively in the financial sector, she has knowledge and experience of corporate

charitable donations and fundraising, she is a parent of children aged between 8 and 16 years.

Jody Dempsey - Trustee

Jody was a primary school teacher for 12 years working in schools within Tower Hamlets and

Newham – she has detailed first hand knowledge of the issues children are facing, with a particular focus on education and pastoral needs post pandemic. Jody now works for LBTH overseeing children being home educated or educated whilst working in the entertainment industry.

The charity operates with a board of 5 trustees, the trustees oversee all major decision making with day to day management by the school principal (Angela Kindell) and centre manager (Alexandra Kind) who report directly to the board of trustees.

Tutors and Staff

We have many long term freelance staff members – all of whom have been through full DBS disclosures.

Our Ofsted registration remains active.

## **Thanks**

Thank you for your perpetual energy and enthusiasm in all you do  
Svetla - parent

Thank you so much to the whole team, the children were amazing and everything came together beautifully on stage.

Izaro – Parent

Thank you so much, it was such a wonderful day, Esme loved being part of it all. All of the team

did such an incredible job.

Thanks again!

Catherine



'Hi Alex, Angie and Clare.  
No, thank you for all that you do.  
You're all miracle workers.  
Thank you again.'  
Tedla

'Every morning my son asks 'Is it Pollyanna today'? with a big smile.'  
Sophie mum to Ben aged 6 years

**Year End comment:**

As an organisation we continue to adapt and evolve to help children, young people and families with their changing need. This can be challenging but we continue to strive to offer the best possible performance and creative arts activities for young people and children within Tower Hamlets. Our new venture for 2025/2026 is a creative arts studio – where young people can explore areas 'behind stage', such as lighting, stage management, prop and costume design, scenic design and construction. We are at present negotiating on a potential free studio space in London E2, to develop this idea further.

**'Funding**

St George – Summer Holiday programme

Courses for children aged 2.5-11 years are charged per term for which parents\ families\ carers pay.

We always endeavour to keep these fees to a minimum in order that they remain affordable.

Our

studio hire in the daytime or out of our regular class hours continues and is a vital source of income for us.