

**Report of the Trustees and**  
**Unaudited Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 July 2025**  
**for**  
**Simple 8 Theatre Company**

SLP Advisory Limited  
126 Wish Hill  
Eastbourne  
East Sussex  
BN20 9HL

**Simple 8 Theatre Company**  
**Contents of the Financial Statements**  
**for the Year Ended 31 July 2025**

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## Simple 8 Theatre Company

### Report of the Trustees for the Year Ended 31 July 2025

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The trustees who are also directors of the charity for the purposes of the Companies Act 2006, present their report with the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 July 2025. The trustees have adopted the provisions of 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) (effective 1 January 2019).

#### OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

The purposes of the charity is to advance the education of the public in all aspects of the dramatic art and the development of public appreciation such art by presentation of public theatre performances.

Over the last financial year, Simple 8 Theatre Company continued their relaunch of full-scale productions post-Covid. They have maintained strong relationships with partners, including Royal and Derngate Theatre in Northampton, Park Theatre London and Shoreditch Town Hall. The company produced a full-scale premiere of their new play *The Land of the Free* (formerly *Sic Semper*) about how John Wilkes Booth assassinated Abraham Lincoln, to coincide with the US Presidential election in autumn 2024. It played at Southwark Playhouse in London, and the project spanned September - November 2024. The company fundraised throughout the year, including hosting an Evening With.... Dame Imelda Staunton.

#### ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE

##### *Land of the Free*

Successfully mounted a full-scale production at Southwark Playhouse. In total 35 performances, employing 14 practitioners, with 2,458 people seeing it live and over 100,000 engaged online.

Alongside a positive round of private fundraising we also used a successful grant from last year's return from the De Haan Charitable Trust towards this activity.

The production was critically well-received:

- "A deft investigation of a Presidential assassination.....it's how the director Sebastian Armesto and co-writer Dudley Hinton wrap, unwrap, and reward that gift which enhances the material" *The Guardian*
- "A bold new production" *The Strand Magazine*
- "A clever piece of theatre" *ReviewsHub*

Our audience development focused on offering affordable tickets at all venues with discounts for schools, those on low incomes, multi-generational families and young people. We had the very low average ticket price of £16.88. We also created free workshops for young practitioners. These were sent to drama schools/universities local to the venue, and/or with a specific lean towards American studies or students.

We offered adapted shows including captioned shows, and a Relaxed Performance, plus a Post Show Discussion with noted US Historian Adam Smith.

Our workforce had gender parity and our casting was representative of racial and physical diversity.

##### Achievements Against Objective Set

We succeeded in our aim of premiering a new play with a large cast and without 'star' casting. However we were unable to sell the show as successfully as we would have hoped.

#### FINANCIAL REVIEW

##### Reserves policy

Amount of reserves held: negative reserve of £4,620 (2024 - £37,416).

The Charitable Company will operate with no cash reserves. The Trustees aim to maintain a sufficient balance to meet ongoing expenditure, but if required Members will cover the costs of subscriptions for website etc. There is no anticipated major expenditure for the following tax year as we have no productions planned.

Any major projects will be met from separate fundraising activities.

##### Funds in deficit

There was a loss for the year caused by lower than expected box office income. This loss was offset by higher than expected fundraising and a 'creative tax credit' that made the impact manageable. If required, any loss carried forward will be mitigated by writing off money owed to Company Members.

## **Simple 8 Theatre Company**

### **Report of the Trustees for the Year Ended 31 July 2025**

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#### **FINANCIAL REVIEW**

At 31 July 2025 the charitable company had free reserves of £(4,620). The net loss for the year was £42,036. This is compared to the reserves at the end of the previous year of £37,416. There was a loss for the year caused by lower than expected box office income. This loss was offset by higher than expected fundraising and a 'creative tax credit' that made the impact manageable. Once our tax credit is received, we will repay our loan due to Timothy Bull and will have reserves of net zero. If required, any loss carried forward will be mitigated by writing off money owed to Company Members.

The charity's principal sources of funds (including any fundraising) are:

Grants/donations/fundraising - £19,876

Productions/sales/royalties - £42,001

Investment policy and objectives including any social investment policy adopted:

The Charitable Company's funds are held in an interest bearing current account with the Co-operative Bank. There are currently no funds held that will not be expended within the next twelve months so longer term investment funds are felt inappropriate by the Trustees.

A description of the principal risks facing the charity:

The principal two risks are the viability of productions (can sell tickets) and losing funding in the build up. However the company mitigate against these by maintaining very low admin costs, being run by volunteers and they adjust their work and budgets to suit unfolding events.

The Trustees review the major risks facing the Charitable Company at least once a year. We have a comprehensive health and safety review and a code of conduct and safeguarding policy.

#### **FUTURE PLANS**

In terms of future plans, because the current climate in the Arts is perilous, due to a lack of funding, struggle for audience and consequential fear of risk we are considering moth-balling the company until we have a clear direction in terms of projects to mount and an industry that can offer better support. We had a fundraising target for this production of £10,000 and our Evening With fundraising events and private donations we ended up exceeding that target with total funds raised of £17,200 excluding Gift Aid. As previously mentioned we also used a grant of £5,000 from the De Haan Charitable Trust towards this year's activity, which is included in this figure.

As detailed in last year's report we have felt that the current climate in the Arts is perilous, due to a lack of funding, struggle for audience and general fear of risk from theatre programmers.

In particular, over the last two productions, this year's activity and Moby-Dick, we found that what has worked for us in the past - good reviews, a recognised aesthetic, story-centric drama, casting and marketing - are no longer enough to attract an audience larger enough to sustain the work.

Consequently we have taken the heavy decision to moth-ball the company until we have a clear direction in terms of projects to mount and an industry that can offer better support.

All our infrastructure will remain in place and we intend to continue to pursue opportunities that will fulfil our purposes.

#### **STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT**

##### **Governing document**

The charity is controlled by its governing document, a deed of trust, and constitutes a limited company, limited by guarantee, as defined by the Companies Act 2006.

The governing document of the charity is the Memorandum and Articles of Association, which was adopted in 07/07/2010 on the formation of the Simple 8 Theatre Company as a company limited by guarantee.

The company is limited by guarantee - each director has agreed to contribute up to £10 in the event of winding up.

The methods used to recruit and appoint new trustees, including details of any other person or external body entitled to appoint one or more trustees:

We identify the need for new trustees. Either because vacancies have arisen, or that new trustees with specific skills are needed to help run the charity more effectively. The trustees agree what skills, experience and knowledge are needed. Preferred candidates are identified and invited to join the trustees. The whole board are responsible.

#### **REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS**

##### **Registered Company number**

07307236 (England and Wales)

Report of the Trustees  
for the Year Ended 31 July 2025

Registered Charity number  
1139254

Registered office  
Heath House  
Lyneham Road  
Milton-Under-Wychwood  
Chipping Norton  
OX7 6LW

Trustees  
Ms R Riley  
Ms G M Muinzer  
Mr S Fernandez-Armesto  
Mr R Digby Day (resigned 17/11/2025)

Company Secretaries  
Mr C J Doyle  
Mr D J Hinton

Independent Examiner  
Sarah Price  
SLP Advisory Limited  
126 Wish Hill  
Eastbourne  
East Sussex  
BN20 9HL

www.simple8.co.uk

**STATEMENT OF TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES**

The trustees (who are also the directors of Simple 8 Theatre Company for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the Report of the Trustees 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. Under that law, the trustees have elected to prepare the financial statements in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice (United Kingdom Accounting Standards and applicable law).

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 the income and expenditure, of the charitable company for that period. In preparing those 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;
- 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 which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charitable company and to 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.

Approved by order of the board of trustees on 06.03.2026 and signed on its behalf by:

  
Mr S Fernandez-Armesto - Trustee

**Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of  
Simple 8 Theatre Company**

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**Independent examiner's report to the trustees of Simple 8 Theatre Company ('the Company')**

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

*Sarah Price*

Sarah Price

SLP Advisory Limited  
126 Wish Hill  
Eastbourne  
East Sussex  
BN20 9HL

Date: 05/03/2026

Simple 8 Theatre Company

Statement of Financial Activities  
for the Year Ended 31 July 2025

	Notes	Unrestricted fund £	Restricted funds £	2025 Total funds £	2024 Total funds £
<b>INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM</b>					
Donations and legacies		-	19,876	19,876	119,395
<b>Charitable activities</b>					
Service delivery		-	42,001	42,001	231,565
<b>Total</b>		-	61,877	61,877	350,960
<b>EXPENDITURE ON</b>					
Raising funds		-	95,536	95,536	236,454
<b>Charitable activities</b>					
Other		-	(22,519)	(22,519)	(73,460)
Support costs		-	28,022	28,022	194,686
Governance costs		1,047	1,827	2,874	8,778
<b>Total</b>		1,047	102,866	103,913	366,458
<b>NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)</b>		(1,047)	(40,989)	(42,036)	(15,498)
Transfers between funds	7	(35,087)	35,087	-	-
<b>Net movement in funds</b>		(36,134)	(5,902)	(42,036)	(15,498)
<b>RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS</b>					
Total funds brought forward		37,034	382	37,416	52,914
<b>TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD</b>		900	(5,520)	(4,620)	37,416

The notes form part of these financial statements

Simple 8 Theatre Company

Balance Sheet  
31 July 2025

	Notes	Unrestricted fund £	Restricted funds £	2025 Total funds £	2024 Total funds £
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>					
Debtors	5	-	22,519	22,519	150,726
Cash at bank		900	7,420	8,320	979
		900	29,939	30,839	151,705
<b>CREDITORS</b>					
Amounts falling due within one year	6	-	(35,459)	(35,459)	(114,289)
<b>NET CURRENT ASSETS/(LIABILITIES)</b>		900	(5,520)	(4,620)	37,416
<b>TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>		900	(5,520)	(4,620)	37,416
<b>NET ASSETS/(LIABILITIES)</b>		900	(5,520)	(4,620)	37,416
<b>FUNDS</b>	7				
Unrestricted funds				900	37,034
Restricted funds				(5,520)	382
<b>TOTAL FUNDS</b>				(4,620)	37,416

The charitable company is entitled to exemption from audit under Section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 for the year ended 31 July 2025.

The members have not required the company to obtain an audit of its financial statements for the year ended 31 July 2025 in accordance with Section 476 of the Companies Act 2006.

The trustees acknowledge their responsibilities for

- (a) ensuring that the charitable company keeps accounting records that comply with Sections 386 and 387 of the Companies Act 2006 and
- (b) preparing financial statements which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company as at the end of each financial year and of its surplus or deficit for each financial year in accordance with the requirements of Sections 394 and 395 and which otherwise comply with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 relating to financial statements, so far as applicable to the charitable company.

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to charitable companies subject to the small companies regime.

The financial statements were approved by the Board of Trustees and authorised for issue on 06.03.2026 and were signed on its behalf by:



Mr S Fernandez-Armesto - Trustee



**Notes to the Financial Statements  
for the Year Ended 31 July 2025**

**1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES****Basis of preparing the financial statements**

The financial statements of the charitable company, which is a public benefit entity under FRS 102, have been prepared in accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102) '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) (effective 1 January 2019)', Financial Reporting Standard 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland' and the Companies Act 2006. The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention.

**Income**

All income is recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities once the charity has entitlement to the funds, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured reliably.

**Expenditure**

Liabilities are recognised as expenditure as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to that expenditure, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required in settlement and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. Expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all cost related to the category. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings they have been allocated to activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources.

**Taxation**

The charity is exempt from corporation tax on its charitable activities.

**Fund accounting**

Unrestricted funds can be used in accordance with the charitable objectives at the discretion of the trustees.

Restricted funds can only be used for particular restricted purposes within the objects of the charity. Restrictions arise when specified by the donor or when funds are raised for particular restricted purposes.

Further explanation of the nature and purpose of each fund is included in the notes to the financial statements.

**2. NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)**

Net income/(expenditure) is stated after charging/(crediting):

	<b>2025</b>	<b>2024</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Auditors' remuneration	420	420
	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>

**3. TRUSTEES' REMUNERATION AND BENEFITS**

There were no trustees' remuneration or other benefits for the year ended 31 July 2025 nor for the year ended 31 July 2024.

**Trustees' expenses**

There were no trustees' expenses paid for the year ended 31 July 2025 nor for the year ended 31 July 2024.

**Notes to the Financial Statements - continued**  
**for the Year Ended 31 July 2025**

**4. COMPARATIVES FOR THE STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES**

	Unrestricted fund £	Restricted funds £	Total funds £
<b>INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM</b>			
Donations and legacies	2,833	116,562	119,395
<b>Charitable activities</b>			
Service delivery	-	231,565	231,565
<b>Total</b>	<u>2,833</u>	<u>348,127</u>	<u>350,960</u>
<b>EXPENDITURE ON</b>			
Raising funds	-	236,454	236,454
<b>Charitable activities</b>			
Other	-	(73,460)	(73,460)
Support costs	-	194,686	194,686
Governance costs	11,612	(2,834)	8,778
<b>Total</b>	<u>11,612</u>	<u>354,846</u>	<u>366,458</u>
<b>NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)</b>	(8,779)	(6,719)	(15,498)
Transfers between funds	(6,778)	6,778	-
<b>Net movement in funds</b>	(15,557)	59	(15,498)
<b>RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS</b>			
Total funds brought forward	52,591	323	52,914
<b>TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD</b>	<u><u>37,034</u></u>	<u><u>382</u></u>	<u><u>37,416</u></u>

**5. DEBTORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR**

	2025 £	2024 £
Tax	22,519	73,460
Prepayments and accrued income	-	77,266
	<u><u>22,519</u></u>	<u><u>150,726</u></u>

Accrued income of £Nil (2024: £66,439) included debtors relates to theatre fees unbilled at the year end.

Notes to the Financial Statements - continued  
for the Year Ended 31 July 2025

## 6. CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	2025 £	2024 £
Trade creditors	1,340	7,948
Tax	-	11,647
Accruals and deferred income	34,119	94,694
	<u>35,459</u>	<u>114,289</u>

## 7. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS

	At 1.8.24 £	Net movement in funds £	Transfers between funds £	At 31.7.25 £
<b>Unrestricted funds</b>				
General fund	37,034	(1,047)	(35,087)	900
<b>Restricted funds</b>				
Moby dick	382	-	(382)	-
The land of free	-	(40,989)	35,469	(5,520)
	<u>382</u>	<u>(40,989)</u>	<u>35,087</u>	<u>(5,520)</u>
<b>TOTAL FUNDS</b>	<u>37,416</u>	<u>(42,036)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(4,620)</u>

Net movement in funds, included in the above are as follows:

	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Movement in funds £
<b>Unrestricted funds</b>			
General fund	-	(1,047)	(1,047)
<b>Restricted funds</b>			
The land of free	61,877	(102,866)	(40,989)
<b>TOTAL FUNDS</b>	<u>61,877</u>	<u>(103,913)</u>	<u>(42,036)</u>

## Comparatives for movement in funds

	At 1.8.23 £	Net movement in funds £	Transfers between funds £	At 31.7.24 £
<b>Unrestricted funds</b>				
General fund	52,591	(8,779)	(6,778)	37,034
<b>Restricted funds</b>				
Moby dick	323	(6,719)	6,778	382
<b>TOTAL FUNDS</b>	<u>52,914</u>	<u>(15,498)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>37,416</u>

Notes to the Financial Statements - continued  
for the Year Ended 31 July 2025

## 7. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS - continued

Comparative net movement in funds, included in the above are as follows:

	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Movement in funds £
<b>Unrestricted funds</b>			
General fund	2,833	(11,612)	(8,779)
<b>Restricted funds</b>			
Moby dick	348,127	(354,846)	(6,719)
<b>TOTAL FUNDS</b>	<u>350,960</u>	<u>(366,458)</u>	<u>(15,498)</u>

A current year 12 months and prior year 12 months combined position is as follows:

	At 1.8.23 £	Net movement in funds £	Transfers between funds £	At 31.7.25 £
<b>Unrestricted funds</b>				
General fund	52,591	(9,826)	(41,865)	900
<b>Restricted funds</b>				
Moby dick	323	(6,719)	6,396	-
The land of free	-	(40,989)	35,469	(5,520)
	<u>323</u>	<u>(47,708)</u>	<u>41,865</u>	<u>(5,520)</u>
<b>TOTAL FUNDS</b>	<u>52,914</u>	<u>(57,534)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(4,620)</u>

A current year 12 months and prior year 12 months combined net movement in funds, included in the above are as follows:

	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Movement in funds £
<b>Unrestricted funds</b>			
General fund	2,833	(12,659)	(9,826)
<b>Restricted funds</b>			
Moby dick	348,127	(354,846)	(6,719)
The land of free	61,877	(102,866)	(40,989)
	<u>410,004</u>	<u>(457,712)</u>	<u>(47,708)</u>
<b>TOTAL FUNDS</b>	<u>412,837</u>	<u>(470,371)</u>	<u>(57,534)</u>

**8. RELATED PARTY DISCLOSURES**

Payment for services of £4,500 (2024: £Nil) was made to one of the trustees who directed Land of the Free. Minutes of the meeting between the other trustees that authorised this payment outline details of this payment.  
Donation of £2,760 (2024: £Nil) was received from one of the trustee during the year.

Simple 8 Theatre Company

Detailed Statement of Financial Activities  
for the Year Ended 31 July 2025

	2025 £	2024 £
<b>INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS</b>		
<b>Donations and legacies</b>		
Donations	17,200	39,691
Gift aid	2,676	3,130
Grants	-	76,574
	<u>19,876</u>	<u>119,395</u>
<b>Charitable activities</b>		
Admission tickets sold	42,001	231,565
	<u>61,877</u>	<u>350,960</u>
<b>Total incoming resources</b>		
	61,877	350,960
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>		
<b>Raising donations and legacies</b>		
Casting and audition costs	-	452
Theatre hire and rehearsals	31,685	16,248
Artist fees	38,122	143,969
Refreshments	109	133
Costumes and props	1,581	20,664
Creative expenses	24,039	54,988
	<u>95,536</u>	<u>236,454</u>
<b>Charitable activities</b>		
Advertising	8,511	23,980
Sundries	-	82
Education costs	-	689
Environmental responsibility	-	464
Lighting costs	380	10,807
Musical instruments	190	128
Production team costs	2,380	15,953
Programme development costs	944	963
Set and stage management fees	10,018	66,960
Transport and trucking costs	851	14,920
Venue production costs	4,119	34,937
Rights	-	22,644
	<u>27,393</u>	<u>192,527</u>
<b>Support costs</b>		
<b>Governance costs</b>		
Auditors' remuneration	420	420
Insurance	629	2,159
Sundries	524	560
Accountancy fees	1,320	7,798
Theatre tax credit	(22,519)	(73,460)
Subscriptions	610	-
	<u>(19,016)</u>	<u>(62,523)</u>

This page does not form part of the statutory financial statements

**Simple 8 Theatre Company**  
**Detailed Statement of Financial Activities**  
**for the Year Ended 31 July 2025**

	<b>2025</b>	<b>2024</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Total resources expended	103,913	366,458
<b>Net expenditure</b>	<u>(42,036)</u>	<u>(15,498)</u>

This page does not form part of the statutory financial statements