

Calderdale Theatre School Association

Report of the trustees for the year ending 31st July 2025

Purposes and activities

The purpose of the charity is to advance the education and skills of young people in Calderdale by developing their understanding, knowledge and appreciation of the arts and culture through theatre, drama and other activities.

The principal activities of Calderdale Theatre School (CTS) were Saturday morning drama workshops and live performances. The workshops were delivered by a team of freelance professional drama practitioners who also rehearsed and directed the productions. The Saturday morning workshops were held during school terms at the Orange Box Young Peoples' Centre in Halifax. Performances took place at Fire & Water in Sowerby Bridge and at the Orange Box in Halifax.

These activities benefited young people by building confidence, developing creativity, improving verbal and non-verbal communication skills, developing empathy and concentration, and encouraging teamwork and collaboration.

In planning activities for the year, trustees kept in mind the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit and fee charging. CTS welcomes all young people, aged between 10 and 19, regardless of personal background, ability, faith, gender or personal circumstances. Of the 43 students registered during the year, 29 were girls and 14 boys with 8 students reporting additional needs.

CTS relies on the income from fees to cover its operating costs. In setting the level of fees, charges and concessions, the trustees gave careful consideration to the accessibility of the charity for those on low incomes. During the year 1 student received a free place, 10 students received a means-tested reduction, and 2 students received a reduction for families with more than 1 student.

Volunteers

The running of CTS is reliant upon the work of volunteer trustees and parents. They do a lot of the administration work of the charity and help behind the scenes making and maintaining costumes and creating sets and props. This year we were particularly grateful to Ellis Price and Lucy Fee from Fire & Water, Alison Roberts, Tony Clark, Lisa Gort and Christine Wood for their help with productions.

Achievements and performance

A Play-in-a-Day

We had great fun in December when all our members took part in a *Play-in-a-Day* event. The students worked in groups and were given a box of stimulus to create a piece of theatre. We also welcomed visiting artist, Lucy Fee, who made props and costumes from junk and recycled items. The drama made was extremely diverse and entertaining. It was rewarding for staff to see the skills and techniques taught and practised in sessions, used in their devised work. We had an enthusiastic audience that supported this elaborate box of tricks.

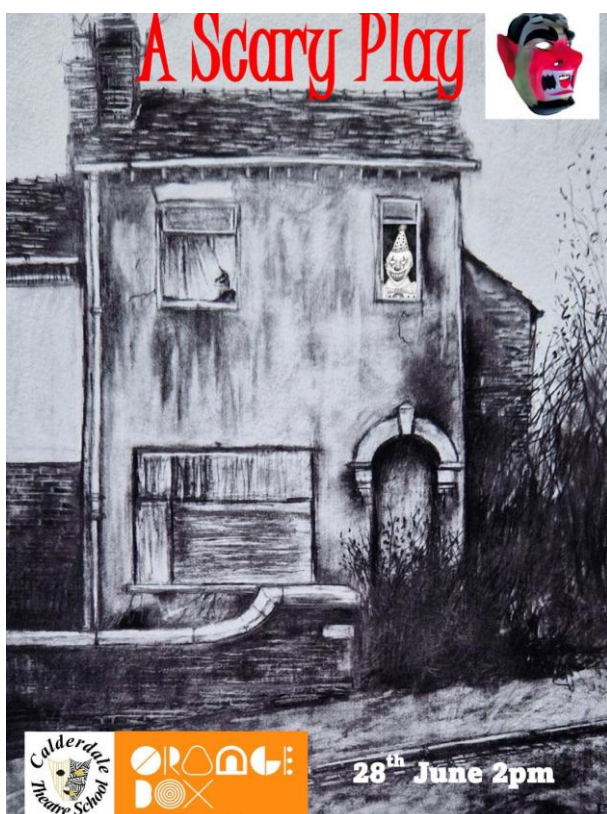
Frankenstein

In the Spring Term, rehearsals for *Frankenstein* began. This piece involved students from years 9 to 13. We were delighted to invite Katie Alcott onto our staff as Movement Director, which greatly enhanced the concept of the piece. The play was adapted by Rob Garrett, one of our established leaders and was performed at *Fire & Water* in Sowerby Bridge. The atmosphere and setting of this theatre space greatly suited the world of the play and the students created a very affecting piece of theatre. The cast had the opportunity to perform the show three times, which allowed them to refine their work and practise maintaining focus and consistency in performance. Ben and Rob directed the piece and supported cast members who sang. The effect was eerie, atmospheric and thought provoking. A journey into a timeless classic that still mirrored concerns of our current times. Costumes by Alison Roberts. Stage Art by Lisa Gort.



A Scary Play

In the summer term, rehearsals for *A Scary Play* began. Our younger students in years 6 to 9 entered a world of mystery and intrigue in a piece inspired by Judith Johnson and Walter De La Mare and adapted by Alison Field. The choreographed movement was created by the students and supported by their directors Jenny and Alison. They also learned how to perform in a new stage configuration, 'Promenade', where the audience follow the actors around the space. Different realities and scenes were staged in different locations, which created a sense of movement and pace. The result was immersive and challenged students to work with complex direction ideas. Projection and physical theatre were at the heart of this sometimes, abstract piece. The staff were very proud of the powerful ensemble created by these extremely mature and talented students. Costumes by Alison Roberts, Set Building by Tony Clark.



Financial Review

Once again, the financial pressure on families meant that trustees decided not to increase fees this year. We have continued to hold workshops at the Orange Box and are grateful to Calderdale Council for their support. Cash at the bank at 31/07/2025 was £20,555 in unrestricted funds. The main financial risk to the charity is a sustained reduction in student numbers and the increasing cost of premises to hire for workshops and performances. We aim to keep £5000 in reserve funds to cover 6 months running costs and to meet any unforeseen expenditure that may occur.

Structure, Governance and Management

Calderdale Theatre School Association is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) governed by its constitution dated 26th January 2013.

The board of trustees, which can have up to 12 members, administers the charity. The board meets every 2 months. The board engages the services of freelance drama practitioners to deliver the drama workshops and other activities. In accordance with the constitution one third of trustees retire each year but they are eligible for re-election. All trustees give their time voluntarily and receive no remuneration or other benefit.

The charity has a Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy and an Equality and Diversity Policy. All freelance staff who work directly with the students are required to have an enhanced Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) check. The Financial Controls policy was updated this year. The charity also has policies on anti-bullying, charity risks, complaints procedures, equality and diversity, serious incident reporting, taking, using and storing images, trustee conflict of interests, trustee expenses and privacy.

Reference and Administrative Details

Calderdale Theatre School Association (CTSA), charity No. 1151269, is registered at 23 Chiserley Gardens, Wadsworth, Hebden Bridge, West Yorkshire, HX7 8RU.

Trustees

All trustees served for the full year

Rachel Smith – Chair

Tony Clark – Vice Chair

Gerry Powell – Treasurer

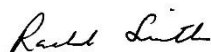
Michaela O’Sullivan – Secretary

Adelle Beswick

Louise Clark

Alison Roberts

Signed on behalf of trustees:



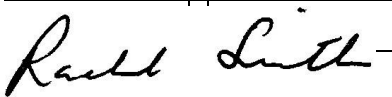
RACHEL SMITH Chair of Trustees 29/10/2025

Calderdale Theatre School Association		1151269		CC16a
Receipts and payments accounts				
For the period from	01/08/2024	To	31/07/2025	

Section A Receipts and payments

	Unrestricted funds to the nearest £	Restricted funds to the nearest £	Endowment funds to the nearest £	Total funds to the nearest £	Last year to the nearest £
A1 Receipts					
Student Fees	9,999	-	-	9,999	10,455
Fundraising	208	-	-	208	727
ISTA Refund	15	-	-	15	-
Bank interest	195	-	-	195	230
Tickets Sales Productions	1,013	-	-	1,013	1,627
Healthy Holidays					525
Sub total (Gross income for AR)	11,430	-	-	11,430	13,564
A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).					
	-	-	-	-	
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total receipts	11,430	-	-	11,430	13,564
A3 Payments					
Room Hire	1,848	-	-	1,848	1,520
Freelance Staff	7,530	-	-	7,530	7,570
Administration	552	-	-	552	652
Cost of Productions	1,613	-	-	1,613	1,064
Wardrobe room hire	1,150	-	-	1,150	900
Sub total	12,693	-	-	12,693	11,706
A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)					
	-	-	-	-	
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total payments	12,693	-	-	12,693	11,706
Net of receipts/(payments)	- 1,263	-	-	- 1,263	1,858
A5 Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-	-
A6 Cash funds last year end	-	-	-	-	-
Cash funds this year end	- 1,263	-	-	- 1,263	1,858

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	Bank account	634	-	-
	Savings Account	19,898	-	-
	Cash account	23	-	-
	Total cash funds	20,555	-	-
	(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))	Agreement Error	OK	OK
B2 Other monetary assets	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
		-	-	-
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 asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
			-	-
			-	-
B5 Liabilities	Details	Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)
			-	
Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees		Signature	Print Name	Date of approval
			Rachel Smith	10/05/2025



CHARITY COMMISSION FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Independent examiner's report on the accounts

Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees/
members of

Charity Name
Calderdale Theatre School Association

On accounts for the year
ended

31st July 2025

Charity no
(if any)

1151269

Set out on pages

1 - 88

(remember 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 31st July 2025

Responsibilities and
basis of report

As the charity trustees of the Trust, 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 the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent
examiner's statement

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

- accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Act or
- the accounts do not accord with the accounting records

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn 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:

Jill Dobson

Date:

6/10/25

Name:

JILL DOBSON

Relevant professional
qualification(s) or body
(if any):

Address:

3 MILL GROVE

HIVE EDGE

BRIGHTON HOG 2FA

Section B

Disclosure

Only complete if the examiner needs to highlight 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.**