

Kendal Community Theatre Report October 2023 - February 2025

The Snow Queen in Kendal. Written by local writers 6-8 December 2023. Kendal Town Hall;

Kendal Community Theatre's production was an all-new version of Hans Christian Andersen's story *The Snow Queen in Kendal*, written specifically for KCT by Ginny Moss and other KCT members with Ginny Moss as the director assisted by Beth Saunders and Jules Boswell. The performance was the fulfilment of six months of preparation which started with the scripting, led on to a puppetry workshop and the recruitment of actors and technicians who were involved in twice weekly rehearsals over nearly a 12-week period.

KCT is wholly open-access and welcomes all abilities. There were no auditions so all members could take part. Our actors ranged in age from 8 to the 80s and performers included vulnerable adults and children. It was good to welcome several new members. School students studying GCSE and A Level Theatre took part alongside several adults who had never before performed in public. The whole company, including actors, musicians and technicians, was almost 50 in total.

In addition, as was the case in last year's production of *The Christmas Carol* for Kendal, KCT secured funding from the Stevenson Trust to support a project with Sandgate School. Members of KCT went into school for weekly sessions leading up to the show. Students attended Sunday afternoon rehearsals along with other young people in the final weeks leading up to the performance. This opportunity to work with around 5/6 SEND students further broadened our inclusivity. The project was overwhelmingly successful once again. There was evidence of a development in confidence in those who were involved last year, and this had a positive influence on those Sandgate students new to KCT.

KCT's intentionally broad approach to inclusivity reflects what is becoming increasingly prevalent, visible and important in the professional theatre and media. Our funding meant we were also able, once again, to offer heavily subsidised tickets through a Pay What You Can Afford performance (PWYCA) for those suffering economic hardship. This produced some audiences for whom live theatre was a new, and exciting experience. The age-range was much wider than has often been the case. This trend built on last year's PWYCA.

In line with past practice, we offered one off payments to young creatives - either at school or college. This year it was a local student from Cartmel School who was delighted by the opportunity to light the show and hopefully he will continue to work with the company in future projects.

We had local musicians on stage performing alongside the actors. KCT also partnered with Tethera Taiko, a local drumming group. This was a new and welcome addition, not only did they do one off musical pieces they were also involved in pieces enhancing the action of the play.

The production once again sold out before opening.

Factors in the success of the production include:

- choice of play
- inclusion of a wide range of people and organisations in the conception, organisation, and performance of the play and the cooperative, supportive and enthusiastic nature of the teamwork
- quality and consistency of performances over the duration of the run

- Innovative set design and the inclusion of actors, musicians and singers and dancers and, for the first time for KTC, life-sized puppets and puppeteers as part of the performance
- the generosity of statutory bodies and local businesses in grant support also shows the cultural value KCT provides for the community.

The Snow Queen in Kendal was an enormously exciting and rewarding project for all those involved. Audiences were enthusiastic with their appreciation and all the performers excelled their expectations. The play's success was wholly deserved.
Ginny Moss

Kendal Mayfest **Saturday May 25th, 2024, Kendal**

Mayfest was a straightforward spring festival. One song with mimed action and dancing. It followed the pattern adopted in many towns across England. It followed KCT's pattern of 'easy' Street Theatre. One item easily learned and repeated over a 2-hour period around Kendal, involving as many people as possible. Rehearsals limited to 4 (+ an additional 'dress' rehearsal).

For this inaugural presentation we invited a wide range of groups to join in. We also invited teacher and violinist Carolyn Francis (Lakeland Fiddlers & Striding Edge Ceilidh Band) and a group of freelance musicians from London, all of whose extra contributions added enormously to the excitement and quality of the performances. They established Mayfest as a specifically Kendalian event.

The value of the event was also recognised in the level of funding given by Kendal Town Council and Kendal BID and we were able to pay professional rates to all our musicians.

We were lucky to get enough performers. The plan to mount Mayfest was very well received across KCT membership following the production of The Snow Queen in December 2023. However, initial rehearsals drew small numbers (4 or 5) and we had to decide whether to proceed. We were getting a lot of financial support and much interest from the town traders so wanted to continue. It seems that KCT's very intentional inclusivity means that members can too easily make 'commitments' to a show which are then forgotten. This may be to do with the semi-improvised Street Theatre/ 'conventional' rehearsed theatre divide, but Mayfest could easily have failed but for extra involvement from family, friends and contracted professional artists, pushing the number of participants to around 30.

The six performances were enormous fun and of a very good standard. Singing, miming, costumes, improvised scenes and dances made for a very successful event. We have been asked to repeat Mayfest – especially by traders, and the outside professionals are keen to return. For Mayfest to become an annual event we will

- need to consider its place in our overall programming
- provide at least 30 performers
- urgently seek partner groups –

Mayfest is not a difficult event to do, but may take significant time and resources. But it is an event which KCT can do extremely well with somewhat depleted (we hope

temporarily) directing resources. Indeed, it is the type of show which can significantly help people develop creative and directing skills.

The Hound of the Baskervilles. 'A barking spoof'.

Conan Doyle/Nicholson/Canny

December 2024, Castle Street Centre

The response to a COVID zoom reading of 'Hound' 5 years ago led to the choice of show for December 2024. The script was absolutely not that used in the first reading. The adaptation chosen is written for 3 actors and undermines every idea of '4th wall'/Proscenium theatre. Actors swap roles; leap in and out of character; interrupt the action; throw tantrums at critical Tweets; react with the audience and improvise their way through whole scenes. All of this is scripted and fully rehearsed. We added live sound effects, music and singing. We cut several scenes, rewrote others and created several new scenes and effects and added a Music Hall finale to suit a cast of 20+. Each of the three principal parts was played by 3 actors. We increased the involvement of several of our differing-ability actors and incorporated a BSL interpreted performance.

The play was one of the most exciting KCT has yet undertaken. The cast were consistently outstanding in their work and commitment (and laughter). The nature of the script presented constant challenges to familiar ways of working and the large cast required many hours of Sunday rehearsals to learn music, sound effects and massively supportive ensemble techniques. Mid-week smaller rehearsals developed skill levels to as high a degree as KCT has yet achieved. Costumes were outstanding and a simple set emphasised the acting and movement skills of the cast.

There were some early issues with drop-outs and re-casting. For any theatre company, intention to commit followed by dropping out is unfair to those who do make a full commitment. As the cast finally swelled to over 20 strong performers, unreliability may have repercussions in future shows.

In the event, the show was a virtual sell-out (over 90% sales) and received an overwhelmingly positive response. A number of people thought it was a better production than the same show in Keswick in August. It was as 'professional' as anything KCT has done and ranks alongside 'Lady Anne Clifford...', and 'Oh What a Lovely War' as one of our most outstanding productions. The ensemble playing was superb and meant that the very strong principals (all 9 of them) were matched by characters with one line – or less. In providing sound or music for almost every scene, the musicians were more integrated than ever before and became an essential extension of the cast.

In spite of some early reservations, KCT was vindicated by this choice. As a number of audience members observed in roughly the same words '*what a great show and the ad-libs were brilliant.*' Of course, there were no ad-libs. There could be no higher praise. To create the illusion – magic even – of so much spontaneity takes real skill. It was sheer delight to make this 'Hound' my final production for KCT.

In addition to productions, KCT was nominated for the King's Award for Voluntary Service. We were unsuccessful at the national level, but to be recognised locally reflects the values and qualities we espouse and that these are also valued across the community.

Chris Taylor, PhD, February 2025
Hon President & Trustee

**KENDAL COMMUNITY THEATRE
FINAL ACCOUNTS
01/10/23 - 31/01/25**

KENDAL COMMUNITY THEATRE - FINAL ACCOUNTS 1 OCTOBER 2023 to 31 JANUARY 2025

INCOME

Membership subs 23/24	120.00
Membership subs 24/25	845.00
Donations	227.70
HMRC Gift Aid refund	400.44
Cashback (2/1/24)	1.05

1,594.19

SNOW QUEEN since 1/10/23

Ticket sales (online)	3,198.10
Ticket sales (door)	83.00
Ticket sales (bank)	102.00
Donations PWYCA	422.46
Donations (online)	220.00
Script income	32.02
Sale refreshments (cash)	814.50
Sale refreshments (bank)	113.00
Sale of Programmes	117.00

EXPENSES

Storage
Insurance 23/24
Insurance 24/25
IONOS webmail
AGM room hire 24
Cards (Anne B)
Technical equipment
Clothes rail
Costume store boxes
SumUp card machines
rehearsal hall hire - Cstl St
rehearsal hall hire - RSPCA
performance venue hire
Printing & publicity
Directors expenses
Lighting technician
Technical support
Graphic design
Set, costumes & props
Ginny Moss
Refreshments
Gifts & cards

**KENDAL COMMUNITY THEATRE
FINAL ACCOUNTS
01/10/23 - 31/01/25**

Justgiving	30.26		Temp licence DBS
		5,132.34	
<u>MAYFEST</u>			
Grants	1,250.00		Expenses
Workshop subs	65.00		
Street collection	113.21		Donation Mayor's charity
		1,428.21	
<u>HOUND OF THE BASKERVILLES</u>			
Ticket sales	3,118.60		Hall hire
PWYCA	537.40		Box office split
Donations	176.20		Royalties
Sale of refreshments	550.80		Ticketing costs
Party refreshments	33.90		Set, costumes & props
Subsequent sales	50.00		Scripts
Script purchases	120.50		
Sale of programmes	79.80		Printing (incl programme)
Workshop fees	80.00		Refreshments
		4,747.20	Temp licence
Grants	2,820.00		Admin/parking/van hire
		7,567.20	
TOTALS		20469.14	
		12872.35	
INCOME OVER EXPENDITURE		7596.79 *	

**KENDAL COMMUNITY THEATRE
FINAL ACCOUNTS
01/10/23 - 31/01/25**

BANK RECONCILIATION

Closing Balances 31.01.25		
Account 1	2449.99	
Account 2	13000	15449.99
Opening balances 01.10.23		
Account 1	660.4	
Account 2	11920	<u>12580.4</u>
INCREASE		2869.59 *

*NEEDS RECONCILING

KENDAL COMMUNITY THEATRE
FINAL ACCOUNTS
01/10/23 - 31/01/25

800.00
301.04
312.96
57.60
32.00
5.75
403.26
79.20
20.00
39.98

2,051.79

640.20
225.00
1,392.40
389.03
250.00
100.00
250.00
50.00
239.20
44.85
573.41
46.11

KENDAL COMMUNITY THEATRE
FINAL ACCOUNTS
01/10/23 - 31/01/25

21.00

12.00

4,233.20

1,694.06

113.21

1,807.27

1,332.00

1,096.80

510.00

181.64

516.70

163.98

450.29

457.38

21.00

50.30

4,780.09

12872.35

GENERAL - BANK ENTRIES		MEMBER SUBS		DONATIONS	
		2023/24	2024/25		
02.10.23	PARISH HALL				
11.10.23	IONOS				
25.10.23	JUSTGIVING				
31.10.23	JUSTGIVING				
01.11.23	BANK	20			
01.11.23	PARISH HALL				
07.11.23	CASH	60			
08.11.23	IONOS				
13.11.23	HMRC				
15.11.23	CASH	20			
21.11.23	BANK	20			
30.11.23	G SYKES				
01.12.23	PARISH HALL				
11.12.23	IONOS				
02.01.24	CASHBACK				
02.01.24	PARISH HALL				
10.01.24	IONOS				
01.02.24	PARISH HALL				
02.02.24	CASTLE ST				
08.02.24	IONOS				
12.02.24	BANK			30	
12.02.24	CASH		70	20	
22.02.24	CASH			62.7	
23.02.24	BANK		60		
27.02.24	BANK		40		
01.03.24	PARISH HALL				
04.03.24	BANK		40		
06.03.24	BANK		20		
07.03.24	BANK		40		
12.03.24	IONOS				
18.03.24	BANK		20		
19.03.24	BANK		20		
25.03.24	BANK		40	10	
27.03.24	BANK		10		
02.04.24	BANK		140	30	
02.04.24	PARISH HALL				
03.04.24	BANK		20		

04.04.24	BANK	35	5
08.04.24	BANK	15	
10.04.24	IONOS		
15.04.24	BANK XFER	20	
16.04.24	CASH	80	
19.04.24	BANK XFER	10	
22.04.24	BANK XFER	10	
23.04.24	CASH	20	20
01.05.24	PARISH HALL		
08.05.24	CARDS (AB)		
09.05.24	IONOS		
15.05.24	CASH	20	
10.06.24	IONOS		
11.06.24	PARISH HALL		
10.07.24	IONOS		
11.07.24	PARISH HALL		
15.07.24	BANK XFER	20	
08.08.24	IONOS		
12.08.24	PARISH HALL		
19.08.24	CASH	20	
10.09.24	IONOS		
11.09.24	PARISH HALL		
30.09.24	BANK XFER	20	10
07.10.24	BANK XFER	15	40
07.10.24	CT		
09.10.24	IONOS		
11.10.24	PARISH HALL		
14.10.24	CASH	10	
21.10.24	CM		
08.11.24	IONOS		
11.11.24	PARISH HALL		
27.11.24	G SYKES		
09.12.24	JH		
09.12.24	CASH	10	
10.12.24	BANK XFER	10	
11.12.24	IONOS		
11.12.24	PARISH HALL		
13.12.24	CT		

16.12.24	BANK XFER		10	
08.01.25	IONOS			
13.01.25	PARISH HALL			
TOTALS		120	845	227.7

OTHER INCOME

STORAGE

WEBMAIL

OTHER EXPEN

5.94
24.32

50

3.6

400.44

50

3.6

301.04

50

3.6

1.05

50

3.6

50

3.6

32

50

3.6

50

	3.6	
50		5.75
	3.6	
	3.6	
50		
	3.6	
50		
	3.6	
50		
	3.6	79.2
50		
		20
	3.6	
50		312.96
		139.31
	3.6	
50		263.95

50 3.6

800 57.6

ISES

Insurance

Hall hire for AGM

part of £100 cash deposit

clothes rail

costume store boxes

insurance premium 24/25

transmitter receiver

lighting rig

SNOW QUEEN - EXPENSES**SET/PROPS/COSTUMES**

13.10.23	CT MASKS	6
16.10.23	GM	
16.10.23	GM	
17.10.23	HELEN WALKER	16.2
17.10.23	AB LICENCE	
18.10.23	DBS	
18.10.23	RSPCA	
18.10.23	CASTLE ST	
19.10.23	GM PIUPPETS	15.35
19.10.23	GM COSTUMES	21

01.11.23	AC PUBLICITY	
03.11.23	RSPCA	
03.11.23	CASTLE ST	
06.11.23	GM PUPPETS	18.9
10.11.23	ENGLISH LAKES ICE	
13.11.23	GM COSTUMES	1.13
13.11.23	CT PRINTING	
13.11.23	GM SET	33.94
28.11.23	CT COSTUME	7.25
29.11.23	CT WINE	

06.12.23	GM XMAS CARDS	
06.12.23	CASTLE ST	
06.12.23	CASTLE ST	
08.12.23	ENGLISH LAKES ICE	
11.12.23	AB SOFT DRINKS	
11.12.23	GM GIFTS	
20.12.23	H & S LAWLER	107.47

03.01.24	M WARD TECH SUPPORT	
09.01.24	E SAUNDERS	11.96
09.01.24	GM DIRECTORS Xs	

09.02.24	WESTM & FURNESS	
28.02.24	WESTM & FURNESS	

239.2

REHEARSAL HALL HIRE

PRINTING & PUBLICITY

REFRESHMENTS

125
291

183.53

100
232.8

187.2

7.5

287.52

58.2
58.2

70.2
28.49

198

865.2

389.03

573.41

TS

OTHER

12
32.85

21
12

15.96

30.15

250

250

1392.4 (venue hall hire)

MAYFEST - EXPENSES

04.04.24	GF FACE PAINT	12.57
29.04.24	CASTLE ST HALL HIRE	49.5
29.05.24	C FRANCIS MUSICIAN	300
03.06.24	CASTLE ST HALL HIRE	59.4
03.06.24	NR LUCK MUSICIAN	300
10.06.24	A DE LA COUR MUSICIAN	300
12.06.24	B TAYLOR MUSICIAN	300
12.06.24	MUSICIANS' EXPENSES	354.2
05.07.24	P MOBBS FIRST AID KIT	18.39
		1694.06

HOUND OF THE BASKERVILLES - BANK TRANSACTION**HALL HIRE**

13.08.24	Castle St venue hire (workshop)	118.80
19.08.24	ATM DEPOSIT (workshop fees)	
01.09.24	CT scripts	
06.09.24	GRANT CHEQUE (STEVENSONS)	
11.09.24	(SC script purchase)	
20.09.24	Castle St hall hire	151.80
07.10.24	(Pat B script purchase)	
07.10.24	CT smoke machine	
07.10.24	CT parking fees	
10.10.24	CT wooden crates	
14.10.24	(CM 4 scripts purchased)	
14.10.24	GF spring clamps set	
14.10.24	GF fake moustaches	
15.10.24	RSCPA hall hire	45.00
15.10.24	Scarecrow for printing	
18.10.24	(CM purchase 2 scripts)	
28.10.24	(BID GRANT)	
28.10.24	AB licence fee	
28.10.24	Castle St hall hire	389.40
30.10.24	AC printing	
30.10.24	AC printing	
01.11.24	CT Holmes' pipes	
11.11.24	JC stethoscope	
11.11.24	CM photo paper	
11.11.24	JC scripts + postage	
11.11.24	CT plastic food	
11.11.24	JC for materials for costumes	
11.11.24	Nick Hearne royalties	
13.11.24	CT postage	
18.11.24	(CCF GRANT)	
18.11.24	Castle St hall hire	448.80
26.11.24	JC props	
27.11.24	JC wine glasses	
01.12.24	CM wine	
03.12.24	AC printing	
03.12.24	AC programme printing	
05.12.24	Castle St hall hire	112.20
09.12.24	cash for van driver	
10.12.24	JC soft drinks	
10.12.24	JC materials for costumes	

10.12.24	(JC refunded overpayment)	
11.12.24	(Melissa script purchase)	
12.12.24	Steve R backdrop curtain	
13.12.24	CT parking	
13.12.24	CT Holmes' trousers	
16.12.24	(CM reimburse wine purchase)	
16.12.24	Grosvenor House paper	
16.12.24	CT parking fees	
16.12.24	CM refreshments	
16.12.24	JC refreshments	
17.12.24	(TRYBOOKING TICKETS comprising: TICKET SALES ONLINE DONATIONS less TICKETING COSTS)	
19.12.24	(ATM DEPOSIT comprising: BOX OFFICE REFRESHMENT SALES PROGRAMME SALES CASH DONATIONS)	
19.12.24	AB soft drinks	
30.12.24	JC soft drinks	
30.12.24	GF paint for set	
31.12.24	(CM reimburse wine pch)	
02.01.25	CM cleaning costumes	
13.01.25	Castle St Box Office split	
13.01.25	(CM reimburse wine pch)	
13.01.25	Castle St venue hire for party	66.00
TBC	(Wine sold at party) TryBooking ticket cost @ 5%	

TOTAL EXPENSES AND RECEIPTS	1332.00
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TOTALS TO SHEET 1

ROYALTIES	COSTUMES	SET & PROPS	SCRIPTS	PRINTING
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135.90

39.98

65.00

9.99

5.99

123.00

28.80
120.00

10.58

5.99

10.99

28.08

42.71

83.05

510.00

28.03

107.50
60.00

124.70

-32.00

67.68

8.50

7.50

15.00

34.00

510.00

234.82

281.88

163.98

450.29

RECEIPTS

REFRESHMENTS ADMIN

OTHER

80.00

500.00

13.50

13.50

16.80

54.00

27.00

1,000.00

21.00

9.30

1,320.00

12.45

299.25

20.00

11.50

				12.50
	2.70			
				30.00
	1.50			
28.98 80.60				3,451.06
				830.10
20.60 4.00				
				10.00
		1096.8		
				10.00
				33.90
		181.64		
457.38	30.30	1319.44		7,385.56
				181.64
			<u>4780.09</u>	<u>7,567.20</u>

(plus 20 members subs)

(shown in bank statement as 38.02 net of rows 15 and 16)

3478
154.7
-181.64

178
550.8
79.8
21.5

(ticketing costs)