



OUT OF CHARACTER THEATRE COMPANY

ANNUAL REPORT 2023

SEPTEMBER 2022 - AUGUST 2023



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## SUMMARY

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## DIRECTORS' REPORT

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## ACCOUNTS

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September arrived and the newly merged Out of Character began work in earnest.

The company's first piece together was the hugely ambitious *A Christmas Carol*, performed as a promenade piece at York St John's Creative Centre. This work was devised by the company. The snow even fell during our final performance!

Our new directing team of Kate Veysey and Jane Allanach then navigated the company through a challenging new work, *Shattered*. This was written for the company by Paul Birch, who took the company's responses to his provocations and carefully crafted them into an original piece of theatre. *Shattered* was performed at the Studio, York Theatre Royal as part of a YSJ Takeover.

Out of Character carried out more valuable patient simulation work with York University Nursing students, providing opportunities for members to develop their acting skills.

Our new website was launched, allowing us to accept donations and sell tickets directly to audiences.

Members also had the privilege of assisting Richard Knight, therapist, in his research journey to bring into focus the complex relation between disability and counselling.

Activity continued over the summer break with some (very enthusiastic) members devising, performing, and recording a short film as our entry for the Eleanor Worthington prize.

We would like to thank all the individuals and organisations who continue to support us in so many ways.

## *Director's Report*

### **COMPANY HIGHLIGHTS**

#### **A Christmas Carol.**

This was devised and written by the company and performed in multiple locations around the Creative Centre at York St John. Music was provided by the Converge Music team, and the Converge choir performed at the start of each performance. The piece was seen by 120 people over 4 performances. The company enjoyed the process, and the production showcased many strong performances, some from company members who had previously undertaken smaller roles.

#### **Shattered**

This was a commission from writer Paul Birch, who was previously Artistic Director at OOC. The piece was performed at York Theatre Royal as part of the Takeover Festival, with an open dress rehearsal at York St John.

#### **Connecting Our City**

This was a commission from The Hub; initially a request to dramatically interpret the lived experience of one person during their time connecting with the service. This plan changed when we found that we wouldn't be able to connect with that individual. It felt unethical to try and portray their assumed experience so instead myself and the actor, Minnie interviewed members of staff, volunteers and their service users (this is how they identify) about their experiences and opportunities. We then created a thirty-minute piece which showed this through verbatim, characterisation, an audio tour and a game show. This was received really positively by the 90 people who attended the conference at which it was shown, and the commissioners. Minnie shone in the experience and was a wonderful collaborator.

#### **Life Without Autonomy**

This was created as a submission for the Eleanor Worthington Prize, a response piece to the title given, Disability and Autonomy. Some company members had said that they missed being connected to the company over the summer break, so this was a week-long intensive project in August where company members could come for all, or some, of the 10.30am-3.30pm session. We worked with Converge tutor and film maker Paul Gowland to create the three-minute film with audio description, which will be submitted to the prize committee in November. Over the week 14 company members contributed to the piece, including new members who had moved up from Introduction to Theatre.

#### **University of York sessions**

These were commissions and we paid the company members who delivered the sessions. All sessions had a different brief, with actors providing case studies for assessment, presenting short productions, sharing their own life experiences, and also creating installations based on their experience. These sessions were really well received by the nursing students and staff members, and we have been asked to deliver even more in the next year. OOC company members came out of sessions buzzing and knowing that this will impact the way that future nursing students view mental health.



## PERFORMANCES AND WORKSHOPS

### Productions

- A Christmas Carol- Creative Centre YSJ- December 2022
- Shattered- York Theatre Royal- May 2023
- Connecting Our City (commission)- Priory Centre, York, June 2023
- Life without Autonomy (film) August 2023

### Workshops delivered by OOC company members at University of York

- Suicide and Self Harm- March 2023
- Case study for MA assessment- April 2023
- Unconscious Bias- June 2023
- Case study 2 for MA assessment- June 2023
- Stigma- July 2023

### Partnership project

- Pacific Students partnership project- list project- June 2023

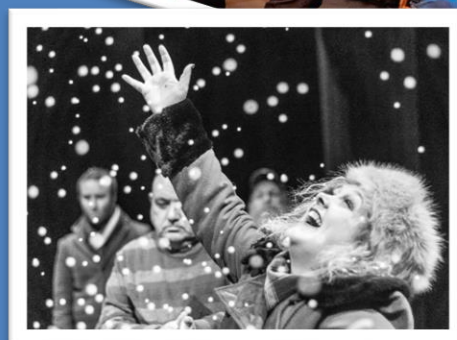
### Workshops for OOC company members

- July- Richard Knight, a Counselling PHD Student from YSJ ran a session about his PHD, with a view to the company creating a piece of work in 2024.
- July- Matt Harper-Hardcastle (trustee) from Next Door But One ran a session to develop his new piece, Hospital Doors.

### Upcoming plans for OOC

We are starting rehearsal for our next production, After Life by Jack Thorne, which will be performed in the Creative Centre at York St John in December 2023.

We are also planning in sessions with the nursing department at University of York. The street performers in York are fundraising for us in September 2023.



<b>Income:</b>	
Grants received from:	
YSJ	£800.00
Uni of York	£600.00
Imagine Foundation	£5,000.00
Feoffes	£3,000.00
Sheila and John Shepherd Foundation	£500.00
Main Grants National Lottery	£9,600.00
Imagine Foundation	£5,000.00
Two Ridings	£2,000.00
Shears Foundation	£5,500.00
York Friends CAST	£750.00
Donation	£9.81
Aydon	£1.56
Sale of books for Converge	£167.53
From Converge for the Christmas Carol	£5,000.00
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>£37,928.90</b>

<b>Expenditure</b>	
Artistic Directors	£13,141.53
Assistant direction	£4,000.80
Performers	£3,480.00
Travel	£483.88
Playwriting	£1,500.00
Refreshments	£739.74
Design	£400.00
Technician	£1,300.00
Website	£411.51
General Admin	£2,521.16
Gifts	£48.50
Props	£821.93
Training	£110.00
Administration	£263.25
Technical equipment	£976.47
Independent exam of accounts	£200.00
Liability insurance	£145.60
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>£ 30,544.37</b>

**Income less Expenditure** £7,384.53  
 Plus CF from 21-22 £8126.85

**Balance at end of year** £15,511.38

# ACCOUNTS

1<sup>st</sup> September 2022-

31<sup>st</sup> August 2023

How grants are used:

National Lottery Community Fund to support the first year of the new set up of OOC.

York Friends Central Adult School, Sheila and John Shepherd and Feoffes to support core costs.

Two Ridings Community Foundation gave cost-of-living grant to support access.

In addition, we received funding for company member's travel, which funds a year up to the value of £2000. Company members are now claiming travel to all sessions, rehearsals and projects connected to OOC.

The Imagine Foundation continued their generous support of Out of Character.







# OOC in rehearsal



[www.outofcharactertheatre.com](http://www.outofcharactertheatre.com)  
Registered Charity (1161399)

## Out of Character Accounts 2022-3

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# **Out of Character**

(Charity Number: 1161399)

**Trustees Annual Report & Financial Statements  
for the year ended**

**31st August 2023**

**outsourcing**



# **Out of Character**

(Charity Number: 1161399)

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## Charity information

From: 01 September 2022

To: 31 August 2023

Charity's full name Out of Character

Registered Charity number 1161399

### Structure, governance and management

#### Description of the charity's trusts

Type of governing document Constitution

How the charity is constituted (e.g. CIO

Trustee selection methods including details of All trustees and postholders are elected at the AGM

### Reference and administration details

Charity's full name Out of Character Theatre Company

Other names the charity is known by N/A

Charity's principal address 165 Haxby Road  
York

Postcode YO31 8JL

#### Names of the trustees who manage the charity

Trustee name	Office (if any)	Dates acted if not for whole year	Name of person (or body) entitled to appoint trustee (if any)
Juliet Forster	Chair		
Nick Rowe	Treasurer		
Christie Barnes			
Matthew Harper			
Simon Newton			

### Declaration

The trustees declare that they have approved the accompanying Trustees Annual Report and Accounts

#### Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signature



Name Juliet Forster

Position Chair

Date 2nd October 2023

## Independent examiner's report to the trustees of Out of Character

I report on the accounts of: **Out of Character**  
for the year ended: **31st August 2023** which are set out on pages 3 to 6.

### 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').

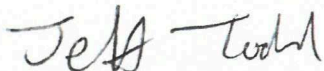
I report in respect of my examination of the Charity's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

### Independent examiner's statement

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

- 1 accounting records were not kept in respect of the Trust as required by section 130 of the Act; or
- 2 the accounts do not accord with those records

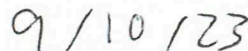
I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached except that the prior year's accounts presented as comparative



**Jeff Todd (FCA)**

Outsource independent examination  
services

The Hiscox Building  
Peasholme Green  
York YO1 7PR



**Date:**



**Out of Character**  
(Charity Number: 1161399)

<b>Receipts &amp; Payments Accounts for the year ended:</b>			<b>31st August 2023</b>	
	<b>Unrestricted funds</b>	<b>Restricted funds</b>	<b>2023 Total funds</b>	<b>2022 Total funds</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
<b>Receipts</b>				
Grants	25,600	-	25,600	6,662
Donations	11	-	11	50
Events	5,800	-	5,800	2,171
Performance income	6,350			
Sale of books	168			
<b>Total receipts</b>	<b>37,929</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>31,411</b>	<b>8,883</b>
<b>Payments</b>				
Artistic directors	13,142	-	13,142	9,586
Assistant Direction	4,000	-	4,000	2,419
Performers	3,480	-	3,480	1,309
Playwriting	1,500	-	1,500	-
Travel & accomodation	484	-	484	39
Refreshments	740	-	740	485
Design	400	-	400	745
Training	110	-	110	-
Technician and technical equipment	2,276	-	2,276	985
Props	822	-	822	280
Professional fees	200	-	200	200
Website	412	-	412	118
General and administration	2,784	-	2,784	1,061
Insurance	146	-	146	146
Gifts	48	-	48	179
<b>Total payments</b>	<b>30,544</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>30,544</b>	<b>17,552</b>
<b>Net of receipts/(payments)</b>	<b>7,385</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>867</b>	<b>(8,669)</b>
<b>Transfers between funds</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	
<b>Balance brought forward</b>	<b>8,187</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>8,187</b>	<b>16,856</b>
<b>Balance carried forward</b>	<b>15,572</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>9,054</b>	<b>8,187</b>

## Out of Character

(Charity Number: 1161399)

Statement of Assets and Liabilities at:			31st August 2023	
	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	2023 Total funds	2022 Total funds
Assets	£	£	£	£
<b>Cash at bank and in hand</b>				
Current bank account	15,512	-	15,512	8,127
Petty cash	60	-	60	60
	<u>15,572</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>15,572</u>	<u>8,187</u>
	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	2023 Total Funds	2022 Total Funds
Liabilities	£	£	£	£
Independent Examination fee	320	-	320	200
	<u>320</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>320</u>	<u>200</u>

**Out of Character**  
(Charity Number: 1161399)

**Notes to the Accounts for the year ended:**

**31st August 2023**

**1. Basis of Accounts**

The Trustees have taken advantage of section 144 (2) of the Charities Act 2011 and prepared the accounts on a receipts and payments basis.

**Approval of Accounts for the year ended:**

**31st August 2023**

The report and accounts were approved at a  
meeting of the Trustees held on:

Date

**Signed for and on behalf of the Trustees:**



Signature

**Julie Forster**

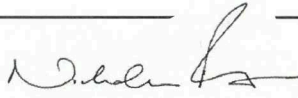
Name

**Chair**

Position (e.g. Chair etc)

**03/10/2023**

Date



Signature

**Nick Rowe**

Name

**Treasurer**

Position (e.g. Chair etc)

**06/10/2023**

Date