

Struts and Frets

Struts and Frets is a registered Charity (reg no. 1162917). The Principal office is 154 Metro Central Heights, 119, Newington Causeway, London, SE1 6BT

Report of the trustees for the year ending 16th March 2024

The following report and financial review have been prepared in accordance with the Charities Act 2011, and the Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standards for Smaller Entities.

Struts and Frets is a Charitable Incorporated Organization, governed by a Foundation Model Constitution since Thursday 2nd July 2015.

Structure, governance and management

Struts and Frets has three trustees, two of whom have been in place since foundation, and the third replaced in 2022. There have been no other trustees or custodians, and there are no plans to recruit or appointment any more trustees. No other person or body external to the charity is entitled to appoint one or more of the trustees.

The charity trustees have complied with their duty to have due regard to the guidance on public benefit published by the commission in exercising their powers or duties.

The daily operational running of the charity has been delegated to the Director.

All activities undertaken by Struts and Frets have been entirely for the public benefit, whether recruiting for productions as widely, openly and transparently as possible from the general public, to performing for free, collaborating with as many artists, designers, directors as possible at no expense to them and to no private benefit to ourselves. We have covered the cost of all productions and reimbursed all participants, have benefitted the public in free live or recorded performances, or discounted live performances, and have made no financial or other gain ourselves.

Directors and Trustees

The directors of the charitable company (the charity) are its trustees for the purpose of charity law.

The trustees and officers serving from 17th March 2023 until 16th March 2024 were:

Rosie Wesemann,
Zumrut Somel Gray,
Monika Stansall

The Director is Francesca De Sica

There have been no other trustees or custodians during the period to 16th March 2024.

The Trustees have not received any benefits or payments from the charity during the period ending 16th March 2024.

Purpose and Activities

The Objectives of Struts and Frets is to advance, improve, develop and maintain public education in, and appreciation of, the art of drama by any means the trustees see fit, including through the presentation of public performances.

Performance and Achievements

Between 17th March 2023 and 16th March 2024, the main focus of the year was the production of "The Mabinogion", or "Y Mabinogi", the Welsh-English language children's outdoor theatre touring production with CADW. A full report of the production, the tour, the education programme and the breakdown of costs and impact can be found in the Appendix (pages 3-5 below)

Plans for future periods

The company is taking a break in 2024 to regroup and apply for appropriate funding to continue the tour of Y Mabinogi to every school in Wales for every year from 2025.

Financial review

For the year ending 16th March 2024 Struts and Frets balanced out their payments and receipts.

Total expenditure for the charity for the year ending 16th March 2024 was £65,337.88

The charity received £34,788.84 in tax rebates (VAT and Corporation Tax) and £4,020.00 in ticket sales.

Struts and Frets has no investments, no reserves and no assets.

The Director has been responsible for the financial management of Struts and Frets. The detailed transactions and the summarised statements have been reviewed by the Trustees.

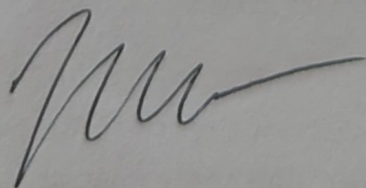
The following financial summary has been prepared on a receipts and payments basis. The charity has no assets, no liabilities and no investments.

Struts and Frets Annual accounts for the year ending 16th March 2024

Income	£38,788.84
Expenditure	£65,337.88
Net Deficit	£26,529.04

Signed Trustee:

Date:



17.9.24

RMM Wesemann

The Mabinogion/Y Mabinogi Report 2023

This 2023 report is a summary of events in 2023, following on from the full report of December 2022 which provides the overview of The Mabinogion since its inception in 2017.

2022 was the first year of the tour and was intended as a trial-run, "proof of concept" exercise to apply for and receive funding and endorsement in order for this to be adapted and repeated as an annual, fixed event for the theatre company and on Welsh schools' curriculum. We didn't get ACW funding for 2023, but we had already committed to a tour with CADW and performances at other venues, so we continued but in a pared down tour.

January - July 2023

We rehired last year's Producer, Director, Assistant Director and cast for two performances at the Pontypridd Children's Storytelling Festival on Saturday 13th May.

We then held auditions in late May to replace five of the six original cast (all committed to other tours in 2023), the same designers to retouch the set, props and costumes, promoted last year's crew member to road manager and found another sound director.

As this was a pared down tour, the only thing that wasn't recycled from last year was a whole new performance, devised by a new cast, bringing in their individual talents and ideas to create a new and different musical performance of Y Mabinogi. All props, set and costumes were reused from last year, no new purchases were made, no money was spent on marketing and the cast were accommodated at the Artistic Director's house in Gwynedd where logistically suitable.

We also worked with Mewn Cymeriad/In Character again to invite schools but there were no workshops this year.

We rehearsed in the same venue in Cardiff, Ocean Arts Centre, from 9th June until the first performance at the National Botanic Gardens of Wales on 23rd and 24th June.

There was a short break before we performed at the Beyond the Border Festival on 9th July, undertook a two week tour of CADW sites (St David's Bishop's Palace, Raglan, Caernarfon and Harlech) between 10th and 20th July, finishing with two dates at Theatr Clwyd on 26th July.

The indoor performances were paid and made life easier in regards to sound, lighting, set, props costumes etc. All these venues have requested we return in future, and we even made connections with the National Museum of Wales to perform indoors.

We were disappointed as despite moving the tour from October to June and July to avoid the difficulties of adverse weather conditions last year, we were still rained off in some of the outdoor CADW sites. We have also yet to understand the terms and conditions of

receiving the £5,000 promised investment with CADW, and the Artistic Director will be discussing a different approach to future collaboration with CADW over the coming months as we both wish this collaboration to continue.

Achievements

Y Mabinogi was the first, bi-lingual touring theatrical adaptation for children in Wales of the Four Branches of The Mabinogi.

For many CADW sites, this was the first time an adaptation for children of The Mabinogi had been performed within their estate

We have established excellent and mutually beneficial relationships with a range of partners, and in particular with CADW and Mewn Cymeriad/In Character. These partnerships have been key to securing both locations and audiences for y Mabinogi

We have produced education resource packs through Google Classroom which can be utilised by any schools keen to connect with the show and The Mabinogion generally.

We have also created a school's workshop programme, which can be replicated for continued engagement with schools and students as we head into the 2023 touring period.

Again, our recruitment process – of performers, designers, directors, producers, writers, stage managers and all and any other participants will be drawn from as wide and broad a spectrum of the public as possible, and will be open to as many members of the public, either live or recorded, fulfilling our wish and our duty to perform for the public benefit

Plans for future periods – partnerships and sponsorships

After buying Panteinion Hall in Gwynedd to accommodate the actors and theatre set, we're taking 2024 to regroup, recalibrate and recuperate.

From 2025, the outdoor tour will be planned in sites that have an indoor or covered area to accommodate adverse weather conditions. There will be more indoor and in-school performances, resulting in a mix of free, schools' performances and ticketed, public performances.

The performance itself could be adapted to purpose, with a public performance and an educational performance to run in schools' alongside educational workshops.

We will be performing at other sites besides CADW to reach greater and more diverse regions and areas, but still focusing on Welsh heritage and landscape.

We will be finding a Welsh speaking producer and hiring a Welsh speaking grant writer to ensure we get maximum coverage in Wales and the best possible chance of funding.

We won't use a marketing agency again for next year. More cost effective proved to be a repetition of 2023's approach with some additions:

- reusing the artwork produced in 2022 by Cowshed
- a PR agency for their press reach and contacts
- a graphic designer for the artwork and animations

- a freelance photographer/videographer to follow the tour

Partnerships and sponsorships

The intention is for Y Mabinogi to widen its reach to children and family audiences across Wales and to be embedded in the schools' curriculum and ultimately pay for (and manage) itself.

Our funding mix for 2025 is based on securing funds from three primary sources.

1. Earned income from ticket sales for a wider run of public shows
2. Private funding through corporate sponsorship, charitable donations & trusts and foundations.
3. Public funding through organisations such Arts Council Wales, Lottery Community Fund & Heritage Lottery Fund

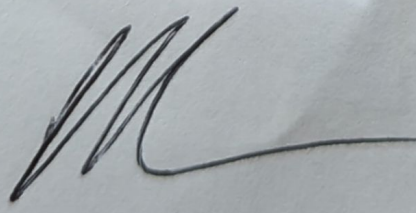
We will be making an application to Arts Council Wales in January 2025, with the expectation being that this application will equate to approx 35% of the project budget.

Funding applications to Heritage Lottery Fund and the Community Lottery Fund will also be made in early 2025, with the expectation being that these applications will equate to approx 15% of the project budget.

Our partnership with CADW will be developed further, and in-kind support from CADW for 2025 is likely to be in the region of £20K, covering both in-kind use of their sites and additional management support in connecting with communities and marketing support. CADW have endorsed us in 2022 agreeing to support our education programme and resources with a £5,000 investment.

As the charity is now registered for VAT, we will be looking to reclaim relevant VAT purchases from the 2023 tour (and other claimable retrospective VAT costs). In 2023, we received a VAT rebate of £1776.59. We will also be looking to establish Y Mabinogi ticket sales in 2025 as having 'cultural exemption' status for VAT, which will ensure we can retain a larger proportion of our gross sales.

As the charity is also now registered for corporation tax, we will be submitting a CT600 including a theatre tax relief (TTR) claim for the 2023-24 financial year (which included the Y Mabinogi 2022 tour.) In 2023, we received Theatre Tax Relief of £33,012.25.

Signed: 

R M in Wesemann

Date: 17.9.24



CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Arts and Crafts

1162917

Receipts and payments accounts

CC16a

For the period from	17-Mar-23	To	16-Mar-24
------------------------	-----------	----	-----------

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					
Ticket sales	-	-	-	4,020	-
Director personal fund	-	-	-	26,529	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Other	-	-	-	34,789	-
Sub total (Gross income for AR)	-	-	-	65,338	-
A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).					
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total receipts	-	-	-	65,338	-

A3 Payments

	-	-	-	-	-
Staff costs	-	-	-	47,042	-
Marketing	-	-	-	-	-
Costumes, set props, rehearsal and performance space	-	-	-	2,671	-
Travel and Visa	-	-	-	8,390	-
Sundries	-	-	-	1,826	-
Sub total	-	-	-	65,338	-

**A4 Asset and investment
purchases, (see table)**


nil	0	0	0	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total payments	-	-	-	65,338	-
Net of receipts/(payments)	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
A5 Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-	-
A6 Cash funds last year end	-	-	-	-	-
Cash funds this year end	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

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	nil	nil	nil	nil
	Total cash funds	0.00	0.00	0.00
	(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))	OK	OK	OK
	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B2 Other monetary assets	nil	nil	nil	nil
	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
B3 Investment assets	nil	nil	nil	nil
	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use	nil	nil	nil	nil
	Details	Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)

B5 Liabilities

Signed by one or two trustees on
behalf of all the trustees

nil	nil	nil	nil
Signature	Print Name	Date of approval	
	R m m Wegemann	19.7.24	