

ARTLESS THEATRE TRUST - TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT

1 August 2021 to 31 July 2022

Section A

Other names charity is known by

Artless

Artless Theatre Company

Charity's principal address

398 Brentwood Road, Romford, Essex RM2 6DH

Names of the charity 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)
Robert Scott	Treasurer		Trustee majority
Rebecca Poch	Chair		Trustee majority
Penny Spearman	Secretary		Trustee majority
James Poch			Trustee majority
Paul Syrstad			Trustee majority
Aaron Babla			Trustee majority
Steve Maltz			Trustee majority
Nathan Gilderson			Trustee majority

Section B

Type of governing document:	Constitution
How the charity is constituted:	CIO
Trustee Selection Method:	Elected by existing trustees

Section C

Summary of the objects of the charity set out in its governing document:

- (A) To advance the Christian faith predominantly among young people and families, in schools, groups, communities and in conjunction with the churches in the area of drama & theatre ministry across the United Kingdom.
- (B) To advance the education and appreciation of the dramatic arts by producing and presenting to the public high-quality performances of theatre and performance.

Summary of the main activities undertaken for the public benefit in relation to these objects (include within this section the statutory declaration that trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit):

- Artless again renewed its partnership with Scripture Union's 10:2 internship programme. This allowed Artless to secure a technical intern for the year. Again, this gave the opportunity for the intern to tour and work on various Artless productions throughout the year giving the intern valuable work experience. The internship also provides practical training and mentoring to hone their skills and prepare them for work outside of the programme. Artless hopes that this partnership will continue into the foreseeable future.
- With both 2020 and 2021's tour of *Centurion* having to be cancelled due to the pandemic it was great to be able to tour the production in April. Artless continues to build on the previous success of *Centurion* and continued to develop and improve the play to enhance the beneficiaries' experience. Two new young actresses were brought in which again gave us a new opportunity to help young Christian actors in the early formation of their careers. The desire for live theatre once again was clearly apparent with the booking of all 10 dates. Out of these 10, 7 were new churches demonstrating the continual growth and reach of the charity. This was, by far, the largest tour of *Centurion* and reached over 1000 people from a range of denominations.
- Artless was invited to provide content for Scripture Union's 'Be More Micah' resource exclusively for their faith guides. This content is used to take Faith Guides deeper in their faith journeys and to help equip them to be more effective evangelists.
- Artless was again selected to be specialist mentors for the drama stream of the young Christian evangelist academy 'Amplify'. Artless gave online specialist mentoring sessions to those on the course who are interested in using drama ministry in their own evangelism. This continues to be a great opportunity for Artless to advance the education and appreciation of the dramatic arts particularly within the form of drama ministry and to equip the next generation to continue this work. This partnership with 'Amplify' continues to demonstrate that Artless is at the forefront of drama ministry and our specialists in this field of work.
- Throughout 2022, Artless has continued to tour its new show, *If Prison Walls Could Speak*. Throughout the year, the play has toured London, the North West, South East, East Anglia, Wales and the South West, making *If Prison Walls Could Speak* its most performed production to date. With the International Ministerial Conference on Freedom of Religion or Belief taking in the summer this was an opportunity not to be missed. Thankfully Artless was booked to perform at the Emmanuel Centre for two performances with conference attendees and ministers being invited. Petr Jasek and his wife Vanda were both in attendance allowing them to see the production for the first time. Fiona Bruce MP also attended and spoke to the audience for a short while post performance. Later in the summer, Artless was approached by the Keswick Convention to perform in both week 1 and week 3 of the convention. There was a great interest in the show with audiences for both between 500-600 people. Again, with a range of denominations and localities Artless is continuing to make its work as accessible as possible.
- In June, Artless was again invited by the Diocese of Chelmsford to perform and facilitate workshops at their schools Pilgrim's Week in Bradwell-on-Sea. Over the course of three days, Artless performed to 4 primary schools and facilitated 6 drama workshops.
- Once again, Artless was booked to perform at the SOLID festival in Upminster, Essex. Artless performed on the main stage at all four of the main sessions retelling the story of the prodigal son.

Section D

Summary of the main achievements of the charity during the year:

With the lifting of COVID restrictions, allowing for live performances to take place once again, Artless has been able to expand and build on the foundations built in 2020 and 2021.

With live performances being legal once more the Trust's finances were much healthier and steadier than during the pandemic years. Artless saw an increase in its monthly donations which was a key target for the financial year. This year also saw Artless cover all employee salaries from donations alone, again another target set by the Trust.

The Trust also had another successful annual fundraiser the 'Murder Mystery Marathon' raising just over £2,500. This was another great encouragement to the Trust and was of particular help when some shows were cancelled due to the COVID Omicron variant.

With finances being stronger, this gave the opportunity for Artless to invest in new equipment and this has helped, not just to improve the quality of the shows, but to make them more efficient and mobile. The largest investment was a new projector which was seen as vital to the work of the Trust. With such a large investment, it would be hard for the Trust to take on the full cost and so the Trust reached out to some key supporters. Through the generosity of these supporters, the whole cost was covered without the need for the Trust to seek separate funds. Artless is incredibly grateful for every donor and supporter who continue to give so generously and selflessly. These important investments will help future-proof the work of Artless and help create better quality experiences for its employees, volunteers and beneficiaries.

With the cost of living crisis affecting all aspects of life, Artless has not been unaffected. With the current business model, and only a slight increase in costs for a church to host a performance, Artless has been able to reach a variety of churches of different financial circumstances and sizes. This has allowed Artless to meet one of its key objectives to make its work accessible to people of all backgrounds, especially those of low income.

With Easter being such an important season and time for the church and live performances once again being legal, Artless sought to make the most of this opportunity. It was decided that they would do a 10-day tour with the climax being Holy Week. With the tour fully booked and a total reach of 1000 people this was the Trust's most successful Easter tour.

The partnership with Release International on 'If Prison Walls Could Speak' has again been instrumental to Artless' success over the last year. The play has been performed across the country and even into Wales. The production has been met with very positive reviews and has continued to raise awareness for the persecuted church and the work of Release International. The play will continue to tour throughout 2023 with tours across the country.

Artless' partnership with Scripture Union England and Wales (Charity no. 213422) as a National Mission Partner has continued to grow. This has been particularly strengthened through Artless' contribution to SU's 'Be More Micah' resource for their Faith Guides and

also returning to the SOLID Festival. This has created opportunities for Artless to provide services for the shared beneficiaries in the area of drama and theatre ministry.

Being able to train and equip the next generation in the area of drama ministry is a key focal point. Artless was happy to be invited back to be the specialist mentors for the drama stream in the Amplify programme, delivering an online seminar for young evangelists keen to use drama ministry. Later in the summer, Artistic Director, Jonathan Maltz also attended the Satellites festival where he was invited to speak at one of the venues about creativity and storytelling. Also, with its work at SOLID festival, Artless has continued to train and equip the next generation in the area of drama and theatre ministry, a key aim of the Trust.

Whilst certainly not an easy task, 2022 has proved to be a year where Artless has broken new ground and increased its profile greatly. Performing *Centurion* at All Souls, Langham Place, one of London's most prestigious churches, and later *If Prison Walls Could Speak* at the renowned Keswick convention, have helped to achieve this aim. By doing so this has helped to build trust and credibility with the wider UK church.

2022 also saw the reach of Artless grow, performing in new areas and in more churches and events. This has helped Artless to help spread the gospel and story of Jesus Christ to more people than ever before. Artless is grateful for all that God has done throughout 2022 and looks forward to what is in store in the coming year.



Charity Name	ARTLESS THEATRE TRUST	No. (if any)	1172501
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Receipts and payments accounts

For the period from	Period start date	To	Period end date
	01/08/2021		31/07/2022

CC16a

Section A Receipts and payments

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Endowment funds	Total funds	
	to the nearest £	to the nearest £	to the nearest £	to the nearest £	to the nearest £
A1 Receipts					
Grants & Donations	48,085.87	0.00	0.00	48,085.87	19,379.96
Gift Aid Tax Refund	1,956.76	0.00	0.00	1,956.76	2,727.05
Grants & ticket income - productions	13,497.27	0.00	0.00	13,497.27	1,850.00
Fund Raising & Sponsorship	250.00	0.00	0.00	250.00	11,470.84
HMRC Job Retention Scheme	658.32	0.00	0.00	658.32	15,692.94
Other Income	2.06	0.00	0.00	2.06	0.70
Sub total (Gross income for AR)	64,450.28	0.00	0.00	64,450.28	51,121.49
A2 Asset and investment sales, (see+ table).					
	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Sub total	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Total receipts	64,450.28	0.00	0.00	64,450.28	51,121.49
A3 Payments					
Equipment	5,806.96	0.00	0.00	5,806.96	868.86
Salary Payments	40,426.26	0.00	0.00	40,426.26	38,109.36
Insurance	651.14		0.00	651.14	527.66
Productions	5,649.33	5,827.87	0.00	11,477.20	6,328.97
Publicity & Website	1,198.82	0.00	0.00	1,198.82	342.63
Travel, van hire etc	383.29	0.00	0.00	383.29	904.93
Other Expenditure	4,592.63	0.00	0.00	4,592.63	
Sub total	58,708.43	5,827.87	0.00	64,536.30	47,082.41
A4 Asset and investment purchases. (see table)					
	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Sub total	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Total payments	58,708.43	5,827.87	0.00	64,536.30	47,082.41
Net of receipts/(payments)	5,741.85	-5,827.87	0.00	-86.02	4,039.08
A5 Transfers between funds	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
A6 Cash funds last year end	5,824.42	5,827.87	0.00	11,652.29	7,613.21
Cash funds this year end	11,566.27	0.00	0.00	11,566.27	11,652.29



Charity Name ARTLESS THEARE TRUST		NIC (if any) 1172501	
Receipts and payments accounts			
For the period from	Period start date 01/08/2021	To	Period end date 31/07/2022

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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	Current Account	3,636.01	0	0
	Savings Account	7,930.26	0	0
	In hand	0.00	0	0
	Total cash funds	11,566.27	0	0
	(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))	OK	OK	OK
	Due from HMRC - Gift Aid	123	0	0
		0	0	0
		0	0	0
		0	0	0
B3 Investment assets	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
			0	0
			0	0
			0	0
			0	0
B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
	Sound & lighting equipment	General	14,656	0
			1,400	0
			0	0
			0	0
B5 Liabilities	Details	Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)
	NEST Pensions - July	General	437	
			0	
			0	
			0	
Signed by one or two trustees	Signature	Print Name	Date of approval	
		R I SCOTT	31 July 2020	



Independent examiner's report on the accounts

Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees/
members of

Charity Name
ARTLESS THEATRE TRUST

On accounts for the year
ended

31 JULY 2022

1172501

Set out on pages

1-2

(remember to include the page numbers of additional sheets)

**Respective
responsibilities of
trustees and examiner**

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 (the Charities Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the Charities Act,
- to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission (under section 145(5)(b) of the Charities Act, and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

**Basis of independent
examiner's statement**

My examination was carried out in accordance with general Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from the trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair' view and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

**Independent
examiner's statement**

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention

1. which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in, any material respect, the requirements:
 - to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; and
 - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the Charities Act have not been met; or
2. to which, in my opinion, 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: Brendan Dunn

5 October 2022

Name: Brendan Dunn

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

Address: Malmir, Church Lane
Doddinghurst
Brentwood, CM15 0NA

Section B

Disclosure

Only complete if the examiner needs to highlight material problems.

Give here brief details of any items that the examiner wishes to disclose.