

Human Story Theatre

Registered charity number: 1173504

Unaudited Receipts and Payments Account

for the year ended

31st March 2024

Wenn Townsend

Chartered Accountants

Oxford

Human Story Theatre
Trustees' Annual Report
for the year ended 31st March 2024

Officers and advisers

Trustees:

Ms M Fairweather Hole
Ms D Battigelli
Ms F Renowden
Mr S Hughes
Dr M Lynch (appointed 16/05/2024)
Dr S Stewart (appointed 16/05/2024)

Registered Address:

73 Fairacres Road
Oxford
OX4 1TQ

Registered Charity number:

1173504

Independent Examiner:

Mr L J Baker FCA
Partner
Wenn Townsend
Chartered Accountants
30 St Giles'
Oxford
OX1 3LE

Human Story Theatre
Trustees' Annual Report
for the year ended 31st March 2024

Structure, governance and management

The charity is governed by a Charitable Incorporated Organisation Foundation Constitution and was registered as a charity on 21st June 2017.

New trustees are appointed following a skills audit, open call and agreed recruitment procedure by the existing board during the year, and given a full briefing on the charity as part of their induction. An open call out for new trustees was released in March 2024, leading to appointment of two new trustees in May 2024.

Objectives and activities

The objects of the charity as set out in its governing document are to advance education for the public benefit and to preserve and protect the good physical and mental health of the general public by the provision of artistic performances and workshops.

In planning the activities for the year, the trustees have complied with their duty to have due regard to the guidance on public benefit published by the Charity Commission.

The main activities undertaken were:

Research and partnership development continued for **Body Positive**, a Human Story Theatre project, with NHS input, to create a new piece of theatre raising awareness of the impact on mental health of cultural attitudes towards body image, including current issues of food scarcity. New potential partnerships were forged in the Oxfordshire Cherwell District and funding bids submitted. In March 2024 it was decided, in light of fundraising and resource challenges, to put the project on hold, with a view to reviewing the project and resuming fundraising in 2025.

During the year the Artistic Director provided ongoing consultancy and mentoring services for the development of a new play **The Three M'others**, initially entitled *Silent Screens*. The play, written by Dr Antonia Mackay of Oxford Brookes University, explores the impact of the pandemic on first time mothers and their experiences of maternal healthcare. HST's Artistic Director took part in the Old Fire Station's Theatre Scratch Night in October 2023, performing a monologue from the draft play script, followed by discussion with the audience. HST consultancy and mentoring continued in preparation for performance of extracts from *The Three M'others* and associated panel discussion within the Oxford Brookes *Think Human Humanities festival* in April 2024. The Artistic Director also supported preparations for the planned performances of the full play by Oxford Brookes drama students, at The North Wall Theatre in May 2024. HST provided guidance at attendance at rehearsals with students, and advice on producing and marketing.

HST produced a staged reading of Amanda Mackenzie Stuart's new play **Lizzie On The Fence**, drawing on the playwright's experience of only being able to see her dying husband through his care home fence during the pandemic. The anguish and helplessness of that enforced separation was shared by many people. The HST script-in-hand performance was sold out at the Old Fire Station in January 2024. This was followed by initial planning and fundraising for a tour of the play, to include performances at the Scottish Parliament, Cumbernauld Theatre at Lanternhouse in North Lanarkshire, and at the House of Lords in autumn 2024.

Human Story Theatre
Trustees' Annual Report
for the year ended 31st March 2024

Achievements and performance

This report refers to a year of ongoing reconfiguration and resumption of work following a period of dormancy due to the pandemic and some internal personnel changes. The charity worked with its available resources, human and financial, to develop, and provide consultancy and mentoring support for, plans for new theatrical work with existing and new partners; to deliver successful 'scratch' and public performances; and to develop plans for sustainable internal management and development.

The financial statements have been prepared on a going concern basis as the trustees believe that the charity will continue for a period of at least 12 months from the approval of these financial statements, notwithstanding the level of reserves at the year end and deficit incurred in the period. The trustees intend to take various actions in order to raise funds in the current fundraising environment and funds raised will be allocated to core costs whenever appropriate. Based on these intentions and the budgeted income and expenditure, they believe there is a sufficient level of reserves for the charity to be able to continue as a going concern.

The Trustees have agreed to set aside £4,000 from current funds as strategic reserves. These reserves are considered appropriate to enable business continuity in the event of an unexpected funding shortfall or need to close projects or the charity. The amount of reserves is based on current operating costs and allows for closure costs. The Trustees consider these reserves to be appropriate based on the current small scale of the organisation with no employment or property liabilities, and our current structure relying principally on project-based grant funding. The level of reserves will be reviewed following a full, updated risk review, at least annually.

Financial review

At the year end, cash at bank totalled £14,698 (2023: £17,574) of which £13,203 (2023: £17,089) was for general unrestricted funds and £1,495 was restricted.

The trustees are satisfied that this level of free reserves is appropriate for the charity as at 31st March 2024.

Approved by the Board of Trustees on 13th January 2025 and signed on its behalf by:

D Battigelli
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Human Story Theatre

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of Human Story Theatre

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the charity for the year ended 31st March 2024 which are set out on pages 4 to 5.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity's trustees 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 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 charity 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.

Lee Baker

**Lee Baker FCA
Wenn Townsend
Chartered Accountants and Statutory Auditor
Oxford**

13th January 2025

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Human Story Theatre
Receipts and payments account
for the year ended 31st March 2024

	Restricted	Unrestricted	Total 2024	Total 2023
	£	£	£	£
Receipts				
Grant income	2,500	-	2,500	1,000
Production income	-	900	900	-
Other income	2,297	-	2,297	-
Total receipts	<u>4,797</u>	<u>900</u>	<u>5,697</u>	<u>1,000</u>
Payments				
Production expenditure	7,258	-	7,258	515
Non-production expenditure	-	1,315	1,315	974
Total payments	<u>7,258</u>	<u>1,315</u>	<u>8,573</u>	<u>1,489</u>
Net receipts/(payments)	<u>(2,461)</u>	<u>(415)</u>	<u>(2,876)</u>	<u>(489)</u>
Transfers	3,471	(3,471)		
Cash funds at 1st April 2023	485	17,089	17,574	18,063
Cash funds at 31st March 2024	<u>1,495</u>	<u>13,203</u>	<u>14,698</u>	<u>17,574</u>

Human Story Theatre
Statement of Assets and Liabilities
31st March 2024

	Restricted 2024 £	Unrestricted 2024 £	Total 2024 £	Restricted 2023 £	Unrestricted 2023 £	Total 2023 £
Cash funds						
Bank balances						
Current accounts	1,495	13,203	14,698	485	17,089	17,574

D Battigelli
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For and on behalf of the Trustees

13th January 2025
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