

Christchurch Hall
Christchurch Road
Northampton
NN1 5LL

The Playhouse Theatre Northampton Annual Report 2024 – 2025

2024 – 2025 was an exciting but challenging year full of change and new beginnings!

In 2024 we received the devastating news that our home of over 60 years, The Playhouse Theatre, Clare Street, Northampton, was to close over safety concerns and the landlords wish to sell the freehold and retire.

At an Extraordinary General meeting held on 20th August 2024, a vote was taken on two motions asking the members to consider was it 'The Playhouse' premises or 'The Playhouse' as a group that mattered:

- to close The Playhouse Northampton and disperse the funds in accordance with the constitution
- to carry on with productions in temporary accommodation whilst looking for new premises, performance spaces and storage

Overwhelmingly, the members present and those who could not attend who were offered the chance to record their vote via e.mail, voted for option 2 to continue.

So began our adventure with a new Committee and new Trustees.

We were able to hire a local community hall as we had committed to a production in November 2024, using the Playhouse premises for set building and the hire of another community space for rehearsals we proceeded with our production of The Haunting by Charles Dickens at Duston Community Centre.

This had the additional cost of van hire along with rental charges for the hall.

In the meantime, a list of about 20 possible more permanent local venues were visited, unfortunately these did not yield anything suitable and then, quite unexpectedly, we were offered Christ Church Hall which had everything we needed all be it in a poor state! The hall was last used for a panto over 20 years before; it didn't meet current safety standards, remnants of that production still remained, and the stage was being used for storage by the various groups that share the building.

We negotiated with the Parish Church Council on occupancy, rent and storage space and in turn they sort approval with the Diocese of Peterborough for us to use Christ Church Hall as our base, which was granted. In one giant leap of faith we had our new premises and home.

The cost of work to make the stage area safe, paint it black, purchase and install fireproof blackout curtains, replacement of the front tabs and pelmet (Volvina Blinds) as the current curtains did not have safety markers. Additional and upgrade to the emergency lighting, additional fire extinguishers and new lighting bars with lights and a sound system including new speakers all have taken a toll on our reserves. Labour cost and upfront rental payments, not to mention the cost of mounting our production of The Haunted at Duston Community Centre have also eaten into our funds as can be seen in our annual return.

Our November production of The Haunting was a tremendous success, and we moved into Christ Church Hall our new shared home on the final night at Duston and over subsequent weeks.

We have now established ourselves at Christ Church Hall and have mounted two further productions which have helped us to establish our name as 'theatre in the community'.

The impact of the cost of refurbishing the hall for our needs is currently £14893. However, our future is assured, our 2025-26 Season is proving very popular, enabling us to continue with the refurbishment and the upgrade of the facilities.

Ben Knight
Chair and Trustee on behalf of
The Playhouse Theatre Northampton

AGM October 2025

PLAYHOUSE THEATRE – SEASON SEPTEMBER 2024 – AUGUST 2025

Item	2023-24		2024-25	Notes relate to current year
Income				
Members				
Total Membership	3,957.00		2,160.00	
Ticket Sales	11,516.40		9,164.00	
Theatre Hire	2,323.00			
Bar Income	8,691.73		1,878.94	
Fundraising			80.00	
Interest Received	478.44		258.36	
Donations	60.50		2,298.28	
Programme Sales				
Total Income	27,027.07		15,839.58	

Expenditure				
Rent	6,800.00		7,651.67	
Play Licences	2,196.00		2,931.00	
Electricity	1,700.90		234.69	
Water	179.75		-30.00	
Business Rates	143.46		-35.37	
Bar Expenditure	2,922.69		869.01	
Bar Licence	180.00		42.00	
Insurance	1,833.17		2,072.70	
Professional Fees	360.00		-20.00	
Telephone & Wifi	767.63		128.56	
Director's Expenses	256.14		72.97	
PRS/PPL	140.21		34.02	
Printing, etc	1,100.38		402.03	
Sound / Lighting	37.97			
Cleaning / Repairs	397.55			
Fire Services	1,256.14		58.80	
Scripts	681.85		865.75	
Refurbishment	588.75		14,893.78	
Publicity	459.65		388.04	
Postage	42.40		38.75	
Misc.	289.58		807.15	
Set Costs	90.52			
Square/Ticketsource Charges	159.24		106.56	
Depreciation of assets	561.15		1,234.70	
Total expenditure	23,145.13		33,553.96	

INCOME OVER EXPENDITURE	3,881.94		-17,714.38	
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ACCOUNT				
Lloyds Current Account	3,162.73		1,268.50	
Lloyds Deposit Account	39,149.82		20,070.40	
Cash in hand	411.00		372.00	
Bar Stock	569.21		72.00	
Net Asset value	683.12		7,244.00	
Prepaid Membership (Platinum)	-2,350.00			
Prepaid Play Licenses	2,370.00		2,151.00	
Prepaid Scripts	212.00		372.61	
Prepaid Rent	566.67		500.00	
Prepaid Insurance	570.41	n/a		
Prepaid Phone	103.56	n/a		
Prepaid Web Domain	18.00	n/a		
Prepaid Website	94.50	n/a		
Accrued Accountant	-380.00	n/a		
Accrued PRS - Music License	-14.57	n/a		
Accrued Water & Electrics	-63.34	n/a		
TOTAL	45,103.11		32,050.51	