

Company number 05363584
Charity number 1182736

The Paper Birds Theatre Company

Unaudited trustees' report and financial statements

For the year ended

31 March 2022

The Paper Birds Theatre Company

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The Paper Birds Theatre Company

Company limited by Guarantee

Year ended 31 March 2022

Trustees

Rose Abderabbani
Raidene Carter
Kate Craddock
Rod Dixon (resigned 30 September 2021)
Cristina Holst
Kirsty Housley
Grace Jeremy (appointed 3 May 2022)
Laura Woodward

Company registered number

05363584

Charity registered number

1182736

Registered office

18 Spital Road
Maldon
Essex
CM9 6EB

Independent Examiner

Jo Watkin FCA
Purple Cat Accountancy Limited
87 Highgate Road
Walsall
West Midlands
WS1 3JA

The Paper Birds Theatre Company

Company limited by Guarantee

Year ended 31 March 2022

Trustees' Report

The Trustees of The Paper Birds Theatre Company present their annual report and financial statements of the charity for the year ending 31 March 2022. The trustees have adopted the provisions of the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP), 'Accounting and Reporting by Charities' (FRS 102) in preparing this report and financial statements.

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

The Paper Birds Theatre Company is governed under its Articles of Association and was incorporated on 14 February 2005 as a company limited by guarantee not having a share capital. The Paper Birds became a charitable company on 24 November 2017.

The charity is governed by a Board of Trustees totalling no more than 9, as stated in our Articles of Association.

Day to day management of the company is led by Co-Artistic Directors and Co-Founders, Jemma McDonnell and Kylie Perry. Executive Producer Charlotte Kalantari-Gregory is also responsible for executive organisational management and has been in post since January 2018.

The Board meets quarterly and hosts an Annual General Meeting each year. The Board also has two sub-committees: 1) International Work Sub-Committee (ISC) chaired by Kate Craddock; and 2) Finance Sub-Committee (FSC) chaired by Raidene Carter. Both sub-committees meet regularly throughout the year. We appointed Jo Watkin at Purple Cat Accountancy to independently review and examine our accounts.

OBJECTIVES OF THE ORGANISATION

The Paper Birds exists to advance education for the public benefit by the promotion of the arts, in particular, but not exclusively, through the art of drama. Our company mission and vision states: 'We are quiet rebels, amplifying the voices of everyday people. Changing the world, one encounter at a time'. Our day to day activities include workshops and lectures, participatory projects, interviews and seminars, as well as live public performances. The trustees have had regard to the Charity Commissioners guidance on public benefit whilst planning the activities of The Paper Birds.

OUR POLICIES

We are committed to making The Paper Birds a stable, safe, and fair organisation for all its staff, stakeholders, and beneficiaries. All of our policies are reviewed and updated regularly.

Our Equality and Diversity Policy states that 'The Paper Birds is committed to eliminating discrimination and encouraging diversity amongst our staff.' The principles of this policy are in line with the Equality Act 2010. Equality and Diversity is a standing agenda item at all quarterly Board Meetings and we have an Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Action Plan.

Our Reserves Policy states that the trustees have set 3 month's operating costs as unrestricted reserves, equalling £36,250 by March 2022. With the surplus achieved this year, this target has been met. This policy is reviewed annually to ensure it sufficiently covers the risks identified in delivering the charitable objectives.

RISK MANAGEMENT

The Board has developed a Risk Register which identifies and assesses potential risk. Risks are classed in terms of low to high. They are assessed in categories including Governance and Management, Financial, Operational, Personnel, and External. The Board agrees that annual assessment is adequate, as well as close quarterly management of company accounts.

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Trustees' Report continued....

ACCOUNTS

The Board agrees that an annual, independent assessment of the accounts is commensurate with the scale of our operation.

The Paper Birds prepares quarterly management account reports, which are scrutinised by our Finance Sub Committee which meets a minimum of 4 times per year. The Finance Sub Committee then presents management accounts at each full Board meeting on a quarterly basis for wider discussion and approval.

YEAR OVERVIEW

2021- 22 saw further digital and international expansion for the charity, and we reached new diverse, audiences, championing access and inclusion with participants drawn from d/Deaf, LGBTQ+, Indigenous Canadian communities, religiously conservative young people and those struggling with mental health.

We strengthened our reach and relationships in the UK arts and education sector and grew our Creative Learning programme exponentially. The charity honed in on our expertise around young people and young artists and got back to in-person touring post-pandemic with a schools' show, further establishing ourselves as the leading company in the UK taking professional touring performances into schools. We developed new international relationships and collaborations, in particular in Indonesia and Canada.

OUR PURPOSE AND HOW WE HAVE MET IT

Our major project this year was 'The School of Hope': an ambitious, digital, multi-artform project for young people aged 13-25. It explored the theme of empathy through a series of digital workshops created by The Paper Birds. We asked young people from across the globe to be socially and politically engaged, and encouraged debate, dialogues and connections. It platformed young people as artists in their own right and aimed to reduce feelings of isolation as a result of the pandemic. We worked with 9 partners in the UK and internationally. 75 young people from 5 countries and 3 continents took part and created over 180 artworks. 'The School of Hope' exemplified our company vision "changing the world one encounter at a time": through our evaluation it was found that 53% of participants' empathy levels did increase, and 64% increased their civic participation. Positive impacts of prosocial behaviour (helping others) and mental wellbeing were also reported.

Our Participation Programme continues to grow and go from strength to strength. We took our acclaimed production 'Broke', which explores themes of poverty and debt, to 51 schools and colleges across the country, engaging 9,180 audience members and 2,000 workshop participants. We did have over 90 schools in total who wanted to book the show, but with mounting CV-19 hurdles and pressures, disappointingly, many could not go ahead. We therefore made sure we had a comprehensive wraparound offer and developed a new workshop session that allowed students to work collaboratively in a safe and socially distanced manner. In addition we produced a comprehensive resource pack that included all the background information about the production as well as a full script of the show. This coupled with a film of the production was available to teachers both as a hardcopy DVD and a streamed video link they could share directly with students for revision.

As a charity focused on providing access to the arts, in touring 'Broke' we wanted to reach young people who had been adversely affected by the pandemic from lower social economic backgrounds. 69% of the schools/colleges we visited are state funded, and 31% are independent. Of the 35 state funded schools we visited, 3 schools had a pupil premium rate of over 40%; and 9 schools had a pupil premium rate of between 20-30%.

"Both workshop and performance were outstanding. Many of the students thought it was the best thing they had ever seen!" Teacher feedback

Our value and relevance to teachers and pupils up and down the country is further demonstrated by the fact that we delivered 193 workshops to 6,125 participants across the year, representing a 271% increase on the year before. We continue to be listed as a prescribed practitioner on the Eduqas, EdExcel and AQA school examination specifications.

The Paper Birds Theatre Company

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Trustees' Report continued....

The charity undertook a strategic Company Development project focused on digital upskilling for our team, as well as our move to and new base in the South East region. We developed relationships with communities, schools, theatre venues and young people, in particular in the Essex area, firmly establishing our local presence, identity and commitment. Training in new digital platforms has positively impacted our Participation programme, forging new relationships with digital experts and organisations such as Digital Theatre.

OUR PEOPLE

We were delighted to recruit new Board Member Grace Jeremy, who, as Programme Manager at Young Trustees Movement, is well placed to support our ever-growing programme of work aimed at young people. We also increased capacity across our core freelance team in response to our increase in activity and growing demand for our work. We plan to recruit a new Finance Manager role to provide the company with more dedicated expertise in this area.

FINANCIAL

The Trustees are thrilled that The Paper Birds, through significant earned income from our participation programme, finishes the year with unrestricted funds of £52,293. This is a reduction on the end of year position for the previous year, as we sought to invest in our core team's capacity, and hence be able to reach more people and make more impact, as we came out of the pandemic. Furthermore the Board notes the company's excellent fundraising successes in 2021-22 and is delighted at the company's financial picture, allowing us to exceed our reserves policy.

FUNDRAISING

The Trustees would like to express their sincere thanks to our wonderful funders, without whose support we could not have reached our charitable aims. Arts Council England's continued grant support totalled £57,395: £42,786 towards 'The School of Hope' and £14,609 to support our Company Development in the South East region activity. The Trustees were overjoyed to receive significant support from Garfield Weston Foundation (£10k) and from Rayne Foundation (£10k), to enable us to reach young people in the UK and around the globe through 'The School of Hope'. Closer to home, Charles S French Trust's support (£2k) allowed us to work at a grass roots level with young people in Essex.

OUR PLANS MOVING FORWARD

In 2022-23, the charity will focus on developing our commitment to young people and the next generation of young artists from diverse backgrounds through our artists' professional development programme 'Feel Me'. Emerging artists aged 18-30, will create an international touring theatre show and receive bespoke industry mentorship from leading practitioners in their field, empowering them to become the socially engaged artists and cultural leaders of the future. Exploring the theme of empathy as a thematic stimulus but also as an approach embedded into their practice, the programme will provide a unique early career platform for artists to develop their skills and methodology whilst working collaboratively as part of a professional creative team in the development of an original production made for young audiences aged 13-25. This project will strategically align the artistic and participation sides of the company.

The charity will continue to be a leading force championing the importance of theatre and performing arts in schools, expanding our digital education offer via Digital Theatre, developing new CPD for drama teachers and theatre practitioners, growing our in-person delivery in both UK schools and at international schools in the Middle East and South East Asia, as well as starting to create teaching resources for primary schools.

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Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities

The trustees are responsible for preparing the trustees' report and the financial statements in accordance with the United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice) and applicable law and regulations.

The law applicable to charities requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of the income and expenditure of the charity for that period.

In preparing these financial statements the trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and apply them consistently
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent
- state whether applicable accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures
- disclosed and explained in the financial statements and
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in business

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011, the applicable Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations and the provisions of the constitution. The trustees are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Approved by the trustees of the charity on 22 November 2022 and signed on their behalf by:



Raidene Carter
Trustee

The Paper Birds Theatre Company

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Year ended 31 March 2022

Independent Examiners Report to the Trustees of The Paper Birds Theatre Company

I report on the accounts of the company for the year ended 31 March 2022.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts.

The 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;
- 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 report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the 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 you as 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 to indicate that:

- accounting records have not been kept in accordance with section 130 of The Charities Act 2011
- the accounts do not accord with such records:
- attention should be drawn to enable proper understanding of the accounts to be reached



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Year ended 31 March 2022

Statement of financial activities for the year ended 31 March 2022

	Note	General fund	Restricted fund	Total funds 2022	2021
Income	3				
Donations and grants		1,194	79,395	80,589	54,682
Charitable activities		79,878	79,251	159,129	96,795
Investment income					1
Total income		81,072	158,646	239,718	151,478
Expenditure on:	4				
Charitable activities		107,826	144,915	252,741	113,290
Total expenditure		107,826	144,915	252,741	113,290
Net income / (expenditure)		(26,754)	13,731	(13,023)	38,188
Transfers		-	-	-	-
Balance brought forward at 1 April 2021	8	79,047	-	79,047	40,859
Balance carried forward at 31 March 2022	8	52,293	13,731	66,024	79,047

The notes form part of these financial statements

The Paper Birds Theatre Company

Company number 05363584

Charity number 1182736

Balance sheet as at 31 March 2022

	Notes	2022	2021
Fixed assets			
Equipment	6	934	1,401
Current assets			
Debtors	7	18,580	5,923
Cash at bank and in hand		103,886	101,377
Total current assets		<u>122,466</u>	<u>107,300</u>
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	8	(57,376)	(29,654)
Net assets		<u>66,024</u>	<u>79,047</u>
Represented by			
Funds			
Unrestricted general fund	9	52,293	79,047
Restricted funds	9	13,731	-
		<u>66,024</u>	<u>79,047</u>

For the financial year in question the company was entitled to exemption from audit under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

No members have required the company to obtain an audit of its accounts for the year in question in accordance with section 476 of the Companies Act 2006.

The directors acknowledge their responsibility for complying with the requirements of the Act with respect to accounting records and for the preparation of accounts.

These accounts have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies' regime.

The financial statements were approved by the trustees on 22 November 2022 and signed on their behalf by



Raidene Carter
Trustee

The Paper Birds Theatre Company

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Year ended 31 March 2022

Notes to the accounts

1. Basis of accounting

These accounts have been prepared under the historical cost convention with items recognised at cost or transaction value unless stated in the relevant note(s) to these accounts.

The accounts have been prepared in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and with the Charities Act 2011.

2. Accounting policies

Recognition of income

Income is included in the Statement of Financial Activities (SoFA) when

- the charity becomes entitled to the resources
- the monetary value can be measured with sufficient reliability.

Expenditure

Expenditure is recognised when there is a legal or constructive obligation to that expenditure and it is probable that settlement is required and that the amount can be reliably measured.

All expenditure is recognised on an accruals basis.

Creditors

The charity has creditors which are measured at settlement amount.

Debtors

Debtors are measured on initial recognition at settlement amount; subsequently they are measured at the cash or other consideration expected to be received.

Taxation

The charity is an exempt charity within the meaning of schedule 3 of the Charities Act 2011 and is considered to pass the tests set out in paragraph 1 schedule 6 Finance Act 2010 and therefore it meets the definition of a charitable company for UK corporation tax purposes.

Funds

Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of the general objectives of the charity and have not been designated for other purposes.

Restricted funds are funds which are to be used in accordance with specific restrictions imposed by donors or have been raised by the charity for specific purposes.

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Notes to the accounts continued.....

3. Income	2022	2021
Donations and grants		
Grants	79,395	53,493
Donations	1,194	1,189
	<u>80,589</u>	<u>54,682</u>
Charitable activities		
Box office and performance fees	53,779	-
Commissions	17,056	2,942
Merchandise sales	26,568	30,052
Workshop fees	50,619	63,801
Theatre tax relief	11,107	-
	<u>159,129</u>	<u>96,795</u>
Investment income		
Bank interest	<u>-</u>	<u>1</u>

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Notes to the accounts continued.....

4. Expenditure	2022	2021
Expenditure on charitable activities		
Artists' fees	184,961	81,570
Production costs	4,778	1,876
Hotels, travel and subsistence	34,584	3,903
Advertising and promotion	12,082	7,603
Printing, postage and stationery	1,276	2,690
Subscriptions	1,047	857
Computer costs	4,335	4,968
Bookkeeping	1,716	1,978
Accountancy fees	750	1,025
Insurances	1,182	1,150
Bank charges	165	141
Interest payable		25
Bad debts		20
Storage	3,572	3,148
Sundry expenses	426	119
Consultancy	1,400	1,750
Depreciation	467	467
	<u>252,741</u>	<u>113,290</u>

5. Trustees' remuneration and expenses

No trustee received any remuneration in the year under review.

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Notes to the accounts continued.....

6. Fixed assets

Cost	Equipment
Brought forward as at 1 April 2021	1,868
Additions	
Carried forward as at 31 March 2022	<u>1,868</u>
Depreciation	
Brought forward as at 1 April 2021	467
Charge for the year	467
Carried forward as at 31 March 2022	<u>934</u>
Net book value at 31 March 2022	<u>934</u>

7. Debtors

	2022	2021
Trade debtors	7,465	5,923
Other debtors	8	-
Theatre tax relief	11,107	-
	<u>18,580</u>	<u>5,923</u>

8. Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2022	2021
Trade creditors	51	1,021
Other tax and social security	5,969	7,745
Accruals and deferred income	51,356	20,888
	<u>57,376</u>	<u>29,654</u>

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Notes to the accounts continued.....

9. Funds	Balance at 1 April 2021	Income	Expenditure	Transfer	Balance at 31 March 2022
Total unrestricted funds	79,047	81,072	(107,826)		52,293
Restricted funds					
Broke		66,036	(61,888)		4,148
Co Dev SE		14,609	(10,078)		4,531
School of Hope		78,001	(72,949)		5,052
Total restricted funds	-	158,646	(144,915)		13,731
Total funds	79,047	239,718	(252,741)		66,024

10. Fees for examination of the accounts	2022	2021
Independent examiner's fees	600	600