



2021 - 2022

ANNUAL REPORT

**PREPARED BY
BETH ALLUM - ARTISTIC DIRECTOR
AND THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

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@dance_reading
www.dancereading.com



INTRODUCTION FROM THE CHAIR

This is our second Annual Report as a registered charity which covers the financial year January to December 2022.

The organisation continues to grow steadily with increased revenue generated this year compared to last year and significant developments in our delivery of work for young people.

Supported by the Board of Trustees, Producer Beth Allum manages grant funded projects recruiting freelance project assistants, artists and dance organisations to deliver the activities.

Our unique role as the primary dance development organisation in Reading continues to provide an important function for the local cultural sector, nurturing the dance landscape in Reading by bringing high quality dance work to town, building new audiences for dance and developing knowledge and skills for local dancers, young people and participants.

Alongside the festival programme and new work delivering high quality dance in schools we also continue to support emerging dance talent providing opportunities to make work with and for local communities as well as providing educational opportunities for young people to engage in innovative and explorative dance workshops.

As an organisation we continue to demonstrate our passion for dance in all of its forms through our diverse and inclusive programming policy maintaining our belief in the ability for dance to transform lives, well being and health by bringing people together for uplifting shared cultural experiences centred around the body.

As we move forward into 2023 and beyond we continue to strive for ways to build capacity within the leadership team and create sustainable models of funding.

Danielle Corbishley, Founder and Chair of the Board of Trustees.



A SUMMARY OF OUR WORK IN 2022

2022 was a fantastically busy year, with our biggest festival to date, a new delivery in schools in partnership with The Place, and a brand new youth project funded by Reading Borough Council.

Our first AGM showcased the work of amazing young dancers, as well as our strategic partners, with a panel discussion looking at mental health and movement. We screened the film made and performed by the young people in the Turn it Up project, to an audience of 50 people.

We worked with an incredible team of new volunteers this year, mostly from Reading's refugee community, and were able to welcome their entire families to the events they were supporting.

We also established a new relationship with Reading's Social Worker network, providing free tickets to performances for families who would otherwise be unable to access them.

This year also saw Dance Reading setting up a brand new, regular hiphop battle event, supporting the work of emerging producer Elle George, and bringing in over 70 dancers from across the country, to compete in 1vs1 battles. This event, and the festival, continue to further our aim to bring new and exciting dance experiences to audiences, to provide platforms for young and established dancers, and to celebrate the diversity and breadth of dance in our town.

Beth Allum, Artistic Director



THE HISTORY OF DANCE READING

Dance Reading, previously known as Junction Dance, was founded in 2014, when a group of arts professionals, dancers, producers, writers and teachers got together to consider how to strengthen and raise the profile of the dance landscape in Reading. Whilst there were, and still are, hundreds of dance schools and clubs teaching thousands of young people and adults to dance, there were no venues programming dance, very few accessible and affordable performance spaces and no professional development for dancers locally.

We consulted extensively with the dance sector in the area, finding out their needs, their skills, their interests and their hopes for the future.

We started by addressing the need for professional development through a programme of skill sharing, and then we moved on to our first month long festival in November 2016.

Since then, Dance Reading has grown and grown, and in 2020 we constituted as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation with objectives based on our firm belief that dance and movement are invaluable tools to improve the lives and wellbeing of our wider community. The community work we had been undertaking since 2014 has grown extensively, and the professional programme and festival continues to bring new and exciting dance to Reading, as well as providing a platform for, and showcasing, the dance talent that exists locally.

THE TEAM 2022

We are very lucky to have a fantastic board of trustees who continue to support us and all our work since 2020. They bring a wide range of skills and expertise and we are actively recruiting at the moment for more to add to the team.

We also have a dedicated team of regular freelancers that we work with each year, who bring amazing skills and connections. This year we worked with an additional 134 freelancers across our youth project, schools project and the festival.

TRUSTEES

Daniel Cameron
Irene Cameron
Anuradha Chaturvedi
Danielle Corbishley
Obiageli Onyekpe
Grant Thornton

STAFF

Beth Allum
Artistic Director

Core Freelancers
Tom Ryan
Laura De Moxom
Marley Seville
Elle George
Becky Blackburn
Josie Norman



Volunteers
Sarah Ifidon
Mary Arkinstall
Prue Beckett
Sara Coimbraa
Layal Alhozimi
Rich Moxom
Raghad (Rayan)
Dawn Simmonds
Abdurahman Ismail
Plus young people from
our youth project

DANCE READING FESTIVAL 2022

Dance Reading Festival 22 reached large audiences and focussed community groups with high quality dance performances, workshops and activities. Audiences of over 1400 attended over 23 events across the month of November. 700 pupils from schools in Whitley, an area of high socio-economic deprivation saw innovative contemporary dance and 75 actively participated in tailor-made workshops. Approximately 3000 people saw MDC's performance in the town centre, with a focussed audience of about 800 staying to watch the whole show despite heavy rain. We worked with older people, young people at risk of becoming NEET, emerging artists, local dance schools, children and their families and dance professionals. Feedback told us that people loved the breadth of the programme, the diversity represented both in dance style, age range and type of events. They valued the opportunity to see dance that they would never normally see on a stage in Reading, and they learnt new skills and met new people.

We recruited an amazing team of producers and volunteers to support the delivery of this festival, who were also drawn from communities who are typically under-represented. Most of our volunteers were also refugees, and we were delighted to welcome their whole families to the shows they were working on and to continue to find opportunities for them to engage with the cultural sector in Reading by passing their details on to other arts organisations to find exciting events to be part of. As part of a youth and mental health programme we took young dance students to see their first ever show at Saddlers Wells, BLKDOG by Far From the Norm, and organised a tailor made workshop with one the core company members afterwards, who also grew up in Reading. These experiences will contribute to their achieving an Arts Award and raising their skills and confidence.









27/11 Baby Boogie Digital Disco



03.12 // JUMP Showcase



FILM NIGHT 10.11 // (Re)United by Alleyne Dance



FILM NIGHT 15.11 // Inspiring Playgrounds



FILM NIGHT 17.11 // 8 Tender Solitudes by Fevere...



FILM NIGHT 22.11 // Aur Ek Antaraal by Drishti D...



FILM NIGHT 22.11 // The World is Broken by ILLU...



Open Classe



29.10 // On The Block Battle



05.11 // Fish out of Water by MCDC



05.11 // The Riddle by Nocturn Dance



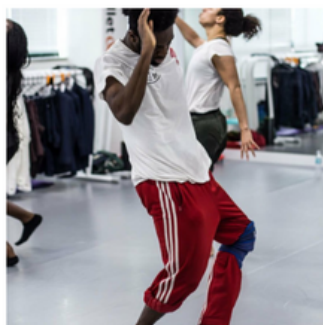
06.11 // AVARTAN by Drishti Dance



10&12.11 // GROW by Kapow Dance



19.11 // Little Murmur by Aakash Odedra



20.11 // Far From the Norm Workshop



23.11 // Born to Protest by Joseph Toonga



26.11 // The Royale Dancehall Flamigos by PC*...



DANCE

Reading

festival 2022



WHY WE DO COMMUNITY WORK

We believe everyone should have access to high quality creative and cultural experiences. Dance is a unique art form, it brings together creativity and self-expression, with physical fitness and social connection and community unlike any other.

We know that dance makes a difference, and we design our projects based on what our community and the dance sector tell us, and where the greatest need is.

In Reading, we are rich in amazing dance schools, classes, social dance groups and dance teachers. We see our role as uniquely placed to support people who face extraordinary barriers to engaging with dance and the arts. We don't run regular classes, but we look for where the community has greatest need and we provide support and infrastructure to enable those people to access the existing opportunities in the town.

For example, we work with older people who struggle to have the confidence to get out to classes, providing support and confidence building projects to enable them to access the existing dance classes in the town.

We provide professional development opportunities to the dance sector, led by their request and needs, to enable them to offer an even higher quality provision. We support collaborations, commission new work and mentor young producers and arts professionals.



INSPIRING PLAYGROUNDS

We worked with The Place for the first time this year, touring two newly created pieces of dance with a wraparound education package for 5 primary schools in Reading.

This project brought two brand new commissioned pieces of Kathak and contemporary dance to over 3000 children and their families, for free. Every child in 5 primary schools took part in the project, with additional wrap around education work, whole school assemblies, workshops and family outreach work. Children had the opportunity to see their own traditional dance and culture reflected back to them in their school setting, that typically doesn't reflect their home cultural practices. The reaction from those children, who lit up, suddenly shouting out 'that's Kathak! I know that!' or "Do you really speak Hindi? I speak Hindi! wow!".



INSPIRING PLAYGROUNDS



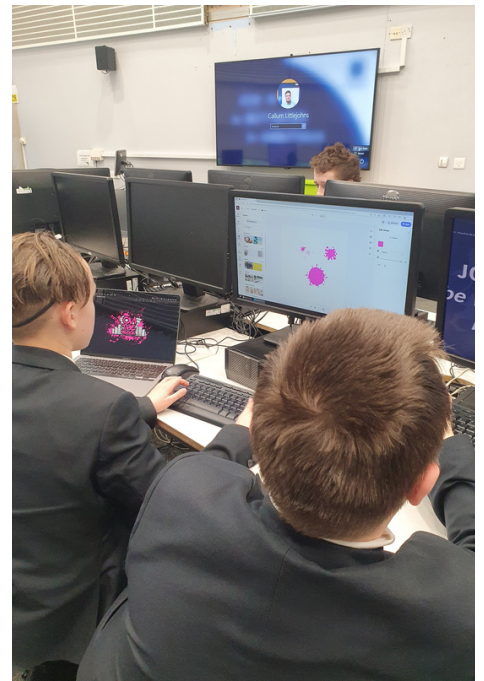
YOUTH AND MENTAL HEALTH PROJECT

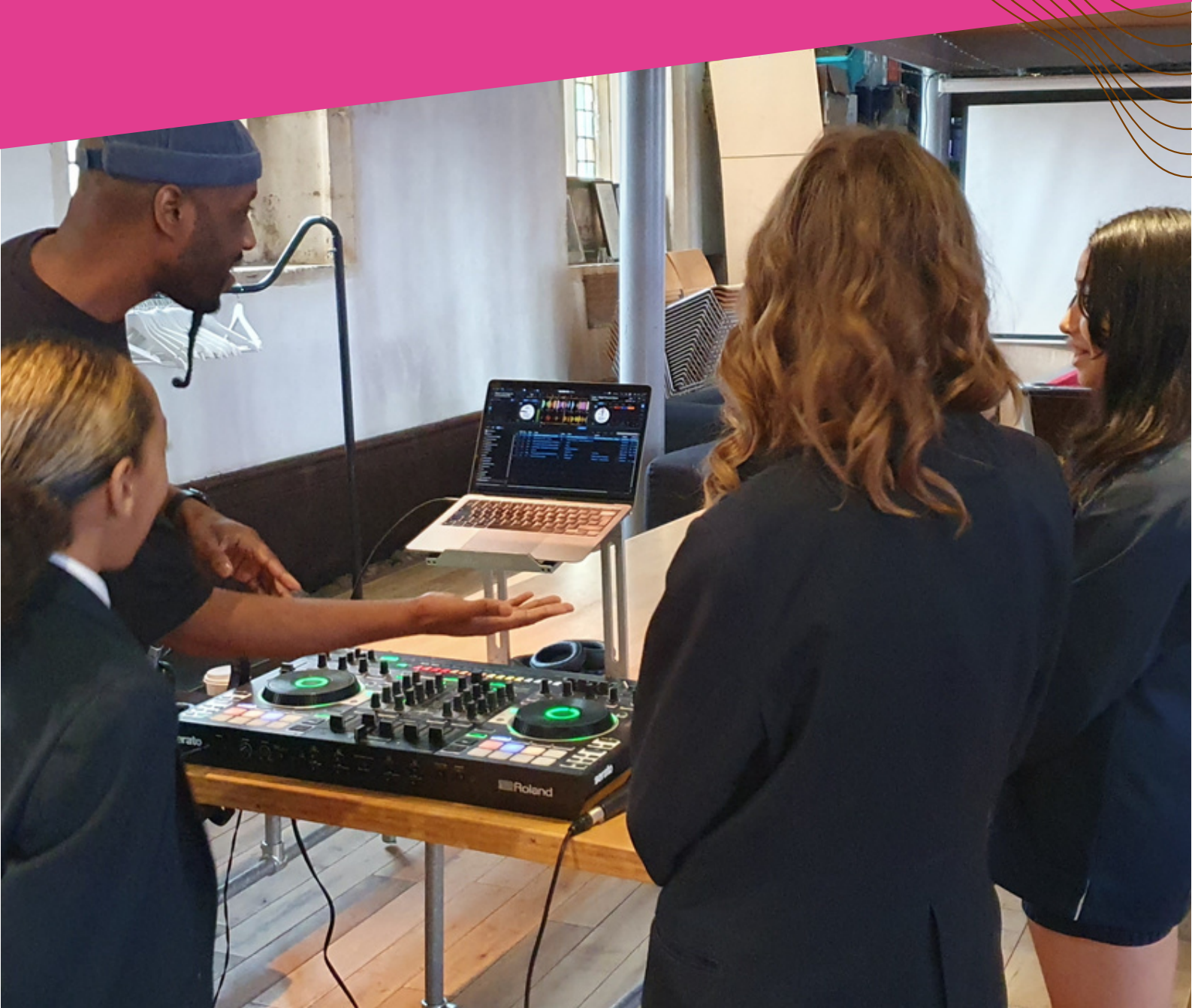
DANCE FOR MENTAL HEALTH

Inspired by a young dancer who was struggling academically and with her mental health, we designed an innovative youth project, to mentor and support young people who were passionate about the arts, enabling them, through the Arts Award, to achieve qualifications, and even UCAS points that would support their futures. The project focussed on tailor making a programme of creative workshops, work experience, confidence building, research, opportunities to meet and work with high level, inspiring, professional artists and to watch and take part in new artistic and creative experiences.

Funding from Reading Borough Council, National Lottery Awards for All, and Berkshire Community Foundation continue to enable us to support and nurture these young people.

We continue to work closely with John Madejski Academy and with Reading School of Dance to deliver this mentoring focussed project, and we are actively seeking funding to continue the work.





FINANCES

DANCE READING CIO No.: 1192879



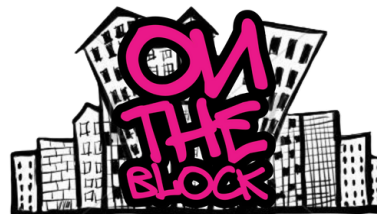
INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT 1/01/2022-31/12/2022

	Year to 31-12-2022		Year to 31-12-2021	
	£	£	£	£
INCOME				
Arts Council Grants	55,830		13,885	
Other Arts Grants & donations	10,690		4,542	
Grant Income		66,520		18,427
Earned Income				
Box Office and misc. income		245		-
Total income		66,765		18,427
EXPENDITURE				
Advertising and marketing	3,593		695	
Technical & Production costs	25,013		10,409	
Artistic Fees (performances & workshops)	32,146		2,399	
Travel	1,609		-	
Hall/theatre hire	2,538		-	
Stationery/prinning	2,279		-	
Insurance	271		-	
Sundry	1,886		-	
Total costs		69,335		13,503
Excess of expenditure over income		(2,570)		4,924
Opening cash balance 01/01/2022		16,240		11,316
Closing cash balance		13,669		16,240

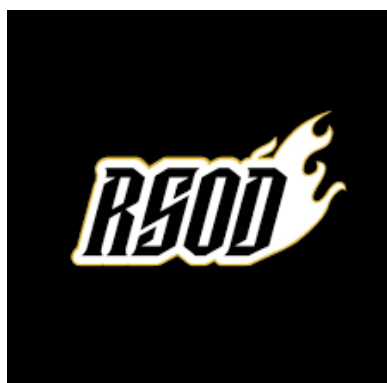
PARTNERS AND COLLABORATORS



Supported using public funding by
**ARTS COUNCIL
ENGLAND**



AGRA DANCE COMPANY



INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT
1/01/2022-31/12/2022

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CHARITY COMMISSION FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Independent examiner's report on the accounts

Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees/
members of

Charity Name
DANCE READING

On accounts for the year
ended

31.12.2022

Charity no
(if any)

119 2879

Set out on pages

FIFTEEN

(remember to include the page numbers of additional sheets)

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended DD / MM / YYYY.

Responsibilities and
basis of report

As the charity trustees of the Trust, 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 Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed 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 (~~other than that disclosed below~~ *) in connection with the examination which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Act or
- the accounts do not accord with the accounting records

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which 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:

Date:

15.9.2023

Name:

SALLY JANE LUTHER

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

ACMA
ACT

Address:

23 WHITFIELD
STANFORD IN THE VALE
OXON SN7 8FL

Only complete if the examiner needs to highlight matters of concern (see CC32, Independent examination of charity accounts: directions and guidance for examiners).

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

N/A