



UNANIMA THEATRE

ANNUAL REPORT



1st April 2024 - 31st March 2025

Charity Name | Unanima Theatre | Charity registration number | 1196242

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is an arts development organisation that provides a variety of creative, cultural and campaign opportunities for learning disabled and autistic people, and the general public, in and around Mansfield & Ashfield.

Unanima is a National Portfolio Organisation for the Arts Council, and a charity that is run by co CEOs Tracy Radford and Dr Brad English, and governed by a trustee board.

Unanima's vision is total equity for learning disabled and autistic people within the arts and society



OUR PURPOSES AND ACTIVITIES

The purposes of the charity as set out in our governing document are:

1. The advancement of the art of drama and the performing arts for the public benefit by:
 - (a) providing opportunities for learning disabled and autistic people to participate in the arts
 - (b) the production and public presentation of dramatic work, presented and performed by learning disabled and autistic people;
2. The promotion of equality and diversity for the public benefit by:
 - (a) working for the elimination of discrimination in the arts on the grounds of cognitive impairment and neurodiversity
 - (b) educating and raising awareness in equality and diversity, in particular by using participation in the arts to challenge perceptions of disability
 - (c) cultivating a sentiment in favour of equality and diversity in the arts

WHO WE SUPPORT



Mansfield is ranked the 36th most deprived area out of the 32,844 LSOAs in England (Nottinghamshire Insight, Indices of Deprivation 2019), is a government Levelling Up area, and a priority area for Arts Council England.

Unanima aims to level up the opportunities for learning disabled and autistic people to enter, explore and pursue careers within the creative industries, and find innovative ways of ensuring this is achieved.

Learning disabled and autistic people experience **unequal educational outcomes** which restricts progress towards inclusion and opportunity. This in turn reinforces injustice, and this ultimately encourages discrimination and segregation within society.

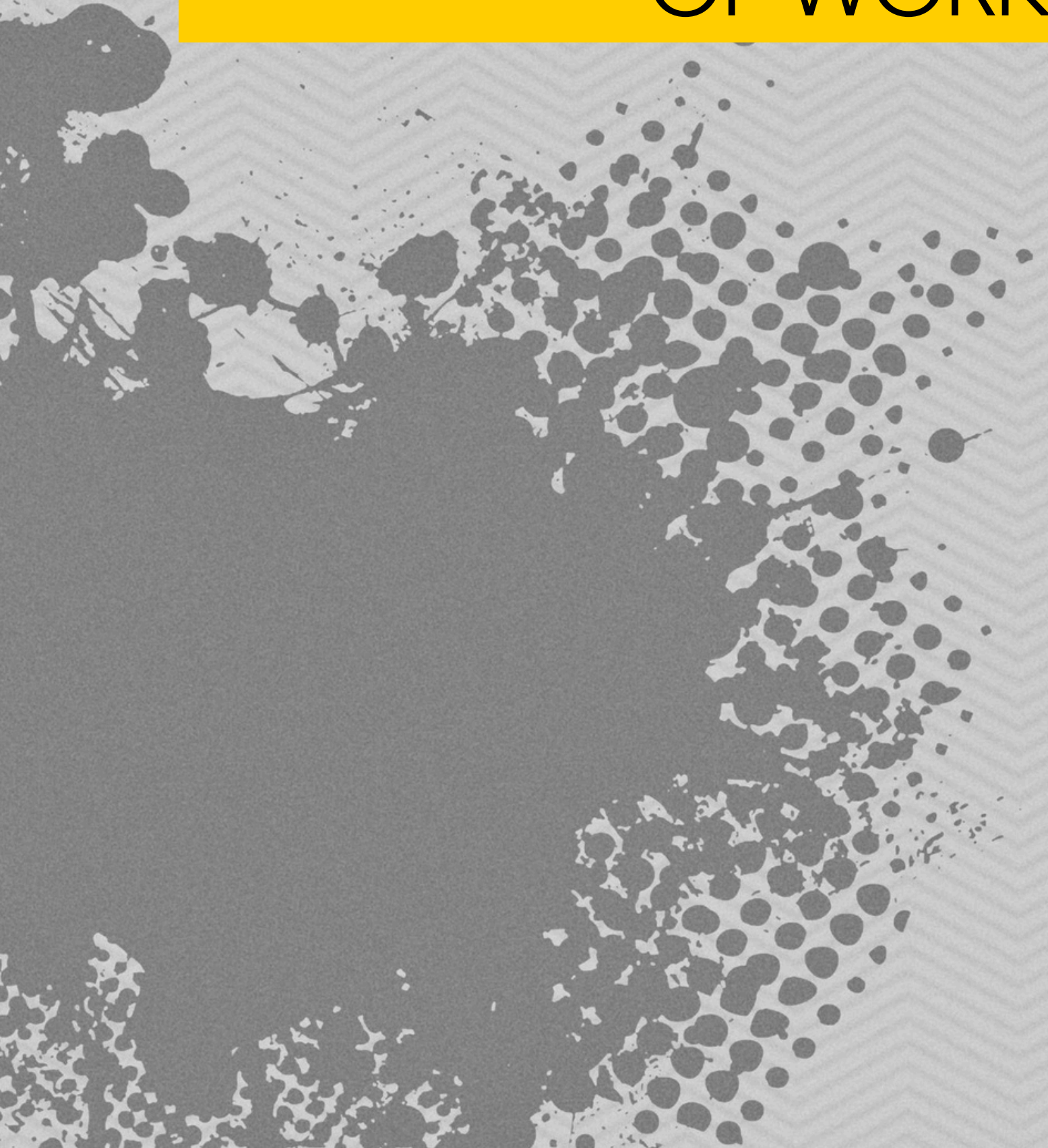
Within the arts this ultimately manifests as a **lack of representation** of learning disabled and autistic people.

We imagine a future where Mansfield & Ashfield is a **nationally recognised** location for diverse arts promotion that is remarkable, engaging, authentic, representative, captivating, inclusive and always has learning disabled and autistic people at the centre.

We have put in place systems, processes and procedures to ensure we are a well-run, dynamic, cultural organisation that leads the way in sector and societal change for learning disabled and autistic people, **creating a cultural heritage for a future that includes, informs and is led by them.**

A future where they feel that society and the arts are something available to them at whatever level they wish to access it.

OUR FOUR AREAS OF WORK



CORE ENSEMBLE

01



The Core Ensemble Is Company in Residence at The Old Library in Mansfield, and has been creating touring work since 2008. Our core ensemble cast are exclusively learning disabled and autistic, and using a collaborative devising process we create unique, witty, provocative theatre based on their lives, experiences and questions about the world and their existence within it. Through compelling performances that invite audiences to laugh, ponder and wonder we seek to stimulate social change.

We are becoming increasingly intolerant of learning disabled and autistic people remaining segregated, overlooked and infantilised by society and we will continue to produce art that sparks solutions until this has stopped.



Is a week long arts and culture festival held across Mansfield that has the primary aim of smashing the stigma and segregation learning disabled and autistic people face on a societal level. OneFest gives learning disabled and autistic people the chance to be out, loud and proud and the rest of the community surprise themselves by getting alongside them and enjoying it.

Across seven days we deliver an exciting line up of entertainment that is rich with high profile professional artists, comedians and creatives. All events are accessible, reasonably priced or free, and provide experiences that will inspire and excite.

HUMAN ARTIST

03



Human Artist is a year long, entry level programme in performance making and creativity, delivered at The Old Library, Mansfield. Participants undergo the exploration of drama elements that expose each learner to the craft of theatre making, giving them the opportunity to flex their creative muscles and enjoy all the wellbeing benefits and transferable skills that are gained through this.

LOCAL AREA NETWORK

04



The Local Area Network of Creative Provision for Learning Disabled and Autistic People - The Network is an initiative developed by Unanima in order to bring all providers of creative provision in Mansfield for learning disabled and autistic (LDA) people together.

In order for LDA people across the region to have an equity of opportunity there needs to be established programmes, pathways, and then routes that enable progression and development. The network has come together to map, plan and radically change the arts offer for LDA people in Mansfield predominantly, but looking forward, see this as the beginnings of an offer that will be of interest to LDA people from outside of the area.

ACHIEVEMENTS & PERFORMANCE



CORE ENSEMBLE



Following a roof raising performance of their show 'State of Independence' at OneFest's Conference event, the company, whose cast is exclusively learning disabled and autistic, have begun working on a new piece of theatre to follow on from this highly successful show.

With a working title of 'Exploring an Existence' they are interrogating what binds us together and what keeps us apart... asking, 'are we really that different?'

To support this production we employed specialist practitioners, Angela Gasparetto, who worked with us as an intimacy and movement coach, costume designer, Lucy Bradridge, and writer Jayne Williams, who ran story devising workshops. All three experts have elevated the show's impact.

Our installation piece 'The Thinking Inside of the Box' had a successful residency at Linney, and our presentation to the wider Linney staff reached over 1,500 viewers.

Arts practitioner Evie Osborn ran a workshop R&D around their new show 'Second Nature', which introduced the cast to new ways of working.

ONEFEST



2024 continued the legacy of bringing an exciting line up of artists and bolder programming. Audience numbers increase year on year, and in increasing diversity.

We delivered extraordinary and expansive cultural experiences that tingled the taste buds and set OneFest on track for being the destination festival to see diverse art. Our continued consultation with community members enabled us to provide targeted access measures that ensured all audiences felt seen, heard, invited and empowered to attend.

OneFest 2024 delivered 14 shows and 7 outreach events across 7 days, and through 5 Mansfield venues. Many events were free, and no ticket price was over £5.

We engaged 53 professional artists, 60% of whom were disabled and / or neurodivergent.

High profile comedian and Coronation Street actor, Jack Carroll mentored and coached our 5 stand up learning disabled and autistic trainee stand up comedians through to performance at the sell out Comedy Showcase event.

And we secured the highly successful emerging group, Girl Band to headline at our Gig event, and the legend that is Charity Shop Sue to compere and perform at our cabaret Night.

ONEFEST



7 DAYS

14 EVENTS

7 OUTREACH
EVENTS

53 ARTISTS

2000+
PARTICIPANTS

[HTTPS://WWW.ONEFEST.UK/ONEFEST24](https://www.onefest.uk/onefest24)

THURS 11TH JULY

LEARNING DISABILITY CONFERENCE

About: Joining forces with Supported Loving (London), we host an afternoon of inspirational talks, performances and workshops on how learning disabled people have demanded more... and got it.
Time: noon - 4:00pm
Location: Mansfield Central Library, The Four Seasons Centre, NG18 1NH
Cost: £10



CABARET NIGHT

About: Saucy burlesque and other fabulousness hosted by *Charity Shop Sue*. Featuring *Drag Syndrome* and *PB*. An event not to be missed...
Time: 6:00pm - 9:00pm
Location: To be confirmed, check website for updates
Cost: £5 (free to conference attendees)



FRI 12 TH JULY

OneFest's annual town centre protest march

MARCH FOR MORE

About: OneFest's annual town centre protest march, led by *Back Chat Brass*, that demands more for learning disabled and autistic people. All welcome, banners at the ready!
Time: 10:30am onwards
Starting point: The Swan Garden area, Church Street, NG18 1AE
Cost: FREE



PARTY UNDER THE ARCHES

About: Then party the day away at OneFest's outdoor extravaganza, with favourites *Liv & Kenya Knott*, *Drag Syndrome*, *Charity Shop Sue*, *Back Chat Brass*, party anthems with *Ellie & Suki*, as well as much, much more! Bar open, food served, and plenty of shelter and seating. What could be better?
Time: 10:30am - 2:30pm
Location: The Swan Garden area, Church Street, NG18 1AE
Cost: FREE

Fancy a chat?



THEATRE SHOW

Learning to Fly by James Rowland

About: By acclaimed writer, storyteller and performer *James Rowland* featuring his captivating mix of storytelling, music and comedy. James tells the story of a remarkable friendship he made when he was a lonely, unhappy teenager with the scary old lady who lived in the spooky house on his street.
Time: 7:00pm - 8:15pm
Location: The Garrison, Leeming Street, NG18 1NA
Cost: £5

SAT 13 TH JULY

THE GIG

About: Bounce around to the soul/pop vibes from the amazing *Rob Green*, before seeing OneFest veteran *PeteBox* get the crowd pumping fresh off The Voice UK (will he bring William?!). Then experimental LD rockers *Ultimate Thunder* crash into town setting the stage for our **secret headliners**, with a few other treats for your ears scattered in between.
Time: 6:30pm - 9:30pm
Location: The Old Library, Leeming Street, NG18 1NG
Cost: £5



SUN 14 TH JULY

VIDEO GAMING TOURNAMENT

About: Sign up and compete for prizes in three different challenges, on a massive screen, in front of a crowd. Mix of new and retro games.
Time: 11:00am - 1:00pm
Location: The Old Library, Leeming Street, NG18 1NG
Cost: £5



COMEDY MIXED BILL

About: An early evening of laughs delivered to you by our stellar line up of professional comedians (and all done in time to get back and watch the Euros 2024 Final. OneFest lets you have it all!)
Time: 5:00pm - 7:00pm
Location: Cheeky Monkeys, Leeming Street, NG18 1NG
Cost: £5



ingenious FOOLS



Family friendly BSL interpreted Accessible 18+ Adult Only

ABOUT ONEFEST

Get ready to have your taste buds tingled!... **OneFest** is here with a delicious seven day line up. See extraordinary theatre, music and comedy, brought to you by learning disabled, disabled, divergent and non-disabled artists.
 Get involved in our workshops, have your voice heard in our conference, but most of all come and party your socks off with us... you're all welcome and it's beautiful here

FUNDERS / SUPPORT



@onefestnotts X @if www.onefest.uk



MON 15 TH JULY

DRAG BINGO

About: Hosted by OneFest's favourite Drag Artists *Liv & Kenya Knott*. You are guaranteed to have an afternoon you won't forget... will these lucky balls bring you prizes?
Time: 1:00pm - 2:30pm
Location: andwhynot, Leeming Street NG18 1NG
Cost: Bingo cards £1 each



TENSWIFTY - NIGHT CLUB

About: Shake Off early bedtimes and stay up late with us. For one night only TENSIFTY becomes TENSIFTY as we welcome the UK's premiere Taylor Swift Tribute (*Kaylie Malone*) to our exclusively learning disabled and neurodivergent nightclub.
Time: 6:30pm - 10:00pm
Location: andwhynot, Leeming Street, NG18 1NG
Cost: £5 (carers go free)



TUE 16 TH JULY

PUB QUIZ

About: A quiz written by and for the learning disabled and neurodivergent. Gather your friends and your pens, and let's see who gets crowned OneFest's 2024 Pub Quiz Champions!
Time: 1:00pm - 2:30pm
Location: andwhynot, Leeming Street, NG18 1NG



TUE 16 TH JULY

COMEDY SHOWCASE

About: Five budding learning disabled and neurodivergent stand-up comedians have been trained by *Jack Carroll* to develop material and stage presence. They will perform the support slots before Jack headlines the evening. Finishing runner up on Britain's Got Talent, finding further fame on TV in shows like *Trollied*, and now *Coronation Street* (as *Bobby Crawford*), Jack Carroll's latest offering is NOT to be missed.
Time: 7:00pm - 9:00pm
Location: andwhynot, Leeming Street, NG18 1NG
Cost: £5



WED 17 TH JULY

RANDOM ACTS OF KINDNESS

About: We take to the streets to engage in positivity-based activism. If you want the world to be a better place, meet us in the pub to hatch a plan to be the change we want to see.
Time: 11:00am - 12:30pm
Location: Meet at Capo Lounge, Stockwell Gate, NG18 1LE
Cost: FREE



CREATIVE WRITING WORKSHOP

About: Join Writing East Midlands who will guide you through the tips and techniques in creative writing. No experience required. This event is exclusively for learning disabled and neurodivergent people 16years+
Time: 1:00pm - 2:30pm
Location: The Swan Garden Area, Church Street, NG18 1AE



ONLY 15 SPACES

WED 17 TH JULY

THEATRE SHOW

Vocation by Aoife Lennon

About: Maggie takes us on a journey through her first year as a teacher in a SEND school. Though she loves the job, the pressures of overloaded classrooms, lack of resources, and emotional burnout push her to breaking point. A funny but challenging show, that asks who the system actually works for?!
Time: 6:30pm - 8:30pm
Location: The Horizon, Church Street, Mansfield, NG18 1AF
Cost: £5

VOCATION



OUR IMPACT IN 2023



@onefestnotts X @if

Book tickets and find out more: www.onefest.uk

OneFest is brought to you

ONE FEST 11-17TH JULY MANSFIELD, UK



13TH JULY

Your paragraph text

ONE
FEST
-2024-

GIRLBAND!

MANSFIELD

*'Can't believe Girl Band are playing in Mansfield.
Thanks OneFest, this has been the icing on the
cake for what has been another fantastic
festival - we have loved it every minute.
Can't wait for next year!'*

OneFest audience member quote

HUMAN ARTIST



We have moved delivery of this work to The Old Library, Mansfield, and have recruited new LDA community members to undertake the programme

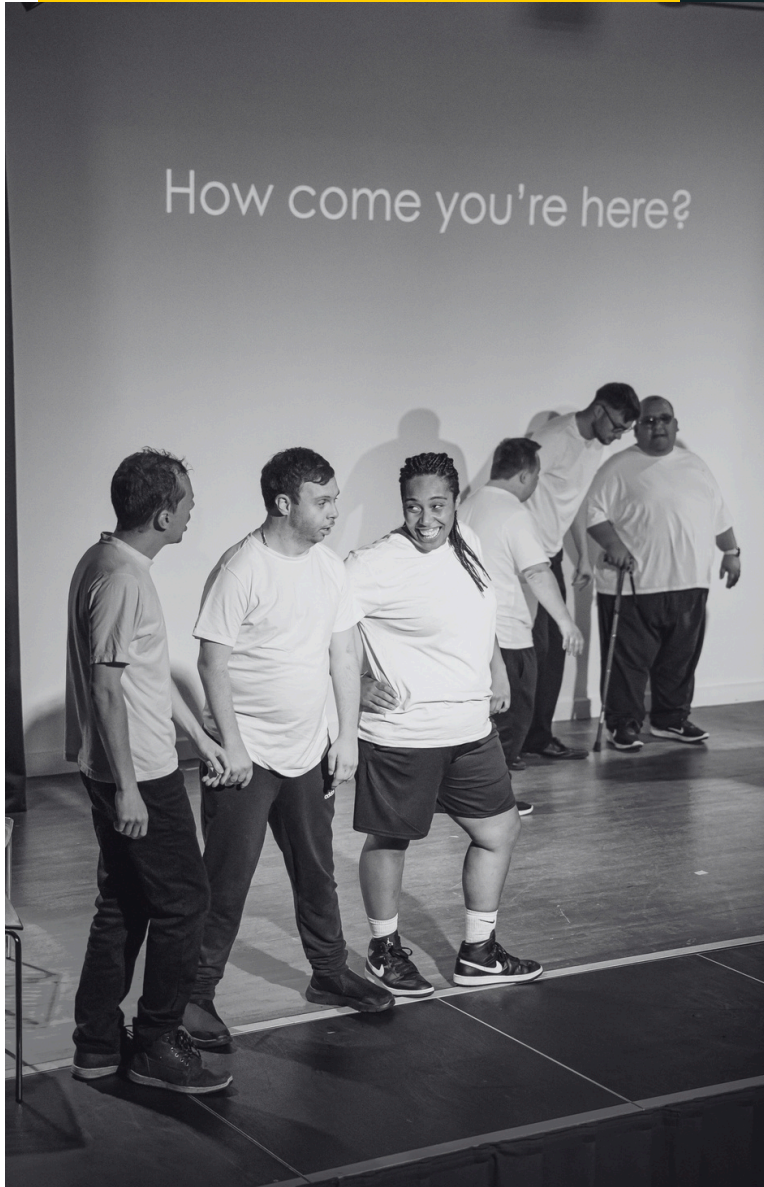
We have professional practitioners planning and running these sessions, along with a psychologist who ensures everyone understands what is being asked of them, and that the process is authentic.

With a format of two hours theatre training and one hour for social development, this programme not only offers participants the chance to discover the arts, but the final hour gives them space to develop social confidence and create new friendships.

We worked with 6 participants this year, and have people interested for the next cohort.

We brought in Chronic Insanity, a Nottingham based theatre company led by theatre makers Nat Henderson and Joe Strickland, who are passionate about challenging every element of theatre making, from the inception of the idea to after the final performance. The group wanted to interrogate the effects of AI, and aim to produce a short film of their findings.

LOCAL AREA NETWORK



We have worked across the past 12 months to further develop the concept of a theatre conservatoire programme for learning disabled and autistic adults. We have worked closely with the task group to deep dive into this concept, and will spend the next year running an R&D to interrogate the idea further.

This is an exciting prospect for the area as well as for learning disabled and autistic arts representation, and would dovetail brilliantly into the planned strands arts development that we aim to deliver through Unanima going forwards.

The creation of a conservatoire programme to train learning disabled and autistic people would also raise ambition within schools and colleges to deliver arts in their curriculum as they would have something to aim for.

OUR TRUSTEES



TRUSTEES



ANDY DAWSON

Chair of Trustees

As former Manager of Inspire Youth Arts, Andy has been a long time supporter of Unanima from its inception, and a constant champion for disabled arts representation. Andy is a skilled project manager, accomplished guitarist and song writer, and brings his vast experience of working as an NPO to the trustee board.



EMMA HANNON

As a Learning Disability and Epilepsy Nurse, Emma has extensive experience of the community we are trying to reach and intelligence into the barriers they face. This, along with vital professional and community network connections, make Emma a trustee that is well equipped to guide us as we advance with our mission.



SOPHIE HACK

Sophie is the Project and Participation Producer for Dante or Die Theatre.

Sophie produces and project manages specific projects and collaborates and engages with diverse community groups, theatres, and councils to encourage participation through performance. Sophie's knowledge of both the arts and community engagement is essential to the trustee board

TRUSTEES



SARAH ORTON

Sarah is a qualified social worker, specialising in adult care, with 24 years experience of working in Local Authority services.

Sarah joined the team as she is passionate about the rights of learning disabled and / or autistic people to have the right and opportunity to live a fully inclusive life, and feels that she can be most effective in promoting this through her role as a trustee for Unanima.

Sarah brings both specialist knowledge and a zeal for social change.



WILL FARR

Will is an aspiring actor, activist, comedian, and member of the Unanima Core Ensemble. Will says he has finally found a space to truly feel himself around his peers and finds being part of the Unanima cast offers him the platform he's always wanted to advocate for himself and others.

Will is autistic and as such brings invaluable expertise by experience to the board of trustees.

Will has a drive to make serious inroads into levelling up and increasing diversity within leadership and society as a whole.

FINANCES



DECLARATION

This report represents a statement from the trustees that this report is a true and accurate record of the work of the charity, and is informed by guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit.

The charity's aim of the advancement of the art of drama and the performing arts for the public benefit runs through all strands of Unanima's work, and is robustly considered when planning forward.

Approved 13.09.25

Unanima Theatre
The Old Library
Leeming Street
Mansfield
Notts
NG18 1NG

Charity number: 1196242



UNANIMA THEATRE
Charity number 1196242
Accounts for the period to 31st March 2025

Statement of Financial Activities

		Year to 31.3.25	Year to 31.3.25	Year to 31.3.25	Year to 31.3.24
		Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total Funds	Unrestricted Funds
	Note	£	£	£	£
Incoming Resources					
Donations and legacies		240,805	34,500	275,305	292,031
Charitable activities		24,226	21,848	46,074	9,455
	2	265,031	56,348	321,379	301,486
Resources Expended					
Charitable activities	4	270,715	10,021	280,736	212,304
Net Expenditure/Income		-5,684	46,327	40,643	89,182
Transfer from the OneFest account	7				3,802
Total Funds brought forward		209,665	0	209,665	116,681
Total Funds carried forward	8	203,981	46,327	250,308	209,665

Balance Sheet at 31st March 2025

		Year to 31.3.25	Year to 31.3.25	Year to 31.3.25	Year to 31.3.24
		Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total Funds	Unrestricted Funds
		£	£	£	£
Current Assets					
Cash at bank		52,326	46,327	98,653	209,665
Deposit account		151,895		151,895	
		204,221	46,327	250,548	209,665
Current Liabilities					
		240		240	0
Total Net Assets		203,981	46,327	250,308	209,665

Notes to the Accounts

1 Accounting Policies

1

Basis of Accounting

These accounts have been prepared under the historical cost convention 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. The charity constitutes a public benefit entity.

Income

Income is included in the Statement of Financial Activities when the charity becomes entitled to the resources and the monetary value can be measured with sufficient reliability. There has been no offsetting in assets or liabilities, or income and expenditure. Grants and donations are only included in the Statement of Financial Activities when the general income criteria are met.

Reserves

The Trustees have a policy to hold unrestricted money on reserve which is sufficient to cover any unexpected drop in income. This policy is regularly reviewed. Currently unrestricted reserves are £203,981 which is equal to 75% of annual expenditure and are therefore considered to be sufficient for the ongoing operations of the charity.

2 Analysis of Income

	Year to 31.3.25 Unrestricted Funds £	Year to 31.3.25 Restricted Funds £	Year to 31.3.25 Total Funds £	Year to 31.3.24 Unrestricted Funds £
Donations and Legacies				
Grants - ACE NPO	232,000		232,000	232,000
Grants - Other	0		0	14,578
Sponsorship and donations	1,602	30,000	31,602	34,750
Local authority income	7,203	4,500	11,703	10,703
	240,805	34,500	275,305	292,031
Charitable activities				
Subscriptions	5,371		5,371	4,779
OneFest Ticket sales	2,602		2,602	1,226
Access to work	1,296		1,296	3,036
Other income	14,957	21,848	36,805	414
	24,226	21,848	46,074	9,455

3 Grants

Unanima Theatre has been awarded Arts Council England, National Portfolio Organisation status and has been awarded a grant of £696,000 over three years, starting with the year to 31st March 2024. Arts Council England can only guarantee future instalments of the grant as long as sufficient funds from the Government and /or National Lottery are available to it.

4	Analysis of Expenditure	Year to 31.3.25 Unrestricted Funds £	Year to 31.3.25 Restricted Funds £	Year to 31.3.25 Total Funds £	Year to 31.3.24 Unrestricted Funds £
	Charitable Activities				
	Staff Costs	125,162	7,704	132,866	127,198
	Direct Activity Costs	91,706	450	92,156	61,536
	Overheads	53,847	1,867	55,714	23,570
		<u>270,715</u>	<u>10,021</u>	<u>280,736</u>	<u>212,304</u>
5	Fees paid to the Independent Examiner	<u>240</u>		<u>240</u>	<u>240</u>
6	Staff Costs				
	Salaries	101,654		101,654	95,000
	Social Security Costs	5,260		5,260	4,344
	Pensions	10,163		10,163	9,500
	Self employed staff	8,085	7,704	15,789	18,354
		<u>125,162</u>	<u>7,704</u>	<u>132,866</u>	<u>127,198</u>

No employees received employee benefits (excluding employer pension costs) for the reporting period of more than £60,000

Number of employees 3 3

In April 2023 three members of the self employed staff were given permanent employment contracts by the charity. Other staff continue to be paid on a self employed basis.

7 Transfer of funds from OneFest

The annual arts festival held in Mansfield "OneFest" has now been brought under the control of Unanima Theatre CIO and the funds of £3,802 have been transferred.

8	Movement on Reserves	31.3.24 £	Income £	Expenditure £	31.3.25 £
	Unrestricted Reserves	209,665	265,031	270,715	203,981
	Oliver McGowan	0	20,976	7,776	13,200
	One Conversation	0	35,372	2,245	33,127
		<u>209,665</u>	<u>321,379</u>	<u>280,736</u>	<u>250,308</u>

The Oliver McGowan Mandatory Training is a standardised training package developed by NHS England and Skills for Care to meet the requirement of the Health and Care Act 2022 that providers registered with the CQC must ensure that staff receive learning disability and autism training appropriate to their role.

Unanima recruits and trains Experts by Lived Experience capable of undertaking the role of Expert Co-Trainer.

One Conversation was previously run as a separate CIO. The objects of the charity were:

The promotion of equality and diversity for the public benefit by:

- The elimination of discrimination on the grounds of disability
- advancing education and raising awareness in equality and diversity
- promoting activities to foster understanding between people who are from diverse backgrounds
- cultivating a sentiment in favour of equality and diversity.

The total funds of £35,372 were transferred to Unanima Theatre to be held in a restricted fund and the separate One Conversation CIO has been closed down.

EXAMINERS REPORT

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF UNANIMA THEATRE CIO

Independent examiner's report to the trustees of Unanima Theatre CIO

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of Unanima Theatre CIO (the Trust) for the year ended 31 March 2025.

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 Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under Section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent examiner's statement Since your charity's gross income exceeded £250,000 your examiner must be a member of a listed body. I can confirm that I am qualified to undertake the examination because I am a member of the Association of Chartered Certified Accountants, which is one of the listed bodies. 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 Trust as required by Section 130 of the Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or the accounts do not comply with the applicable
3. requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a true and fair view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

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.



Richard Shaw FCCA
The Association of Chartered Certified Accountants
Beeley Hawley & Co. Ltd
Chartered Accountants
42-44 Nottingham Road
Mansfield
Nottinghamshire
NG18 1BL
Date:28th October 2025....

The image features a bright yellow vertical bar on the left side. The background is a light gray with a subtle, repeating chevron pattern. Overlaid on this background are several abstract, dark gray shapes: a large, irregular splash-like form in the center-right, and smaller, scattered circular and irregular marks along the left edge.

GET IN TOUCH

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