

PEOPLE'S COMPANY

England & Wales · Charity number 1199022

Details

Status Registered

Legal form CIO

Registered 2022-05-19

Register [View on the Charity Commission register](#)

Contact

Address Southwark Playhouse
77-85 Newington Causeway
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Activities

Objects: THE ADVANCEMENT OF THE ARTS AND THE EDUCATION OF THE PUBLIC IN THE APPRECIATION AND UNDERSTANDING OF PERFORMING ARTS IN ALL THEIR FORMS, THROUGH THE OPERATION, FACILITATION AND MANAGEMENT OF PEOPLE'S COMPANY THEATRE FOR THE PUBLIC BENEFIT.

Activities: Arts-based activities are at the heart of PC. We seek to provide a creative voice and platform for the people of Southwark, utilising our rich cultural heritage to develop arts and drama-based community activities, produced and performed locally in Southwark

Classification

- **How:** Provides Services
- **What:** Arts/culture/heritage/science
- **Who:** The General Public/mankind

Geography

- Southwark

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-04-30	£6,700	£9,936	-	-
2024-04-30	£14,536	£8,121	-	-
2023-04-30	£18,698	£7,021	-	-


Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Lorraine Phyllis Hilton		2024-03-13
Mina Temple		2022-05-19
Shelagh Farren		2022-05-19
Susan Hayes		2022-05-19

PEOPLE'S COMPANY

England & Wales - Charity number 1199022

Accounts

<p>People's Company</p> <p>Charity No. 1199022</p> <p>Trustee Annual Report 2024/2025</p>	
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Purpose of the charity

The advancement of the arts and the education of the public in the appreciation and understanding of performing arts in all their forms, through the operation, facilitation and management of People's Company theatre for the public benefit.

Activities

Several months consumed the group with the preparation and performance of a full cast play, *Once Upon A Market*. Funded by Kaleidoscope, a local community BME group, this play was based on stories of traders from East Street market, their journeys to the country, journeys of life and their histories and particularly Prince Monolulu, a racing tipster and the first black man on the BBC. The full Company was employed in this production, from researching lives at the archives, interviewing people, writing of dialogue and compilation into the script, editing and then into the rehearsal period, with the appropriate stage management, plus props and costume production. Following on from the previous year, the Artistic Director handed the direction of this piece over to a Company Member, as an ongoing intent to provide directorial experience to members interested in this tranche of the dramatic arts. Unfortunately, due to the originally scheduled date being changed by the Playhouse, several members of the cast had to withdraw during rehearsal and the piece slimmed down. However, those members were involved with producing the piece in other ways, just not able to make the actual performance, which shone to 3 nights at Southwark Playhouse.

Completion of Phase 2 of the Outreach programme was carried over from the previous year. In line with our funder's wishes, we targeted an established group already funded by them and whom they thought would be interested and would benefit from the sessions. Regrettably, this proved not to be the case as the numbers from this group were low and the uptake was not great. Due to time constraints we were then unable to establish sessions within the funding period and we returned the underspend to the funder.

To celebrate PC's 10th anniversary, a one night performance was organised at Southwark Playhouse in February 2025. Playing to a full house, it was a mix of new writing and vintage pieces, monologues, short plays and ended with a song. It was a total company involvement, with a new tranche of members facing their first performance. Members who were interested in writing were given the theme of 'Forward' for short plays, and they pitched their work in front of a panel. Some company members opted to take over the direction of the three short plays chosen. Several ex-members returned to perform in monologues and vintage pieces and with so many diverse groups rehearsing in differing locations, we were fortunate to have a Trustee, who is an actress, attend some rehearsals to offer feedback. The whole production was then pulled together by the Artistic Director. Many ex-members attended on the night as part of the sold-out audience and the evening was a great success.

At this production, we remembered Jackie Kearns and Peter Wright, who brought so much to the company and who are greatly missed. The 'Jackie Kearns Creative Writing prize' was awarded for the first time, to the three writers who were chosen, and will become an annual award henceforth.

Kaleidoscope asked PC to further promote the legend of Prince Monolulu. Using research undertaken on Prince Monolulu's life for the play Once Upon A Market, stories were garnered from local people and woven into a performance of parts of his life and theirs via animated walks. These were very well attended and Kaleidoscope was delighted with the result.

We consider that we have achieved our objective of providing a creative voice and platform for the people of Southwark in the past year, both within People's Company and by external work in the community with PC members, specifically:

- (1) Due to moving to a bigger rehearsal space, we were able to increase Company numbers and immediately include the new tranche of members into a performance within 8 weeks of joining.
- (2) Productions throughout the year have involved all Members of the Company, either in performance, backstage activities, writing and directing.
- (3) We continue to raise our voice in the community, not only at performances at Southwark Playhouse, but via our animated tours, which are always well-supported, and at community events.
- (4) Although Phase 2 of the Outreach programme did not gather the numbers we had hoped, those that attended found it fulfilling. As the funder dictated the attendance group, we have agreed with them that this aspect will be assessed for any future projects. Outreach will remain very much at the heart of our activities and we now have a core of skilled facilitators to call upon.
- (5) We continue to expand our involvement with local community groups, performing at their events, promoting their interests by use of the arts and by joining together as a consortium to fund and organise creative events within the borough of Southwark.

Operating Committee

The Operating Committee has seen some changes in personnel, but has bedded in with the remit of each OpCom member now established. The Trustees, with the Chair of the OpCom, will continue to look at the make-up of the Committee as the Company ventures into future developments and will continue to review and strengthen our governance.

Finance

Our finances are steady as, even in these difficult funding days, we continue to be supported by (mainly) local Southwark funders and in conjunction with other community groups. It is gratifying that for the past 2 years we have received part of box office receipts from Southwark Playhouse, an indication of the confidence shown in us by the Playhouse.

Other

Nine new members joined in late 2024 and went straight into the production for the 10th anniversary. We introduced a 3 month probationary period with this intake, to ensure that PC is a good fit on both sides.

Our Patron, Joe Fiennes, ran a Masterclass for the Company, based on an Act from As You Like It. We are very grateful for his support and the Company thoroughly enjoyed and appreciated the evening. Joe and John Whelan (Artistic Director) continue to discuss further promotional actions.

The Artistic Director has worked for many months pulling together a consortium of interested parties and funders for the 'Bermondsey & Rotherhithe In Song' Festival, in which PC will play a major part. Parties include musicians, property developers and social housing groups plus a group of funders ranging from HLF to local funders. This project will be run under the auspices of the Bermondsey Cherry Gardens Tenants & Residents Association and will be a community involvement project, requiring research undertaken by local people from archives and local museums, to winkle out the history via locally composed music and events from the late 19th Century. Together with music from the times, the Musical Director will compose lyrics and music for new songs, dance will be choreographed and a play written, to be performed in early 2026. People's Company will perform snippets of song and dance together with oral history on animated walking tours as part of the Festival, to market the idea and garner research interest from attendees.

There has been considerable involvement in preparing the three-year Company strategy over the past year. This is based on feedback from members and local interested parties, plus possible funding availability. The Artistic Director is compiling this document, bringing his vision and knowledge to the strategy, which should be available for Trustee review in the Summer of 2025 and hopefully in place by December 2025. Funding applications, based on the draft document, are already being considered, as we hope that, in line with our proposed (but not finalised) strategy, to seek longer-term funding, rather than project-to-project.

Trustees

The trustees continue in place and have taken considerable interest throughout the year in strengthening our governance via policies and procedures, plus several of them were able to bring their background in the arts to aid performances during the year.

(People's Company Trustees

Annual report to the Charity Commission 2024/2025)


People's Company Annual Accounts (24/25), year end 30 April 25		
b/f cash from year 23/24	6,414.60	
Assets (Cash)	6,414.60	
Assets, debts, liabilities, payroll, etc.	0.00	
Total Assets		6,414.60
Income		
Elephant & Castle Prop. Company (Inspiring Elephant) Monolulu Tours **	4,000.00	
Southwark Playhouse Box Office for OUAM	2,201.75	
Southwark Playhouse Box Office 10th anniversary	498.00	
Annual income total	6,699.75	6,699.75
Payments inward		
Kaleidoscope share of zoom	51.96	
FoPP share of zoom	51.96	
Total payments inward	103.92	103.92
Payments outward		
Kaleidoscope for Inspiring Elephant Monolulu Tour funding	4,000.00	
London Community Fund repayment of Outreach underspend	1,041.66	
	5,041.66	(5,041.66)
Outgoings		
Outreach Project, Phase 2		
Rehearsal space	120.00	
Project Management	450.00	
Facilitation of workshops and expenses	1,471.44	
Total Outreach	2,041.44	(2,041.44)
Once Upon a Market		
Complimentary Tickets	117.00	
Total OUAM	117.00	(117.00)
10th Anniversary		
Rehearsal space	280.00	
Programmes	32.70	
Props & costume	139.86	
Equipment, transport, travel expenses	326.53	
Graphics	600.00	
Complimentary refreshments	600.00	
Present for Director	11.27	
Total 10th Anniversary	1,990.36	(1,990.36)
Admin/General		
Annual insurance	230.31	
zoom	155.88	
Website	129.60	
Google storage	79.99	
Social media/website	27.00	
Trustee expenses	42.20	
Admin supplies	31.20	
Transport	9.93	
Annual writing trophies	38.97	
Total Admin	745.08	(745.08)

	Summary Outgoings		
	Kaleidoscope	(4,000.00)	
	London Community Fund repayment	(1,041.66)	
	Outreach	(2,041.44)	
	Once Upon a Market	(117.00)	
	10th Anniversary	(1,990.36)	
	Admin/General	(745.08)	
	Total outgoings YTD	(9,935.54)	(9,935.54)
	Summary all income		
	Annual income	6,699.75	
	Payments inward	103.92	
	Total outgoings	(9,935.54)	
	b/f cash from previous year	6,414.60	
	Cash on hand	3,282.66	
	Restricted funding	0.00	
	Unrestricted cash on hand	3,282.66	
	NB: **Inspiring Elephant funding for Monolulu tours taken by PC on behalf of Kaleidoscope, as a charity was required.		
	For approval at AGM on 1 July 2025		
	Appointed Trustee (Susan Hayes)	<i>S. Hayes</i>	
	Treasurer (Shelagh Farren)	<i>Shelagh Farren</i>	

PEOPLE'S COMPANY

England & Wales - Charity number 1199022

Accounts

<p>People's Company</p> <p>Charity No. 1199022</p> <p>Trustee Annual Report 2023/2024</p>	
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Purpose of the charity

The advancement of the arts and the education of the public in the appreciation and understanding of performing arts in all their forms, through the operation, facilitation and management of People's Company theatre for the public benefit.

Activities

The Outreach project, which had just commenced training at the end of the last financial year, was successfully completed. The purpose of the project was to train facilitators from People's Company to run sessions in drama, writing and story-telling techniques, with groups formed from across the community, and their offering performed on stage at Southwark Playhouse. The groups were widely differing, consisting of Arts for Dementia; a homeless group; a South American dance group; a mixed race and intergenerational group of locals; several people from the Company's waiting list who were interested in writing came together to form a cohort and a group of people with Autism were also originally intended to be part of the project.

The project outcome exceeded all expectations. The actual performance was incredible, being moving, funny, informative and story-telling at its best. Many involved had never been involved in theatre or on a stage, but they performed beautifully and very movingly. The feedback from the groups to their Facilitators about the training and the actual staging was extremely positive and it showed in their performances - people doing what most had never done before with confidence and brio - to a very responsive audience.

Individually, the Facilitators learned a great deal about working in the community, how to bring unknown people together, to bind them as a team, to tease their stories out, to direct and shape performances and, in some instances, how to cope with disordered or less stable lives and, in this process, also learned a lot about themselves. The task was challenging for almost all Facilitators, mainly being new to this process, with hurdles to be overcome on a weekly basis by some groups, whether it was a working mother with childcare problems or homelessness issues. Despite best efforts, the Autistic client group did not materialise, but provided insight into arranging future sessions for people who struggle managing routines. A lot of lessons were learned about all aspects of Outreach, which will be taken on board in future projects.

One participant became a member of People's Company, off the back of the Outreach programme, and is involved in the current production's rehearsals.

The second tranche of the Outreach session commenced just prior to year end and will be reported on in the next annual return.

'Black Box ', a performance of short plays and monologues, written, performed and directed by PC members was staged in August 2023, in front of a sold-out audience. The overall direction of this piece was undertaken by one member (who is also the Deputy OpCom Chair) for the first time, rather than the Artistic Director, empowering more directorial talent and freeing the AD for further tasks. Established Company members were able to build on previous work undertaken in composing, performing and directing in smaller groups, with new members bringing skills to the fore and writing pieces for the first time. The performance was extremely well received and provided the Company with revenue from the Box Office.

People's Company continued in partnership with several local community groups, with cast members performing short pieces at their events or during animated walks, which provided an opportunity for partial try-out of scenes from plays being written and characterisation of individuals.

We consider that we have achieved our objective of providing a creative voice and platform for the people of Southwark in the past year, both within People's Company and by external work in the community with PC members, specifically:

(1). The Outreach project was a new prospect for the Company and several of its members as they were trained in Facilitation to bring drama techniques to the wider community. Much of what is taught in drama can bring well-being and confidence to people's lives, but many people do not think of ever attending theatre, or a theatre group. Instead, it was decided to take it out of the theatre space directly to small groups in the community, exposing such skills to them on site and rounding it off back in the theatre space with a performance. It was a learning experience for virtually everyone involved and the feedback from participants ranged from 'challenging, supportive, empowering, representative, hard work, fun'. Seeing people on stage in front of a live audience, feeling confident, enjoying themselves, telling their stories and entertaining the viewers made the Trustees feel extremely content. The second phase of this project is currently underway.

(2) 'Black Box continued a previous theme of empowering Company members to write short pieces, forming small groups to enact said pieces and with an appointed director for those who wished to try out directing skills. Some of the newer members were encouraged to put forward written pieces, joining current members who had past experience of this format. Overall direction was undertaken by a Company member (which was a first not directly led by the AD for the Company) and she did a wonderful job of pulling it all together in a sold out night at the Playhouse.

(3) New members have joined Peoples' Company, some via the Outreach project. We only wish we could take more, but are limited by our rehearsal space size.

Future productions

It is the intention of the Artistic Director to perform two major pieces and one smaller/shorter performance annually. The current project is 'Once Upon a Market', which Company members devised and has involved the Writers' group, the Cast and with other members of PC involved in backstage and production activities. It is still in rehearsal mode for a 4 night run at Southwark Playhouse at the end of June 2024 and will be reported on more fully in the next annual return.

Work is also in progress for the future major production, 'Bermondsey and Rotherhithe through Song', hopefully to be staged in the new year, with the project currently being fleshed out and funding sought. This is a large project encompassing a new music-narrated play, an exhibition,

heritage training, a choral evening, an animated tour and arranged talks, and is being organised in conjunction with Bermondsey and Rotherhithe Tenants & Residents' Association.

Other

The Operating Committee was fully operational by January 2024 and is functioning in an organised and involved manner, being manned by members of the Company, all with formal job descriptions, which has strengthened the management structure.

Joseph Fiennes very kindly agreed to become the Patron of People's Company. He came and spent an evening with the whole Company, to better understand the ethos of the Company. It was a relaxed evening, allowing the Company to quiz him and Joe to listen to the members and he has promised to be an active Patron, openly seeking commitment. We are very grateful for his input in what is a busy working and family life.

Finance

As usual, most of our income came from funders such as local charities, local community funds or in conjunction with another community group. Again this year we received part of the box office receipts for 'Black Box', our second year of receiving payment for performances. We have this year some restricted funds to carry over, as the Outreach project, part 2, continues into the next financial year. We continue to seek a matrix of funders for our projects and in this context we have joined with Kaleidoscope BME Festival, with whom we work in partnership on a variety of events, to fund the (currently in rehearsal) production of 'Once upon a Market'.

Trustees

We are very happy to say that we not only recruited a replacement Trustee, Lucy Moore, but Lorraine Hilton also agreed to join the board. We are very grateful to both of them for volunteering their service. Unfortunately, Lucy has recently had to resign, due to new work commitments. We will continue with our current 4 trustees.

(People's Company Trustees

Annual report to the Charity Commission 2023/2024)

Chair's Report, 2023/2024

This has once again been an interesting year for People's Company as we moved into our second year as a CIO, with several different strands of activities occurring during the year, several of which were 'firsts' in the Company's history.

Activities

The production of 'Black Box' was a first, in that the Artistic Director (John Whelan) did not lead the production. Instead, Mary Hayden undertook the overall direction of this performance of short plays and monologues, all written, performed and directed by PC members. Established Company members were able to build on previous work undertaken in composing, performing and directing in smaller groups, with new members bringing skills to the fore and writing pieces for the first time. The performance was extremely well-received, plus providing the Company with revenue from the Box Office and Mary did a stellar job of pulling it together.

Mary was appointed Director of 'Once Upon a Market', a piece devised, written and staged by members of People's Company, which will be performed over 4 nights at Southwark Playhouse at the end of June 2024. Mary's role in stepping up to direct productions, together with her role supporting John as Deputy OpCom chair, has relieved a burden on John as both Artistic Director and Chair of the OpCom.

Our first Outreach project, which had just commenced training at the end of the last financial year, was successfully completed. The purpose of the project was to train facilitators from People's Company to run sessions in drama, writing and story-telling techniques, with groups formed from across the community, and their offering performed on stage at Southwark Playhouse. The groups were widely differing, consisting of Arts for Dementia; a homeless group; a South American dance group; a mixed race and intergenerational group of locals; several people from the Company's waiting list who were interested in writing came together to form a cohort and a group of people with Autism were also originally intended to be part of the project.

The project outcome exceeded all expectations. The actual performance was incredible, being moving, funny, informative and story-telling at its best. Many involved had never been involved in theatre or on a stage, but they performed beautifully and very movingly. The feedback from the groups to their Facilitators about the training and the actual staging was extremely positive and it showed in their performances - people doing what most had never done before with confidence and brio - to a very responsive audience.

Individually, the Facilitators learned a great deal about working in the community, how to bring unknown people together, to bind them as a team, to tease their stories out, to direct and shape performances and, in some instances, how to cope with disordered or less stable lives and, in this process, also learned a lot about themselves. The task was challenging for almost all Facilitators, being new to this process, with hurdles to be overcome on a weekly basis by some groups, whether it was a working mother with childcare problems or homelessness issues. Despite best efforts, the Autistic client group did not materialise, but provided insight into arranging future sessions for people who struggle managing routines. A lot of lessons were learned about all aspects of Outreach, which will be taken on board in future projects.

Several people who were involved as participants joined People's Company as members, off the back of the Outreach programme and are involved in the current project which is in rehearsal.

The second tranche of the Outreach session commenced just prior to year end and will be reported on in the next annual return.

Operating Committee

The Operating Committee was fully appointed and functioning well. With the new organisation in place, manned by PC members now with job descriptions, there is a more formal structure to the Company, which has strengthened the Company's management and also relieved the burden on the Artistic Director. The Trustees are very grateful to the members who have undertaken these tasks to enable PC to manage the Company.

Patron

Joe Fiennes very kindly agreed to become the Patron of People's Company. He came and spent an evening with the whole Company, so he could understand the ethos of the Company. It was a

relaxed evening, allowing the Company to quiz him and Joe to listen to the members and he has promised to be an active Patron, openly seeking commitment. We are very grateful for his input in what is a busy working and family life.

Finance

The Treasurer will report more fully on Finance, but as usual, most of our income came from funders such as local charities, local community funds or in conjunction with another community group. Sheik will report on his suggested funding activities during the meeting. Again this year we received part of the box office receipts for 'Black Box', our second year of receiving payment for performances.

Trustees

Lucy Moore and Lorraine Hilton joined as Trustees during the financial year and we are very grateful for their services. Sadly, Lucy has recently resigned due to unforeseen work commitments. As we have 4 Trustees, we will stay with this number and not replace Lucy.

All the Trustees join me in wishing to extend our sincere thanks to John Whelan for all his strategy, insight and efforts for the Company, and to Mary Hayden for taking on her new role on the OpCom supporting John and, not least, for her Directorial debut for PC. We are also extremely grateful to all members of the Operating Committee for their commitment to the Company. We appreciate everything that is done to make People's Company successful.


People's Company Annual Accounts (23/24), year end 30 April 24		
b/f cash from year 22-23	12,011.46	
Assets (Cash)	12,011.46	
Assets, debts, liabilities, payroll, etc.	0.00	
Total Assets		12,011.46
Income		
Black Box' production, box receipts	817.20	
Southwark Council funding	1,383.00	
Kaleidoscope funding towards 'Once upon a market'	220.92	
Annual income total	2,421.12	2,421.12
Payments inward		
Kaleidoscope share of zoom	51.96	
FoPP share of zoom	51.96	
Total payments inward	103.92	103.92
Outgoings		
Outreach Project, Phase 1		
PM, application/formation	600.00	
PM	1,200.00	
evaluation	600.00	
Resources	302.37	
Rehearsal space	920.00	
Facilitation	2,368.00	
Performance: stagehand	50.00	
Performance: Theatre hire	250.00	
Performance: Comp tickets	300.00	
Total, Phase 1	6,590.37	6,590.37
Outreach Project, Phase 2		
Resources	18.55	
Rehearsal space	80.00	
Total, Phase 2	98.55	98.55
Black Box Production		
Rehearsal space	400.00	
Programmes	66.75	
Gift for director	32.00	
Total, Black Box	498.75	498.75
Once Upon a Market Production		
Writers' group first meeting	22.30	
Research/books	68.50	
Script print	130.12	
Total, OUAM	220.92	220.92
Admin/General		
Annual insurance	200.77	
zoom	155.88	
Website	135.00	
Google storage/3 months	5.99	
Meeting room hires for Committee and Trustees	110.00	
Admin supplies	4.75	
Transport	20.92	

	Disposal of old set	80.00	
	Total Admin	713.31	713.31
	Summary Outgoings		
	Outreach Phase 1	(6,590.37)	
	Outreach Phase 2	(98.55)	
	Black Box Production	(498.75)	
	Once Upon a Market Production	(220.92)	
	Admin/General	(713.31)	
	Total outgoings YTD	(8,121.90)	(8,121.90)
	Summary all income		
	Annual income	2,421.12	
	Payments inward	103.92	
	Total outgoings	(8,121.90)	
	b/f cash from previous year	12,011.46	
	Cash on hand	6,414.60	
	Reserved funding (Outreach project)	(3,083.10)	
	Unrestricted cash on hand	3,331.50	
	For approval at AGM on 11 June 2024		
	Appointed Trustee (Mina Temple)		
	Treasurer (Shelagh Farren)		

PEOPLE'S COMPANY

England & Wales - Charity number 1199022

Accounts

<p>People's Company</p> <p>Charity No. 1199022</p> <p>Trustee Annual Report</p>	
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Purpose of the charity

The advancement of the arts and the education of the public in the appreciation and understanding of performing arts in all their forms, through the operation, facilitation and management of People's Company theatre for the public benefit.

Activities

The Company has continued to develop this year in its productions, its ethos of empowering and up-skilling members, its management structure and a most significant move was obtaining charitable status by becoming a CIO in May 2022. Achieving CIO status made us reconsider strengthening the management structure of People's Company to ensure more involvement by its members and greater support for the Artistic Director. After much debate and consideration, the Trustees agreed to form an Operating Committee under the aegis of the Artistic Director, with members of the company appointed to the board with each position formalised by written job descriptions and an organisation chart. One Trustee will join the committee as Treasurer, with another appointed as the Safeguarding/Wellbeing member. This will give members more involvement in the running of People's Company, which will enhance its structure, together with providing new skills for members on running such a company. It is anticipated that the new organisation will be in place by the late Autumn of 2023 and fully functional by the new year.

Arts-based activities are at the heart of People's Company. We seek to provide a creative voice and platform for the people of Southwark utilising our rich cultural heritage to develop arts and drama-based community activities, produced and performed locally in Southwark. The three areas we worked on during the year were as follows (with Bermondsey Revolution and the Ada Salter celebration taking up most of the attention):

1. People's Company was fully involved in Bermondsey's Ada Salter Centenary celebrations which took place throughout the year. Bermondsey Revolution, a play specifically written for the celebration, with music also written solely for this production, sold out 3 nights at the new Southwark Playhouse. Members of the cast were involved in all aspects of this multimedia musical, involving drama, music and filming and also as part of the other celebrations in and around Bermondsey. It was a huge task, involving many moving parts with people from outside the Company and it was an excellent learning process for many members, some of whom had never acted either on a stage or in the community before.
2. A new move for PC is the Outreach project, where members of the Company have been trained as facilitators to run 6 differing groups from the community for an event to be staged at Southwark Playhouse. The training has just been undertaken and this project will be fully reported on in the next annual report, but it is hoped that the community groups will include people who have never considered acting before or indeed not considered writing and telling their stories.

3. Also in progress is a series of short plays and monologues written, directed and performed by PC members. This is a continuation of an earlier project, to build on writing and directing skills for members and to encourage newcomers to consider whether they can write as well as being a cast member. Preparations began just prior to the end of the financial year and will be performed in August 2023.

We believe we obtained our objective by providing community theatre opportunities for people in Southwark. Bermondsey Revolution was, on its own, a big project to undertake, as it included writing, drama, music, filming plus interaction with a school, also to produce a film. The response from the audiences on 3 sell-out nights was extremely favourable, all of whom joined in the singing when instructed, and Southwark Playhouse management were also impressed by the sell-out performances. It is hoped that the Outreach project, which has just got into training mode, will reach people who “do not consider theatre as anything to do with them”. This is very much the intent of the project; to show how drama can help improve lives, build confidence, give people a voice and enjoy themselves whilst working hard. Several people from the Company moved on to work on their own projects and, whilst we were sorry to see them go, it is fantastic that they have gained in confidence and feel ready for new challenges. This allowed eight new members to join the company, many of whom had never acted before, and were pitched into rehearsals straight away, as Bermondsey Revolution was cast as they joined.

Finance

As usual, most of our income came from funders such as local charities or local community funds, but in this financial year we received our first funds from performances at Southwark Playhouse, which was tremendously exciting for a small community drama group, especially as it frees us up to promote more community drama work (as all our monies are spent on productions) since this income is not restricted by funders’ requirements. We have this year some restricted funds to carry over, as the Outreach project will not fully start until the Summer of 2023.

Trustees

Sadly one of our Trustees had to stand down due to other commitments. We are actively looking to recruit a replacement.

(People’s Company Trustees

Annual report to the Charity Commission 2022/2023)

AGM 2023, Chair’s report

The Company has continued to develop this year in its productions, its ethos of empowering and up-skilling members, its management structure and a most significant move was obtaining charitable status by becoming a CIO in May 2022.

The CIO status has led us to a great deal of reflection and work, over the past year, on formulating and formalising the structure of People’s Company. The original work was enhanced by feedback from an evening with the Trustees and members of the Committee and thoughts afterward. This was greatly appreciated and very much added to our perspective.

The Trustees have therefore agreed to form an Operating Committee, with job descriptions and reporting lines prepared for each role on the OpCom. John Whelan, our Artistic Director, has been appointed to the dual role of OpCom Chair and Artistic Director. In line with the Charity Commission requirements, one of our Trustees will join the OpCom as Treasurer and one will hold responsibility for all Safeguarding issues. The new structure will be issued to the full Company shortly after the AGM and all roles will be open to all members to apply. We hope to be fully re-organised by Autumn. We aim to use all members' talents and experience to move the company forward, to continue to upskill members and allow ownership of our company, People's Company.

We are very grateful to all our Committee members for their input into the new OpCom structure and also for the work done by Steve Lancashire, who very sadly had to stand down as a Trustee.

We had 8 new members join this year, as some people stood down to concentrate on their own projects. As the waiting list is quite extensive, we ran a workshop for 15 of those people, to give them a taste of a session. We encourage all on the list, to attend productions, particularly to gain an understanding of what it is like to work in an ensemble.

John will talk more fully about the year's productions, so I will just mention some highlights:

- The three performances of Bermondsey Revolution were sold out in the new Southwark Playhouse, which pleased the Playhouse enormously, as it did us! The story of Ada and Alfred Salter - a multimedia musical - encompassing not just drama and music from PC, but input from a school and film clips from Lynn Morris, together with being the 2nd show in a new theatre, was a mixed blessing and we appreciate John steering the company very competently. We were also fortunate to be part of Bermondsey's Ada Salter Centenary celebrations in the conducted animated walks around key sites.
- A very exciting new development for PC is the Outreach project, where PC members are working with 6 different groups in the community for 6 weeks to stage a showcase evening at the Playhouse. This project started prior to the end of our financial year and PC members have now been trained as group facilitators and will move into the next phase over the summer months.
- 10:59, a series of short plays and monologues written, directed and performed by PC members, also began just prior to the end of the financial year and will be performed in August.

So throughout the year, we continued to build on our success in upskilling members' writing and directing talents, further develop street performance skills and added the new facilitation skills for the Outreach Project. We hope to be able to continue and evolve over the current year.

We were deeply saddened by the death of Jackie Kearns after a long illness and by the sudden recent death of Peter Wright. Both had enriched the life of the Company; Jackie by her acting, her writing of monologues and her play Bermondsey Summers; Peter by his imaginative sets, lighting and sound both within the theatre and on our animated walks. They are sorely missed.

I would like to express heartfelt thanks on behalf of the Committee and the Trustees to John Whelan, our Artistic Director, for all that he has done for the Company this year and the support he so generously gives to every member. Finally, I want to thank the Committee members for their enthusiasm, commitment and energy in the variety of tasks they have done to move People's Company forward this year.

Mina Temple

26th June 2023

Chair's report

(Needs to include):

- Summary of main activities
- How this was in public benefit
- Purpose of aims, ensure aims were met, focus, benefit
- Achievements
- Where money came from (short/crossover with Treasurers)
- where / how money was spent (ditto)

Treasurer's report

(needs to include)

- Restricted funds
- Unrestricted funds
- Monies in/out

Policies required

- Financial Controls
- Finance
- Risk Management
- Trustee expenses - **take from constitution**
- Trustee conflict of interest - **take from constitution**
- Serious reporting to Commission (**include Susan as safeguarding Trustee**)
 - Harm to Charity's beneficiaries, staff, volunteers, etc
 - Loss of money
 - Damage to property
 - Reputational damage
- Investing Funds - **we do not do this**
- Political activity - **state somewhere that we undertake none**
- Bullying/harassment

People's Company Annual Accounts (22-23, year end 30 April 23)			
	b/f cash from year 21-22	149.37	
	Assets (Cash)	149.37	
	Assets, debts, liabilities, payroll, etc.	0.00	
	Total Assets		149.37
	Income		
	Southwark Playhouse box office receipts for 9:59	1,027.50	
	Donation by N. Roche	100.00	
	United St. Saviours - Ada Salter Project	3,000.00	
	Arnold Clark	1,000.00	
	Animating the Community Elefest contribution	1,050.00	
	London Community Outreach project	9,905.00	
	Southwark Playhouse box office receipts for Bermondsey Revolution	2,615.55	
	Annual income	18,698.05	18,698.05
	Repayments/payments inward		
	AS props advance excess	87.79	
	Friends of Pasley Park: 3 months share of zoom	32.50	
	Kaleidoscope: 6 months share of zoom	65.00	
	Total repayments/payments	185.29	185.29
	External payments via PC		
	AS merchandising payment to Mr. & Mrs. Graham	369.75	(369.75)
	Outgoings		
	PC Online Activities:		
	Voucher prizes payment	220.00	
	Total PC online	220.00	(220.00)
	9:59		
	Rehearsal space	250.00	
	Comp Tickets	30.00	
	Props	10.00	
	Project Management	400.00	
	Total 9:59	690.00	(690.00)
	Bermondsey Revolution:		
	Script development	180.00	
	Research documents/books	43.27	
	Rehearsal rooms, Cherry Gardens	300.00	
	rehearsal zoom	115.12	
	Props/costume	579.50	
	Props and filming transportation	248.65	
	Set design/manufacture	410.00	
	Technician at playhouse	900.00	
	Marketing	263.70	

	Project Development and direction	2,000.00	
	Total Bermondsey Revolution	5,040.24	(5,040.24)
	Outreach Project		
	Flyer design	60.00	
	Rehearsal space	40.00	
	flyer printing	32.98	(132.98)
	Admin/General		
	Annual insurance	191.94	
	zoom	205.41	
	Website	135.00	
	print supplies/bus. cards	35.93	
	Total Admin	568.28	(568.28)
	Ada Salter merchandising payment	(369.75)	
	PC online total outgoings	(220.00)	
	Total 9:59 outgoings	(690.00)	
	Bermondsey Revolution total outgoings	(5,040.24)	
	Outreach project	(132.98)	
	Admin outgoings	(568.28)	
	Total outgoings YTD	(7,021.25)	(7,021.25)
	Annual income	18,698.05	
	Repayments/payments	185.29	
	Total outgoings	(7,021.25)	
	b/f cash from previous year	149.37	
	Cash on hand	12,011.46	
	Reserved funding (Outreach project)	(9,772.02)	
	Unrestricted cash on hand	2,239.44	
	Approved at AGM on 5 July 2023		
	Chair (Mina Temple)		
	Treasurer (Shelagh Farren)		