

STAN'S CAFE THEATRE

Registered Number
03095751
(England and Wales)

Unaudited Financial Statements for the Year ended
31 March 2025



STAN'S CAFE THEATRE

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STAN'S CAFE THEATRE

Company Information

for the year from 1 April 2024 to 31 March 2025

Directors

BIDDULPH, Maya
BLACKWOOD, Hugh Sergio, Mister
BOOTH, Jacqueline Anne
MISTRY, Sanjay Narottam
OBRA, Simi
OWEN, Judy
RAJPUT, Dharmesh
RAMPAL, Rochi
RIVETT, Alan Callander
SMITH, Clare Louise

Company Secretary

SEFTON, David Wiebe

Registered Address

20 Wheatsheaf Road
Birmingham
B16 0RY

Registered Number

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Trustees Annual Report

Introduction

2024 - 25 was an extraordinarily prolific year for Stan's Cafe. It introduced audiences to multiple shows, new and revived, all encouraging us to see our world in remarkable new ways. Performances were concentrated around the West Midlands but spread across England, to Jersey, the USA and Egypt. They were often free and if not free almost always at low ticket prices.

Students from primary to university level collaborated with us on Creative Learning projects. All these projects were made bespoke, developing a wide range of skills and addressing a variety of curriculum needs. The learning from and memories of these extraordinary projects can be expected to stay with the students for the rest of their lives.

More subtly, behind the scenes, Stan's Cafe has been developing talent and supporting artists, diversifying its range of collaborators and through its headquarters – Our Facility – holding space for Birmingham's artists and arts educators.

That all this has been achieved on standstill funding, in a cost of living crisis, with rising costs whilst keeping company finances in a good state is testimony to the hard work of a small but dedicated staff team, supported by strong governance and a wide range of talented associates.

Alan Rivett
Chair

Structure, governance and management

Stan's Cafe Theatre was formed in 1992 as a not for profit organisation to promote and aid the advancement of and education in the arts without distinction of physical ability, race, colour, gender, sexual orientation, or of political, religious or other opinions and in particular to promote and carry on business as a theatre company through live performance, in the electronic media, through film, publication and installation works.

The company gained formal charity status in 2022 and the Board of Trustees has a maximum membership of ten with two additional young trustee places agreed at the last AGM.

Our Board of Trustees meet quarterly following the Finance and Risk Committee which makes recommendations and reporting on management of the company. The Board meetings must have at least 4 trustees present to be quorate and the Annual General meeting normally takes place in the Autumn. Each year we hold a Board Away Day to update on governance best practice, offer training and discuss the strategy of the company moving forward.

Day to day management of the charity is delegated to five members of staff led by the Artistic Director/CEO.

Risk overview and strategy

The Finance and Risk Committee and Board see each company's risk register at each meeting and the F&R committee formally review it at least once each year.

Our main funder, Arts Council England also risk assesses the company quarterly and these reports are included in the Board papers. Our risk level remains consistently low.

The company's major risks are standstill or reduced funding, plus industry wide challenges of a contracting market for touring theatre. Our mitigations include a diverse offer of shows in different markets, alternative touring models, plus work in education from primary to university level.

Objectives and activities

Legally Stan's Cafe is a charity established with a mission to:

"advance the arts for the public benefit by the promotion in particular, but not exclusively, of the art of drama, through live performance, in the electronic media, through film, publication and installation works".

Put more succinctly, our mission is to be the best theatre company in the world.

We want to achieve this by working collaboratively. By being brave and ambitious, playful and fun, thoughtful and serious, always open to new interpretations of what 'being the best theatre company in the world' might mean.

We believe that to achieve our mission we need to engage with partners who bring to Stan's Cafe a wide range of skills and experiences. Mixing long term relationships with fresh input and ideas – treating everyone, including audiences, with full respect and consideration.

We believe in generosity of spirit and hard work. We believe in honesty and transparency. We believe our actions always speak louder than our words. We believe in the power of theatre to make the world a better place.

Achievements and performance

2024 - 25 witnessed a busy and varied artistic programme including a remarkable six brand new productions. **Community Service** was a midscale touring show with live music paid for through a mix of fees, ticket sales and investment of reserves. **The Many Lives Of PET #1** was a community tour and education programme commissioned entirely by Birmingham Plastics Network. **Big Brother Macbeth** was commissioned by Bath Spa University and performed by their third year acting students. **River Tours: The Severn** toured venues close to the river's course. **In A Heartbeat** was a micro-production exploring fresh ideas and developing new collaborators performed at Our Facility (our home base). **Behind Beneath Here**, a photographic series was commissioned by West Midlands National Park (Birmingham City University) and exhibited in the Library of Birmingham

From our portfolio of existing shows, **Of All The People In All The World** toured to venues in Jersey, Brighton, Cairo and Charlston (South Carolina) and **The Commentators** performed in Gloucester, Hanley and Birmingham as well as streaming coverage of the General Election count. **River Tours: The Lune** was retoured to community venues and public spaces by Lancaster Arts.

The audiences totalled 11,063.

We collaborated with students of a variety of ages, focusing on a range of topics; most are growing up in economically deprived areas of the West Midlands. Year 8 at **Saltley Academy** performed *Romeo & Juliet* at school and Shakespeare's New Place in Stratford-upon-Avon. Year 7 at **Wheeler Lane Technology College** devised *Sami Small Pulls A Bus*, a performance of physics and music. Year 5 at **Croft Academy** devised *The Coming Of The Canals*, a local history project. Year 2 at **Woods Bank Academy** devised *Sister Dora*, another local history project. Year 4 at **King's Rise Academy** devised a philosophy song cycle. Additionally one off lectures and workshops for universities took place along with *The Many Lives Of PET #1* delivering science workshops and this 'revision performance' to Year 10 students at eight schools across the region.

Our Creative Learning Projects reached 2,693 school children and students.

Our Facility

The Edwardian school building, which has been our base since the pandemic continues to develop. Additional rehearsal space has been freed up along with a communal area for meeting, relaxing and eating.

We welcomed 20 arts and education companies or artists with regular repeat bookings for meetings, training, rehearsals and set building. We were also able to give access to space as in-kind support for early career artists.

Our long term ambition is to develop Our Facility to offer affordable tenancies as well as accessible rehearsal spaces and a base for our own work. To this end the building has been recognised as an 'Asset of Community Value' and we have requested permission to apply for a Community Asset Transfer having gained support from the West Midlands Cabinet member for Culture, our Local MP, Head of Culture and development at the West Midlands Combined Authority and the Head of Culture at Birmingham Council.

In 2024-25 shows created by hirers reached an audience of 5165 and employed 73 artists and support staff.

Equality, Diversity and Inclusion

We continued to demonstrate our belief in equality of opportunity through our actions, across our program and working methods.

This year we produced *Community Service*, the story of a black police officer and musician, brought to us by a black audience member. co-directed with black collaborators, devised by an almost exclusively black team, including backstage where we used additional budget to support an emerging black costume designer.

We work hard to keep our recruitment open, inclusive, widely advertised to target under-represented communities.

Our community tours and much of our portfolio work takes theatre to non-traditional venues and non-theatre audiences, often this work is free to attend.

We continue to explore how to make our work more widely accessible. To this end we invest in BSL interpretation of performances and use digital technologies to communicate elsewhere. We will continue to develop this area of our practice.

Environmental

Emergency Performance is an open ended series of Acts through which Stan's Cafe delivers its environmental responsibilities. It opened in March 2024 with **ACT 1: The Many Lives of PET #1** teaching audiences about the global plastics crisis. **Act 2: Hall Of Fame** highlights our policy of reusing materials from show to show across the years. **Act 3: The Book** is our ethical procurement policy. Further Acts are planned.

Choosing to address environmental policy as an artistic enterprise ensures it is always at the heart of what we do, receiving the best efforts that we have to offer. We remain active members of Sustainability Arts West Midlands and work with the wider West Midlands environmental networks to share and develop good practice.

Financial overview

The company used reserves of £21,000 to support a new work, *Community Service*, and Theatre Tax Relief of over £56,000 helped support the artistic programme which included three new productions.

After a series of long term creative learning funding streams concluded, the programme would reduce over the next 12 months so the post of Creative Learning Producer became redundant. Plans for raising funds in that area have since been strategically reviewed and an Heritage Lottery Fund application will be undertaken later in 2025 to try and secure funding for an 18 month project in Walsall.

Theatre Tax Relief remains an important element to enable the creation and tours of shows offering 40% or 45% relief against production costs for ticketed performances. This year's claim will be £56,556.

The Finance and Risk Committee and Trustees are satisfied with the financial and risk management of the organisation. The company continues to react swiftly to challenges and find alternative solutions and income streams with ingenuity and resilience. Fundraising for projects and additional core funding remains a challenge but the support from universities in 24-25 has provided a different route to create new work with fees or commissions.

Donations are received through our Scheming Friends initiative and through additional support on top of the ticket price or collections at community shows. Most of this income is eligible for gift aid and this year the total donation income was £2418.

Fundraising for core costs remained challenging but we received funding from The Barry Jackson Trust for the school workshops and community tour of *The Many Lives of PET #1*.

The University of Birmingham commissioned the work supported by Lenovo, the Royal Society of Chemistry, Chemist's Community Fund and The Royal Society. The tour of Of All The People In All The World to Cairo's DCAF Festival was supported by the British Council.

Reserves policy and use

Stan's Cafe's reserves are purposeful, they are held both to offer the company security in times of crisis and to be invested in ambition. This ambition will primarily be artistic, but can cover organisation development, which will in turn have a positive impact on the company's mission.

The company's reserves include restricted and unrestricted funds. Unrestricted funds may be nominally allocated to future projects in order to remind us they are purposeful. Reserve levels and allocations are reviewed annually by the Finance and Risk Committee and presented to the board for approval.

In 2024 - 25 the Board agreed to support a larger scale, new work. Community Service employed 8 performers/musicians, several technical, including mentoring a young black costume designer and toured to larger studios and midscale venues. It offered the support needed to get this production off the ground which resulted in a successful and well received production.

Small reserve investments were also made in touring, staging and commissioning a new partner in Nigeria, Egija Naija to write River Tours: The Niger.

Staff and Artists

We restructured the small staff team during 2024 - 25. The end of various funding streams for Creative Learning meant the post of Producer in that area was redundant. When our long term Administrator left to pursue her own freelance artistic career we created a new early career Administration Assistant role offering a wide range of training and this has worked well.

We increased training and development opportunities significantly throughout the organisation and continue to look at ways to increase resources in this area.

We employed 30 freelance artists across the year on various projects and regularly offered advice and support to emerging artists and companies in the region. We are part of the Culture Central Mentoring programme and the Artistic Director often runs workshops and seminars for university students.

Future strategy

- We will continue to mix creating new productions with re-touring popular works from our portfolio.
- We will seek commissions, particularly for our Community Touring productions for which we will look to collaborate with universities.
- As Arts Council England's National Portfolio funding has been extended from 3 to 5 years with a real terms cut in funding, we will engage specialist fundraising support to raise money from trusts and foundations.
- We will experiment in extending our reach, artistry and income via hybrid performances.
- We will continue to pursue bespoke work with schools and apply to large funds to support multiple schools in extended projects.
- We will continue to lobby Birmingham City Council for a Community Asset Transfer so we secure our tenancy and develop Our Facility as an arts hub.
- We will strengthen governance by recruiting trustees with expertise to offer support in areas required for the company's future development.

Trustees responsibilities statement

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

The law applicable to charities in England and Wales requires the charity trustees to prepare financial statements for each year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of the incoming resources and application of resources, of the charity for that period.

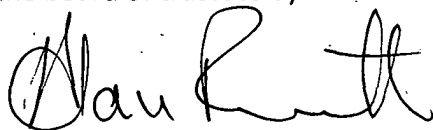
In preparing these financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the applicable Charities SORP;
- make judgments and accounting estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable UK Accounting Standards have been followed, subject to any material
- departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
- 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 adequate accounting records that are sufficient to show and explain the charity's transactions and 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 Trust Deed. They 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.

The trustees' annual report was approved on 16 September 2025 and signed on behalf of the board of trustees by:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Alan Rivett', with a stylized, cursive script.

Alan Rivett
Chair

STAN'S CAFE THEATRE

Directors' Report

The directors present their report and the financial statements of the company for the year ended 31 March 2025.

The directors who served during the year were as follows:

BIDDULPH, Maya

BLACKWOOD, Hugh Sergio, Mister (Appointed 10 September 2024)

BOOTH, Jacqueline Anne

MISTRY, Sanjay Narottam

OBRA, Simi (Appointed 26 February 2025)

OWEN, Judy (Appointed 13 December 2024)

RAJPUT, Dharmesh

RAMPAL, Rochi

RIVETT, Alan Callander

SMITH, Clare Louise

CLIFTON, Johanne Mica (Resigned 25 February 2025)

JERVIS-HILL, Sarah (Resigned 20 June 2024)

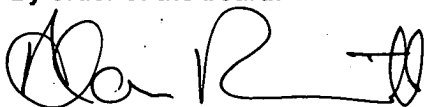
Principal activity

The company's principal activity during the year continued to be theatre production.

Small companies regime

The report of the directors has been prepared taking advantage of the small companies exemptions of Section 415A of the Companies Act 2006.

By order of the board:



RIVETT, Alan
Director

16 September 2025

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT

Stans Cafe Theatre

For the year ended 31 March 2025

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of Stan's Cafe Theatre

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the charity for the period ended 31 March 2025 which are set out on pages 14 to 19.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity's trustees 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 charity's accounts carried out under section 145 of the Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

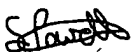
Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention 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 charity as required by section 13 of the Act; or
- 2) the accounts do not accord with those records; or
- 3) the accounts do not comply with the applicable 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

Signed:



Sarah Powell ACCA

Ansell Munden Associates Limited

Suite 1 Point North

Park Plaza

Heath Hayes

WS12 2DE

Date: 16 September 2025

Statement of Financial Activities (SoFA) Stans Café Theatre Financial Year 2025

Category	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total Funds	Prior Year
Income				
Donations	£ 2,418		£ 2,418	£ 5,795
Charitable Activities	£ 404,802		£ 404,802	£ 308,778
Other Trading Activities	£ 13,488		£ 13,488	£ 4,862
Investments	£ 8,023		£ 8,023	£ 891
Other	£ -		£ -	£ -
Total Income	£ 428,731		£ 428,731	£ 320,327
Expenditure				
Raising Funds	£ -		£ -	£ 725
Charitable Activities	£ 122,917		£ 122,917	£ 43,115
Governance Costs	£ 11		£ 11	£ 768
Other Expenditure	£ 249,711		£ 249,711	£ 263,141
Total Expenditure	£ 372,638		£ 372,638	£ 307,750
Net Movement in Funds	£ 56,093		-	£ 12,577

STAN'S CAFE THEATRE

Profit and Loss Account

for the year from 1 April 2024 to 31 March 2025

	Notes	2025 £	2024 £
Turnover		260,957	137,440
Cost of sales		(185,394)	(69,798)
Gross profit		75,563	67,642
Administrative expenses		(242,411)	(250,666)
Other operating income		167,230	181,996
Other interest receivable and similar income		544	891
Interest payable and similar charges		(1,385)	(264)
Loss before taxation		(459)	(401)
Tax		56,552	12,978
Profit for the year		56,093	12,577

STAN'S CAFE THEATRE

Balance Sheet as at 31 March 2025

	Notes	2025	2024
		£	£
Fixed assets			
Tangible assets	3	<u>1,251</u>	<u>804</u>
		1,251	804
Current assets			
Debtors		119,176	101,671
Cash at bank and on hand		<u>213,705</u>	<u>227,778</u>
		332,881	329,449
Creditors amounts falling due within one year		<u>(54,188)</u>	<u>(28,308)</u>
Net current assets (liabilities)		<u>278,693</u>	<u>301,141</u>
Total assets less current liabilities		<u>279,944</u>	<u>301,945</u>
Net assets		<u>279,944</u>	<u>301,945</u>
Capital and reserves			
Called up share capital		1	1
Other reserves		223,849	289,367
Profit and loss account		<u>56,094</u>	<u>12,577</u>
Reserves		<u>279,944</u>	<u>301,945</u>

The company was entitled to exemption from audit for this reporting period under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

The members have not required the company to obtain an audit in accordance with section 476 of the Companies Act 2006.

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

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

The directors have chosen to not file a copy of the company's profit and loss account under section 444 (5A) Companies Act 2006.

The members have agreed to the preparation of abridged accounts for this accounting period in accordance with section 444(2A).

The financial statements were approved and authorised for issue by the Board of Directors on 16 September 2025, and are signed on its behalf by:



RIVETT, Alan
Director
Registered Company No. 03095751

STAN'S CAFE THEATRE

Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 March 2025

1. Accounting policies

Statutory information

The company is a private company limited by guarantee and registered in England and Wales. The company's registered number and registered office address can be found on the Company Information page.

Statement of compliance

The financial statements have been prepared in compliance with FRS 102 Section 1A as it applies to the financial statements for the period and there were no material departures from the reporting standard.

Turnover policy

Turnover is measured at the fair value of the consideration received or receivable, net of discounts and value added taxes. Turnover includes revenue earned from the sale of goods and from the rendering of services. Turnover from the sale of goods is recognised when the significant risks and rewards of ownership of the goods have transferred to the buyer. Turnover from the rendering of services is recognised by reference to the stage of completion of the contract. The stage of completion of a contract is measured by comparing the costs incurred for work performed to date to the total estimated contract costs.

Revenue from sale of goods

Turnover from the sale of goods is recognised when the significant risks and rewards of ownership of the goods have transferred to the buyer. Turnover from the rendering of services is recognised by reference to the stage of completion of the contract. The stage of completion of a contract is measured by comparing the costs incurred for work performed to date to the total estimated contract costs.

Employee benefits

Contributions to defined contribution plans are expensed in the period to which they relate.

Foreign currency translation

Transactions in foreign currencies are initially recognised at the rate of exchange ruling at the date of the transaction. At the end of each reporting period foreign currency monetary items are translated at the closing rate of exchange. Non-monetary items that are measured at historical cost are translated at the rate ruling at the date of the transaction. All differences are charged to profit or loss.

Tangible fixed assets and depreciation

Tangible fixed assets are stated at cost or valuation less depreciation. Depreciation is provided on all tangible fixed assets as follows:

	Straight line (years)
Fixtures and fittings	3

STAN'S CAFE THEATRE

Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)

for the year ended 31 March 2025

Investments

Investments in subsidiaries, associates and joint ventures are measured at cost less any accumulated impairment losses. Listed investments are measured at fair value where the difference between cost and fair value is material. Unlisted investments are measured at fair value unless the value cannot be measured reliably, in which case they are measured at cost less any accumulated impairment losses. Changes in fair value are included in the profit and loss account.

2. Average number of employees

	2025	2024
Average number of employees during the year	5	6

3. Tangible fixed assets

	Total £
Cost or valuation	
At 01 April 24	145,955
Additions	906
At 31 March 25	146,861
Depreciation and impairment	
At 01 April 24	145,151
Charge for year	459
At 31 March 25	145,610
Net book value	
At 31 March 25	1,251
At 31 March 24	804

STAN'S CAFE THEATRE

Notes to the Financial Statements (continued) for the year ended 31 March 2025

4. Further information regarding the company's financial position

Debtors

39,804 - Trade debtors
8,052 - Accrued income
1,789 - Prepayments
69,531 - Theatre tax relief
119,176 - Total

Creditors

22,881 - Accruals
11,000 - Deferred Income
3,620 - Taxation and Social Security
1,314 - Pension Fund
11,736 - VAT Liability
1,884 - Credit Card Liability
1,753 - Trade Creditors
54,188 - Total

Other Reserves Analysis

30,000 - Unrestricted but designated - Bleach (hybrid show 2)
35,000 - Unrestricted but designated - Building Capital Fund
90,000 - Unrestricted but designated - Close Down Costs
30,000 - Unrestricted but designated - In A Heartbeat
25,000 - Unrestricted but designated - Landing In (hybrid show 1)
5,000 - Unrestricted but designated - Microproduction 25/26 (Landing In)
5,000 - Unrestricted but designated - Microproduction 26/27
5,000 - Unrestricted but designated - Paratheatrical 25/26 (Around The World)
5,000 - Unrestricted but designated - Paratheatrical 26/27 (Jigsaw)
10,000 - Unrestricted but designated - Portfolio Investment
(16,151) - Unrestricted - Free Reserves
223,849 - Total