

EAST LONDON SHAKESPEARE FESTIVAL LTD

REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

28th February 2025

COMPANY REGISTRATION NUMBER: 12459062

CHARITY REGISTRATION NUMBER 1203349

**Frank S Lachman
31 Fairview Way
Egware
Middlesex
HA8 8JE**

East London Shakespeare Festival Ltd.

Legal and Administrative Information

28th February 2025

Company Registered Number	12459062
Registered Charity Number	1203349
Registered Office	Flat 4 Endlebury Court Endlebury Road London E4 6QE
Directors and Trustees	Elizabeth Mary Shaw Danielle Elise Moseley Anna Ruth Jordan
Examiner	Frank S Lachman Chartered Accountant 31 Fairview Way Edgware Middlesex HA8 8JE

East London Shakespeare Festival Ltd.

Directors and Trustees Report

The trustees, who are also directors for the purposes of the Companies Act, have pleasure in presenting their report and the financial statements of the charity for the year ending 28th February 2025.

Directors Responsibilities

Company Law which is also applicable to charitable companies in England and Wales requires the directors, who are also trustees of the company, to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the company and of the results of the company for that period.

In preparing those financial statements, the directors/trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP
- make judgements and 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 company will continue in business.

The directors/trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the company and to enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Principal Activity and Charitable Objects

To advance the arts in East London and surrounding areas and other areas the trustees deem fit, in particular the dramatic and performing arts, by producing and staging performances of the works of William Shakespeare.

To advance public education and appreciation of the dramatic and performing arts, including stage performance and production, by providing apprenticeship and training schemes and workshops, and by providing opportunities for people of all ages to participate in the production of amateur performances and creative engagement activities, including acting, directing, music performance, movement performance, craft-making, and producing of theatrical performances and 'back stage' elements of stagecraft.

Organisation and Constitution

The company was incorporated on 12th February 2020 and is governed by its Memorandum and Articles of Association. Company Registration number 12459062

The company is limited by guarantee and has no share capital. The guarantees of individual members are limited to £1.

The company is a registered charity, number 1203349.

The directors of the company form its Committee of Management and Governing Body and are empowered to act as necessary in order for the company to fulfil its objectives. Directors may be appointed by the members of the company or fellow directors at any time.

Registered Office: Flat 4, Endlebury Court, Endlebury Road, London E4 6QE

In February 2024 the company became a Registered Charity.

East London Shakespeare Festival Ltd.

Key Activities:

Performances and key community Engagement activities:

In the year 2024-2025, ELSF successfully toured *Much Ado About Nothing*, presenting live theatre to audiences across 14 outdoor parks and community venues throughout East London. This initiative provided accessible arts experiences to communities with limited exposure to live theatre.

Engagement Programme & Education

Alongside the tour ELSF continued to run an extensive community engagement included extensive partnerships across East London, with over 150 local councils, schools, and cultural organisations involved.

Key metrics include of activities:

- 39 Performances - low cost tickets, family discounts
- Including 5 pay-what-you can
- 15 venues inc. 4 new venues
- 305 young children participated in workshops, and 450 students attended school matinees.
Expanded from Waltham Forest, Redbridge, Hackney to also include Newham, Haringey & Bromley to Houslow & Islington.
- 4500+ tickets sold
- Young Company: 22 Young Company members, 3x projects since January 2025 including abridged performance of *Much Ado About Nothing*, pre-show monologues performed before professional production of *As You Like It*, duologue showcase. Autumn term project underway: abridged performance of *As You Like It*.
- 510 x 3-11 year olds took part in mask-making workshops
- 2 x School matinees + pre-show workshops, £3.50 per student
- 2 Community Casts in Newham, Walthamstow 35 local people featured in 16 performances (free to participate, expenses covered)
- Apprentice Actor, paid role for aspiring 18-24 year old - currently undergoing mentoring with ELSF for drama school auditions and successfully secured an agent and employment with ELSF Young Company & Act Out
- 40+ Volunteer Ushers
- Partnered with 150+ Community Partners & Local Businesses
- 23 Professional paid roles

Financial Review

Overview:

Financial Overview

For the year ending February 28th 2025, the charity's financial performance reflects strong engagement with the community and successful delivery of its artistic and educational initiatives.

Income:

The charity generated a total income of **£83,540** an increase compared to **£69,844** last year.

Expenditure: Total expenditure for the year was £76,982 reflecting costs associated with the production of performances, the running costs and set-up of The Young Company, workshops, and community engagement activities.

Net Position: The charity's net assets for 2024-2025 were £26,319

East London Shakespeare Festival Ltd.

Our reserves are in line with our policy, ensuring financial stability for future projects and initiatives, including, participatory & educational engagement activities for young people and local residents and the Shakespeare productions.

ELSF's funding sources include:

- Ticket income from 'Much Ado about Nothing' and Young Company participation
- Arts Council England Project funding
- LBWF Ward funding
- John Armitage Trust Foundation funding
- In-kind support from key community partners, including free or reduced-cost rehearsal space, outreach, and marketing support

Reserves Policy: Our reserve balance remains strong at £26,319, supporting our ability to plan for future productions, continue our community engagement programmes and outreach, and weather any unexpected challenges.

Future Funding Sources

To ensure long-term growth and financial stability, ELSF is focusing on the following funding strategies:

- **Expansion of summer Annual Tour to include additional venues in Leytonstone, Newham and The Old Royal Observatory:** ELSF plans to expand the tour to an additional new venues, focussing on areas with limited access to theatre, increasing both income potential and audience reach to support our ongoing activities.
- **Grant Diversification:** ELSF continues to actively pursue a broader range of grants, specifically those focused on arts education, youth development, and community arts, from charitable trusts and foundations.
- **Arts Council England Funding:** ELSF anticipate further support from ACE
- **Strengthening Local Partnerships:** The charity is committed to developing deeper partnerships with local councils and community organisations to sustain and expand our activities.

Risk Management

Risks:

- 1 Relevance of Shakespeare and Quality of Productions: While Shakespeare is widely studied, it may be perceived as outdated or inaccessible to some audiences.
- 2 Community Engagement: Engaging diverse underrepresented communities and attracting new participants to the Young Company could be a challenge
- 3 Ensuring Quality and Inclusivity of New Youth and Education Activities: It is important to ensure that the Young Company and other educational activities are welcoming, accessible, and inclusive for new participants.
- 4 Logistical and Environmental Risks: Outdoor performances and expansion into new venues present risks such as adverse weather, cast morale, and performance endurance.
- 5 Financial Accessibility: Maintaining affordable ticketing and free participatory programmes while ensuring the project remains financially viable.

Mitigation Measures:

- 1 Relevance & Quality: ELSF's contemporary multi-disciplined performances have garnered highly positive feedback from audiences, reviewers, schools and award nominations for its professional, high-energy productions, including 'Romeo & Juliet' (OFFIE nominee) & the Young Company performances.
- 2 Engagement Strategies: ELSF's extensive outreach & collaborations, alongside inclusivity training for staff, ensure that diverse communities and new Young Company participants are welcomed & supported.
- 3 New Youth & Education activities: ELSF prioritises inclusivity through accessible workshops, outreach to under-represented communities, and targeted marketing strategies.
- 4 Logistical Planning: to manage expansion and logistics of, ELSF utilises experienced teams and flexible set designs.
- 5 Financial Accessibility: ELSF continues to offer Pay What You Can performances, low-cost participation fees for the Young Company, free community activities, and concession tickets for students, over 65's and low-income families. ELSF also bring culture to communities' doorstep: local venues, reducing travel costs.

- ELSF experienced at running inclusive community projects – Community Casts and The Young Company - with many prior CC members/App Actors having additional needs incl: dyslexia, autism, ADHD, Tourette's, recovering alcoholic
- ELSF champion & put adjustments in place for pregnant performers: 3 pregnant women in productions since launch in 2021
- Inclusivity training for teams to ensure safe/welcoming environment for audiences/community participants

Collaborative Engagement:

ELSF engages in continuous feedback and collaboration with community partners, project participants, councils, cultural organisations, schools and funding bodies. This engagement ensures that programming is responsive to community needs and preferences.

Future Plans, Community Benefits & Strategic Growth:

- Expanded Tour Reach with an emphasis on areas with limited access to live performance and under-represented communities
- ELSF increased its tour footprint in 2024 by bringing Much Ado About Nothing to 15 venues, including parks and community spaces in other areas of London including Newham, Haringey, and Greenwich
- ELSF expanded our Accessible and Inclusive Community Engagement programme to include additional Community Casts (Newham) this expansion was supported by ACE, new areas included: Newham, Bromley - enhancing accessibility and broadening its audience reach.
- Extended Reach in 2025: By 2025, the tour is expected to grow to 18 outdoor venues, , focusing on underserved areas with limited access to live theatre
- Expanding ELSF's successful Apprentice Scheme by securing funding to add apprenticeships in stage management and technical roles, increasing skill-building opportunities for young participants in diverse areas of theatre production.
- Apply for funding to additional Trust and foundations to support community projects

Legacy and Feedback Collection:

Post-project reviews, community feedback (via Jotforms and consultations), and ongoing dialogue with partners will ensure that ELSF's projects continuously evolve to align with community needs, maximising long-term benefits and engagement.

Statement of Responsibilities of Trustees

The trustees are responsible for preparing the annual report and financial statements in accordance with the Charities Act 2011. The trustees confirm that the financial statements give a true and fair view of the charity's activities and financial position for the year.

Directors and Trustees

The directors/trustees set out below have held office during the whole year of this report unless otherwise stated:

Elizabeth Mary Shaw
Danielle Elise Moselev
Anna Ruth Jordan

Accountants

A resolution proposing the re-appointment of Frank S Lachman as Independent Examiner will be submitted at the Annual General Meeting.

Going Concern

The directors confirm that:

A going concern basis is appropriate for these accounts.

The company has sufficient reserves to continue for at least 12 months after the date of signing these accounts.

This report has been prepared in accordance with the provisions in Section 419(2) of the Companies Act 2006 applicable to companies subject to the small companies regime.

East London Shakespeare Festival Ltd.

Inclusive Rehearsal, Classes Workshop Practices:

East London Shakespeare Festival Ltd.

Public Benefit

The Trustees confirm that in compiling this report they have had due regard to the guidance on public benefit issued by the Charity Commission in compliance with the duty set out in section 4 of the Charities Act 2006

Related Parties

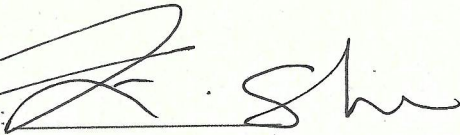
The charity has relationships with other charities on a project-by-project basis.

Approval

This report was approved by the board of trustees on 24th November 2025 and signed on its behalf by:

Elizabeth Shaw, Chair of Trustees

Signature:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'E. Shaw', written over a horizontal line.

E. SHAW

ACCOUNTANTS REPORT

Independent Examiner's Report on the Accounts

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the company for the year ended 28th February 2025 which are set out on pages 8 to 12.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity's trustees of the company (and also its directors for the purposes of company law) you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 ('the 2006 Act').

Having satisfied myself that the accounts of the company are not required to be audited under Part 16 of the 2006 Act and are eligible for independent examination, I report in respect of my examination of your charity's accounts as carried out under section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 (the '2011 Act'). In carrying out my examination I have followed the Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act.

Independent examiner's report

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe:

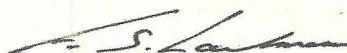
- (1) accounting records were not kept in respect of the company as required by section 386 of the 2006 Act; or
- (2) the accounts do not accord with those accounting records; or
- (3) the accounts do not comply with the accounting requirements of section 396 of the 2006 Act other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair' view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination; or
- (4) the accounts have not been prepared in accordance with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended practice for accounting and reporting by charities applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102).

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.

Frank S Lachman FCA
Member Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales
Chartered Accountant
Independent Examiner

31 Fairview Way
Edgware
Middlesex HA8 8JE

Dated: 24th November 2025



East London Shakespeare Festival Ltd.
Statement of Financial Activities
For the Year Ended 28th February 2025

	Notes	Unrestricted Funds	Total Funds 2025	Unrestricted Funds	Total Funds 2024
Income					
Charitable activities	2	83,540	83,540	69,844	69,844
Total income		<u>83,540</u>	<u>83,540</u>	<u>69,844</u>	<u>69,844</u>
Expenditure					
Charitable Activity Costs	3	76,982	76,982	58,645	58,645
Total expenditure		<u>76,982</u>	<u>76,982</u>	<u>58,645</u>	<u>58,645</u>
Surplus for the year		6,558	6,558	11,199	11,199
Funds brought forward		19,761	19,761	8,562	8,562
Funds carried forward	7	<u>26,319</u>	<u>26,319</u>	<u>19,761</u>	<u>19,761</u>

The statement of Financial Activities reflects the results of continuing activities for the year.

There were no recognised gains or losses other than the net outgoing resources for the year.

The net outgoing resources for the year have been calculated on the historical cost basis.

The notes on pages 10 to 12 form part of these accounts.

**East London Shakespeare Festival Ltd.
Balance Sheet at 28th February 2025**

	Notes	2025		2024	
		£	£	£	£
Fixed assets	4		9,408		-
Current assets					
Cash at bank and in hand		28,287		20,511	
Total current assets		<u>28,287</u>		<u>20,511</u>	
Creditors falling due within one year	5	<u>11,376</u>		<u>750</u>	
Net current assets			16,911		19,761
Net assets			<u><u>26,319</u></u>		<u><u>19,761</u></u>
The Funds of the Charity					
Unrestricted Funds	6.		26,319		19,761
Total Charity Funds			<u><u>26,319</u></u>		<u><u>19,761</u></u>

a) For the year ended 28th February 2025 the company was entitled to exemption under section 477(2) of the Companies Act 2006.

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

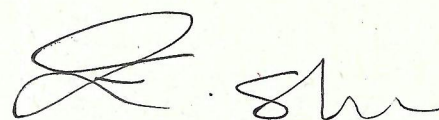
(c) The directors acknowledge their responsibility for:

- i. ensuring the company keeps accounting records which comply with section 386; and
- ii. preparing accounts which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the company as at the end of the financial year and of its profit and loss for the financial year in accordance with the section 393, and which otherwise comply with the requirements of the Companies Act relating to accounts, so far as applicable to the company.

(d) The accounts have been prepared in accordance with the special provisions in Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006 applicable to companies subject to the small companies regime, and constitute the annual accounts required by the Companies Act 2006 and are for circulation to members of the company

Approved by the directors on 24th November 2025, and signed on their behalf by

Elizabeth Shaw, Chair of Trustees


E. SHAW

The notes on pages 10 to 12 form part of these accounts.

1 Accounting Policies

(a) The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2022) - (Charities SORP (FRS 102)), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Companies Act 2006.

East London Shakespeare Festival Ltd. meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy note(s).

(b) Income

Income is recognised when the charity has entitlement to the funds, any performance conditions attached to the items of income have been met, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured reliably. Income from grants, whether capital or revenue grants, is recognised when the charity has entitlement to the funds, any performance conditions attached to the grants has been met, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured reliably and is not deferred.

(c) Expenditure

All expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis. Expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to make a payment to a third party. It is probable that settlement will be required and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably.

Costs are allocated to a category either because such costs are directly incurred in relation to such category, or because they are support costs in respect of which an apportionment has been made between the categories.

Support costs consist of infrastructure costs for salaries, premises, office administration. Such costs are apportioned on a reasonable and consistent basis to the various categories with a view to determining, as accurately as possible, the total resources expended for each category. The basis of apportionment used is either a function of staff time applied to a given activity, or an estimate of the proportion of costs associated with the same, or a combination of both.

Direct and Support costs are separately shown by natural classification in Note 5 to these accounts for each category of cost.

(d) Taxation

The company as a registered charity (number 1203349) is exempt from taxation on most investment income insofar as it is applied for charitable purposes. The company is also exempt from taxation on capital gains.

(e) Debtors

Trade and other debtors are recognised at the settlement amount due after any trade discount offered. Prepayments are valued at the amount prepaid net of any trade discounts due.

(f) Creditors and provisions

Creditors and provisions are recognised where the charity has a present obligation resulting from a past event that will probably result in the transfer of funds to a third party and the amount due to settle the obligation can be measured or estimated reliably. Creditors and provisions are normally recognised at their settlement amount after allowing for any trade discounts due.

East London Shakespeare Festival Ltd.
Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended 28th February 2025

2 Charitable activity	Unrestricted Funds	2025	Unrestricted Funds	2024
Project Grants and donations				
Arts Council England	8,920	8,920		
Sundry	10,000	10,000	-	-
	<u>18,920</u>	<u>18,920</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Young Company fees	10,408	10,408	-	1,572
Ticket sales, fees, commissions, co-productions	54,212	54,212	67,208	68,272
	<u>83,540</u>	<u>83,540</u>	<u>67,208</u>	<u>69,844</u>

3 Charitable activity costs	Support Costs	Charitable Activity Costs	Governance Costs	Total 2025
	Unrestricted	Unrestricted		
Charitable Activity Costs				
Travel, hotels and PDs	557	-	-	557
Young Company Directors fees	8,925	-	-	8,925
Creative fees	52,446	-	-	52,446
Merchandise and Production consumables	2,808	-	-	2,808
Venue fees and expenses	7,038	-	-	7,038
Insurance	697	-	-	697
Marketing and advertising	119	-	-	119
Support costs				
Examination fee	-	-	750	750
Statutory fees	-	-	34	34
Charitable donations	-	-	488	488
Software and web hosting	470	-	-	470
Depreciation	-	-	2,352	2,352
Administration	285	-	13	298
Total 2025	<u>73,345</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>3,637</u>	<u>76,982</u>

	Support Costs	Charitable Activity Costs	Governance Costs	Total 2024
	Unrestricted	Unrestricted		
Charitable Activity Costs				
Travel, hotels and PDs	-	36	-	36
Young Company Directors fees	-	1,200	-	1,200
Creative fees	-	47,367	-	47,367
Merchandise and Production consumables	-	3,260	-	3,260
Venue fees and expenses	5,742	-	-	5,742
Support costs				
Examination fee	-	-	750	750
Statutory fees	-	-	13	13
Administration	277	-	-	277
Total 2024	<u>6,019</u>	<u>51,863</u>	<u>763</u>	<u>58,645</u>

The company did not employ any staff during the year. (2024 None)

East London Shakespeare Festival Ltd.
Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended 28th February 2025

4 Fixed Assets	Motor Vehicle	2025
Additions in year	11,760	11,760
Cost 28th February 2025	11,760	11,760
Depreciation		
Charge for the year	2,352	2,352
Depreciation 28th February 2025	2,352	2,352
As at 28th February 2025	9,408	9,408

5 Creditors due within one year	2025	2024
Deferred income	8,866	-
Other creditors	1,760	-
Accruals	750	750
	11,376	750

6 Reconciliation of movement of funds

	Funds at 1st March 2024	Income	Expenses	Funds at 28th February 2025
Unrestricted Funds				
Designated	19,761	83,540	(76,982)	26,319
	19,761	83,540	(76,982)	26,319

The above funds comprise:

Designated Fund: These are funds designated for future projects in the following year.

7 Analysis of assets over funds

	Fixed Assets	Net Current Assets	Total 2025	Total 2024
Unrestricted Funds:				
Designated	9,408	16,911	26,319	19,761
	9,408	16,911	26,319	19,761

8 Trustees

During the year, none of the trustees received any remuneration from the charity and no expenses were reimbursed to any of them.

