



Body Politic Annual Report 24/25

Pegasus Theatre, Magdalen Road, OX4 1RE. Charity Number:1207375.

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Josh Tomalin

1/Reference & Administration Information:

Chair:

Lauren Kendall

Trustees:

Trustees:

Natasha Anderson

Lucy Bellingham

Rohini Jhally

Gemma Cannon

Shannelle Fergus

Lucia Prentice

Laura Ayoade

Hanna Smyth

Rajpal Pardesi resigned 9/9/2024

Lee Griffiths resigned 13/03/2025

Charity Number:

1207375

Registered Office:

Pegasus Theatre,
Magdalen Road,
OX4 1RE

Artistic Director & Chief Executive Officer:

Emma-Jane Morbey

Independent Examiner:

Andrew Churchill Stone,
Mercer Lewin Ltd,
Chartered Accountants,
6-7 Citibase,
New Barclay House,
234 Botley Rd,
Oxford
OX2 0HP



Josh Tomalin

2/Executive Summary

The first year has been a fantastic start for Body Politic ("the charity") as a newly established CIO. Prior to this, the organisation operated for 11 years under a limited by guarantee governance structure.

Body Politic delivers innovative Hip Hop dance performances, productions, and participatory arts that foster social inclusion. We focus on engaging children and young people from disadvantaged communities, offering cultural activities year-round, particularly in dance and theatre.

In June 2024, Body Politic launched its flagship training and development programme for young artists aged 16-25yrs. This is a year long-programme, addressing the lack of support for progression routes for new and emerging artists in non-traditional dance styles. We support young artists from the global majority and disadvantaged communities through paid training and development to equip them with the skills, confidence and leadership qualities to shape their future success and influence meaningful change in the industry.

Investment in 8 artists also meant that Body Politic were able to grow its services for children and young people in the city by 51%. We delivered 8 sessions a week, and built two new partnership initiatives with Barton Neighbourhood Centre and City of Oxford College.

**During 2024/2025,
Body Politic has
worked with
1674 children
and young people
aged 5-25yrs and
delivered 5097
young person
attended hours
across the year.**



Josh Tomalin

**During 24/25 we offered
187 free and subsidised
places to children and
young people.**



Our weekly classes and projects offer young people the opportunity to develop creative thinking, build confidence, foster new social connections and friendships as well as boost physical and mental well-being.

This year Body Politic has cemented partnerships both regionally and nationally through the development of its Future Leaders Programme. These have included Parasol, Youth Ambition (Oxford City Council), Pegasus, The North Wall Arts Centre as well as, Boy Blue, Far From the Norm and Zonation. We have also collaborated with researchers at University of Oxford to develop organisational impact tools piloting survey methods and questions on participants so we are better equipped to measure our impact.

Body Politic has displayed its continued commitment to accessibility through maintaining affordable prices across our provision, and ensuring that we provide supported places for participants who face multiple barriers to engaging with the arts.

It is important that we deliver work, and work with individuals who reflect the rich diversity of the Oxfordshire community. We have built long-term and sustainable relationships with our local communities that are least represented across the national arts landscape and are dealing with significant social and socio-economic deprivation. We have continued to uphold our commitment to working in the Barton and Cowley estates - focusing on young people and families from lower socio-economic backgrounds and marginalised communities.

Underpinning our programme and achievements this year has been a focus on the impact of our work and the development of how we create a framework for evaluating that impact. These core pillars of change will enable us to ensure that our work supports the delivery and vision. They are:

- **Talent Development** - investing in young people, artists and producers to develop creative leaders
- **Education and Employment** - building skills, confidence and paid work opportunities to promote sustainable arts careers
- **Mental health and well-being** - using dance as a vehicle to promote better health outcomes for members of our community

The charity's activities were previously carried out by Body Politic Dance Limited a, company limited by guarantee. On 1 April 2024, Body Politic Dance Limited donated all its assets amount of £35,116 to Body Politic Dance (Charity).

During 24/25 our income was £150,352 and expenditure amount of £118,005. This made a surplus of £32,347 for the year.

The Charity's total reserves at March 31 2025, were £32,347. Of this amount £1,804 equates to the charities designated or fixed assets, £12,000 is held as operational reserves and remaining are available to be used to support any aspect of the Charity's total expenditure. It is vital that we continue to identify further funding for the ongoing financial health of the Charity over the next year.

Full statement of financial activities can be found on pg 21.

Lauren Kendall - Chair of Body Politic



Hayley Hawn

“My daughters are more confident and active. They look forward to the classes have found something they are both passionate about. Since starting Body Politic, their siblings bond has gotten stronger, they are more active at home, share their experiences with both parents with joy. It has given our family a boost in so many ways. It’s given them a chance to do something they wouldn’t otherwise have done: something physical that isn’t a traditional sport.”

“The dance classes have made a significantly positive impact on my daughter. The classes have allowed her to express herself, build confidence, and feel proud of her achievements as they progressed with preparations for the show. Also very impressed with how well they performed in front of a sell-out theatre! The group has provided her with opportunities to make new friends and develop social skills. She’s learned teamwork, cooperation, and how to interact with peers, which has helped her build lasting friendships. Dance has always been a positive outlet for my daughter’s emotions. It’s a creative way for her to express feelings and manage stress, which is just great. Overall, the dance classes have been a really positive influence and we are grateful for the opportunities provided by your charity. Thank you for everything!”



Josh Tomalin

3/Artistic Director Summary

I am immensely proud of the work that Body Politic has achieved this year and have witnessed transformation both organisationally in its re-framed focus and future direction of Body Politic's work, but also professionally and personally in our young leaders.

Whilst the cultural sector continues to face challenges in various forms, the impact of Body Politic's work has never been needed more. Our work is helping children and young people living in Oxford access art in new and exciting ways: young people are continuing to take part in weekly dance classes and workshops, and we have piloted a brand new paid artist development programme (Future Leaders) with huge success.

We are committed to providing much-needed infrastructure and training to artists in the South-East interested in pursuing careers in non-traditional dance styles, and remain one of the only provisions in the South East providing talent development in Hip Hop.

In March 2025, we welcomed a new Producer as we look to elevate our artist development programme further and build our national reputation for Hip Hop Dance Theatre.

This is just a snapshot of our annual highlights, but maybe the overlying theme here is our continued commitment to our communities within the city, diversifying who can work within the arts and committing to making that work as well-supported and sustainable as possible.

As always, we extend our gratitude and kindness towards our funders, whose support has unlocked new and exciting partnerships across the city. We are excited for the years ahead and what we can continue to achieve and develop in Oxford.

Emma-Jane Morbey

Artistic Director



Josh Tomalin



Rocio Chacon

The Trustees now present their report with the financial statements of Body Politic ("the charity") for the year ending 2025. The Trustees have adopted the provisions of 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 October 2019).

4/Vision mission & values

Vision

To transform the landscape of Hip Hop dance and dance theatre by creating opportunities and platforms for new voices in the cultural sector. We are dedicated to widening access pathways for individuals from marginalised backgrounds, including those under-represented due to gender, socio-economic status, or ethnicity, ensuring a more inclusive and equitable future for the arts.

Mission

Through fostering cross-sector partnerships, producing boundary-pushing hip hop dance theatre, National Touring, delivery of our flagship Future Leader Programme, and impactful creative learning opportunities, we aim to inspire meaningful change and create lasting impact at local, regional, and national levels.

Beliefs

Body Politic believes that...

- everyone has the right to experience art and culture, and campaigns to ensure that our work is accessed by those who are often excluded due to inaccessibility or cost.
- in the power of working collaboratively to continuously challenge, reinvent and elevate new diverse voices within the cultural sector.
- providing infrastructure, training and support to promote and elevate the young artists of the future, builds a stronger and more representative cultural sector.



VALUES

1- Community

2- Leadership

3- Growth

5- Innovation

6- Kindness

Community

Being involved in creative activities within communities is transformative in reducing loneliness, supporting physical and mental health, and fostering a profound sense of belonging. Body Politic, prioritises the importance of community—not just in a geographical sense, but as an expansive network of audiences, artists, and collaborators who are united by a shared passion for the arts. Through our touring and established networks, we have cultivated a wider community that embodies a sense of family, mutual respect, and collective value.

By placing audiences and communities at the heart of what we do, Body Politic nurtures relationships that not only enrich individual lives but also empower collective growth, ensuring that the impact of our work extends far beyond the stage.

Leadership

Driven by a commitment to fostering equal representation, we actively invest in the development of our artistic workforce, delivering transformative career pathways for young artists. Our mission is to equip emerging talent with the skills, confidence, and leadership qualities necessary to shape their future success and influence meaningful change in the industry.

Body Politic is dedicated to shifting the cultural landscape toward greater diversity and inclusion, ensuring our work leaves a lasting legacy of equity, empowerment, and opportunity.

Growth

Over the next five years, we aim to manage and sustain our growth as an organisation and charity. This includes strengthening our operational framework, expanding core staff roles to better support our mission, and diversifying income streams to ensure long-term sustainability. By doing so, we will amplify our impact, reach more communities, and continue driving meaningful change in the arts and beyond.

Innovation

Body Politic will continue to create innovative digital and live work that is bold, ambitious, and risk-taking, setting new standards for creativity and impact in the cultural sector. Recognising the need for transformative change, we prioritise innovative collaborations that challenge traditional norms and inspire systemic shifts. By leveraging partnerships across disciplines and sectors, we seek to lead the cultural sector toward greater inclusivity and representation.

Our work goes beyond performance; it actively influences the wider dance ecology through the ongoing investment in our flagship training programs. These programs nurture emerging talent while deliberately shifting power to a new generation of hip-hop voices - voices that reflect the diversity, resilience, and creativity of their communities. Through this commitment, we not only elevate individual artists but also cultivate a cultural landscape where equity, innovation, and collaboration are at the forefront, ensuring lasting impact for the future of dance and beyond.

Kindness

Body Politic is built on the foundation of kindness as a transformative force, recognising its power to foster equity, inclusion, and shared humanity. Through an anti-racism lens, we actively challenge systems of oppression and prioritise amplifying marginalised voices.

By centering the lived experiences of those historically excluded from power, we aim to create spaces where compassion intersects with justice, enabling meaningful collaboration and sustainable impact.

Our approach reframes kindness from a passive act to a bold commitment, driving systemic change while nurturing communities that thrive on respect, dignity, and mutual empowerment.

“

Our family life has improved with our child singing, dancing and rehearsing everyday. It gives a joyful vibe to our world. My daughter is currently under assessment for ADHD and has a fantastic time at body politic, starting in the summer for their workshop and now attending weekly lessons. She has made new friends, has become extremely confident and is proud of herself. It brings me so much joy as a parent to see my daughter thrive and i am extremely grateful for body politic for offering us this space with no fee and supporting my daughter not only physically but socially and emotionally.

”

“

My child is more open with others, less shy, more confident about herself, especially when she is on stage during a performance in front of an audience.

”



Josh Tomalin

5/Achievements & Performance 24/25

As set out in the charity's constitution, Body Politic's objectives are to advance education in and increase appreciation and understanding of all forms of the arts including but not limited to, theatre and dance.

In planning the work of the Charity, the Trustees take due regard to the Charity Commission's guidance on Public Benefit, including the guidance "Public benefit: running a charity (PB2)". The Trustees are satisfied that the Charity meets that guidance in that it offers its activities to any child or young person and indeed makes every effort to reach out to those families who for economic and/or social reasons find it challenging to provide appropriate activities for their children and young people.

The Trustees are happy that participants in the charity's activities are from a very wide spectrum of social and economic backgrounds, particularly those from marginalised communities, and this is fundamental to improving their wellbeing, skill and aspirations by making them feel valued and included.



Our Creative Learning Programme includes:

1. Future Leaders

A year-long paid artist development programme, addressing the lack of support for progression routes for new and emerging artists in non-traditional dance styles. Future Leaders provides new, exciting and sustainable talent pathways for Hip Hop dance in the South East.

Over the course of 12 months, we have worked with 8 artists who have each delivered over 150 hours of dance provision across the city. Training has also included Trauma informed coaching, safeguarding, choreographic development as well as a wide range of practical work placements cross-sector.



"Being a Future Leader has proven to be a far more multifaceted journey than I initially imagined. Over the past few months, I have grown immensely, developing as a dancer, artist, teacher, and member of the Oxford community...

I learned from cooperating with other community-based organisations such as Parasol project and Youth Ambition Northway about how to work with people with special needs and have also really started to appreciate how we could use dance as a way to engage people no matter their background and capability;... this has encouraged me tremendously in my own pursuit of artistic practice and pushed myself to think about dance and art from different perspectives.

I joined the programme expecting to develop my dancing skills, but I gained so much more. I believe the programme truly celebrates the diversity, innovativeness, and inclusiveness of dance as an art form - regardless of age, gender, physical or mental ability, ethnicity or nationality, we all unite and convey our messages through movements, where language is superfluous, and art is promoted and communicated in a way that surpasses the constraints of all boundaries."

Mingyu Zhu, Future Leader

2. Weekly Classes

Body Politic offers 8 weekly classes for C&YP aged 5-25 years across 36 sessions. Crucially, we provide 15 free places each term for C&YP in receipt of free school meals. Many of these participants are identified by Barton Park Primary School and are referred to us for attendance.

Throughout this period, we've worked with 76 young people, delivering a total of 2,714 hours attended.

3. Schools & Workshops

Over the past year, Body Politic has strengthened relationships with local primary and secondary schools. We've partnered with 15 schools, reaching 784 C&YP by offering free or discounted dance sessions for KS3 and KS4 students.

Additionally, we've delivered a number of CPD sessions for teachers at The Oxford Academy and 3rd-year Sports Pedagogy and Coaching students at Oxford Brookes University. These sessions have been tailored to the KS3 PE curriculum and have equipped educators with the tools and confidence to incorporate dance into their teaching.

“

Body Politic delivered a Key Stage 3 Dance Workshop for our third year students on the BSc (Hons) Sport, Coaching and Physical Education programme at Oxford Brookes University in February 2025. Em-J and Immanuel put the students at ease straight away to help and support them to reconceptualise their perspectives of dance. This was a personable, informal, relaxed and supportive session which engaged the entire group with paired and group-based activities to evoke their imagination and creativity regarding how dance can be delivered to suit individual needs. A highly engaging, eye opening and motivating session!

Polly Lasota,

Senior Lecturer in Coaching and Pedagogy, Oxford Brookes University

”

4. Family Dance Parties

Our recently established partnership with The Northwall Arts Centre has been a tremendous success. Together, we have delivered Family Dance Parties in Cutteslowe, Barton, and Kidlington. Over the course of the year, 699 people participated in workshops and discos, highlighting the growing demand for affordable, community-based activities for families.

5. Partnership Initiatives

A key aspect of our work includes collaboration with our partners: Pegasus Theatre, Barton Neighbourhood Centre, and City of Oxford College. Together, we've expanded our impact and supported more young people across the community.

Working in partnership with Body Politic to deliver Family Dance Parties in community venues has been key in enabling us to reach new audiences, specifically family audiences. The majority of bookers to the dance parties have not been to The North Wall before and as a result of attending and having a positive and enriching experience, are confident to come to The North Wall and watch a family show. We have seen this pattern after each Family Dance Party. Body Politic delivers accessible, fun and high-quality structured sessions for adults and children to play, build connections and be creative which aligns perfectly with our values. We value our partnership with Body Politic and look forward to collaborating together on future projects.

Abie Walton, Participation Manager, The North Wall Arts Centre



Rocio Chacon

The Year in Numbers

Activity	No. individual attending	Total no. sessions delivered	Total yp. hours delivered/ attended
Weekly Classes	76	36	2714
Partner Initiatives	44	36	1567
Holiday Provision	63	15	90
Schools & Workshops	784	46	46
Family Dance Parties	699	6	36
Future Leaders	8	68	644
TOTAL	1674	207	5097

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By fostering creativity in all its students through an accessible teaching style, BP offers opportunities for people to be creative in whatever way feels comfortable for them. It also has a rigorous approach to production – helping to develop this creativity into an awareness of professional standards. This combination of inclusiveness and creative excellence makes BP able to address subjects that have a profound impact on the lives of its students and their communities”.

Arts at The Old Fire Station

//



Josh Tomalin

Evaluation Feedback

In a recent survey, responses from 24 parent/carers stated that their children felt Very Happy (67%) and Happy (33%) after attending Body Politic Dance sessions. Parent/Carers also stated that attending weekly sessions with Body Politic Dance has helped their child develop more self-confidence and feelings of positivity about themselves (86% Strongly Agree, 9.5% Somewhat Agree).

91% of parents Strongly Agreed that their child feels at home and comfortable taking part in Body Politic dance sessions. Parent/ Carers also stated that there has been noticeable improvements in their child's physical health and fitness since attending Body Politic Dance sessions (52.8% Strongly Agree, 38% Somewhat Agree and 4.76% Don't know).

This year, Body Politic has worked with University of Oxford to develop and pilot organisation impact tools which can be used across our Creative Learning Programmes to measure impact. A full report will be published in June 2026.



@XTIANVILLAFLORES

Christian Villaflores

"

For most young girls ballet, tap and modern are readily available dance disciplines. Hip hop dancing for children is a much needed option in Oxford, it targets a type of child who loves to dance but feels like their interest is not mainstream enough for coaching and instruction. This is a great way to do something you love, exercise, build confidence and learning about discipline while having fun.

"

My daughter took part in other dance companies' sessions and couldn't make friends, felt very insecure. Here at Body Politic she came home excited and happy after the first session and now dancing is an important part of her week.

"

"

"

My daughter struggles with anxiety which has been having a significant impact on her school attendance, however Body Politic remains a constant for her. Regardless of what is happening elsewhere she always attends dance, every week. The sessions are supportive, encouraging and fun. She has made new friends and her confidence and self esteem have really grown. She gets a huge boost from performing in The Platform each year and we are so grateful she is part of Body Politic.

"



Josh Tomalin

6/Financial Review

Financial position

During 24/25 our income was £150,352 and expenditure amount of £118,005. This made a surplus of £32,347 for the year.

Principal funding sources

The charity's activities were previously carried out by Body Politic Dance Limited a company limited by guarantee. On 1 April 2024, Body Politic Dance Limited donated all its assets amount of £35,116 to Body Politic Dance (Charity).

Reserves

The Charity's total reserves at March 31 2025, were £32,347. Of this amount £1,804 equates to the charities designated or fixed assets, £12,000 is held as operational reserves and remaining are available to be used to support any aspect of the Charity's total expenditure. It is vital that we continue to identify further funding for the ongoing financial health of the Charity over the next year.

The operational reserve figure was taken from the charities previous year operational costs

and reflects three months operating costs. The Trustees feel, because of the uncertain nature of other individual and grant revenues, that maintaining a target of £12,000 of unrestricted reserves is reasonable.

The Trustees will continue to monitor the financial reports produced by the Artistic Director during the year ahead. We will continue to look for more sources of longer term funding to ensure that the Charity can boost its core funding and that the level of the reserves can be rebuilt to one that provides the Artistic Director and her staff team with security in making day to day financial decisions.

Future Plans

As a small project-funded charity, Body Politic depends on raising funds on a year on year basis to deliver its programme of activity throughout the year. As we move into 2025/2026, Body Politic is keen to provide financial stability for the charity through receipt of core funding.



Josh Tomalin

7/Governance, management & staffing

Governing Documents

The charity is controlled by its governing document, a deed of trust and constitutes an unincorporated charity.

Appointment of Trustees

Body Politic as a registered charity is governed by a board of trustees. Details of the trustees are given on page 3. Each trustee is expected to remain in office for four years and may be re-elected for one further three-year term but may not be re-elected for a further term in office unless exceptional circumstances apply. Recruitment takes place as required and is also informed by a regular skills audit to ensure the changing needs of the organisation can be supported.

All trustees have a discussion with the chair, other members of the board and executive team prior to appointment which provides a summary of the charity's development to date and its current position. The new trustees have an opportunity to discuss the issues that

arise and ask any questions. New trustees also receive a written role description, details of principal responsibilities and duties, recent minutes, some historical information and the current business plan, as well as the memorandum and articles of association and most recent accounts. All trustees receive an induction, in-house mentoring and training where necessary. Any trustee who will be in unsupervised contact with young people is required to be checked through the Disclosure and Barring Service.

Rajpal Pardesi stepped down as Chair in September 2024. Lee Griffiths was appointed as interim Chair for the organisation between September 2024-March 2025, and Lauren Kendall officially took up the position of Chair in March 2025.



Josh Tomalin



Organisation

The Board of Trustees administer the charity. The board meets four times a year. The Artistic Director as Chief Executive Officer directs the strategic development and day-to-day operations of the charity.

Key Management Personnel Remuneration

The trustees consider the Board of Trustees and Chief Executive Officer/ Artistic Director as comprising the key management personnel of the charity in charge of directing and controlling the charity and running and operating the charity on a day-to-day basis. All trustees give of their time freely and no trustee remuneration was paid in the year.

Trustees are required to disclose all relevant interests and in accordance with the Trust's policy withdraw from decisions where a conflict of interest arises. The pay of the key management personnel is reviewed annually by the trustees to ensure that it is fair and not out of line with similar roles.

Coming out of Covid and lockdown it was really difficult to find an activity outside of the home that my son was prepared to attend. We tried a couple of things but didn't get past one session. But Body Politic was different. There is something about the combination of positivity, inclusiveness, Fun atmosphere, engaging and enthusiastic leaders, mix of age and gender, and just the fact that it's pretty damn cool that gave my son the motivation to stick it out beyond one session. Five years on, he's still enjoying it way beyond any other Club or activity he's tried before. That has to be a magic formula.

Body Politic continues to have a great impact on my son's life. The community is welcoming and a model of diversity and inclusion. It is an example of the talent and community at the heart of Oxford.

My daughter has really benefitted from the classes, there is a lovely, inclusive, nurturing feel, she has gained confidence, and become more physically active - thank you!



Josh Tomalin

8/Risk Management

The trustees are responsible for the management of risks faced by the organisation. The board carries out a formal review of the charity's risk management processes on an annual basis and the charity maintains a risk register which is regularly monitored and reviewed by the board.

The key areas of risk where management failure would carry a potential threat to the organisation have been identified as follows: failures in statutory and regulatory compliance regarding the safeguarding of young people, reductions in income generated and failing to respond to changing funding environments, exceeding organisational capacity.

The management of risk and the effectiveness of all material internal controls, including operational, financial and compliance controls is ongoing and reviewed and assessed by the senior management team, and is regularly reviewed by the board.



Oxford Atelier

Statement of Trustees Responsibility

The trustees are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Report (incorporating the strategic report and directors' report) and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102: The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (United Kingdom Accepted Accounting Practice).

Company law requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company and of the income and expenditure of the charitable company 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 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 charitable company will continue in business.

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

This report was approved by the Board of Directors and Trustees on 30th March 2025 and signed on its behalf by:

Lauren Kendall
Chair of Body Politic

Signed: *L. Kendall*

Date: 31st March 2025

"Body Politic continues to have a great impact on my son's life. The community is welcoming and a model of diversity and inclusion. It is an example of the talent and community at the heart of Oxford."

Parent of participant

"My son and I were having a conversation about it the other day. And he was just saying to me "oh, mum you know, it's amazing. The role models that I've had." He said that it was really great working with Body Politic's male dance teachers. He said, "because they showed me different ways to be a man and different kinds of masculinity, because they were dancing, and it was really beautiful how they were dancing, and I suddenly realised that to be masculine, you don't have to be like the stereotypical blokey sort of thing, you can be someone completely different. It really changed my ideas about how I could be as a boy and a man"

Parent of participant

"It's incredibly high-quality dance...There's a massive positive energy, huge inclusivity and encouragement. And also, it's really fun. Anyone who's producing, they want to have those two qualities, they want to have that kind of fresh joy in it, but also, they want to have it rooted in proper values and, you know, rigorous ideas."



"But It's more than just dance. There's a sense of feeling valued, of making friends, of meeting new people and being offered different activities. And opening up new opportunities. The older girls she's met, going into college to do dancing, they've shared experiences with her, planning A Levels or joining uni. That is good for any teenager, you know, wondering what to do next with their life. Watching the difference in him at this years show, compared to last year! It's testament to everything you do."

Josh Tomalin



BODY POLITIC

Body Politic Dance, Pegasus Theatre, Magdalen Road, OX4 1RE

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www.bodypoliticdance.com



REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER: 1207375

**BODY POLITIC DANCE
REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES AND
UNAUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025**

Mercer Lewin Ltd
Chartered Accountants
6-7 Citibase
New Barclay House
234 Botley Road
Oxford
OX2 0HP

BODY POLITIC DANCE

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BODY POLITIC DANCE

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

The trustees present their report with the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 March 2025. The trustees have adopted the provisions of 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 2019).

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Objectives and aims

The object of the CIO is to advance the arts for the public benefit by the promotion in particular but not exclusively of the art of dance.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

Financial position

During 24/25 our income was £150,352 and expenditure amount of £118,005. This made a surplus of £32,347 for the year.

Principal funding sources

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FUTURE PLANS

As a small project-funded charity, Body Politic depends on raising funds on a year on year basis to deliver its programme of activity throughout the year. As we move into 2025/2026, Body Politic is keen to provide financial stability for the charity through receipt of core funding.

Reserves

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The operational reserve figure was taken from the charities previous year operational costs and reflects three months operating costs. The Trustees feel, because of the uncertain nature of other individual and grant revenues, that maintaining a target of £12,000 of unrestricted reserves is reasonable.

The Trustees will continue to monitor the financial reports produced by the Artistic Director during the year ahead. We will continue to look for more sources of longer term funding to ensure that the Charity can boost its core funding and that the level of the reserves can be rebuilt to one that provides the Artistic Director and her staff team with security in making day to day financial decisions.

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Governing document

The charity is controlled by its governing document, a deed of trust and constitutes an unincorporated charity.

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Registered Charity number

1207375

Principal address

Magdalen Road, Oxford
OX4 1RE

BODY POLITIC DANCE

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

Trustees

Lauren Kendall- Chair
Shannelle Fergus
Lucia Prentice
Laura Ayoade
Hanna Smyth
Gemma Cannon
Lucy Bellingham
Rohini Jhally
Natasha Anderson

Independent Examiner

Andrew Churchill Stone
Mercer Lewin Ltd
Chartered Accountants
6-7 Citibase
New Barclay House
234 Botley Road
Oxford
OX2 0HP

Approved by order of the board of trustees on20/10/25..... and signed on its behalf by:

Lauren Kendall

.....
L Kendall - Trustee

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF BODY POLITIC DANCE

Independent examiner's report to the trustees of Body Politic Dance

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of Body Politic Dance (the Trust) for the year ended 31 March 2025.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity trustees of the Trust you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act').

I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under Section 145 of the Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under Section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent examiner's statement

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

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the Trust as required by Section 130 of the Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
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.



Andrew Churchill Stone

Mercer Lewin Ltd
Chartered Accountants
6-7 Citibase
New Barclay House
234 Botley Road
Oxford
OX2 0HP

Date: 20.04.25

BODY POLITIC DANCE**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025**

	Notes	Unrestricted fund £	Restricted funds £	Total funds £
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM				
Donations and legacies		59,226	91,126	150,352
EXPENDITURE ON				
Charitable activities				
Charitable Expenses		26,879	91,126	118,005
NET INCOME		32,347	-	32,347
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD		32,347	-	32,347

The notes form part of these financial statements

BODY POLITIC DANCE

**BALANCE SHEET
31 MARCH 2025**

	Notes	Unrestricted fund £	Restricted funds £	Total funds £
FIXED ASSETS				
Tangible assets	3	1,804	-	1,804
CURRENT ASSETS				
Debtors	4	23,984	-	23,984
Cash at bank		15,672	-	15,672
		<u>39,656</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>39,656</u>
CREDITORS				
Amounts falling due within one year	5	(9,113)	-	(9,113)
NET CURRENT ASSETS		<u>30,543</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>30,543</u>
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES		<u>32,347</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>32,347</u>
NET ASSETS		<u>32,347</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>32,347</u>
FUNDS	6			
Unrestricted funds				<u>32,347</u>
TOTAL FUNDS				<u>32,347</u>

The financial statements were approved by the Board of Trustees and authorised for issue on 20/10/25 and were signed on its behalf by:

Lauren Kendall
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L Kendall - Trustee

The notes form part of these financial statements

BODY POLITIC DANCE

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

BASIS OF PREPARING THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

The financial statements of the charity, which is a public benefit entity under FRS 102, have been prepared in accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102) '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 2019)', Financial Reporting Standard 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland' and the Charities Act 2011. The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention.

INCOME

All income is recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities once the charity has entitlement to the funds, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured reliably.

EXPENDITURE

Liabilities are recognised as expenditure as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to that expenditure, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required in settlement and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. Expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all cost related to the category. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings they have been allocated to activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources.

TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

Depreciation is provided at the following annual rates in order to write off each asset over its estimated useful life.

TAXATION

The charity is exempt from tax on its charitable activities.

FUND ACCOUNTING

Unrestricted funds can be used in accordance with the charitable objectives at the discretion of the trustees.

Restricted funds can only be used for particular restricted purposes within the objects of the charity. Restrictions arise when specified by the donor or when funds are raised for particular restricted purposes.

Further explanation of the nature and purpose of each fund is included in the notes to the financial statements.

PENSION COSTS AND OTHER POST-RETIREMENT BENEFITS

The charity operates a defined contribution pension scheme. Contributions payable to the charity's pension scheme are charged to the Statement of Financial Activities in the period to which they relate.

BODY POLITIC DANCE

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

2. TRUSTEES' REMUNERATION AND BENEFITS

There were no trustees' remuneration or other benefits for the year ended 31 March 2025.

TRUSTEES' EXPENSES

There were no trustees' expenses paid for the year ended 31 March 2025.

3. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

	Computer equipment £
COST	
At 1 April 2024 and 31 March 2025	3,007
DEPRECIATION	
At 1 April 2024	602
Charge for year	601
At 31 March 2025	1,203
NET BOOK VALUE	
At 31 March 2025	1,804

4. DEBTORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	£
Trade debtors	3,570
Other debtors	17,314
Prepayments and accrued income	3,100
	23,984

5. CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	£
Trade creditors	2,403
Other creditors	6,710
	9,113

BODY POLITIC DANCE**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025****6. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS**

	Net movement in funds £	At 31/3/25 £
Unrestricted funds		
General fund	32,347	32,347
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>32,347</u>	<u>32,347</u>

Net movement in funds, included in the above are as follows:

	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Movement in funds £
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	59,226	(26,879)	32,347
Restricted funds			
Arts Council - Future Leaders 24/25	81,126	(81,126)	-
Oxfordshire County Council - Future Leaders 24/25	10,000	(10,000)	-
	<u>91,126</u>	<u>(91,126)</u>	<u>-</u>
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>150,352</u>	<u>(118,005)</u>	<u>32,347</u>

7. RELATED PARTY DISCLOSURES

There were no related party transactions for the year ended 31 March 2025.

BODY POLITIC DANCE**DETAILED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025**

£

INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS**Donations and legacies**

Gifts

150,352

Total incoming resources

150,352

EXPENDITURE**Charitable activities**

Wages

25,912

Social security

2,320

Pensions

298

Insurance

1,399

Telephone

189

Postage and stationery

114

Advertising

2,071

Sundries

1,795

Direct costs

69,969

Audit & Accountancy fee

4,289

Bank Charges

387

Consultancy & Professional

3,801

Legal Expenses

1,469

Computer & IT costs

3,132

Membership costs

259

117,404

Support costs**Finance**

Depreciation of tangible fixed assets

601

Total resources expended

118,005

Net income

32,347

This page does not form part of the statutory financial statements

