

THE SOCIETY FOR THEATRE RESEARCH
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
30 SEPTEMBER 2024

Charity Number 266186

THE SOCIETY FOR THEATRE RESEARCH

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

YEAR ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER 2024

CONTENTS	PAGE
Members of the Board and professional advisers	3
Trustees Annual Report	4
Independent Examiner's Report	7
Statement of Financial Activities	8
Balance sheet	9
Notes to the financial statements	10
The following pages do not form part of the financial statements	
Detailed statement of financial activities	15

THE SOCIETY FOR THEATRE RESEARCH

TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT

YEAR ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER 2024

Registered charity name The Society for Theatre Research

Charity number 266186

Address Saville House
4 Mansfield Road
Oxford
OX1 3TA

Trustees Eileen Cottis
Francesca Franchi
Michael Ostler

Accountants Curlew Accounting Ltd
Eastburn
South Park
Hexham
Northumberland
NE46 1BS

THE SOCIETY FOR THEATRE RESEARCH

TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT *(continued)*

YEAR ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER 2024

The Trustees have pleasure in presenting their report and the unaudited financial statements of the charity for the year ended 30 September 2024.

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Reference and administrative details are shown in the schedule of members of the board and professional advisers on page 3 of the financial statements.

THE TRUSTEES

The trustees who served the charity during the period were as follows:

Eileen Cottis
Francesca Franchi
Michael Ostler

The trustees named above and on page 3 are trustees for the purposes of charity law.

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

The Society serves those interested in the history and technique of British Theatre by arranging public lectures, by publishing books and a thrice-yearly journal ('Theatre Notebook') and by awarding research grants to individuals and institutions. It awards an annual theatre book prize and stages the Poel Event, an annual workshop promoting good stage speech, most recently seen at the National Theatre.

ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE

The Trustees considered the 76th Annual Report for the year ending 30 September 2024. This would be circulated to members before the AGM, together with the President's Address and the Financial Statements

The Annual General Meeting was held on Wednesday 24 May 2024, both virtually and in person at the Art Workers' Guild. It was followed by the Annual Address, also on Zoom, with the title "Being an Opera diva in 18th-century London" given by Professor Michael Burden.

Professor Michael Burden is Chair of the Society; the Vice Chair is Professor Trevor Griffiths and the Vice-Presidents are Dr Neville Hunnings, Mrs Eileen Cottis, Mr Ian Herbert, and Dr Pieter van der Merwe.

The programme of lecture-meetings for 2023-24, arranged by Dr Valerie Kaneko-Lucas, had been wide-ranging and had included titles such as 'Crime Sex and Scandal: Songs of George Leybourne', 'The Many Adaptations of Allan Ramsay's The Gentle Shepherd', and 'In Conversation: The Conundrum of the Black Female Director'. Audiences on Zoom, and at the AGM, had been consistently larger than at lectures held live, a trend which it is hoped will continue.

The Wickham Lecture held in conjunction with the Bristol University department of theatre has been revived and will be developed further. The Gordon Craig Memorial Lecture was planned for June 2024 and would be a live event at the Royal Central School of Speech and Drama.

THE SOCIETY FOR THEATRE RESEARCH

TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT *(continued)*

YEAR ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER 2024

The 2024 Society for Theatre Research Theatre Book Prize had been awarded in June 2024 to *Out for Blood: a Cultural History of Carrie the Musical* by Chris Adams, published by Bloomsbury. The event was held at the Sadler's Wells Theatre and Mr Howard Loxton had been thanked for his commitment to the continuing success of the Prize.

The Poel Workshops continued in 2024; the workshops are seriously indebted to Poel Workshop at Leeds Playhouse for its generous support. Plans are now well advanced for future sessions and will be taken care of by Richard Williams.

The Society's Annual Publication for 2023-2024 had been Richard Pilbrow's *A Sense of Theatre: The untold story of Britain's National Theatre*. Three issues of *Theatre Notebook* had been produced and sent to subscribers; many thanks to Professor Trevor Griffiths, who continued as coordinating editor together with Dr Gabriel Egan and Dr Anselm Heinrich. The books and the journal have been combined under one editor, Professor Trevor Griffiths, with desired improved co-ordination.

Through its ongoing collaboration with Project Muse, the online database of academic journals, and other online providers, *Theatre Notebook* continued to generate income of around £10,000 each year for the Society.

The New Researchers Network had held no face-to-face activities but continued to encourage members to write about their current research on the NRN blog. Plans for a special number of *Theatre Notebook* continue to be developed.

The New Scholars Prize had not been offered this year and work was continuing on repositioning this award with a view to enhancing inclusivity.

The Research Awards Sub-Committee had met in April 2024 by Zoom, and had recommended 12 awards, as opposed to 13 the previous year. The members of the Research Awards Sub-Committee are thanked for their input as are Professor Kate Newey (the chair) and Ms Kate Quartano Brown for their impeccable management of the awards.

The Practitioner Grants Sub-Committee was revived this year and met in April 2024 by Zoom and had recommended 10 awards. The members of the Practitioner Grants Sub-Committee are thanked for their input as are Dr Laura Milburn (the chair) and Ms Kate Quartano Brown for their impeccable management of the awards.

The Society's website continued to be used by an average of fifty members per day. An appointment had been made to the role of Website Officer on an honorarium, and the effectiveness or otherwise of the post will be monitored during the year. The Committee was grateful to Kate Quartano Brown for her continued stewardship of the website.

The 75th working group has developed for the celebration of the Society's 75th anniversary in 2023-24, centered on a conference held at Wills Hall at the University of Bristol which took place from 18 to 21 July.

The Accounts for 2023-24 were approved by the AGM. We are grateful to Dr Irena Cholić and the Chair for their work. The emergency fund in the Reserved Savings Account with Scottish Widows Bank remained intact. Care will still be needed in the future because of the minimal increase of income from investment.

The Trustees concluded that the Society's affairs had been properly administered during the year ending 30 September 2024.

THE SOCIETY FOR THEATRE RESEARCH

TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT *(continued)*

YEAR ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER 2024

RESERVES POLICY

The Society's financial reserves are represented by the £30,000 held in the Reserve Savings Account with Scottish Widows Bank.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

The total income for the year was £50,677 and expenditure was £47,983, resulting in a net surplus of £2,694. After accounting for the surplus of £75,763 on investments in the year, there were total funds of £824,323 carried forward to the following financial year.

RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE TRUSTEES

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).

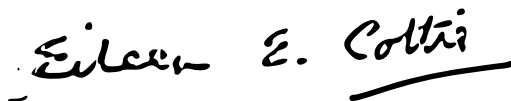
In preparing these financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP;
- make judgments and 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 operation.

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity. 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.

INDEPENDENT EXAMINERS

A resolution to re-appoint Curlew Accounting Ltd as Independent Examiners for the ensuing year will be proposed at the annual retirement meeting of the trustees.



Signed by order of the Trustees
Eileen Cottis

THE SOCIETY FOR THEATRE RESEARCH
INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES ON THE
UNAUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS OF THE
SOCIETY FOR THEATRE RESEARCH

YEAR ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER 2024

I report on the accounts for the year ended 30 September 2024.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Charities Act") and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- Examine the accounts under section 145 of the Charities Act;
- To follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commission (under section 145(5)(b) of the Charities Act; and
- To state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's report

My examination was carried out in accordance with general Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison, of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and the seeking of explanations from the trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit and, consequently, no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair' view and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, no material matters have come to my attention which gives me cause to believe that, in any material respect:

- The accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act: or
- The accounts did not accord with the accounting records: or
- The accounts did 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 come across no 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.



Paul Barron, FMAAT ICPA (Fellow)

Independent Certified Practising Accountant



THE SOCIETY FOR THEATRE RESEARCH
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
(Incorporating an income and expenditure account)
YEAR ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER 2024

	Note	Total Funds Year to 30 Sept 24 £	Total Funds Year to 30 Sept 23 £
INCOMING RESOURCES			
Incoming resources from generated funds	2	50,677	130,873
TOTAL INCOMING RESOURCES		<u>50,677</u>	<u>130,873</u>
RESOURCES EXPENDED			
Charitable activities	3	44,411	57,065
Governance costs	4	3,572	6,426
TOTAL RESOURCES EXPENDED		<u>47,983</u>	<u>63,491</u>
NET INCOMING/(OUTGOING) RESOURCES FOR YEAR		2,694	67,382
Unrealised Gains/(Losses)		75,763	30,029
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS			
Total funds brought forward		745,866	648,455
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD		<u><u>824,323</u></u>	<u><u>745,866</u></u>

The Statement of Financial Activities includes all gains and losses in the year and therefore a statement of total recognised gains and losses has not been prepared.

All of the above amounts relate to continuing activities.

The notes on pages 10 to 13 form part of these financial statements.

THE SOCIETY FOR THEATRE RESEARCH

BALANCE SHEET

30 SEPTEMBER 2024

	Note	2024 £	2023 £
FIXED ASSETS			
Publications		50	50
Tangible Assets	5	56	75
Investments		728,489	652,726
		<u>728,595</u>	<u>652,851</u>
CURRENT ASSETS			
Investments		30,000	30,000
Cash at bank and in hand		65,728	63,015
		<u>95,728</u>	<u>93,015</u>
CREDITORS: Amounts falling due within one year	6	-	-
NET CURRENT ASSETS		<u>95,728</u>	<u>93,015</u>
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES		<u>824,323</u>	<u>745,866</u>
NET ASSETS		<u>824,323</u>	<u>745,866</u>
FUNDS			
Restricted income funds	7	339,879	313,739
Unrestricted income funds	8	438,926	386,609
Designated funds	9	45,518	45,518
TOTAL FUNDS		<u>824,323</u>	<u>745,866</u>

These financial statements were approved by the members of the committee on the 30th July 2025 and are signed on their behalf by:

Eileen Cottis
Trustee

Eileen E. Cottis

The notes on pages 10 to 13 form part of these financial statements.

THE SOCIETY FOR THEATRE RESEARCH

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

YEAR ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER 2024

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Basis of accounting

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention and in accordance with applicable United Kingdom accounting standards, the Statement of Recommended Practice "Accounting and Reporting by Charities" issued in March 2005 (SORP 2005).

Cash flow statement

The trustees have taken advantage of the exemption in Financial Reporting Standard No 1 (revised) from including a cash flow statement in the financial statements on the grounds that the charity is small.

Reserves

The Society's financial reserves are represented by the Reserve Savings Account with Scottish Widows Bank.

Investments

These are shown at market value with associated gains and losses.

Fixed assets

All fixed assets are initially recorded at cost.

Depreciation

Depreciation is calculated so as to write off the cost of an asset, less its estimated residual value, over the useful economic life of that asset as follows:

Equipment	- 25% reducing balance
-----------	------------------------

Taxation Status

The Society for Theatre Research is a Registered Charity and accordingly is not liable to pay Income Tax, Corporation Tax or Capital Gains Tax. The Society receives no similar exemption in respect of Value Added Tax.

Incoming resources

Income is recognised in the period in which the charity is entitled to receipt and the amount can be measured with reasonable certainty. Income is only deferred when the charity has to fulfil conditions before becoming entitled to it or where the donor has specified that the income is to be expended in a future period.

Resources expended

Expenditure is recognised in the period in which it is incurred inclusive of any VAT which cannot be recovered.

THE SOCIETY FOR THEATRE RESEARCH

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

YEAR ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER 2024

Charitable expenditure comprises those costs incurred by the charity in the delivery of its activities and services for its beneficiaries. It includes both costs that can be allocated directly to such activities and those costs of an indirect nature necessary to support them.

Governance costs include those costs associated with meeting the constitutional and statutory requirements of the charity and include the audit fees and costs linked to the strategic management of the charity.

Fund accounting

Unrestricted funds can be used in accordance with the charitable objects 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.

2. INCOMING RESOURCES FROM GENERATED FUNDS

	Restricted Funds	Unrestricted Funds	Designated Funds	Total Funds 2024	Total Funds 2023
	£	£	£	£	£
Voluntary Sources	1,000	12,216	-	13,216	84,933
Trading Activities	-	10,516	-	10,516	23,574
Income from Assets	-	26,945	-	26,945	22,366
	<u>1,000</u>	<u>49,677</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>50,677</u>	<u>130,873</u>

3. CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

	Restricted Funds	Unrestricted Funds	Designated Funds	Total Funds 2024	Total Funds 2023
	£	£	£	£	£
Charitable activities	11,226	33,185	-	44,411	57,065
	<u>11,226</u>	<u>33,185</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>44,411</u>	<u>57,065</u>

4. GOVERNANCE COSTS

	Restricted Funds	Unrestricted Funds	Designated Funds	Total Funds 2024	Total Funds 2023
	£	£	£	£	£
Administration	-	3,553	-	3,553	6,401
Depreciation	-	19	-	19	25
	<u>-</u>	<u>3,572</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>3,572</u>	<u>6,426</u>

THE SOCIETY FOR THEATRE RESEARCH

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

YEAR ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER 2024

5. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

	Office and other equipment £
COST	
Brought forward	6,672
Additions	-
Disposals	-
At 30 September 2024	6,672
DEPRECIATION	
Brought forward	6,597
Charge for the year	19
On disposals	-
At 30 September 2024	6,616
NET BOOK VALUE	
At 30 September 2024	56
At 30 September 2023	75

6. CREDITORS: Amounts falling due within one year

	2024 £	2023 £
Other creditors	-	-
	-	-

7. RESTRICTED INCOME FUNDS

	Balance at 30 Sept 2023 £	Net incoming / (outgoing) resources £	Fund Transfers £	Unrealised Gains/(losses) £	Balance at 30 Sept 2024 £
General Funds	313,739	(10,226)	-	36,366	339,879

8. UNRESTRICTED INCOME FUNDS

	Balance at 30 Sept 2023 £	Net incoming / (outgoing) resources £	Fund Transfers £	Unrealised Gains/(losses) £	Balance at 30 Sept 2024 £
General Funds	386,609	12,920	-	39,397	438,926

THE SOCIETY FOR THEATRE RESEARCH

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

YEAR ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER 2024

9. DESIGNATED FUNDS

	Balance at 30 Sept 2023 £	Net incoming / (outgoing) resources £	Fund Transfers £	Unrealised Gains/(losses) £	Balance at 30 Sept 2024 £
General Funds	<u>45,518</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>45,518</u>

THE SOCIETY FOR THEATRE RESEARCH

MANAGEMENT INFORMATION

YEAR ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER 2024

The following pages do not form part of the statutory financial statements.

THE SOCIETY FOR THEATRE RESEARCH
DETAILED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
YEAR ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER 2024

	2024 £	2023 £
INCOMING RESOURCES		
INCOMING RESOURCES FROM GENERATED FUNDS		
Voluntary sources		
Membership Subscriptions	11,161	11,314
Subscriptions to TNB	995	1,540
Donations received	1,060	72,079
	<u>13,216</u>	<u>84,933</u>
Trading Activities		
Publication sales	959	3,120
Theatre Notebook sales	249	246
Royalties - Project Muse	9,308	20,208
	<u>10,516</u>	<u>23,574</u>
Income from Assets		
Interest & Dividends received	26,945	22,366
TOTAL INCOMING RESOURCES	<u><u>50,677</u></u>	<u><u>130,873</u></u>
RESOURCES EXPENDED		
DIRECT CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES		
Awards – Research	6,764	8,130
BSECS Fellowship	250	-
Book Prize	500	500
Annual Programme	3,962	3,860
Poel	3,299	2,462
Grave and Memorials	-	2,500
Craig and Wickham Lectures	-	800
“Theatre Notebook”	5,471	10,268
Publications & TN distribution	9,833	19,147
Website development	1,145	1,911
Subscriptions paid	351	987
Honorariums	8,000	6,500
Consultancy fees	1,500	-
Conference	3,336	-
	<u>44,411</u>	<u>57,065</u>
GOVERNANCE COSTS		
Administration	3,553	6,401
Depreciation	19	25
	<u>3,572</u>	<u>6,426</u>
TOTAL RESOURCES EXPENDED	<u><u>47,983</u></u>	<u><u>63,491</u></u>