

Bruiser Theatre Company

Northern Ireland · Charity number 101876

Details

Status Received

Registered 2016-01-26

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

Contact

Address 83 University Street
Belfast
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Website www.bruisertheatrecompany.com

Activities

Purposes: The Company is established to advance education, to promote the arts and to promote the benefit of the people of Northern Ireland (hereinafter referred to as the “area of benefit”) without distinction of age, gender, disability, sexual orientation, nationality, ethnic identity, political or religious opinion, and in particular to: (a) encourage appreciation for and active participation in performing arts activities; (b) to encourage appreciation of the arts and stimulate the artistic creativity of people in the area of benefit by the provision of artistic performances, workshops, training, support and facilities for artistic expression and to use this as a medium to explore contemporary social issues; (c) to present, promote, organise, manage and produce performances, workshops, and exhibitions of works of cultural and educational value, including performances, dramas, comedies, broadcasts, television shows, concerts, musical pieces, ballets, burlesques, film broadcasts, entertainments and exhibitions.

What the charity does: The advancement of education, The advancement of citizenship or community development, The advancement of the arts, culture, heritage or science

How the charity works: Arts, Cross-border/cross-community, Cultural, Education/training

Who the charity helps: Ethnic minorities, General public, Interface communities, Specific areas of deprivation, Unemployed/low income, Women, Youth (14-25 year olds)

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-03-31	£253,965	£276,021	£-104,087	5

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Miss Ella Griffin		
Mr Colin Morelli		
Mr Stephen Beggs		
Mr Vincent Mccann		
Ms Cathryn Gibson		
Ms Diana Mckeown		
Ms Laura Danielle Johnston		
Ms Marie O'donoghue		
Ms Paula Mckernan		
Ms Victoria Ann Margaret Preece		

Bruiser Theatre Company

Northern Ireland - Charity number 101876

Accounts

Bruiser Theatre Company

Statement of Financial Activities for the Year Ended 31 March 2025 (Including Income and Expenditure Account and Statement of Total Recognised Gains and Losses)

	Note	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2025 £	Total 2024 £
Income and Endowments from:					
Charitable activities	3	20,663	202,291	222,954	265,767
Other trading activities		-	2,800	2,800	-
Other income	4	<u>14,238</u>	<u>13,973</u>	<u>28,211</u>	<u>85,749</u>
Total Income		<u>34,901</u>	<u>219,064</u>	<u>253,965</u>	<u>351,516</u>
Expenditure on:					
Raising funds	5	(348)	(1,400)	(1,748)	(7,169)
Charitable activities	6	<u>(11,481)</u>	<u>(262,792)</u>	<u>(274,273)</u>	<u>(315,839)</u>
Total Expenditure		<u>(11,829)</u>	<u>(264,192)</u>	<u>(276,021)</u>	<u>(323,008)</u>
Net income/(expenditure)		23,072	(45,128)	(22,056)	28,508
Transfers between funds		<u>17,519</u>	<u>(17,519)</u>	-	-
Net movement in funds		40,591	(62,647)	(22,056)	28,508
Reconciliation of funds					
Total funds brought forward		<u>109,633</u>	<u>103,447</u>	<u>213,080</u>	<u>184,570</u>
Total funds carried forward	15	<u><u>150,224</u></u>	<u><u>40,800</u></u>	<u><u>191,024</u></u>	<u><u>213,078</u></u>
			Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2024 £
	Note				
Income and Endowments from:					
Charitable activities	3		4,300	261,467	265,767
Other income	4		<u>35,695</u>	<u>50,054</u>	<u>85,749</u>
Total Income			<u>39,995</u>	<u>311,521</u>	<u>351,516</u>
Expenditure on:					
Raising funds	5		(400)	(6,769)	(7,169)
Charitable activities	6		<u>(23,261)</u>	<u>(292,578)</u>	<u>(315,839)</u>
Total Expenditure			<u>(23,661)</u>	<u>(299,347)</u>	<u>(323,008)</u>
Net income			16,334	12,174	28,508
Transfers between funds			<u>(11,817)</u>	<u>11,817</u>	-
Net movement in funds			4,517	23,991	28,508
Reconciliation of funds					
Total funds brought forward			<u>105,114</u>	<u>79,456</u>	<u>184,570</u>
Total funds carried forward	15		<u><u>109,631</u></u>	<u><u>103,447</u></u>	<u><u>213,078</u></u>

All of the charity's activities derive from continuing operations during the above two periods.

Bruiser Theatre Company

**Statement of Financial Activities for the Year Ended 31 March 2025
(Including Income and Expenditure Account and Statement of Total Recognised Gains
and Losses)**

The funds breakdown for 2025 & 2024 is shown in note 15.

Bruiser Theatre Company
(Registration number: NI601058)
Balance Sheet as at 31 March 2025

	Note	2025 £	2024 £
Fixed assets			
Tangible assets	11	4,628	12,128
Current assets			
Debtors	12	4,229	3,895
Cash at bank and in hand		<u>286,254</u>	<u>257,837</u>
		290,483	261,732
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year	13	<u>(104,087)</u>	<u>(60,782)</u>
Net current assets		<u>186,396</u>	<u>200,950</u>
Net assets		<u>191,024</u>	<u>213,078</u>
Funds of the charity:			
Restricted funds			
		<u>40,800</u>	<u>103,447</u>
Unrestricted income funds			
Unrestricted funds		30,105	39,152
Designated Funds		<u>120,119</u>	<u>70,479</u>
Total unrestricted funds		<u>150,224</u>	<u>109,631</u>
Total funds	15	<u>191,024</u>	<u>213,078</u>


For the financial year ending 31 March 2025 the charity was entitled to exemption from audit under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

Directors' responsibilities:

- The members have not required the charity to obtain an audit of its accounts for the year in question in accordance with section 476; and
- 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 financial statements on pages 18 to 30 were approved by the trustees, and authorised for issue on 3 December 2025 and signed on their behalf by:



.....
Diana McKeown
Trustee

Bruiser Theatre Company

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2025

1 Charity status

The charity is a charity limited by guarantee and consequently does not have share capital. Each of the trustees is liable to contribute an amount not exceeding £Nil towards the assets of the charity in the event of liquidation.

Each of the members is liable to contribute an amount not exceeding £1 towards the assets of the charity in the event of liquidation.

2 Accounting policies

Summary of significant accounting policies and key accounting estimates

The principal accounting policies applied in the preparation of these financial statements are set out below. These policies have been consistently applied to all the years presented, unless otherwise stated.

Statement of compliance

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 2015) - (Charities SORP (FRS 102)), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Companies Act 2006.

Basis of preparation

Bruiser Theatre Company 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 notes.

Going concern

The financial statements have been prepared on a going concern basis.

The trustees assess whether the use of going concern is appropriate i.e. whether there are any material uncertainties related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the ability of the charity to continue as a going concern. The trustees make this assessment in respect of a period of one year from the date of approval of the financial statements.

The Trustees are aware that the Charity has lost its main funding, but remain hopeful that steps can be taken to ensure the organisation continues with its activities. Steps have been taken by the Trustees to reduce non-essential costs to allow the Charity to regroup and source alternative funding.

Exemption from preparing a cash flow statement

The charity opted to early adopt Bulletin 1 published on 2 February 2016 and have therefore not included a cash flow statement in these financial statements.

Bruiser Theatre Company

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2025

Income and endowments

Expenditure

All expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to that expenditure, it is probable settlement is required and the amount can be measured reliably. All costs are allocated to the applicable expenditure heading that aggregate similar costs to that category. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings they have been allocated on a basis consistent with the use of resources, with central staff costs allocated on the basis of time spent, and depreciation charges allocated on the portion of the asset's use. Other support costs are allocated based on the spread of staff costs.

Raising funds

These are costs incurred in attracting voluntary income, the management of investments and those incurred in trading activities that raise funds.

Charitable activities

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.

Support costs

Support costs include central functions and have been allocated to activity cost categories on a basis consistent with the use of resources, for example, allocating property costs by floor areas, or per capita, staff costs by the time spent and other costs by their usage.

Governance costs

These include the costs attributable to the charity's compliance with constitutional and statutory requirements, including audit, strategic management and trustees's meetings and reimbursed expenses.

Taxation

The charity is considered to pass the tests set out in Paragraph 1 Schedule 6 of the Finance Act 2010 and therefore it meets the definition of a charitable company for UK corporation tax purposes. Accordingly, the charity is potentially exempt from taxation in respect of income or capital gains received within categories covered by Chapter 3 Part 11 of the Corporation Tax Act 2010 or Section 256 of the Taxation of Chargeable Gains Act 1992, to the extent that such income or gains are applied exclusively to charitable purposes.

Tangible fixed assets

Individual fixed assets costing £0.00 or more are initially recorded at cost, less any subsequent accumulated depreciation and subsequent accumulated impairment losses.

Depreciation and amortisation

Depreciation is provided on tangible fixed assets so as to write off the cost or valuation, less any estimated residual value, over their expected useful economic life as follows:

Asset class	Depreciation method and rate
Office Equipment	20% Straight Line

Bruiser Theatre Company

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2025

Trade debtors

Trade debtors are amounts due from customers for merchandise sold or services performed in the ordinary course of business.

Trade debtors are recognised initially at the transaction price. They are subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method, less provision for impairment. A provision for the impairment of trade debtors is established when there is objective evidence that the charity will not be able to collect all amounts due according to the original terms of the receivables.

Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents comprise cash on hand and call deposits, and other short-term highly liquid investments that are readily convertible to a known amount of cash and are subject to an insignificant risk of change in value.

Trade creditors

Trade creditors are obligations to pay for goods or services that have been acquired in the ordinary course of business from suppliers. Accounts payable are classified as current liabilities if the charity does not have an unconditional right, at the end of the reporting period, to defer settlement of the creditor for at least twelve months after the reporting date. If there is an unconditional right to defer settlement for at least twelve months after the reporting date, they are presented as non-current liabilities.

Trade creditors are recognised initially at the transaction price and subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

Borrowings

Interest-bearing borrowings are initially recorded at fair value, net of transaction costs. Interest-bearing borrowings are subsequently carried at amortised cost, with the difference between the proceeds, net of transaction costs, and the amount due on redemption being recognised as a charge to the Statement of Financial Activities over the period of the relevant borrowing.

Interest expense is recognised on the basis of the effective interest method and is included in interest payable and similar charges.

Borrowings are classified as current liabilities unless the charity has an unconditional right to defer settlement of the liability for at least twelve months after the reporting date.

Fund structure

Unrestricted income funds are general funds that are available for use at the trustees's discretion in furtherance of the objectives of the charity.

Designated funds are unrestricted funds set aside for specific purposes at the discretion of the trustees.

Restricted income funds are those donated for use in a particular area or for specific purposes, the use of which is restricted to that area or purpose.

Bruiser Theatre Company

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2025

Financial instruments

Classification

Financial assets and financial liabilities are recognised when the charity becomes a party to the contractual provisions of the instrument.

Financial liabilities and equity instruments are classified according to the substance of the contractual arrangements entered into. An equity instrument is any contract that evidences a residual interest in the assets of the charity after deducting all of its liabilities.

Recognition and measurement

All financial assets and liabilities are initially measured at transaction price (including transaction costs), except for those financial assets classified as at fair value through profit or loss, which are initially measured at fair value (which is normally the transaction price excluding transaction costs), unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction. If an arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, the financial asset or financial liability is measured at the present value of the future payments discounted at a market rate of interest for a similar debt instrument.

Financial assets and liabilities are only offset in the statement of financial position when, and only when there exists a legally enforceable right to set off the recognised amounts and the charity intends either to settle on a net basis, or to realise the asset and settle the liability simultaneously.

Financial assets are derecognised when and only when a) the contractual rights to the cash flows from the financial asset expire or are settled, b) the charity transfers to another party substantially all of the risks and rewards of ownership of the financial asset, or c) the charity, despite having retained some, but not all, significant risks and rewards of ownership, has transferred control of the asset to another party.

Financial liabilities are derecognised only when the obligation specified in the contract is discharged, cancelled or expires.

Fair value measurement

The best evidence of fair value is a quoted price for an identical asset in an active market. When quoted prices are unavailable, the price of a recent transaction for an identical asset provides evidence of fair value as long as there has not been a significant change in economic circumstances or a significant lapse of time since the transaction took place. If the market is not active and recent transactions of an identical asset on their own are not a good estimate of fair value, the fair value is estimated by using a valuation technique.

3 Income from charitable activities

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total 2025	Total 2024
	General			
	£	£	£	£
Charitable Activities	<u>20,663</u>	<u>202,291</u>	<u>222,954</u>	<u>265,767</u>

Bruiser Theatre Company

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2025

4 Other income

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total 2025	Total 2024
	General	£	£	£
	£	£	£	£
Box Office & programme sales	14,238	13,973	28,211	85,749

5 Expenditure on raising funds

a) Costs of generating donations and legacies

		Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total 2025	Total 2024
	Note	General	£	£	£
		£	£	£	£
Marketing and publicity		348	1,400	1,748	7,169

6 Expenditure on charitable activities

		Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total 2025	Total 2024
	Note	General	£	£	£
		£	£	£	£
Box Office & programme sales		11,459	79,402	90,861	168,549
Staff costs		-	154,184	154,184	112,327
Allocated support costs	7	22	26,346	26,368	31,975
Governance costs	7	-	2,860	2,860	2,988
		11,481	262,792	274,273	315,839

Bruiser Theatre Company

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2025

7 Analysis of governance and support costs

Charitable activities expenditure

	Basis of allocation	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total 2025	Total 2024
		General £	£	£	£
Rent & Rates		-	10,253	10,253	9,220
Telephone & Internet		-	488	488	1,633
Printing, Postage & Stationery		-	328	328	468
Legal & Professional		-	120	120	2,013
Insurance		-	1,667	1,667	1,781
Membership & Subscriptions		-	912	912	200
Software & IT Costs		-	864	864	907
Depreciation		-	7,500	7,500	7,638
Office/General Admin costs		-	1,137	1,137	-
Staff Welfare		-	400	400	1,279
Bank Charges	22		42	64	199
Advertising		-	173	173	38
Travel costs		-	1,953	1,953	2,263
Sundry Expenses		-	610	610	4,126
Repairs & Maintenance		-	120	120	32
Foreign Exchange Loss		-	-	-	178
		22	26,567	26,589	31,975
		22	26,567	26,589	31,975

Governance costs

	Restricted funds	Total 2025	Total 2024
	£	£	£
Independent examiner fees			
Examination of the financial statements	2,860	2,860	2,988
	2,860	2,860	2,988

Bruiser Theatre Company

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2025

8 Staff costs

The aggregate payroll costs were as follows:

	2025 £	2024 £
Staff costs during the year were:		
Wages and salaries	142,226	103,481
Social security costs	8,262	5,840
Pension costs	3,696	3,006
	<u>154,184</u>	<u>112,327</u>

The monthly average number of persons (including senior management team) employed by the charity during the year expressed as full time equivalents was as follows:

	2025 No	2024 No
Staff	<u>5</u>	<u>5</u>

No employee received emoluments of more than £60,000 during the year.

9 Independent examiner's remuneration

	2025 £	2024 £
Examination of the financial statements	<u>2,860</u>	<u>2,988</u>

Bruiser Theatre Company

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2025

10 Taxation

The charity is a registered charity and is therefore exempt from taxation.

11 Tangible fixed assets

	Furniture and equipment £	Total £
Cost		
At 1 April 2024	38,431	38,431
At 31 March 2025	38,431	38,431
Depreciation		
At 1 April 2024	26,303	26,303
Charge for the year	7,500	7,500
At 31 March 2025	33,803	33,803
Net book value		
At 31 March 2025	4,628	4,628
At 31 March 2024	12,128	12,128

12 Debtors

	2025 £	2024 £
Trade debtors	2,926	3,065
Prepayments	1,303	830
	4,229	3,895

13 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2025 £	2024 £
Trade creditors	3,748	3,953
Other taxation and social security	2,770	2,990
Other creditors	97,569	53,839
	104,087	60,782

14 Pension and other schemes

Defined contribution pension scheme

The charity operates a defined contribution pension scheme. The pension cost charge for the year represents contributions payable by the charity to the scheme and amounted to £3,695 (2024 - £3,007).

Bruiser Theatre Company

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2025

15 Funds

	Balance at 1 April 2024 £	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Transfers £	Balance at 31 March 2025 £
Unrestricted funds					
General	(39,154)	(34,901)	11,829	32,121	(30,105)
Designated	<u>(70,479)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(49,640)</u>	<u>(120,119)</u>
Total unrestricted funds	(109,633)	(34,901)	11,829	(17,519)	(150,224)
Restricted funds	<u>(103,447)</u>	<u>(219,064)</u>	<u>264,192</u>	<u>17,519</u>	<u>(40,800)</u>
Total funds	<u><u>(213,080)</u></u>	<u><u>(253,965)</u></u>	<u><u>276,021</u></u>	<u><u>-</u></u>	<u><u>(191,024)</u></u>
	Balance at 1 April 2023 £	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Transfers £	Balance at 31 March 2024 £
Unrestricted funds					
General	(34,635)	(39,995)	23,661	11,817	(39,152)
Designated	<u>(70,479)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(70,479)</u>
Total unrestricted funds	(105,114)	(39,995)	23,661	11,817	(109,631)
Restricted funds	<u>(79,456)</u>	<u>(311,521)</u>	<u>299,347</u>	<u>(11,817)</u>	<u>(103,447)</u>
Total funds	<u><u>(184,570)</u></u>	<u><u>(351,516)</u></u>	<u><u>323,008</u></u>	<u><u>-</u></u>	<u><u>(213,078)</u></u>

16 Analysis of net assets between funds

	Unrestricted funds		Restricted funds	Total funds
	General £	Designated £	£	£
Tangible fixed assets	1,619	-	3,009	4,628
Current assets	137,991	120,119	32,373	290,483
Current liabilities	<u>(104,087)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(104,087)</u>
Total net assets	<u><u>35,523</u></u>	<u><u>120,119</u></u>	<u><u>35,382</u></u>	<u><u>191,024</u></u>

Bruiser Theatre Company

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2025

17 Analysis of net funds

	At 1 April 2024 £	Cash flow £	At 31 March 2025 £
Cash at bank and in hand	257,837	28,417	286,254
Net debt	<u>257,837</u>	<u>28,417</u>	<u>286,254</u>

Bruiser Theatre Company

Northern Ireland - Charity number 101876

Accounts

Bruiser Theatre Company

Statement of Financial Activities for the Year Ended 31 March 2024 (Including Income and Expenditure Account and Statement of Total Recognised Gains and Losses)

	Note	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
Income and Endowments from:					
Charitable activities	3	4,300	261,467	265,767	215,507
Other trading activities		-	-	-	108
Other income	4	<u>35,695</u>	<u>50,054</u>	<u>85,749</u>	<u>46,397</u>
Total Income		<u>39,995</u>	<u>311,521</u>	<u>351,516</u>	<u>262,012</u>
Expenditure on:					
Raising funds	5	(400)	(6,769)	(7,169)	(2,197)
Charitable activities	6	<u>(23,261)</u>	<u>(292,578)</u>	<u>(315,839)</u>	<u>(200,106)</u>
Total Expenditure		<u>(23,661)</u>	<u>(299,347)</u>	<u>(323,008)</u>	<u>(202,303)</u>
Net income		16,334	12,174	28,508	59,709
Transfers between funds		<u>(11,817)</u>	<u>11,817</u>	-	-
Net movement in funds		4,517	23,991	28,508	59,709
Reconciliation of funds					
Total funds brought forward		<u>105,114</u>	<u>79,456</u>	<u>184,570</u>	<u>124,861</u>
Total funds carried forward	15	<u><u>109,631</u></u>	<u><u>103,447</u></u>	<u><u>213,078</u></u>	<u><u>184,570</u></u>
			Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2023 £
	Note				
Income and Endowments from:					
Charitable activities	3		17,957	197,550	215,507
Other trading activities			-	108	108
Other income	4		<u>14,012</u>	<u>32,385</u>	<u>46,397</u>
Total Income			<u>31,969</u>	<u>230,043</u>	<u>262,012</u>
Expenditure on:					
Raising funds	5		(64)	(2,133)	(2,197)
Charitable activities	6		<u>(14,302)</u>	<u>(185,804)</u>	<u>(200,106)</u>
Total Expenditure			<u>(14,366)</u>	<u>(187,937)</u>	<u>(202,303)</u>
Net income			17,603	42,106	59,709
Transfers between funds			<u>(86)</u>	<u>86</u>	-
Net movement in funds			17,517	42,192	59,709
Reconciliation of funds					
Total funds brought forward			<u>87,597</u>	<u>37,264</u>	<u>124,861</u>
Total funds carried forward	15		<u><u>105,114</u></u>	<u><u>79,456</u></u>	<u><u>184,570</u></u>

Bruiser Theatre Company

**Statement of Financial Activities for the Year Ended 31 March 2024
(Including Income and Expenditure Account and Statement of Total Recognised Gains
and Losses)**

All of the charity's activities derive from continuing operations during the above two periods.

The funds breakdown for 2024 & 2023 is shown in note 15.

Bruiser Theatre Company
(Registration number: NI601058)
Balance Sheet as at 31 March 2024

	Note	2024 £	2023 £
Fixed assets			
Tangible assets	11	12,128	19,075
Current assets			
Debtors	12	3,895	6,664
Cash at bank and in hand		<u>257,837</u>	<u>171,639</u>
		261,732	178,303
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year	13	<u>(60,782)</u>	<u>(12,808)</u>
Net current assets		<u>200,950</u>	<u>165,495</u>
Net assets		<u>213,078</u>	<u>184,570</u>
Funds of the charity:			
Restricted funds			
		<u>103,447</u>	<u>79,456</u>
Unrestricted income funds			
Unrestricted funds		39,152	34,635
Designated Funds		<u>70,479</u>	<u>70,479</u>
Total unrestricted funds		<u>109,631</u>	<u>105,114</u>
Total funds	15	<u>213,078</u>	<u>184,570</u>

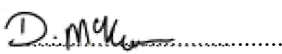
For the financial year ending 31 March 2024 the charity was entitled to exemption from audit under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

Directors' responsibilities:

- The members have not required the charity to obtain an audit of its accounts for the year in question in accordance with section 476; and
- 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 financial statements on pages 19 to 31 were approved by the trustees, and authorised for issue on 21 November 2024 and signed on their behalf by:


 Diana McKeown
 Trustee

Bruiser Theatre Company

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2024

1 Charity status

The charity is a charity limited by guarantee and consequently does not have share capital. Each of the trustees is liable to contribute an amount not exceeding £Nil towards the assets of the charity in the event of liquidation.

Each of the members is liable to contribute an amount not exceeding £1 towards the assets of the charity in the event of liquidation.

2 Accounting policies

Summary of significant accounting policies and key accounting estimates

The principal accounting policies applied in the preparation of these financial statements are set out below. These policies have been consistently applied to all the years presented, unless otherwise stated.

Statement of compliance

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 2015) - (Charities SORP (FRS 102)), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Companies Act 2006.

Basis of preparation

Bruiser Theatre Company 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 notes.

Going concern

The financial statements have been prepared on a going concern basis.

The trustees assess whether the use of going concern is appropriate i.e. whether there are any material uncertainties related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the ability of the charity to continue as a going concern. The trustees make this assessment in respect of a period of one year from the date of approval of the financial statements.

The Trustees are aware that the Charity has lost its main funding, but remain hopeful that steps can be taken to ensure the organisation continues with its activities. Steps have been taken by the Trustees to reduce non-essential costs to allow the Charity to regroup and source alternative funding.

Exemption from preparing a cash flow statement

The charity opted to early adopt Bulletin 1 published on 2 February 2016 and have therefore not included a cash flow statement in these financial statements.

Bruiser Theatre Company

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2024

Income and endowments

Expenditure

All expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to that expenditure, it is probable settlement is required and the amount can be measured reliably. All costs are allocated to the applicable expenditure heading that aggregate similar costs to that category. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings they have been allocated on a basis consistent with the use of resources, with central staff costs allocated on the basis of time spent, and depreciation charges allocated on the portion of the asset's use. Other support costs are allocated based on the spread of staff costs.

Raising funds

These are costs incurred in attracting voluntary income, the management of investments and those incurred in trading activities that raise funds.

Charitable activities

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.

Support costs

Support costs include central functions and have been allocated to activity cost categories on a basis consistent with the use of resources, for example, allocating property costs by floor areas, or per capita, staff costs by the time spent and other costs by their usage.

Governance costs

These include the costs attributable to the charity's compliance with constitutional and statutory requirements, including audit, strategic management and trustees's meetings and reimbursed expenses.

Taxation

The charity is considered to pass the tests set out in Paragraph 1 Schedule 6 of the Finance Act 2010 and therefore it meets the definition of a charitable company for UK corporation tax purposes. Accordingly, the charity is potentially exempt from taxation in respect of income or capital gains received within categories covered by Chapter 3 Part 11 of the Corporation Tax Act 2010 or Section 256 of the Taxation of Chargeable Gains Act 1992, to the extent that such income or gains are applied exclusively to charitable purposes.

Tangible fixed assets

Individual fixed assets costing £0.00 or more are initially recorded at cost, less any subsequent accumulated depreciation and subsequent accumulated impairment losses.

Depreciation and amortisation

Depreciation is provided on tangible fixed assets so as to write off the cost or valuation, less any estimated residual value, over their expected useful economic life as follows:

Asset class	Depreciation method and rate
Office Equipment	20% Straight Line

Bruiser Theatre Company

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2024

Trade debtors

Trade debtors are amounts due from customers for merchandise sold or services performed in the ordinary course of business.

Trade debtors are recognised initially at the transaction price. They are subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method, less provision for impairment. A provision for the impairment of trade debtors is established when there is objective evidence that the charity will not be able to collect all amounts due according to the original terms of the receivables.

Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents comprise cash on hand and call deposits, and other short-term highly liquid investments that are readily convertible to a known amount of cash and are subject to an insignificant risk of change in value.

Trade creditors

Trade creditors are obligations to pay for goods or services that have been acquired in the ordinary course of business from suppliers. Accounts payable are classified as current liabilities if the charity does not have an unconditional right, at the end of the reporting period, to defer settlement of the creditor for at least twelve months after the reporting date. If there is an unconditional right to defer settlement for at least twelve months after the reporting date, they are presented as non-current liabilities.

Trade creditors are recognised initially at the transaction price and subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

Borrowings

Interest-bearing borrowings are initially recorded at fair value, net of transaction costs. Interest-bearing borrowings are subsequently carried at amortised cost, with the difference between the proceeds, net of transaction costs, and the amount due on redemption being recognised as a charge to the Statement of Financial Activities over the period of the relevant borrowing.

Interest expense is recognised on the basis of the effective interest method and is included in interest payable and similar charges.

Borrowings are classified as current liabilities unless the charity has an unconditional right to defer settlement of the liability for at least twelve months after the reporting date.

Fund structure

Unrestricted income funds are general funds that are available for use at the trustees's discretion in furtherance of the objectives of the charity.

Designated funds are unrestricted funds set aside for specific purposes at the discretion of the trustees.

Restricted income funds are those donated for use in a particular area or for specific purposes, the use of which is restricted to that area or purpose.

Bruiser Theatre Company

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2024

Financial instruments

Classification

Financial assets and financial liabilities are recognised when the charity becomes a party to the contractual provisions of the instrument.

Financial liabilities and equity instruments are classified according to the substance of the contractual arrangements entered into. An equity instrument is any contract that evidences a residual interest in the assets of the charity after deducting all of its liabilities.

Recognition and measurement

All financial assets and liabilities are initially measured at transaction price (including transaction costs), except for those financial assets classified as at fair value through profit or loss, which are initially measured at fair value (which is normally the transaction price excluding transaction costs), unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction. If an arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, the financial asset or financial liability is measured at the present value of the future payments discounted at a market rate of interest for a similar debt instrument.

Financial assets and liabilities are only offset in the statement of financial position when, and only when there exists a legally enforceable right to set off the recognised amounts and the charity intends either to settle on a net basis, or to realise the asset and settle the liability simultaneously.

Financial assets are derecognised when and only when a) the contractual rights to the cash flows from the financial asset expire or are settled, b) the charity transfers to another party substantially all of the risks and rewards of ownership of the financial asset, or c) the charity, despite having retained some, but not all, significant risks and rewards of ownership, has transferred control of the asset to another party.

Financial liabilities are derecognised only when the obligation specified in the contract is discharged, cancelled or expires.

Fair value measurement

The best evidence of fair value is a quoted price for an identical asset in an active market. When quoted prices are unavailable, the price of a recent transaction for an identical asset provides evidence of fair value as long as there has not been a significant change in economic circumstances or a significant lapse of time since the transaction took place. If the market is not active and recent transactions of an identical asset on their own are not a good estimate of fair value, the fair value is estimated by using a valuation technique.

3 Income from charitable activities

	Unrestricted funds			
	General	Restricted funds	Total 2024	Total 2023
	£	£	£	£
Charitable Activities	4,300	261,467	265,767	215,507

Bruiser Theatre Company

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2024

4 Other income

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total 2024	Total 2023
	General	funds	£	£
	£	£	£	£
Box Office & programme sales	<u>35,695</u>	<u>50,054</u>	<u>85,749</u>	<u>46,397</u>

5 Expenditure on raising funds

a) Costs of generating donations and legacies

		Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total 2024	Total 2023
	Note	General	funds	£	£
		£	£	£	£
Marketing and publicity		<u>400</u>	<u>6,769</u>	<u>7,169</u>	<u>2,197</u>

6 Expenditure on charitable activities

		Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total 2024	Total 2023
	Note	General	funds	£	£
		£	£	£	£
Box Office & programme sales		23,254	145,295	168,549	66,840
Staff costs		-	112,327	112,327	105,611
Allocated support costs	7	7	31,968	31,975	24,424
Governance costs	7	-	2,988	2,988	3,231
		<u>23,261</u>	<u>292,578</u>	<u>315,839</u>	<u>200,106</u>

Bruiser Theatre Company

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2024

7 Analysis of governance and support costs

Charitable activities expenditure

Basis of allocation	Restricted funds £	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
Rent & Rates	9,220	9,220	6,965
Telephone & Internet	1,633	1,633	1,419
Printing, Postage & Stationery	468	468	281
Legal & Professional	2,013	2,013	-
Insurance	1,781	1,781	1,974
Access NI	-	-	41
Membership & Subscriptions	200	200	180
Software & IT Costs	907	907	2,083
Depreciation	7,638	7,638	7,500
Staff Welfare	1,279	1,279	272
Bank Charges	199	199	(69)
Advertising	38	38	1,115
Travel costs	2,263	2,263	1,669
Sundry Expenses	4,126	4,126	43
Repairs & Maintenance	32	32	951
Foreign Exchange Loss	178	178	-
	<u>31,975</u>	<u>31,975</u>	<u>24,424</u>

Governance costs

	Restricted funds £	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
Independent examiner fees			
Examination of the financial statements	2,988	2,988	3,231
	<u>2,988</u>	<u>2,988</u>	<u>3,231</u>

Bruiser Theatre Company

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2024

8 Staff costs

The aggregate payroll costs were as follows:

	2024 £	2023 £
Staff costs during the year were:		
Wages and salaries	103,481	98,980
Social security costs	5,840	4,204
Pension costs	3,006	2,427
	<u>112,327</u>	<u>105,611</u>

The monthly average number of persons (including senior management team) employed by the charity during the year expressed as full time equivalents was as follows:

	2024 No	2023 No
Staff	<u>5</u>	<u>4</u>

No employee received emoluments of more than £60,000 during the year.

9 Independent examiner's remuneration

	2024 £	2023 £
Examination of the financial statements	<u>2,988</u>	<u>3,231</u>

Bruiser Theatre Company

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2024

10 Taxation

The charity is a registered charity and is therefore exempt from taxation.

11 Tangible fixed assets

	Furniture and equipment £	Total £
Cost		
At 1 April 2023	37,741	37,741
Additions	690	690
At 31 March 2024	38,431	38,431
Depreciation		
At 1 April 2023	18,665	18,665
Charge for the year	7,638	7,638
At 31 March 2024	26,303	26,303
Net book value		
At 31 March 2024	12,128	12,128
At 31 March 2023	19,076	19,076

12 Debtors

	2024 £	2023 £
Trade debtors	3,065	5,663
Prepayments	830	1,001
	3,895	6,664

13 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2024 £	2023 £
Trade creditors	3,953	2,104
Other taxation and social security	2,990	2,467
Other creditors	53,839	8,237
	60,782	12,808

Bruiser Theatre Company

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2024

14 Pension and other schemes

Defined contribution pension scheme

The charity operates a defined contribution pension scheme. The pension cost charge for the year represents contributions payable by the charity to the scheme and amounted to £3,007 (2023 - £2,427).

15 Funds

	Balance at 1 April 2023 £	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Transfers £	Balance at 31 March 2024 £
Unrestricted funds					
General	(34,635)	(39,995)	23,661	11,817	(39,152)
Designated	<u>(70,479)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(70,479)</u>
Total unrestricted funds	(105,114)	(39,995)	23,661	11,817	(109,631)
Restricted funds	<u>(79,456)</u>	<u>(311,521)</u>	<u>299,347</u>	<u>(11,817)</u>	<u>(103,447)</u>
Total funds	<u><u>(184,570)</u></u>	<u><u>(351,516)</u></u>	<u><u>323,008</u></u>	<u><u>-</u></u>	<u><u>(213,078)</u></u>
	Balance at 1 April 2022 £	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Transfers £	Balance at 31 March 2023 £
Unrestricted funds					
General	(17,118)	(31,969)	14,366	86	(34,635)
Designated	<u>(70,479)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(70,479)</u>
Total unrestricted funds	(87,597)	(31,969)	14,366	86	(105,114)
Restricted funds	<u>(37,264)</u>	<u>(230,043)</u>	<u>187,937</u>	<u>(86)</u>	<u>(79,456)</u>
Total funds	<u><u>(124,861)</u></u>	<u><u>(262,012)</u></u>	<u><u>202,303</u></u>	<u><u>-</u></u>	<u><u>(184,570)</u></u>

16 Analysis of net assets between funds

Bruiser Theatre Company

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2024

	Unrestricted funds		Restricted funds	Total funds
	General £	Designated £	£	£
Tangible fixed assets	2,173	-	9,955	12,128
Current assets	97,761	70,479	93,492	261,732
Current liabilities	(60,782)	-	-	(60,782)
Total net assets	<u>39,152</u>	<u>70,479</u>	<u>103,447</u>	<u>213,078</u>

17 Analysis of net funds

	At 1 April 2023 £	Cash flow £	At 31 March 2024 £
Cash at bank and in hand	171,639	86,198	257,837
Net debt	<u>171,639</u>	<u>86,198</u>	<u>257,837</u>

Bruiser Theatre Company

Northern Ireland - Charity number 101876

Annual report

Company registration number: NI601058

Charity registration number: 101876

Bruiser Theatre Company

(A company limited by guarantee)

Annual Report and Financial Statements

for the Year Ended 31 March 2024

Bruiser Theatre Company

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Bruiser Theatre Company

Reference and Administrative Details

Trustees	Adam Boughton Knight Aidan Kearney Aoife Browne Laura Johnston Marie O'Donoghue Diana McKeown Ella Griffin Colin Morelli Kirsten McGarrity Le-Ann Campbell (Resigned 18 December 2023) Joseph Rea (Resigned 18 December 2023)
Secretary	Lisa May
Principal Office	83 University Street Belfast Antrim BT7 1HP The charity is incorporated in Northern Ireland.
Company Registration Number	NI601058
Charity Registration Number	101876
Independent Examiner	Baxterworld Ltd Chartered Management Accountant Unit 3 Dargan Industrial Park 60-84 Dargan Crescent Belfast BT3 9JP

Bruiser Theatre Company

Strategic Report for the Year Ended 31 March 2024

The trustees, who are directors for the purposes of company law, present their strategic report for the year ended 31 March 2024, in compliance with s414C of the Companies Act 2006.

Financial review

Income in the year was £351,516 and expenditure totalled £323,006 giving a surplus of £28,510. Total funds at the end of March 24 were £213,080. Restricted funds totalled £103,447, unrestricted and designated funds totalled £109,633 at the close of the period.

Policy on reserves

It is the view of the Board of Directors that Bruiser operate prudently and effectively within the parameters of the financial resources which were available.

Bruiser's Trustees were particularly mindful of the need for efficiencies and financial prudence given the probability of growing competition in funding rounds, limitations to box office potential and limited venue operations, in the wake of Covid-19. In 2016/17 Bruiser established a policy of building company reserves to a minimum of three months operating costs and we were pleased to achieve this once again in 2023/24. With this in mind, the Bruiser Trustees have agreed to increase the designated reserves policy to a minimum of six months operating costs going forward.

Principal funding sources

Bruiser was supported by Belfast City Council, the Arts Council of Northern Ireland, the Arts Council of Ireland, the National Lottery, the Paul Hamlyn Foundation, the Future Screens NI fund and the Foyle Foundation during the year.

The strategic report was approved by the trustees of the charity on 21 November 2024 and signed on its behalf by:



Diana McKeown
Trustee

Bruiser Theatre Company

Trustees' Report

The trustees, who are directors for the purposes of company law, present the annual report together with the financial statements of the charitable company for the year ended 31 March 2024.

Trustees

Adam Boughton Knight

Aidan Kearney

Aoife Browne

Laura Johnston

Marie O'Donoghue

Diana McKeown

Ella Griffin

Colin Morelli

Kirsten McGarrity

Le-Ann Campbell (Resigned 18 December 2023)

Joseph Rea (Resigned 18 December 2023)

Objectives and activities

Objects and aims

Founded in 1997, Bruiser aims to produce innovative live performance combining text and physical theatre techniques.

Bruiser Theatre Company strives to be recognised as Northern Ireland's leading Physical Theatre Company delivering inspiring and uplifting theatre and equipping the next generation of performers with the skills and know-how to work effectively within the industry.

Bruiser takes a professional and ethical approach to the management and governance of the company to deliver quality productions, education and training work.

In pursuit of this Bruiser aims to:

- treat all of its stakeholders with the highest level of integrity and gain the respect of all those individuals and organisations with which it interacts
- be challenging and courageous in designing and developing the artistic programme
- provide an entertaining and enjoyable experience for its audiences

Artistically Bruiser's aims are to:

- to use minimal set for maximum impact
- to further explore the notion of the actor, enforcing him/her as the central mechanism of performance
- to streamline and explore the relationship between the essential dynamics of theatre, the actor, the space and the audience
- to encourage an environment for the exchange of ideas and collaboration between arts practitioners in production
- make a commitment to touring, workshop development and teaching to encourage a greater access to theatre
- to produce a consistently high quality product

Bruiser Theatre Company

Trustees' Report

Public benefit

The Trustees are committed to providing a public benefit, and have taken into account the Charity Commission's guidance in this area.

We believe that producing high quality, engaging work that attracts traditional and non-traditional theatre-goers, diverse in age and background, enhances our audiences quality of life, as well as fostering a more general appreciation of the arts.

By working extensively with Northern Ireland's next generation of talent, we are also creating a legacy from which many other theatres, and the sector at large, will benefit.

Bruiser's Annual Funding was cut by The Arts Council of Northern Ireland by 100% in 2018. With a healthy reserves policy, and strong leadership from the Bruiser Board and Artistic Director, Bruiser continues with vigor, passion and determination

The trustees confirm that they have complied with the requirements of section 3 of the Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2008 to have due regard to the public benefit guidance published by the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland.

Bruiser Theatre Company

Trustees' Report

Our work in 2023/24 includes:

Productions

Mojo Mickybo by Owen McCafferty
All Ireland Venue Tour
April - June 2023

In June 2023, Bruiser completed their NI and ROI venue tour of Mojo Mickybo by Owen McCafferty. This production was funded by Arts Council Ireland. The tour included a one-week run in Cork Arts Centre, Cork, and two nights at The Smock Alley Theatre, Dublin, as well as another 7 venues in NI and 12 in ROI.

Mojo Mickybo is a play about a friendship between two boys growing up in Belfast - a friendship that at first is immune to the sectarian violence taking place around them, but which nonetheless is ultimately destroyed by it.

The play's action is set in Belfast over the summer of 1970. Mojo and his mate Mickybo are two nine-year-old boys from opposing sides of the sectarian divide. They are 'thick as two small thieves', playing headers, being mouthy, building huts, and spitting from cinema balconies. The action is played as theatrical flashback, often inhabiting a world of fantasy, such as re-enacting their favourite film, Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid. The two performers constantly slip in and out of roles and imaginary worlds, with the violence of The Troubles only obliquely impacting on them - until finally their friendship is destroyed in a way that they only later come to understand.

This is pure storytelling with Bruiser's dynamic physicality, providing opportunity for a new generation of theatre-goers to experience Belfast's most treasured, living playwright, and to consider that Mojo and Mickybo represent the division of a benighted country that has spent a century at war with itself.

CAST

John Travers - Mojo
Conor Quinn - Mickybo

CREATIVE TEAM

Lisa May -Director
Owen McCafferty -Playwright
Stuart Marshall - Set Designer
Garth McConaghie -Music and Sound Designer
James C McFetridge -Lighting Designer

PRODUCTION TEAM

Produced by Bruiser Theatre Company
Lisa May - Producer
Noora Helin - Assistant Producer
Peter Heenan -Producer
Natalie Murphy - Production Manager
Jordan Nelson - Stage Manager
Noora Helin & Robert Crawford - Assistant Stage Manager
Jim Carson - Scenic Construction
Aidan Payne - Scenic Construction
Anita Gibney - PR & Marketing

Bruiser Theatre Company

Trustees' Report

TOUR SCHEDULE

9th May 2023 - Theatre At The Mill, Newtownabbey
10th May 2023 - Newry Town Hall, Newry
11th May 2023 - Cultúrlann McAdam Ó Fiaich, Belfast
13th May 2023 - The Burnavon, Cookstown
14th May 2023 - Down Arts Centre, Dundalk
16th May 2023 - The Old Courthouse, Antrim
17th May 2023 - The Glens Centre, Manorhamilton
18th May 2023 - An Grianán Theatre, Letterkenny
19th May 2023 - The Ardhoven, Enniskillen
20th May 2023 - Ballina Arts Centre, Ballina
23rd-27th May 2023 - Cork Arts Centre, Cork
31st May 2023 - Town Hall Theatre, Galway
2nd June 2023 - Friar's Gate Theatre, Limerick
3rd June 2023 - Nenagh Arts Centre, Tipperary
8th June 2023 - Solstice Arts Centre, Navan
9th June 2023 - Mullingar Arts Centre, Mullingar
10th June 2023 - Birr Theatre and Arts Centre, Birr
13th-14th June 2023 - Smock Alley Theatre, Dublin
15th June 2023 - Theatre Royal, Waterford
16th June 2023 - Watergate Theatre, Kilkenny
17th June 2023 - The Pavillion Theatre, Dún Laoghaire

This production was well received across NI and ROI, with audience feedback such as:

“Outstanding.” - Audience Member, Cork Arts Centre

“Breathtaking and enthralling.” - Audience Member, Smock Alley Theatre

“The whole production was fabulous.” - Audience Member, Cork Arts Centre

“Really powerful acting from both, very impressive.” - Audience Member, Down Arts Centre

Bruiser Theatre Company

Trustees' Report

Arts Academy

July - August 2023

The Bruiser Arts Academy, our annual series of professional development courses for young people and emerging artists, returned for Summer 2023. Through this project, Bruiser delivered three courses for participants of different ages and abilities:

- **START Academy** - a week-long entry-level course designed for young people who love the idea of performing, but may not have had the chance to be on stage before. This course aims to build confidence through performance and is open to referrals from teachers and community leaders to help reach young people who would most benefit.
- **Summer School** - an intensive ten-day professional training course for young people with a passion for the performing arts. This course is designed to inspire and challenge young actors, providing them with the building blocks required to further pursue their acting ambitions. The Bruiser team are joined by a range of local industry professionals to coach and guide participants, holding them to a high standard of practice and providing essential experience and insight into the working world.
- **Graduate Academy** - an intensive twelve-day training course for young adults with a passion for the performing arts, who are serious about their career. The Graduate Academy is aimed at actors aged 18+ who are preparing for Drama School, are attending further education, have graduated or are professional actors wanting to enhance their skills. The course culminates in a showcase performance for local industry professionals.

The Bruiser Arts Academy was delivered in partnership with The MAC, Belfast who provided in-kind space for both course delivery and showcase performances. Further collaboration with other local charities included working with Queen's University, Belfast to promote the engagement of their undergraduate Drama students as project interns - an opportunity to gain hands-on experience in workshop facilitation and project planning/management.

Participants worked with local professional theatre practitioners on acting, singing and dancing -delivered as a 'crash course' aimed at boosting confidence/self-esteem, as well as developing their performance skills on the following three courses: START Academy (3rd-8th July 2023); Summer School (17th-27th July 2023); Graduate Academy (7th-19th August 2023).

We specifically targeted participants from areas of disadvantage and those who may experience barriers to arts engagement, in an effort to improve access and diversify our audience/participant base. In doing so, we delivered drama workshops to schools/community centres to aid recruitment and encourage participation from young people with little-no previous experience. Bursary places were also offered to young people through schools, community groups and charities working with young people.

In delivering the project we were able to offer training opportunities for entry-level young professionals, as well as involve volunteer interns in our work. This enabled young people to gain work experience in workshop facilitation and project management -two areas of the arts that are hard to break into without prior credits or a high profile in the sector.

Feedback from participants and parents/guardians of those participating in The Bruiser Arts Academy 2023 included:

- "My granddaughter was so full of chat about the session and loved being there. I wish it could have lasted a month."
- "Lovely staff, positive kind and encouraging attitude to children."

Bruiser Theatre Company

Trustees' Report

- “Very impressed and inspired by the work put in by teens and facilitators alike. Very slick and smooth performance and it was clear the teens were enjoying every moment of being on stage.”
- “It was exhilarating and one of the best times I’ve ever had with a theatre company while surrounded by warm, friendly people who want to help you become the best you can be.”
- “This is the best thing I have done recently related to drama.”
- “Thank you from the bottom of my heart for being such an original theatre company with leaders who fully embrace our creative capability and offer a supportive environment that encourages us to be ourselves. It really means so much, and the confidence as well as techniques I learn from Bruiser I can carry into every area of my life, not just onstage. You’re phenomenal people for making this happen, and long may it continue!”

Vital Connect

September 2023 - March 2024

With the support of the Paul Hamlyn Foundation, Bruiser continued to deliver Vital Connect in September 2023 - our most ambitious education project to date. Vital Connect offered four partner schools a physical theatre “shot in the arm”, aiming to boost resilience and liberate the imaginations of young people in disadvantaged areas.

Over the course of the year, we delivered bespoke workshops, inter-school engagement, mentoring, in-school performances and access to on-demand digital educational resources. The result: high-quality arts provision across Northern Ireland.

From September 2023 we partnered with the following four post-primary schools: Lismore College, Craigavon; St. Louise’s College, Belfast; Blessed Trinity College, Belfast; Loreto College, Coleraine.

“The Arts & Education panel members are particularly pleased to support this work because of Bruiser's track record of working with schools, and the potential for this project to have a wide and positive impact on drama education in Northern Irish secondary schools.”

-The Paul Hamlyn Foundation

Feedback from participating schools included:

- “Bruiser continues to provide the skills, tools and learning that support our students in creating and developing high-level, dynamic work. The toolkit they provide is invaluable.”
- “Bruiser continues to be an exceptional support to the drama curriculum of NI.”
- “It was so nice to meet other teachers and build relationships between schools.”

In the second year of this project, we were able to expand our Education Department to include a new part-time Facilitator in Residence position - helping us to work more efficiently and engage more young people in our work.

Bruiser Theatre Company

Trustees' Report

Bruiser in a Box 2023

The Complete Works of William Shakespeare (abridged)

by Adam Long, Daniel Singer and Jess Winfield

September - October 2023

In October 2023, we delivered a 'Bruiser in a Box' tour of The Complete Works of William Shakespeare (abridged) by Adam Long, Daniel Singer, and Jess Winfield to fifteen post-primary schools across NI. Bruiser has a long-standing commitment to arts education, and this project is crucial for promoting the engagement of young people in the arts.

This production was supported by the following grant-giving organisations: The National Lottery through The Arts Council of Northern Ireland; The Foyle Foundation; Belfast City Council; and The Paul Hamlyn Foundation.

CAST

Rhodri Lewis
Richard Priestley
James Wilson

CREATIVE TEAM

Lisa May - Director
James C McFetridge - Lighting Designer
Louise Dunne - Costume Designer
Stuart Marshall - Set Designer
Matthew Reeve - Musical Director

PRODUCTION TEAM

Produced by Bruiser Theatre Company
Lisa May - Producer
Lara Albergo - Co-producer
Rory Casey - Production Manager
Jordan Nelson & Caitlin Hunter - Stage Manager
Eimear O'Neill - Assistant Producer
Cheryl O'Dwyer -- Education Officer
Rob Crawford - Facilitator in Residence
Pre-production Support - Peter Heenan
Pre-production Support - Noora Helin

Teacher Feedback

- 100% of teachers rated the performance and post-show elements 5/5.
- 50% of the teachers rated the cost 5/5 (The other 50% rated the cost 4/5).
- 100% of teachers reported that the event fully met their requirements/expectations.
- 90% of teachers reported that they would be interested in booking a Bruiser workshop again in the future. 10% reported that they might. 0% reported that they would not.

Teacher Comments

- "The speed, the inventiveness, and the fact that the actors engaged so well with the students were real strengths. It allowed them to gain an insight into Shakespeare's works in an innovative way and kept them engaged throughout. The way that references to popular culture were integrated was excellent."

Bruiser Theatre Company

Trustees' Report

- “LOVE the physical, energetic performance style: effectively shows pupils how to move away from a naturalistic heavy performance to something more visually engaging.”

Student Feedback

- 64.5% of students rated the show 5/5 stars.
- 30.3% of students rated the show 4/5 stars.
- 54.5% of students surveyed had not previously seen a Bruiser show before.
- 98% of students surveyed reported that they would see a Bruiser show again.

Student Comments

- ‘I did really enjoy it and the actors were extremely funny. Roles were very well executed in Shakespeare's plays.’
- “The actors are very nice people, the play was amazing as well as funny and I learnt a bit more about William Shakespeare's plays.”

Die Hard October 2023

In October 2023, Bruiser was supported by The National Lottery's Commissioning Programme through The Arts Council of Northern Ireland and The Leche Trust to carry out a Research and Development process on a stage adaptation of the cult classic 'Die Hard'.

Bruiser had commissioned playwright Gary Mitchell to work alongside Bruiser's Artistic Director Lisa May in the development of this new piece of work, which was workshopped with four local actors: Molly Logan, Gerard McCabe, Catriona McFeely and Chris Robinson.

The development week was a crucial phase in the commissioning process of Yippee-ki-yay! Die Hard. It spanned from October 16th to October 21st, involving intensive activities aimed at refining the project and providing valuable experience to the emergent local actors.

Bruiser Theatre Company

Trustees' Report

A Day With Bruiser

January - February 2024

In January 2024, we returned with our annual NI tour of 'A Day With Bruiser' - a full-day crash course for Drama students across Northern Ireland. This is an opportunity for students of GCSE, AS, A2 Level and BTEC Drama, Performing Arts and Theatre courses to get to grips with Bruiser's unique physical theatre style.

A Day With Bruiser consists of three workshops delivered by Bruiser's team of expert facilitators, and a showcase performance/Q&A session at the end of the day to bring all the learning together. Course content is specifically tailored to the requirements of all major exam boards and devised according to consultation with post-primary school teachers across Northern Ireland.

TOUR SCHEDULE

15th-19th January 2024 - The MAC, Belfast
22nd January 2024 - Down Arts Centre, Downpatrick
23rd January 2024 - Flowerfield Arts Centre, Portstewart
24th January 2024 - The Market Place Theatre, Armagh
25th January 2024 - The Playhouse, Derry ~ Londonderry

Teacher Feedback

100% of teachers would recommend A Day With Bruiser
100% of teacher assistants responded 'Yes, definitely' to whether or not ADWB was enjoyable
100% of teachers agreed that ADWB was inspiring
100% of teachers agreed that the material was relevant to their teaching
100% of teachers agreed that ADWB was well organised
100% of teachers responded 'Yes, definitely' to whether or not ADWB was useful
90% of teachers agreed that ADWB was different/special from other workshop opportunities

- "That was great - just so you know last year's workshops manifested in their assessment performance."
- "Loads of creativity and engagement!"
- "It was absolutely amazing, I feel like I'm going to be a better teacher on Friday after spending the day with Bruiser."
- "One student is a school refuser but came back for this!"

Participant Feedback

91% of young people reported that they enjoyed ADWB
64.5% stated they enjoyed having practical exercises
56.6 % stated they enjoyed learning more about theatre

- "That was even better than last year."
- "I've been looking forward to this for months!"
- "That was actually really class!"
- "Amazing to do that performance in a few days, it was incredible!"

Bruiser Theatre Company

Trustees' Report

Teechers by John Godber Venue Tour of Northern Ireland January - February 2024

In February 2024, Bruiser completed their NI venue tour of Teechers by John Godber. This production was funded by The National Lottery through The Arts Council of Northern Ireland. The tour included a three-week run in The MAC, Belfast and two weeks of touring to regional areas across Northern Ireland.

Fast-moving, inventive and highly entertaining, Teechers is John Godber's brilliant take on life at a modern Comprehensive. Through their hilarious end-of-term play, three Year 11s exuberantly sketch the new drama teacher's progress through two terms of recalcitrant classes, cynical colleagues and obstructive caretakers. Disillusioned, he departs for the safe waters of a private school and leaves behind his students, whose youthful irreverence gives way to despair. Brought to the stage by Bruiser Theatre Company with high energy, break-neck comedy and breathtaking ensemble performances, Teechers is a modern classic with something vital to say about education for the 'haves' and 'have nots'.

CAST

Mary McGurk - Gail
Chris Robinson - Salty
Nuala McGowan - Hobby

CREATIVE TEAM

Lisa May - Director
John Godber - Playwright
Louise Dunne - Set & Costume Designer
Katie Richardson - Music and Sound Designer
James C McFetridge - Lighting Designer

PRODUCTION TEAM

Produced by Bruiser Theatre Company
Lisa May - Producer
Lara Albergo - Producer
Kirsty Dunn - Assistant Producer
Peter Heenan - Assistant Producer
Eiméar O'Neill - Pre-production Support
Cheryl O'Dwyer - Education Officer
Rob Crawford - Facilitator in Residence
Rory Casey - Production Manager
Jordan Nelson - Stage Manager
Rumourmill - PR & Marketing

TOUR SCHEDULE

25th Jan - 10th Feb 2024 - The MAC, Belfast
14th Feb 2024 - An Táin Arts Centre, Dundalk
15th Feb 2024 - The Market Place Theatre, Armagh
2nd Feb 2024 - The Island Arts Centre, Lisburn
20th Feb 2024 - Theatre at the Mill, Newtownabbey (Cancelled due to company illness)
21st - Strule Arts Centre, Omagh (Cancelled due to company illness)
24th Feb 2024 - Down Arts Centre, Downpatrick
25th Feb 2024 - The Playhouse, Derry ~ Londonderry

Bruiser Theatre Company

Trustees' Report

PRESS REVIEWS

- “Amazing performances by Nuala McGowan, Mary McGurk and Chris Robinson are central to this... [they] have you believing every character they portray and carry the show with ease.” - Chris Caldwell, Pastiebab
- “From the start, as with all Bruiser productions, Teechers fizzles. In fact, the high octane, physical European theatre style is so fast and furious you wonder whether it could be toned down here and there, as it is in the upper-class school scenes. But it suggests pace, energy, and the chaotic nature of this deprived school where teachers routinely have breakdowns...’ ‘Teechers’ message remains important. As John Godber says “At its heart is the very real assertion that the arts, and especially drama, should form part of the school curriculum. ...” This enables the students to comment on society even as they live through it.” - Jane Hardy, Belfast Times
- “Satirical, reflective, intense and concise, Bruiser Theatre Company’s adaptation... consistently entertains and at times astounds with its pacing, incisiveness, and emotive openness... It’s high on detail, hugely expressive, and light on its feet, clever and lively.” - Simon Fallaha, Si Arts NI on Theatre

FEEDBACK FROM VENUES

- ‘Feedback on the show has been great. Sounds like it was brilliant. I’d love to programme you guys again at Down Arts Centre - our audiences love the work you do.’
- ‘I really enjoyed Teechers - thanks for bringing - audience response was really strong too.’

Digital Educational Resources April 2023 - March 2024

Bruiser continued to offer and develop their range of digital education resources to post-primary schools throughout 2023/24. As of 31st March 2024, our portfolio included:

- The Bruiser Digital Handbook - a selection of pre-recorded lectures and workshops to aid the study of Bruiser Theatre Company as a chosen practitioner, as well as a host of additional educational resources (Worksheets, lesson plans, schemes of work) on offer through three-tiered packages: Excite, Engage and Inspire.
- How To Demo Videos - a selection of videos giving students an insight into the wider roles within theatre. Each topic contains a series of educational videos on a range of areas: Set Design; Costume Design; Multimedia; Sound Design; Theatrical Make-up; and Lighting Design.

Bruiser also developed digital resources on working with monologues, and the different roles/positions within the arts sector and to provide more insight/context for our live theatre productions. The digitisation of the company archives also began in August 2024 with the aim of making it openly accessible via our website.

Bruiser Theatre Company

Trustees' Report

Bruiser Development Ambassadors Programme

April 2023 - March 2024

Bruiser's Young Development Ambassadors Programme engaged in analysis and discussion to generate creative ideas and help shape the future of Bruiser's educational, community engagement and professional development activities. The Bruiser Development Ambassadors Programme was developed as a method of communicating with our key stakeholders on a personal basis. We wanted to know what more we can do to ensure that Bruiser can continue to provide the young people of Northern Ireland with relevant, high-quality training and development programmes.

The project was open to anyone over the age of 16 - innovative and creative thinkers whose experience and understanding of the Northern Irish Arts industry had prepared them to comment on future project proposals and offer insight and suggestions for further development in the key areas of education and professional development.

Bespoke Workshops

April 2023 - March 2024

Building on existing relationships with schools, and in particular, Vital Connect schools from the previous pilot year, Bruiser continued to offer bespoke workshops to schools and community groups across Northern Ireland throughout 2023-2024. We also continued to offer online/virtual Q&As and workshops to broaden our reach and connect with new audiences.

Operational Growth and Development

April 2023 - March 2024

- **Belfast City Council: Cultural Multi-annual Grant Scheme** - In March 2022 Bruiser was successful in securing Cultural Multi-annual Grant Arts & Heritage funding from Belfast City Council for a period of two years. Bruiser benefited from the support of this grant throughout 2023-2024.
- **Artwork Scheme** - In March 2022, Bruiser was awarded funding from Future Screens NI and the Department for Communities NI through the Art Work Scheme. The grant of £60,326.16 over a period of three years has been used to employ an entry-level Development Officer to work across Bruiser's annual programme in 2023-2024.
- **Dormant Accounts** - In April 2023 Bruiser secured funding from Dormant Accounts to employ a full-time Development Manager for two years from appointment. This funding scheme has also supported Bruiser in working with an external business consultant to strategize and redevelop our business plan for the years ahead.
- **Paul Hamlyn Foundation** - On completion of the pilot year of Vital Connect, in December 2023, Bruiser had secured funding for a further 3 years for the project, as well as being able to maintain in position the Education Officer and to employ a part-time Facilitator in residence.

Bruiser Theatre Company

Trustees' Report

Structure, governance and management

Nature of governing document

Bruiser is a company limited by Guarantee governed by its Memorandum and Articles of Association dated 9th August 2011 (amended). It is registered as a charity with the Charities Commission for Northern Ireland (CCNI).

Recruitment and appointment of trustees

Directors are elected at the AGM by the Members present. A Director shall hold office until the next AGM following his/her appointment at which point they must retire. A retiring Director shall be eligible for re-election.

The Directors shall:

Have the power at any time and from time to time to appoint any person to be a Director to fill a casual vacancy. Any Director so appointed shall hold office only until the next following Annual General Meeting and shall then be eligible for re-election. Have the power at any time to appoint as additional Directors up to but not exceeding a number equivalent to one third of the elected Directors for the time being. Directors so appointed shall hold office only until the next following Annual General Meeting and shall then be eligible for re-appointment.

Induction and training of trustees

All newly appointed Directors meet with the Chair and Artistic Director to discuss the roles and responsibilities of a Director and also to audit specific skills and areas of interest they may be able to bring to the role, as well as any relevant areas of training they may be interested in undertaking. They are also presented with an information pack on the Company.

The Board of Directors, which has no maximum number but shall not be less than 5 Directors, administrates the charity. The board meets quarterly. An Artistic Director is appointed by the Directors to manage the day to day operations of the charity. To facilitate effective operations the Artistic Director has delegated authority, within the terms of delegation approved by the Directors, for operational matters including finance and employment. The Artistic Director has delegated authority for artistic performance related activity.

Financial instruments

Objectives and policies

Risk management and Internal Controls

The Board of Directors has established a system on internal controls, designed to provide reasonable, but not absolute, assurance against material misstatement or loss. They include:

- Regular consideration of the financial position of Bruiser by the Directors
- Ensuring at least one Director has the necessary skills to interpret and analyse Bruisers financial records and reports
- Delegation of authority and segregation of duties
- The contract of an external company to prepare financial statements

Bruiser Theatre Company

Trustees' Report

Credit risk

The charity's principal financial assets are bank balances and cash, trade and other receivables, and investments. The charity's credit risk is primarily attributable to its trade receivables. The amounts presented in the balance sheet are net of allowances for doubtful receivables. An allowance for impairment is made where there is an identified loss event which, based on previous experience, is evidence of a reduction in the recoverability of the cash flows.

The credit risk on liquid funds and derivative financial instruments is limited because the counterparties are banks with high credit-ratings assigned by international credit-rating agencies.

The charity has no significant concentration of credit risk, with exposure spread over a large number of counterparties and customers.

Liquidity risk

In order to maintain liquidity to ensure that sufficient funds are available for ongoing operations and future developments, the charity uses a mixture of long-term and short-term debt finance.

Further details regarding liquidity risk can be found in the Statement of accounting policies in the financial statements.

The annual report was approved by the trustees of the charity on 21 November 2024 and signed on its behalf by:



Diana McKeown
Trustee

Bruiser Theatre Company

Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities

The trustees (who are also the directors of Bruiser Theatre Company for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the trustees' report and the financial statements in accordance with the United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice) and applicable law and regulations.

Company law requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year. Under company law the trustees must not approve the financial statements unless they are satisfied that they give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and 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; and
- 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 are sufficient to show and explain the charitable company's transactions and 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.

Approved by the trustees of the charity on 21 November 2024 and signed on its behalf by:

.....

Diana McKeown
Trustee

Bruiser Theatre Company

Northern Ireland - Charity number 101876

Annual return

Bruiser Theatre Company

Independent Examiner's Report to the trustees of Bruiser Theatre Company

I report on the accounts of the charity for the year ended 31 March 2024 which are set out on pages 19 to 31 .

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The trustees (who are also the directors of the company for the purposes of company law) are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 65(2) of the Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2008 (the 2008 Act) and that an independent examination is needed. The charity's gross income exceeded £250,000 and I am qualified to undertake the examination by being a qualified member of Chartered Institute of Management Accountants.

Having satisfied myself that the charity is not subject to audit under company law and is eligible for independent examination, it is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 65 of the 2008 Act;
- to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 65(9)(b) of the 2008 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 the 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 seeking explanations from you as 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 matter has come to my attention:

(1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:

- to keep accounting records in accordance with section 386 of the Companies Act 2006; and
- to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records, comply with the accounting requirements of section 396 of the Companies Act 2006 and with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities

have not been met; or

(2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.


.....
Catherine McRory ACMA CGMA
Chartered Management Accountant
Chartered Institute of Management Accountants

Unit 3 Dargan Industrial Park
60-84 Dargan Crescent
Belfast
BT3 9JP

21 November 2024

Bruiser Theatre Company

Northern Ireland - Charity number 101876

Accounts

Bruiser Theatre Company

Statement of Financial Activities for the Year Ended 31 March 2023 (Including Income and Expenditure Account and Statement of Total Recognised Gains and Losses)

	Note	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
Income and Endowments from:					
Donations and legacies	3	-	-	-	110
Charitable activities	4	31,969	229,935	261,904	119,892
Other trading activities		-	108	108	6,661
Total Income		<u>31,969</u>	<u>230,043</u>	<u>262,012</u>	<u>126,663</u>
Expenditure on:					
Raising funds	5	(64)	(2,133)	(2,197)	(1,150)
Charitable activities	6	(14,302)	(185,804)	(200,106)	(129,145)
Total Expenditure		<u>(14,366)</u>	<u>(187,937)</u>	<u>(202,303)</u>	<u>(130,295)</u>
Net income/(expenditure)		17,603	42,106	59,709	(3,632)
Transfers between funds		(86)	86	-	-
Net movement in funds		17,517	42,192	59,709	(3,632)
Reconciliation of funds					
Total funds brought forward		<u>87,597</u>	<u>37,264</u>	<u>124,861</u>	<u>128,492</u>
Total funds carried forward	15	<u>105,114</u>	<u>79,456</u>	<u>184,570</u>	<u>124,860</u>
			Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2022 £
	Note				
Income and Endowments from:					
Donations and legacies	3		-	110	110
Charitable activities	4		8,850	111,042	119,892
Other trading activities			-	6,661	6,661
Total Income			<u>8,850</u>	<u>117,813</u>	<u>126,663</u>
Expenditure on:					
Raising funds	5		-	(1,150)	(1,150)
Charitable activities	6		(5,897)	(123,248)	(129,145)
Total Expenditure			<u>(5,897)</u>	<u>(124,398)</u>	<u>(130,295)</u>
Net income/(expenditure)			<u>2,953</u>	<u>(6,585)</u>	<u>(3,632)</u>
Net movement in funds			2,953	(6,585)	(3,632)
Reconciliation of funds					
Total funds brought forward			<u>84,643</u>	<u>43,849</u>	<u>128,492</u>
Total funds carried forward	15		<u>87,596</u>	<u>37,264</u>	<u>124,860</u>

All of the charity's activities derive from continuing operations during the above two periods.

Bruiser Theatre Company

**Statement of Financial Activities for the Year Ended 31 March 2023
(Including Income and Expenditure Account and Statement of Total Recognised Gains
and Losses)**

The funds breakdown for 2023 & 2022 is shown in note 15.

Bruiser Theatre Company
(Registration number: NI601058)
Balance Sheet as at 31 March 2023

	Note	2023 £	2022 £
Fixed assets			
Tangible assets	11	19,075	24,013
Current assets			
Debtors	12	6,664	6,858
Cash at bank and in hand		<u>171,639</u>	<u>120,066</u>
		178,303	126,924
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year	13	<u>(12,808)</u>	<u>(26,077)</u>
Net current assets		<u>165,495</u>	<u>100,847</u>
Net assets		<u><u>184,570</u></u>	<u><u>124,860</u></u>
Funds of the charity:			
Restricted funds			
		<u>79,456</u>	<u>37,264</u>
Unrestricted income funds			
Unrestricted funds		34,635	17,117
Designated Funds		<u>70,479</u>	<u>70,479</u>
Total unrestricted funds		<u>105,114</u>	<u>87,596</u>
Total funds	15	<u><u>184,570</u></u>	<u><u>124,860</u></u>

For the financial year ending 31 March 2023 the charity was entitled to exemption from audit under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

Directors' responsibilities:

- The members have not required the charity to obtain an audit of its accounts for the year in question in accordance with section 476; and
- 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 financial statements on pages 21 to 33 were approved by the trustees, and authorised for issue on 13 December 2023 and signed on their behalf by:

Joseph Rea

.....
Mr Joseph Rea
Trustee

Bruiser Theatre Company

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2023

1 Charity status

The charity is a charity limited by guarantee and consequently does not have share capital. Each of the trustees is liable to contribute an amount not exceeding £Nil towards the assets of the charity in the event of liquidation.

Each of the members is liable to contribute an amount not exceeding £1 towards the assets of the charity in the event of liquidation.

2 Accounting policies

Summary of significant accounting policies and key accounting estimates

The principal accounting policies applied in the preparation of these financial statements are set out below. These policies have been consistently applied to all the years presented, unless otherwise stated.

Statement of compliance

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 2015) - (Charities SORP (FRS 102)), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Companies Act 2006.

Basis of preparation

Bruiser Theatre Company 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 notes.

Going concern

The financial statements have been prepared on a going concern basis.

The trustees assess whether the use of going concern is appropriate i.e. whether there are any material uncertainties related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the ability of the charity to continue as a going concern. The trustees make this assessment in respect of a period of one year from the date of approval of the financial statements.

The Trustees are aware that the Charity has lost its main funding, but remain hopeful that steps can be taken to ensure the organisation continues with its activities. Steps have been taken by the Trustees to reduce non-essential costs to allow the Charity to regroup and source alternative funding.

Exemption from preparing a cash flow statement

The charity opted to early adopt Bulletin 1 published on 2 February 2016 and have therefore not included a cash flow statement in these financial statements.

Income and endowments

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

Bruiser Theatre Company

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2023

Donations and legacies

Donations are recognised when the charity has been notified in writing of both the amount and settlement date. In the event that a donation is subject to conditions that require a level of performance by the charity before the charity is entitled to the funds, the income is deferred and not recognised until either those conditions are fully met, or the fulfilment of those conditions is wholly within the control of the charity and it is probable that these conditions will be fulfilled in the reporting period.

Expenditure

All expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to that expenditure, it is probable settlement is required and the amount can be measured reliably. All costs are allocated to the applicable expenditure heading that aggregate similar costs to that category. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings they have been allocated on a basis consistent with the use of resources, with central staff costs allocated on the basis of time spent, and depreciation charges allocated on the portion of the asset's use. Other support costs are allocated based on the spread of staff costs.

Raising funds

These are costs incurred in attracting voluntary income, the management of investments and those incurred in trading activities that raise funds.

Charitable activities

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.

Support costs

Support costs include central functions and have been allocated to activity cost categories on a basis consistent with the use of resources, for example, allocating property costs by floor areas, or per capita, staff costs by the time spent and other costs by their usage.

Governance costs

These include the costs attributable to the charity's compliance with constitutional and statutory requirements, including audit, strategic management and trustees's meetings and reimbursed expenses.

Taxation

The charity is considered to pass the tests set out in Paragraph 1 Schedule 6 of the Finance Act 2010 and therefore it meets the definition of a charitable company for UK corporation tax purposes. Accordingly, the charity is potentially exempt from taxation in respect of income or capital gains received within categories covered by Chapter 3 Part 11 of the Corporation Tax Act 2010 or Section 256 of the Taxation of Chargeable Gains Act 1992, to the extent that such income or gains are applied exclusively to charitable purposes.

Tangible fixed assets

Individual fixed assets costing £0.00 or more are initially recorded at cost, less any subsequent accumulated depreciation and subsequent accumulated impairment losses.

Depreciation and amortisation

Depreciation is provided on tangible fixed assets so as to write off the cost or valuation, less any estimated residual value, over their expected useful economic life as follows:

Bruiser Theatre Company

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2023

Asset class	Depreciation method and rate
Office Equipment	20% Straight Line

Trade debtors

Trade debtors are amounts due from customers for merchandise sold or services performed in the ordinary course of business.

Trade debtors are recognised initially at the transaction price. They are subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method, less provision for impairment. A provision for the impairment of trade debtors is established when there is objective evidence that the charity will not be able to collect all amounts due according to the original terms of the receivables.

Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents comprise cash on hand and call deposits, and other short-term highly liquid investments that are readily convertible to a known amount of cash and are subject to an insignificant risk of change in value.

Trade creditors

Trade creditors are obligations to pay for goods or services that have been acquired in the ordinary course of business from suppliers. Accounts payable are classified as current liabilities if the charity does not have an unconditional right, at the end of the reporting period, to defer settlement of the creditor for at least twelve months after the reporting date. If there is an unconditional right to defer settlement for at least twelve months after the reporting date, they are presented as non-current liabilities.

Trade creditors are recognised initially at the transaction price and subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

Borrowings

Interest-bearing borrowings are initially recorded at fair value, net of transaction costs. Interest-bearing borrowings are subsequently carried at amortised cost, with the difference between the proceeds, net of transaction costs, and the amount due on redemption being recognised as a charge to the Statement of Financial Activities over the period of the relevant borrowing.

Interest expense is recognised on the basis of the effective interest method and is included in interest payable and similar charges.

Borrowings are classified as current liabilities unless the charity has an unconditional right to defer settlement of the liability for at least twelve months after the reporting date.

Fund structure

Unrestricted income funds are general funds that are available for use at the trustees's discretion in furtherance of the objectives of the charity.

Designated funds are unrestricted funds set aside for specific purposes at the discretion of the trustees.

Restricted income funds are those donated for use in a particular area or for specific purposes, the use of which is restricted to that area or purpose.

Bruiser Theatre Company

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2023

Financial instruments

Classification

Financial assets and financial liabilities are recognised when the charity becomes a party to the contractual provisions of the instrument.

Financial liabilities and equity instruments are classified according to the substance of the contractual arrangements entered into. An equity instrument is any contract that evidences a residual interest in the assets of the charity after deducting all of its liabilities.

Recognition and measurement

All financial assets and liabilities are initially measured at transaction price (including transaction costs), except for those financial assets classified as at fair value through profit or loss, which are initially measured at fair value (which is normally the transaction price excluding transaction costs), unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction. If an arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, the financial asset or financial liability is measured at the present value of the future payments discounted at a market rate of interest for a similar debt instrument.

Financial assets and liabilities are only offset in the statement of financial position when, and only when there exists a legally enforceable right to set off the recognised amounts and the charity intends either to settle on a net basis, or to realise the asset and settle the liability simultaneously.

Financial assets are derecognised when and only when a) the contractual rights to the cash flows from the financial asset expire or are settled, b) the charity transfers to another party substantially all of the risks and rewards of ownership of the financial asset, or c) the charity, despite having retained some, but not all, significant risks and rewards of ownership, has transferred control of the asset to another party.

Financial liabilities are derecognised only when the obligation specified in the contract is discharged, cancelled or expires.

Fair value measurement

The best evidence of fair value is a quoted price for an identical asset in an active market. When quoted prices are unavailable, the price of a recent transaction for an identical asset provides evidence of fair value as long as there has not been a significant change in economic circumstances or a significant lapse of time since the transaction took place. If the market is not active and recent transactions of an identical asset on their own are not a good estimate of fair value, the fair value is estimated by using a valuation technique.

3 Income from donations and legacies

	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
Donations and legacies;		
Donations from individuals	-	110
	-	110

Bruiser Theatre Company

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2023

4 Income from charitable activities

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total 2023	Total 2022
	General	funds	£	£
	£	£	£	£
Charitable Activities	17,957	197,550	215,507	95,482
Box Office & programme sales	14,012	32,385	46,397	24,410
	31,969	229,935	261,904	119,892

5 Expenditure on raising funds

a) Costs of generating donations and legacies

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total 2023	Total 2022
	General	funds	£	£
	£	£	£	£
Marketing and publicity	64	2,133	2,197	1,150
	64	2,133	2,197	1,150
				Total 2023
				£

6 Expenditure on charitable activities

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total 2023	Total 2022
	General	funds	£	£
	£	£	£	£
Box Office & programme sales	14,261	50,579	64,840	60,785
Staff costs	-	105,611	105,611	45,257
Allocated support costs	41	26,383	26,424	20,268
Governance costs	-	3,231	3,231	2,835
	14,302	185,804	200,106	129,145

Bruiser Theatre Company

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2023

7 Analysis of governance and support costs

Charitable activities expenditure

Basis of allocation	Restricted funds £	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
Rent & Rates	6,965	6,965	3,540
Telephone & Internet	1,419	1,419	1,286
Printing, Postage & Stationery	281	281	2,025
Legal & Professional	2,000	2,000	2,682
Insurance	1,974	1,974	1,527
Access NI	41	41	-
Membership & Subscriptions	180	180	280
Software & IT Costs	2,083	2,083	1,438
Depreciation	7,500	7,500	6,988
Staff Welfare	272	272	285
Bank Charges	(69)	(69)	217
Advertising	1,115	1,115	-
Travel costs	1,669	1,669	-
Sundry Expenses	43	43	-
Repairs & Maintenance	951	951	-
	<u>26,424</u>	<u>26,424</u>	<u>20,268</u>

Governance costs

	Restricted funds £	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
Independent examiner fees			
Examination of the financial statements	3,231	3,231	2,835
	<u>3,231</u>	<u>3,231</u>	<u>2,835</u>

Bruiser Theatre Company

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2023

8 Staff costs

The aggregate payroll costs were as follows:

	2023 £	2022 £
Staff costs during the year were:		
Wages and salaries	98,980	44,089
Social security costs	4,204	-
Pension costs	2,427	1,168
	<u>105,611</u>	<u>45,257</u>

The monthly average number of persons (including senior management team) employed by the charity during the year expressed as full time equivalents was as follows:

	2023 No	2022 No
Staff	<u>4</u>	<u>2</u>

No employee received emoluments of more than £60,000 during the year.

9 Independent examiner's remuneration

	2023 £	2022 £
Examination of the financial statements	<u>3,231</u>	<u>2,835</u>

Bruiser Theatre Company

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2023

10 Taxation

The charity is a registered charity and is therefore exempt from taxation.

11 Tangible fixed assets

	Furniture and equipment £	Total £
Cost		
At 1 April 2022	35,178	35,178
Additions	2,562	2,562
At 31 March 2023	37,740	37,740
Depreciation		
At 1 April 2022	11,165	11,165
Charge for the year	7,500	7,500
At 31 March 2023	18,665	18,665
Net book value		
At 31 March 2023	19,075	19,075
At 31 March 2022	24,013	24,013

12 Debtors

	2023 £	2022 £
Trade debtors	5,663	5,455
Prepayments	1,001	1,403
	6,664	6,858

13 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2023 £	2022 £
Trade creditors	2,104	3,952
Other taxation and social security	2,467	803
Other creditors	8,237	21,322
	12,808	26,077

Bruiser Theatre Company

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2023

14 Pension and other schemes

Defined contribution pension scheme

The charity operates a defined contribution pension scheme. The pension cost charge for the year represents contributions payable by the charity to the scheme and amounted to £2,427 (2022 - £1,168).

15 Funds

	Balance at 1 April 2022 £	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Transfers £	Balance at 31 March 2023 £
Unrestricted funds					
General	(17,118)	(31,969)	14,366	86	(34,635)
Designated	<u>(70,479)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(70,479)</u>
Total unrestricted funds	(87,597)	(31,969)	14,366	86	(105,114)
Restricted funds	<u>(37,264)</u>	<u>(230,043)</u>	<u>187,937</u>	<u>(86)</u>	<u>(79,456)</u>
Total funds	<u>(124,861)</u>	<u>(262,012)</u>	<u>202,303</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(184,570)</u>
	Balance at 1 April 2021 £	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Transfers £	Balance at 31 March 2022 £
Unrestricted funds					
General	(84,643)	(8,850)	5,897	70,479	(17,117)
Designated	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(70,479)</u>	<u>(70,479)</u>
Total unrestricted funds	(84,643)	(8,850)	5,897	-	(87,596)
Restricted funds	<u>(43,849)</u>	<u>(117,813)</u>	<u>124,398</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(37,264)</u>
Total funds	<u>(128,492)</u>	<u>(126,663)</u>	<u>130,295</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(124,860)</u>

16 Analysis of net assets between funds

Bruiser Theatre Company

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2023

	Unrestricted funds		Restricted	Total funds
	General £	Designated £	funds £	£
Tangible fixed assets	2,174	-	16,901	19,075
Current assets	45,270	70,479	62,554	178,303
Current liabilities	(12,808)	-	-	(12,808)
Total net assets	<u>34,636</u>	<u>70,479</u>	<u>79,455</u>	<u>184,570</u>

17 Analysis of net funds

	At 1 April 2022 £	Cash flow £	At 31 March 2023 £
Cash at bank and in hand	120,066	51,573	171,639
Net debt	<u>120,066</u>	<u>51,573</u>	<u>171,639</u>

Bruiser Theatre Company

Northern Ireland - Charity number 101876

Annual report

Company registration number: NI601058

Charity registration number: 101876

Bruiser Theatre Company

(A company limited by guarantee)

Annual Report and Financial Statements

for the Year Ended 31 March 2023

Bruiser Theatre Company

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Bruiser Theatre Company

Reference and Administrative Details

Trustees	Miss Rosie Timoney (Resigned 31 December 2022) Mr Adam Boughton Knight Mr Joseph Rea Mr Aidan Kearney Miss Le-Ann Campbell Ms Aoife Browne Miss Laura Johnston Miss Marie O'Donoghue Diana McKeown Miss Ella Griffin (appointed 17 July 2022) Mr Colin Morelli (appointed 16 February 2023) Ms Kirsten McGarrity (appointed 16 February 2023)
Secretary	Lisa May
Principal Office	83 University Street Belfast Antrim BT7 1HP The charity is incorporated in Northern Ireland.
Company Registration Number	NI601058
Charity Registration Number	101876
Independent Examiner	Baxterworld Ltd Chartered Management Accountant Unit 3 Dargan Industrial Park 60-84 Dargan Crescent Belfast BT3 9JP

Bruiser Theatre Company

Strategic Report for the Year Ended 31 March 2023

The trustees, who are directors for the purposes of company law, present their strategic report for the year ended 31 March 2023, in compliance with s414C of the Companies Act 2006.

Financial review

Income in the year was £262,012 and expenditure totalled £202,303 giving a surplus of £59,709. Total funds at the end of March 23 were £184,569. Restricted funds totalled £79,456, unrestricted and designated funds totalled £105,113 at the close of the period.

Policy on reserves

It is the view of the Board of Directors that Bruiser operate prudently and effectively within the parameters of the financial resources which were available.

Bruiser's Trustees were particularly mindful of the need for efficiencies and financial prudence given the probability of growing competition in funding rounds, limitations to box office potential and limited venue operations, in the wake of Covid-19. In 2016/17 Bruiser established a policy of building company reserves to a minimum of three months operating costs and we were pleased to achieve this once again in 2022/23. With this in mind, the Bruiser Trustees have agreed to increase the designated reserves policy to a minimum of four and a half months operating costs going forward.

Principal funding sources

Bruiser was supported by Belfast City Council, the Arts Council of Northern Ireland, the National Lottery, the Paul Hamlyn Foundation, the Future Screens NI fund, Queens University and the Victoria Homes Trust during the year.

The strategic report was approved by the trustees of the charity on 13 December 2023 and signed on its behalf by:

Joseph Rea

.....
Mr Joseph Rea
Trustee

Bruiser Theatre Company

Trustees' Report

The trustees, who are directors for the purposes of company law, present the annual report together with the financial statements of the charitable company for the year ended 31 March 2023.

Trustees

Miss Rosie Timoney (Resigned 31 December 2022)

Mr Adam Boughton Knight

Mr Joseph Rea

Mr Aidan Kearney

Miss Le-Ann Campbell

Ms Aoife Browne

Miss Laura Johnston

Miss Marie O'Donoghue

Diana McKeown

Miss Ella Griffin (appointed 17 July 2022)

Mr Colin Morelli (appointed 16 February 2023)

Ms Kirsten McGarrity (appointed 16 February 2023)

Objectives and activities

Objects and aims

Founded in 1997, Bruiser aims to produce innovative live performance combining text and physical theatre techniques.

Bruiser Theatre Company strives to be recognised as Northern Ireland's leading Physical Theatre Company delivering inspiring and uplifting theatre and equipping the next generation of performers with the skills and know-how to work effectively within the industry.

Bruiser's Principal Funder in 2020-21 was Belfast City Council, the National Lottery and the Arts Council of Northern Ireland and as such contributes to:

- Promoting the Value of the Arts
- Strengthening the Arts
- Growing Audiences and Increasing Participation

Bruiser takes a professional and ethical approach to the management and governance of the company to deliver quality productions, education and training work.

In pursuit of this Bruiser aims to:

- treat all of its stakeholders with the highest level of integrity and gain the respect of all those individuals and organisations with which it interacts
- be challenging and courageous in designing and developing the artistic programme
- provide an entertaining and enjoyable experience for its audiences

Bruiser Theatre Company

Trustees' Report

Artistically Bruiser's aims are to:

- to use minimal set for maximum impact
- to further explore the notion of the actor, enforcing him/her as the central mechanism of performance
- to streamline and explore the relationship between the essential dynamics of theatre, the actor, the space and the audience
- to encourage an environment for the exchange of ideas and collaboration between arts practitioners in production
- make a commitment to touring, workshop development and teaching to encourage a greater access to theatre
- to produce a consistently high quality product

Public benefit

The Trustees are committed to providing a public benefit, and have taken into account the Charity Commission's guidance in this area.

We believe that producing high quality, engaging work that attracts traditional and non-traditional theatre-goers, diverse in age and background, enhances our audiences quality of life, as well as fostering a more general appreciation of the arts.

By working extensively with Northern Ireland's next generation of talent, we are also creating a legacy from which many other theatres, and the sector at large, will benefit.

Bruiser's Annual Funding was cut by The Arts Council of Northern Ireland by 100% in 2018. With a healthy reserves policy, and strong leadership from the Bruiser Board and Artistic Director, Bruiser continues with vigor, passion and determination

The trustees confirm that they have complied with the requirements of section 3 of the Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2008 to have due regard to the public benefit guidance published by the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland.

Bruiser Theatre Company

Trustees' Report

Our work in 2022/23 includes:

Productions

Mojo Mickybo by Owen McCafferty
All Ireland and UK Venue Tour
March/April 2022

In April 2022, Bruiser completed their UK and ROI venue tour of Mojo Mickybo. This production was funded by ACNI National Lottery Fund and Culture Ireland. The tour included a one week run in The Union Theatre, London, before returning to Northern Ireland for a homecoming run at The MAC, Belfast.

CAST

Michael Condron - Mojo
Terence Keeley - Mickybo

CREATIVE TEAM

Lisa May -Director
Owen McCafferty -Playwright
Stuart Marshall - Set Designer
Garth McConaghie -Music and Sound Designer
James C McFetridge -Lighting Designer

PRODUCTION TEAM

Produced by Bruiser Theatre Company
Lisa May - Producer
Peter Heenan -Producer
Stephen Quinn -Production Manager
Ronan McManus -Assistant Production Manager
Anita Gibney -PR & Marketing
Liam McMullan - Tour Booker
Jim Carson -Scenic Construction

TOUR SCHEDULE

The Garage Theatre, Monaghan
The Old Courthouse, Newtownabbey
Marketplace Theatre, Armagh
The Playhouse, Derry
Watergate Theatre, Kilkenny
An Tain Arts Centre, Dundalk
The Source Arts Centre, Thurles
Dean Crowe Arts Centre, Westmeath
Union Theatre, Southwark
The MAC, Belfast

Bruiser received excellent critical and audience feedback, with 4* and 5* reviews across the board.

Bruiser Theatre Company

Trustees' Report

SAMPLE REVIEW - Everything Theatre - Union Theatre

Mojo (Michael Condrón) and Mickybo (Terence Keeley) are nine year-old boys who become friends in Belfast in the summer of 1970. The setting foretells all you need to know about how this friendship is to be affected by events, which are totally out of their control.

There is a really clever introduction to the young boys, which gets revisited towards the end: they almost sing-song their names and change the order to "Mickybo Mojo" or "Mojo Mickybo". For me, this had two strong aspects. First, it really entwines the boys; together they are Mojo Mickybo, and you can imagine them always both being underfoot. Secondly, it shows that these youngsters are the same. No matter their background, no matter the tradition in which they have been brought up, they are just two lads growing up in the same place, interested in the same things; wanting a hut to live in and to eventually grow up to be like Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid, riding off to Australia.

The play tears along, thanks in no small part to the sharp direction of Lisa May, and also the sheer energy coming from the two actors. Each of them plays multiple roles; scenes and characters change with a literal twirl. An exaggeration of body language works to great effect, showing the small young lads compared to the bigger, older bullies (well named as Gank the Wank and Fuckface), and this culminates in a spectacular fight, where it's hard to believe there are only two actors on stage. The physical theatre, the comic timing, the choreography behind this is absolutely top notch. On top of that, the ease with which Keeley transforms into Mojo's mother and Condrón into Mickybo's father is hugely impressive, moving from childhood innocence and games into world - and specifically Northern Ireland - weary adulthood. Suffice it to say, both Condrón and Keeley are superb.

From the start it is clear that the actors are going to take us on a journey, and we need to pay attention to their physicality and their language; to learn some Northern Irish dialect as we go along. The play, direction and delivery all help, but it's clear that an audience prepared to put in a small amount of work will get a little more from the show, and the production trusts and respects its audience to go with this. I felt very invested, and found myself getting really tense as the play went along. Even as I laughed (and boy did I laugh a lot - the play is genuinely funny), there was a troubling sense of dread throughout, and then sadness when the inevitable result of sectarianism finally occurred.

Stuart Marshall's set design is deceptively simple. Before the show begins, it evokes menace from a barricade constructed on the streets of Belfast, the design wordlessly and effectively setting the scene. Garth McConaghie's sound is used to great effect throughout, but in particular as the boys play-act as cowboys. Additionally, the show offers a really slick digital programme, available through scanning a QR code, and delivered by email shortly afterwards. It is one of the better programmes I've seen in a while, providing a lot more than a listing of cast and crew. It includes sections about the theatre company, about the play itself and a really interesting Director's Note.

This play is an enjoyable, thoughtful production; smart, funny and ultimately sad, with superb acting. I loved every minute spent with Mojo Mickybo. *****

Bruiser Theatre Company

Trustees' Report

AWARDS

Bruiser received two nominations from the Irish Times Irish Theatre Awards for their production of Mojo Mickybo:

- 1) Best Director - Lisa May
- 2) Best Ensemble

The judges cited their criteria as:

“Excellence: brilliance, superiority, distinction, quality and merit. Innovation and risk must come into the equation as theatre is all about creativity and therefore inventiveness, resourcefulness, vision, imagination, inspiration and originality.”

A very high bar. These nominations put Bruiser in the company of Ireland’s very best theatre despite the unprecedented times for the industry and the challenges Bruiser itself has faced. Bruiser subsequently won the Best Ensemble Award which was the only award given to a Northern Irish Company in 2022.

Friel Reimagined April 2022 - March 2023

Throughout the year, Bruiser worked in partnership with Queen’s University, Belfast on Friel Reimagined. Supported by the National Lottery Heritage Fund and The Steel Charitable Trust, this is a unique drama research and engagement project based on the work of acclaimed Irish playwright Brian Friel (1929-2015).

Led by Dr Paul Murphy, the project worked to digitise a selection of Friel’s papers held at the National Library of Ireland, and open them up to connect diverse audiences with the legacy and writings of Friel. The project was based at the School of Arts, English and Languages at Queen’s University, who worked with Bruiser in the design and delivery of the outreach aspect of the project.

Over the course of the year we:

- brought participatory drama workshops and courses to the following post-primary schools across Northern Ireland: Sacred Heart Grammar School, Newry; Hazelwood Integrated College, Belfast; Dominican College, Portstewart; Coleraine Grammar School; St Joseph's College, Belfast; Belfast Boys Model School; and local schools in Derry as part of a public exhibition of archival papers at The Guildhall, Derry.
- Worked with four groups from Hydebank Wood College and Women’s Prison on themes and issues relevant to them, explored in the works of Brian Friel.
- Held a series of public workshop courses in Belfast, Derry, Portstewart and with immigrant/migrant communities in Dungannon.
- Delivered a Summer intensive exploring five Friel plays in five days, for young people at The Brian Friel Theatre at Queen’s University, Belfast.
- Developed a series of video resources to help teachers and community leaders explore the works of Brian Friel practically, beyond the lifetime of the project.

In our practical workshop sessions, participants got to try out physical theatre (often for the first time), explore the themes of Friel's plays, devise their own creative ideas and share their work with the group. Bruiser's approach involves everyone, so participants didn't need prior acting experience or knowledge of drama to enjoy the workshops.

Feedback from workshop/course participants included:

- “I learned how sitting down doing a play can be so fun & funny. I got confidence to act and read in front of people. I couldn't ask for better teachers... I am going to miss the class and people. We had a good group. Thank you so so much. I hope to be part of another class.”

Bruiser Theatre Company

Trustees' Report

- “Enjoyed this much more than what I thought I would. Got to know other people better and it boosted my confidence.”
- “I wasn't sure about joining though once I did I really enjoyed learning about the play and I had a great laugh with the guys, great people!”
- “A fantastic four weeks - Delving into the themes of the play and the ‘red thread’ that connects us all was insightful and at times very emotional.”

Commission: Die Hard
December 2022 - March 2023

In December 2022, Bruiser secured funding from ACNI National Lottery's Commissioning Programme to develop a stage adaptation of the cult classic 'Die Hard'. Bruiser commissioned playwright Gary Mitchell to work alongside Bruiser's Artistic Director Lisa May in the development of this new piece of work. The research and development of this production is scheduled to continue into 2023/24, with plans to programme the show once complete.

Bruiser Theatre Company

Trustees' Report

Arts Academy July - August 2022

The Bruiser Arts Academy, our annual series of professional development courses for young people and emerging artists returned for Summer 2022. Through this project, Bruiser delivered three courses for participants of different ages and abilities:

- **START Academy** - a week-long entry level course is designed for young people who love the idea of performing, but may not have had the chance to be on stage before. This course aims to build confidence through performance and is open to referrals from teachers and community leaders to help reach young people who would most benefit.
- **Summer School** -an intensive ten-day professional training course for young people with a passion for the performing arts. This course is designed to inspire and challenge young actors, providing them with the building blocks required to further pursue their acting ambitions. The Bruiser team are joined by a range of local industry professionals to coach and guide participants, holding them to a high standard of practice and providing essential experience and insight into the working world.
- **Graduate Academy** -an intensive twelve-day training course for young adults with a passion for the performing arts, who are serious about their career. The Graduate Academy is aimed at actors aged 18+ who are preparing for Drama School, are attending further education, have graduated or are professional actors wanting to enhance their skills. The course culminates in a showcase performance for local industry professionals.

The Bruiser Arts Academy was delivered in partnership with Queen's University, Belfast who provided in-kind space for both course delivery and showcase performances. Further collaboration with Queen's University included the engagement of their undergraduate Drama students as project interns - students of QUB gained hands-on experience in workshop facilitation and project planning/management.

Participants worked with local professional theatre practitioners on acting, singing and dancing -delivered as a 'crash course' aimed at boosting confidence/self esteem, as well as developing their performance skills.

We specifically targeted participants from areas of disadvantage and those who may experience barriers to arts engagement, in an effort to improve access and diversify our audience/participant base. In doing so, we delivered drama workshops to schools/community centres to aid recruitment and encourage participation from young people with little-no previous experience. Bursary places were also offered to young people through schools, community groups and charities working with young people. These included Action Deaf Youth Northern Ireland, Cara Friend (LGBTQ+) and local schools, community centres and youth groups. This helped raise our profile, developing new relationships within the wider charity sector.

In delivering the project we were able to offer training opportunities for entry-level young professionals, as well as involve volunteer interns in our work. This enabled young people to gain work experience in workshop facilitation and project management -two areas of the arts that are hard to break into without prior credits or a high profile amongst the sector.

Participant feedback from The Bruiser Arts Academy 2022 included:

- “(My favourite part was) getting to perform in a real theatre and have such a dynamic range of pieces to learn; even pushing myself out of my comfort zone with dancing and singing has been a real great opportunity.”
- “Thank you so much for giving me this incredible opportunity and being so friendly and kind. I’ve loved every second of this experience and hope I’ll be able to do things like this in future too.”

Bruiser Theatre Company

Trustees' Report

- “I’ve learned more in the past two weeks about acting and the industry than I have in my life... I am immensely grateful for everything I have learned and feel more confident in where I can go from here to continue learning and improving.”

Bruiser Theatre Company

Trustees' Report

Vital Connect

September 2022 - March 2023

With the support of the Paul Hamlyn Foundation, Bruiser launched a year-long pilot of Vital Connect in September 2022 –our most ambitious education project to date. Vital Connect offered four partner schools a physical theatre “shot in the arm”, aiming to boost resilience and liberate the imaginations of young people in disadvantaged areas.

Over the course of the year we delivered bespoke workshops, inter-school engagement, mentoring, in-school performances and access to on-demand digital educational resources. The result: high quality arts provision across Northern Ireland.

For the year-long pilot, we partnered with: St. Catherine’s College, Armagh; Limavady High School, Limavady; Glastry College, Newtownards; and St. Ronan’s College, Lurgan.

“The Arts & Education panel members are particularly pleased to support this work because of Bruiser's track record of working with schools, and the potential for this project to have a wide and positive impact on drama education in Northern Irish secondary schools.”

-The Paul Hamlyn Foundation

Feedback from participating schools included:

- “A wonderful experience. It has enriched the learning of the students beyond anything I thought possible. They are more engaged, committed and enthused by the experience. I could not recommend Bruiser highly enough.” - St. Catherine’s College, Armagh
- “Working with Bruiser has given pupils the opportunity to see that performance work is made and produced here... Working with NI practitioners shows them that these roles are possible for them and gives them achievable aspirations. The facilitators have all engaged and enthused our pupils... I can see this in practice in class already. This has been such a worthwhile experience.” - Limavady High School, Limavady
- “Vital is such an apt name as you have been a brilliant support to our drama department.” - Glastry College, Newtownards
- “I have worked in Northern Ireland as a drama teacher for 17 years and the constant creative support provided by Bruiser has been invaluable to the teaching of Drama for my GCSE and A-Level students.” - St. Ronan’s College, Lurgan

Through Vital Connect, Bruiser onboarded a full-time Education Officer. The increased capacity puts us in a strong position to continue our long standing reputation as Northern Ireland's leading theatre company working within the education sector.

Bruiser in a Box - Teechers by John Godber
September - October 2022

In October 2022, we delivered a ‘Bruiser in a Box’ tour of Teechers by John Godber to fifteen post-primary schools across NI. Bruiser has a long-standing commitment to arts education, and this project is crucial for promoting the engagement of young people in the arts.

CAST

Nuala McGowan - Lillian ‘Hobby’ Hobson
Catriona McFeely - Gail Saunders
Eugene Evans - Ian ‘Salty’ Salt

Bruiser Theatre Company

Trustees' Report

CREATIVE TEAM

Lisa May - Director
Emma Copland -Assistant Director/Education Advisor
James C McFetridge -Lighting Designer
Louise Dunne -Set & Costume Designer
Katie Richardson -Music and Sound Designer

PRODUCTION TEAM

Produced by Bruiser Theatre Company
Lisa May -Producer
Peter Heenan - Producer
Ronan McManus - Production Manager
Anna Royle --Arts Administration
Noora Helin -Development Officer
Cheryl O'Dwyer -- Education Officer
Robert Crawford -Drama Facilitator
Emma Copland -Education Advisor

Fast-moving, inventive and highly entertaining, Teechers is John Godber's brilliant take on life at a modern Comprehensive. Through their hilarious end-of-term play, three Year 11s exuberantly sketch the new drama teacher's progress through two terms of recalcitrant classes, cynical colleagues and obstructive caretakers. Disillusioned, he departs for the safe waters of a private school, and leaves behind his students, whose youthful irreverence gives way to despair. Brought to the stage by Bruiser Theatre Company with high energy, break-neck comedy and breathtaking ensemble performances, Teechers is a modern classic with something vital to say about education for the 'haves' and 'have nots'.

Teacher Feedback

- 100% of teachers rated the performance and post-show elements 5/5.
- 50% of the teachers rated the cost 5/5 (The other 50% rated the cost 4/5).
- 100% of teachers reported that the event fully met their requirements/expectations.
- 90% of teachers reported that they would be interested in booking a Bruiser workshop again in the future. 10% reported that they might. 0% reported that they would not.

Teacher Comments

- "Absolutely brilliant choice of play!"
- "Difficult to teach transitions but my class just got it after your work. Great to have live theatre back."
- "Showing the students what they can achieve in their own performance space was a great eye opener for them."

Student Feedback

- 64.5% of students rated the show 5/5 stars.
- 30.3% of students rated the show 4/5 stars.
- 54.5% of students surveyed had not previously seen a Bruiser show before.
- 98% of students surveyed reported that they would see a Bruiser show again.

Bruiser Theatre Company

Trustees' Report

Further Feedback

- “Congratulations to all at Bruiser on the production of Teechers ... it was like a masterclass in physical theatre. Brilliant directing, acting, and production made it all the more authentic in the school assembly hall setting.” -Flowerfield Arts Centre
- “Many thanks for such an enjoyable performance, a most relevant piece which was funny and real. A strong cast who energetically moved effortlessly through a series of characters, their pace, timing and delivery were excellent. Congratulations to everyone.” -Marie O’Donoghue, Education Authority

Bruiser Theatre Company

Trustees' Report

A Day With Bruiser

January - February 2023

In January 2023, we returned with our annual NI tour of 'A Day With Bruiser' - a full-day crash course for Drama students across Northern Ireland. This is an opportunity for students of GCSE, AS, A2 Level and BTEC Drama, Performing Arts and Theatre courses to get to grips with Bruiser's unique physical theatre style.

A Day With Bruiser consists of three workshops delivered by Bruiser's team of expert facilitators, and a showcase performance/Q&A session at the end of the day to bring all the learning together. Course content is specifically tailored to the requirements of all major exam boards and devised according to consultation with post-primary school teachers across Northern Ireland.

TOUR SCHEDULE

The MAC, Belfast
The Playhouse, Derry ~ Londonderry
The Market Place Theatre, Armagh
Strule, Omagh
Down Arts Centre
Island Arts Centre, Lisburn
Royal Grammar School, Enniskillen
Newry Town Hall

FEEDBACK

100% of teachers said they would be interested in attending another day hosted by Bruiser.

75% of teachers said that the course completely met the expectations.

100% of workshop facilitators said that they received the necessary information.

100% of workshop facilitators said that they would want to work with Bruiser again.

- "All 3 sessions and their practical nature were engaging and very interactive."
- "Every workshop was linked and valuable towards performance. The exercises were focused and provided pupils with starting points (something that they really needed)."
- "The Bruiser team had a fantastic relationship with the students working to make them feel comfortable in the space."
- "Excellent energetic facilitators who handled the different group dynamics with confidence and professionalism. Adding performance at the end of the day to show how techniques are used by the professionals was very valuable."
- "All the facilitators were excellent. Full of energy and positivity! The students responded so well to the planned workshops and became increasingly confident in the ensemble as a result."

Digital Educational Resources

April 2022 - March 2023

Bruiser continued to develop their range of digital education resources on offer to post-primary schools throughout 2022/23. As of 31st March 2023, our portfolio included:

- The Bruiser Cinema Club - access to educational resources from past Bruiser productions. Selected titles include a student resource pack on the play, a podcast interview with a member of the creative/production team and archival footage to aid the study of each play.
- The Bruiser Digital Handbook - a selection of pre-recorded lectures and workshops to aid the study of Bruiser Theatre Company as a chosen practitioner, as well as a host of additional educational resources (Worksheets, lesson plans, schemes of work) on offer through three tiered packages: Excite, Engage and Inspire.

Bruiser Theatre Company

Trustees' Report

- **How To Demo Videos** - a selection of videos giving students an insight into the wider roles within theatre. Each topic contains a series of educational videos on a range of areas: Set Design; Costume Design; Multimedia; Sound Design; Theatrical Make-up; and Lighting Design.

Brave & Bold - Monologue and Duologue Competition

April - May 2022

Monologue and Duologue competitions for ages 12-18. All applicants received personalised feedback and the winners received a full bursary place on the 2022 Arts Academy.

Bruiser Theatre Company

Trustees' Report

Bruiser Development Ambassadors Programme

April 2022 - March 2023

Bruiser's Young Development Ambassadors Programme engaged in analysis and discussion to generate creative ideas and help shape the future of Bruiser's educational, community engagement and professional development activities. The Bruiser Development Ambassadors Programme was developed as a method of communicating with our key stakeholders on a personal basis. We wanted to know what more we can be doing to ensure that Bruiser can continue to provide the young people of Northern Ireland with relevant, high-quality training and development programmes.

The project was open to anyone over the age of 16 - innovative and creative thinkers whose experience and understanding of the Northern Irish Arts industry had prepared them to comment on future project proposals and offer insight and suggestions for further development in the key areas of education and professional development.

Bespoke Workshops

Bruiser continued to offer bespoke workshops to schools and community groups across Northern Ireland throughout 2022-2023. Informed by our expansion into digital delivery during the Covid-19 pandemic, we continued to offer online/virtual Q&As and workshops to broaden our reach and connect with new audiences.

Facilitator Training

Bruiser continued to offer free quality training and development opportunities in all areas of our creative work. In January '23 we hosted a full day of practical training in drama facilitation, led by our Artistic Director, with the aim to increase skills, expand our own pool of facilitators and ultimately, job creation.

Operational Growth and Development

April 2022 - March 2023

- **Belfast City Council: Cultural Multi-annual Grant Scheme** - In March 2022 Bruiser was successful in securing Cultural Multi-annual Grant Arts & Heritage funding from Belfast City Council for a period of two years. Bruiser benefited from the support of this grant throughout 2022-2023.
- **JobSTART** - Committed to professional development, Bruiser successfully applied to the JobSTART Scheme, to employ and train an Arts Administration Assistant to support the delivery of our annual programme and offer an entry level opportunity to a young professional interested in a career in arts management. The part-time Arts Administration Assistant came onboard in June 2022 and worked with Bruiser for a period of six months.
- **Artwork Scheme** - In March 2022, Bruiser was awarded funding from Future Screens NI and the Department for Communities NI through the Art Work Scheme. The grant of £60,326.16 over a period of three years will be used to employ an entry level Development Officer to work across Bruiser's annual programme in 2022-2023.
- **Blueprint** - Bruiser continued to participate in Blueprint with Arts & Business NI up until the end of June 2022. Blueprint is a pioneering financial growth programme enabling small to medium- sized cultural organisations in Northern Ireland to take a more long-term approach to income generation. Blueprint is about investment in long-term growth and finding the route to greater financial security and artistic freedom. As participants of Blueprint we benefited from three full-day training sessions and bespoke mentorship support in the 2022-2023 financial year.

Bruiser Theatre Company

Trustees' Report

Structure, governance and management

Nature of governing document

Bruiser is a company limited by Guarantee governed by its Memorandum and Articles of Association dated 9th August 2011 (amended). It is registered as a charity with the Charities Commission for Northern Ireland (CCNI).

Recruitment and appointment of trustees

Directors are elected at the AGM by the Members present. A Director shall hold office until the next AGM following his/her appointment at which point they must retire. A retiring Director shall be eligible for re-election.

The Directors shall:

Have the power at any time and from time to time to appoint any person to be a Director to fill a casual vacancy. Any Director so appointed shall hold office only until the next following Annual General Meeting and shall then be eligible for re-election. Have the power at any time to appoint as additional Directors up to but not exceeding a number equivalent to one third of the elected Directors for the time being. Directors so appointed shall hold office only until the next following Annual General Meeting and shall then be eligible for re-appointment.

Induction and training of trustees

All newly appointed Directors meet with the Chair and Artistic Director to discuss the roles and responsibilities of a Director and also to audit specific skills and areas of interest they may be able to bring to the role, as well as any relevant areas of training they may be interested in undertaking. They are also presented with an information pack on the Company.

The Board of Directors, which has no maximum number but shall not be less than 5 Directors, administrates the charity. The board meets quarterly. An Artistic Director is appointed by the Directors to manage the day to day operations of the charity. To facilitate effective operations the Artistic Director has delegated authority, within the terms of delegation approved by the Directors, for operational matters including finance and employment. The Artistic Director has delegated authority for artistic performance related activity.

Financial instruments

Objectives and policies

Risk management and Internal Controls

The Board of Directors has established a system on internal controls, designed to provide reasonable, but not absolute, assurance against material misstatement or loss. They include:

- Regular consideration of the financial position of Bruiser by the Directors
- Ensuring at least one Director has the necessary skills to interpret and analyse Bruisers financial records and reports
- Delegation of authority and segregation of duties
- The contract of an external company to prepare financial statements

Bruiser Theatre Company

Trustees' Report

Credit risk

The charity's principal financial assets are bank balances and cash, trade and other receivables, and investments. The charity's credit risk is primarily attributable to its trade receivables. The amounts presented in the balance sheet are net of allowances for doubtful receivables. An allowance for impairment is made where there is an identified loss event which, based on previous experience, is evidence of a reduction in the recoverability of the cash flows.

The credit risk on liquid funds and derivative financial instruments is limited because the counterparties are banks with high credit-ratings assigned by international credit-rating agencies.

The charity has no significant concentration of credit risk, with exposure spread over a large number of counterparties and customers.

Liquidity risk

In order to maintain liquidity to ensure that sufficient funds are available for ongoing operations and future developments, the charity uses a mixture of long-term and short-term debt finance.

Further details regarding liquidity risk can be found in the Statement of accounting policies in the financial statements.

The annual report was approved by the trustees of the charity on 13 December 2023 and signed on its behalf by:

Joseph Rea

.....
Mr Joseph Rea
Trustee

Bruiser Theatre Company

Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities

The trustees (who are also the directors of Bruiser Theatre Company for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the trustees' report and the financial statements in accordance with the United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice) and applicable law and regulations.

Company law requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year. Under company law the trustees must not approve the financial statements unless they are satisfied that they give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and 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; and
- 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 are sufficient to show and explain the charitable company's transactions and 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.

Approved by the trustees of the charity on 13 December 2023 and signed on its behalf by:

Joseph Rea
.....

Mr Joseph Rea
Trustee

Bruiser Theatre Company

Northern Ireland - Charity number 101876

Annual return

Bruiser Theatre Company

Independent Examiner's Report to the trustees of Bruiser Theatre Company

I report on the accounts of the charity for the year ended 31 March 2023 which are set out on pages 21 to 33 .

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The trustees (who are also the directors of the company for the purposes of company law) are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 65(2) of the Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2008 (the 2008 Act) and that an independent examination is needed. The charity's gross income exceeded £250,000 and I am qualified to undertake the examination by being a qualified member of Chartered Institute of Management Accountants.

Having satisfied myself that the charity is not subject to audit under company law and is eligible for independent examination, it is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 65 of the 2008 Act;
- to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 65(9)(b) of the 2008 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 the 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 seeking explanations from you as 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

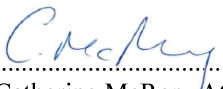
In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

(1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:

- to keep accounting records in accordance with section 386 of the Companies Act 2006; and
- to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records, comply with the accounting requirements of section 396 of the Companies Act 2006 and with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities

have not been met; or

(2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.


.....
Catherine McRory ACMA CGMA
Chartered Management Accountant
Chartered Institute of Management Accountants

Unit 3 Dargan Industrial Park
60-84 Dargan Crescent
Belfast
BT3 9JP

13 December 2023