

**Brassneck Theatre Company**  
(A company limited by guarantee, not having a share capital)  
**DIRECTORS' ANNUAL REPORT**  
for the financial year ended 31 December 2022

The directors present their Directors' Annual Report, combining the Directors' Report and Trustees' Report, and the unaudited financial statements for the financial year ended 31 December 2022.

The financial statements are prepared in accordance with the Companies Act 2006, FRS 102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland" and Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their financial statements in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102).

The Directors' Report contains the information required to be provided in the Directors' Annual Report under the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) guidelines. The directors of the company are also charity trustees for the purpose of charity law and under the company's constitution are known as members of the board of trustees.

In this report the directors of Brassneck Theatre Company present a summary of its purpose, governance, activities, achievements and finances for the financial year 31 December 2022.

The company is a registered charity and hence the report and results are presented in a form which complies with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 and, although not obliged to comply with the Statement of Recommended Practice applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland FRS 102, the organisation has implemented its recommendations where relevant in these financial statements.

### **Mission, Objectives and Strategy**

#### **Mission Statement**

By producing quality, professional theatre, Brassneck Theatre Company contributes to the re-imaging of West Belfast by endeavouring to break the pre-conceptions that exist about this part of our city. The company plays an integral part in everyday West Belfast society by enriching people's lives in the communities that we serve. Our work reflects all of our citizens and is accessible to all. Brassneck Theatre Company is also dedicated to supporting the development of local artists, writers, directors, designers, technicians etc.

Brassneck Theatre Company also operates a youth company, 'Brassneck Youth'. Its primary focus is nurturing children and young people by providing them with professional arts training, masterclasses and workshops in order to encourage access and participation in the arts while equipping them with the required tools to become the industry professionals of tomorrow. Another key priority of the company is ensuring the accessibility of theatre throughout the human lifecycle: from promoting access to theatre from the very start through education, as well as creating opportunities for children and young people for those considering a career in the arts.

The vision of Brassneck Theatre Company is to provide quality, professional theatre to local communities and further afield by focusing on the development of new writing which addresses themes of identity, history, culture and religious and racial tolerance. Our productions will continue to be premiered in West Belfast, before touring extensively across Ireland and further afield therefore creating and sustaining a vibrant, healthy society.

#### **Objectives**

Brassneck Theatre Company has created a six-strand approach to achieving its core values, one that encapsulates both our mission and vision.

- To create professional, quality, and accessible theatre and delivering it to the highest possible standards
- To develop and nurture our youth members as well as local artists, writers, designers & technicians
- To be proactive in contributing to the re-imaging of West Belfast
- To promote our plays, through themes of identity, history, culture and tolerance
- To represent local communities by providing them with a collective and inclusive voice
- To collaborate with new and existing funding partners and private sponsors to improve company sustainability
- To develop audiences at a local, national and international level as well as developing new audiences

### **Structure, Governance and Management**

#### **Structure**

Brassneck Theatre Company has a management committee of up to 6 members who meet quarterly and are responsible for the strategic direction and policies of the charity. At present the charity has 6 members from a variety of professional backgrounds relevant to the work of the charity.

A scheme of delegation is in place and day to day responsibility of the services rest with the Company Manager and Artistic Director. They are responsible for ensuring the charity delivers the services specified and that key performance indicators are met. Sub-committees are in place to review some areas in greater detail e.g. finance and HR, programming, marketing.

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**Governance**

The Company was incorporated on 6th May 2009 as Brassneck Theatre Company. The company is constituted under a Memorandum and is governed under its Articles of Association.

There have been amendments to the governing documents in the year.

The Company has been registered with the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland from 30th June 2016 under registration number NIC105096.

**Public Benefit**

Brassneck Theatre Company meet the public benefit requirement in the following ways; as stated in our Mission Statement we were established in order to satisfy the huge appetite for quality professional theatre in this part of the city.

Since 2007 the company has played an integral part in everyday West Belfast society by enriching people's lives in the communities that we serve. Our work reflects all of our citizens and is accessible to all. We have provided a platform for local artists, writers, musicians and technicians to have their voices heard and talents showcased on a local, national and international platform. The youth training strand of our work provides quality, affordable professional standard performing arts training to children and young people from disadvantaged backgrounds. Brassneck Theatre Company has been at the forefront of developing new audiences. We premiere all of our work in non-traditional venues such as social clubs or sports halls in order to break down the barrier for new audiences. This affords our audience members the opportunity to see their stories in a setting that is comfortable and affordable "the benefit of this is the promotion of self-value and self esteem as our audiences leave feeling valued as citizens when they see their stories told through the medium of theatre. By keeping ticket prices low and competitive, we find that we engage a large number of citizens who may not usually attend the theatre on a regular basis. People who may consider the arts to be inaccessible due to class misconceptions or preconceptions that the arts are simply inaccessible to them through their financial or social status. Our prices have not changed for eleven years now, from flagship to regional and rural, untraditional venues, thus assuring access to the arts for all our citizens as well as building a sustainable sector. Community Development and Engagement happens naturally throughout all strands of our work; this is done through the development of new stories, the nurturing of new writers, actors, technicians, the opportunity of participatory arts training to children and young people, the provision of quality arts in areas where it is most out of reach.

Indirect beneficiaries of our work include young people placed on work experience, a sharing of resources with other relevant arts companies, contribution to local government strategy and policy, interviews with PHD students to inform future research, contribution at conferences.

There are no benefits within Brassneck's work that would lead to any harm. There are also no private beneficiaries.

**Review of Activities, Achievements and Performance**

**New Writing**

Brassneck Theatre Company have been developing, supporting and nurturing emerging playwrights for the last 16 years. We do this by providing them with a professional platform. In the year 21/22 we supported 2 new plays.

**Participation**

Brassneck Youth young training programme provides a platform for children and young people aged 4-18 to participate in quality, affordable performing arts training. We engaged with over 80 children and young people aged 4-18 in the year 19/20, this included working in online and face to face. We collaborated with various youth and arts on creating short films addressing issues around mental ill health and the promotion of positive mental health. Our new online provision offering participants the opportunity to work with many artists from various disciplines. Brassneck Youth worked with 16 different artists in 21/22.

**Collaboration**

Brassneck works collaboratively with many different artistic disciplines and artists throughout all our work. Throughout 21/22 we worked on 2 productions and worked with 20 different artists.

**Productions**

'Conversations with Angels' by Maria Connolly performed at the MAC theatre.  
Christmas Show at Brassneck training facility.

**Awards and other significant activities**

Brassneck Theatre Co funded the Marc O'Shea Aisling Bursary. This is a £500 financial bursary for students pursuing a career in Performing Arts

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**Financial Review**

The Trustees are very appreciative of the continued financial support that is provided by ACNI, Garfield Weston, Andrew Lloyd Webber, Arts and Business NI, Community Foundation NI, BBC Children in Need, Halifax Foundation NI and BCC on project funding.

**Financial Results**

At the end of the financial year the company has assets of £115,068 (2021: £89,962) and liabilities of £1,300 (2021: £1,300). The net assets of the company have increased by £25,106 (2021: £2,235).

**Going Concern**

Having reviewed the resources available and considered the ongoing recovery of the performing arts sector post the COVID-19 pandemic, the directors believe that the company has sufficient resources available to enable it to continue to meet its ongoing obligations as and when they fall due for a period of at least 12 months from the date of approval of the financial statements. In forming their assessment, the directors considered the company's current financial position, its income streams, and its funding requirements to April 2024.

Accordingly, the directors consider it appropriate to continue to adopt the going concern basis in preparation of the financial statements.

**Directors**

The directors who served throughout the financial year, except as noted, were as follows:

Carrie-Anne McAlonan-McCruden  
Maria McCourt  
Connla McCann  
Niall Murphy  
Kevin Gamble  
Michael Conlon

The secretary who served during the financial year was:

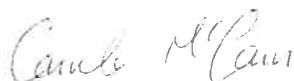
Michael Conlon

**Compliance with Sector-Wide Legislation and Standards**

The company engages pro-actively with legislation, standards and codes which are developed for the sector. Brassneck Theatre Company subscribes to and is compliant with the following:

- The Companies Act 2006
- The Charities SORP (FRS 102)

Approved by the Board of Directors on 05/05/2023 and signed on its behalf by:



**Connla McCann**  
**Director**

Date: