

Charity No: NIC108046

**BUILDING BRIDGES**  
**COMMUNITY ARTS THEATRE**

**Annual Report and Accounts**

**Year ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2024**



## **Building Bridges Community Arts Theatre**

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## **Building Bridges Community Arts Theatre**

### **Reference and administrative details**

<b>Trustees</b>	Mr Simon Hylands ( <i>Chairperson</i> )	
	Miss Joanne Gillespie ( <i>Treasurer</i> )	
	Dr Ruth Abraham	<i>Appointed 23.1.24</i>
	Mrs Kirsty Armstrong	
	Miss Clare Costa	<i>Appointed 24.5.23</i>
	Miss Eadaoin Donaghy	<i>Resigned 27.3.24</i>
	Miss Jordon Ewart	
	Ms Dorota Fafinska	
	Mx Amie Martin	<i>Resigned 23.1.24</i>
	Mr Mollie Haughian	<i>Appointed 25.4.23</i>
	Miss Sarah Massey	
	Mr Peter McCormack	<i>Resigned 24.5.23</i>
	Miss Rebecca McKnight	
	Mr Patrick McMahon	<i>Appointed 24.5.23</i>
	Mr Andrew Molloy	<i>Resigned 23.8.23</i>
	Mr Alex Morrow	
	Ms Ciara Reid	
	Miss Bethany Young	<i>Appointed 24.5.23</i>
<b>Charity registered number</b>	NIC108046	
<b>Contact address</b>	9 Knocknashane Park, Lurgan Craigavon BT66 7XY	
<b>Bankers</b>	Ulster Bank 20 High Street Portadown BT62 1HU	
<b>Independent Examiner</b>	A I McCullagh Accountant & Independent Examiner 6 Agars Road Lisburn BT28 2TQ	



## **Building Bridges Community Arts Theatre**

### **Trustees' Annual Report**

**Year ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2024**

#### **PRINCIPAL ACTIVITIES AND OBJECTS**

The principal activities are the promotion of equality and diversity, the advancement of education and the advancement, improvement, production and promotion of arts, theatre and culture in particular in, but not exclusively, the Lurgan area and its environs. The direct benefits are the open and welcoming space we provide for all members of the community and the elimination of discrimination on the grounds age, gender, sexual orientation, marital status, religion, race, political opinion or disability. We have referred to the guidance contained in the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit when reviewing our aims and objectives and are content that the objects of the charity are being delivered in line with this guidance. No harm flows from the purposes of the charity and no private benefits ensue.

#### **GOVERNANCE**

The charity is governed by the Management Committee (who are the Charity Trustees) and the governing document is the constitution.

#### **TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES**

The Trustees are responsible for preparing the annual report and the financial statements of the charity in accordance with applicable law and generally accepted accounting practice. As the charity's income is less than £250,000 the Trustees have elected under Section 64(3) of the Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2008 to prepare a Receipts and Payments Account and a Statement of Assets and Liabilities.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that are sufficient to show and explain the charity's transactions and disclose with reasonable accuracy, at any time, its financial position. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

#### **REVIEW**

##### **Achievements and performance**

Our Kid's Drama Team worked on Matilda Jr and we welcomed many new faces to the Youth Theatre and Kid's Drama sessions with over 60 members performing at Lurgan Town Hall in June.

A successful summer scheme and increased participant numbers meant that our concert, 'One Way To Broadway', attracted over 80 participants who performed to a sold out audience at the Marketplace Theatre. Our play, 'Murder On The Nile', was well received with a sold out performance at the studio in the Market Place Theatre and was also well attended at Lurgan Town hall and The Sanctuary Theatre in Belfast.

Our final term of the year saw great support for our performances at the Christmas Light Switch-On and Twilight Market event, as well as for our first ever Children's Showcase, held at our own studio.



## **Building Bridges Community Arts Theatre**

### **Trustees' Annual Report *(continued)***

#### **Year ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2024**

Our Youth Theatre and adults performed to sold out audiences of our pantomime, 'Aladdin', which was again very well received.

The New Year brought new challenges with our production of 'The Wizard of Oz'. We spent many evenings and weekends putting set together and it really paid off with what was a spectacular show at the Marketplace Theatre.

Over the year our LGBTQ+ project continued to prosper with drop-in sessions and skills workshops.

Our reputation and presence in the community continues to grow, as do our numbers, and we are achieving capacity, particularly with our Kid's Drama and Youth Theatre classes. Attendees continue to comment on the calibre of our productions and we are delighted to be raising the bar for amateur performance in our community.

#### **Financial review**

In the 2023/24 financial year receipts were down 20.5% to £84,884 (2023: £106,804), of which 30.8% (2023: 47.2%) was from external funding support sources. After charitable activity costs of £57,881 (2023: £55,066), running and overhead costs of £13,629 (2023: £12,446) and renovation and maintenance costs of £25,307 (2023: £13,353) the year ended with a deficit of £11,933 (2023: surplus of £25,939).

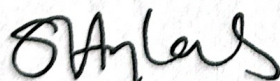
The Trustees feel confident in the future of the organisation as a going concern.

#### **Future plans**

Moving into the 2024/25 season, the group plans to continue with the activities we have carried out in 2023/24, including Junior Musical, (which will be 'The Sound of Music – Youth Edition'), our annual concert 'One Way To Broadway' scheduled for September, our first ever Terry Pratchett play 'The Wyrd Sisters', our annual Pantomime in December, which will take on a western theme for 'Jack and the Beanstalk' and then our musical 'Beauty and the Beast' in March 2025.

We also plan to continue our LGBTQ+ outreach project offering Friday night drop-in, steps to success workshops and craft workshops as well as continuing to improve our studio space.

By order of the Trustees



Simon Hylands  
Chairperson

Approved by the Trustees on 6<sup>th</sup> January 2025