

**TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 29th FEBRUARY 2024**

The trustees of the Society are pleased to present their annual Director's report together with the audited financial statements of the charity for the year ending 29th February 2024 which are also prepared to meet the requirements for a directors' report and accounts for Companies Act purposes.

The financial statements comply with all relevant legislation and with current recommended accounting practice.

Structure, governance and management:

Board of Trustees:

Chairperson:	Darren Ferguson
Deputy chair:	Fiona Bell
Treasurer:	Fiona Bell
Secretary:	Simon McClean

Key management personnel: Artistic Director: Ms Sarah Lyle

Independent Examiner: Amanda Harbinson FCA
Corrigan CA Limited
24 Greystone Road
Antrim
BT41 2QN

Governing Document:

Cre8 Theatre Ltd is a limited company governed by its Memorandum and Articles of Association dated 18th January 2022. Cre8 Theatre Ltd is a registered charity with the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland.

Appointment of trustees:

The Chairperson and the Trustees recruit and select new Trustees as required. New Trustees are recruited on the relevance of their professional skills to Cre8 Theatre Ltd's company needs and their potential to be able to make a helpful contribution to the governance of the charity.

As part of the recruitment process, they are made aware of Trustees' legal obligations under charity and company law, the content of the Memorandum and Articles of Association and the most up to date financial performance of the charity.

Cre8 Theatre Ltd purpose, aims and objectives:

Cre8 Theatre Ltd is a theatre production company whose mission is to present visually stunning and innovative theatre that enriches, educates and entertains.

Cre8 Theatre Ltd focuses on making work with high production values and is passionate about developing and nurturing its audiences, people and new talent, as well as promoting accessibility for all and working to a model that is sustainable and forward thinking.

The artistic team have a fresh, visionary approach to producing theatre that is inventive, reactionary, exciting and boundary breaking.

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 29 February 2024

Cre8 Theatre Ltd aims and objectives are:

To produce a range of visually stunning, inclusive community focused artistic events.

Examples include:

- digital educational/theme-based school tours
- community puppet shows
- creative workshops
- educational workshops
- pantomimes
- theatrical productions

Cre8 Theatre Ltd aims to develop people's confidence in communication through dance, acting and singing. Cre8 Theatre Ltd also aims to nurture and grow a creative activity focused on integration of the d/Deaf community into the arts sector in Northern Ireland.

Cre8 Theatre Ltd is committed to promoting:

- social cohesion
- social inclusion
- equality of opportunity and good community relations through community engagement and critically acclaimed arts practice
- promoting links with marginalised communities to make the Arts sector more accessible to them, with particular focus on the d/Deaf community of NI.

Creative Achievements and performances:

Cre8 Theatre Ltd's recent work provides evidence of this:

February and March 2023: Research and Development project/workshops in a range of schools for children from the d/Deaf and community in Northern Ireland.

This research and development project followed on from our 2022 Deaf Arts Festival NI and linked to our Deaf Arts Festival NI 2023 and the May 2023 Sleeping Beauty show funded by Belfast City Council's Arts & Heritage and Arts Council NI Lottery Project Funding. The beneficiaries of this project were d/Deaf young people and d/Deaf artists placed at the forefront of theatre, with Sign Language and live interpreting at the centre of our creative research and design process. It also cast d/Deaf young actors on stage and raised awareness, acceptance and respect for d/Deaf culture and community.

March 2023: 'Sunni Explores: A Land of Litter and a World of Waste Schools Tour'.

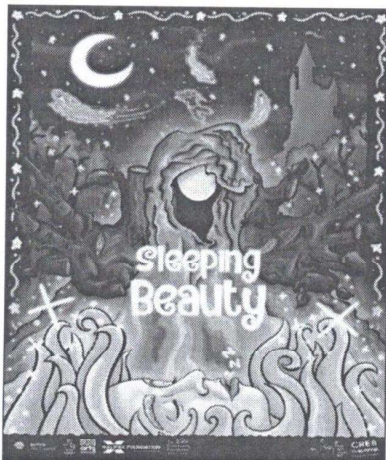
Funded by Belfast City Council the Sunni Explores: Land of litter and a World of Waste was a tour of 30 primary schools in Belfast City Centre to teach KS1 and 2 students all about what to do with your rubbish and recycling, using puppets, songs and interactive engagement with the children.

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 29 February 2024

April, May and June 2023: Deaf Arts Festival NI 2023 and Sleeping Beauty Show

Funded by Belfast City Council Community Foundation Funding, Arts Council Northern Ireland Lottery Project Funding and the Halifax Foundation. In kind support with the venue by THE MAC Theatre. Cre8 Theatre Ltd and c21 Theatre Company were pleased to celebrate that the inaugural Deaf Arts Festival NI took place in The MAC, Belfast on the 6th and 7th May 2023 to coincide with Deaf Awareness Week 2023. Rehearsals were held in April and May 2023. The festival was co-founded by both local companies and they curated two pieces of brand-new writing. Cre8 presented a modern musical adaption of 'Sleeping Beauty' for children and families while c21 offered "Expecting". Both productions were developed in collaboration with d/Deaf artists and featured d/Deaf and hearing artists. The festival connected with d/Deaf communities across Northern Ireland and beyond, creating opportunity, access and inclusion to arts activity for integrated audiences, as well as placing deaf artists in central roles on the main stage. After the festival both companies embarked on a tour of regional arts venues in June 2023 at which each of the new productions were performed in Theatre at the Mill, Courtyard Theatre, Marketplace Theatre, Armagh and Newry.

The project fully met its objectives by: Developing a new shared space (in both urban and rural settings, as the live presentation will play in Belfast, Armagh, Newry and Newtownabbey). Creating a space where d/Deaf and hearing people can exist together, in one theatre with shared engagement and enjoyment. Tackling the issue of segregation through shared creative engagement, by including hearing impaired communities within all aspects of the project. Supporting social cohesion through raising awareness of differing cultural expressions, including language and communication, through BSL, vibrations and sound experiences. Enabling engagement for participants in cross community activity through workshops that bring different types of people together in a shared inclusive experience (Primary school workshops). Raising awareness and building a united community through the show and promotion during the Deaf Arts Festival and Deaf Awareness Week and ultimately celebrating cultural diversity.



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FOR THE YEAR ENDED 29 February 2024

July 2023: Theatre at the Mill Theatre Summer School: Moana Jr

A week long theatre summer school funded by Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council and hosted by Theatre at the Mill & Courtyard Theatre. This week-long event ended in a showcase production of Moana Jr for all to see. Age group 10 to 18 years olds, learning new singing, acting and movement skills, improving their confidence, exercising, making new friends.



August 2023 - Youth Arts Summer School: Riverside Theatre: 14th – 18th August 2023

This Youth Arts Summer School at Riverside Theatre in Coleraine was funded by Enterprise Causeway (Causeway Coast and Glens). We had a wonderful group of 10-16 year olds learning new singing, acting and movement skills, improving their confidence, exercising, making new friends and generally loving their life for a week with our fabulous arts facilitators! In just 5 days over 35 children created an amazing performance showcasing elements of dancing and singing from The Greatest Showman.

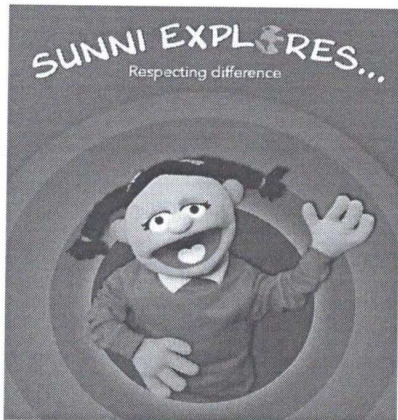
August 2023: Youth Arts Summer School: Ards Council: 14th – 18th August 2023

Youth Arts Summer School at Ards Arts Centre funded by Ards and North Down Borough Council. A group of 5-12 year olds learning new singing, acting and movement skills, improving their confidence, exercising, making new friends and ending in a show to friends and family.

September - October 2023: 'Sunni Explores: Respecting Difference' Schools Tour

This was yet another Primary 1 to 4 outreach engagement package designed and delivered by Cre8 Theatre Ltd, in conjunction with Belfast City Council and T: BUC Changing for the Better Together programme. The overall theme addressed the subject of Respecting Differences which is a fundamental element of the curriculum. When schools sign up they receive a 30-minute live digital puppet show delivered directly via Zoom, into classrooms with an accompanying 11-minute pre show introductory taster video, as well as interactive puppet crafting resources for students to engage with before the show. The project celebrated cultural diversity for Key Stage 1 and 2 in schools within East and West Belfast. The tour reached thousands of children aged 3 - 7 years and linked to the schools Personal, Social, Health, Citizenship Education Curriculum (PSHCE).

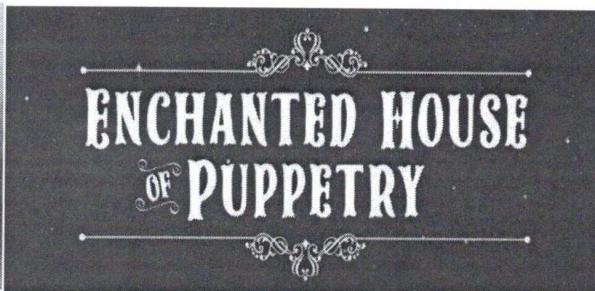
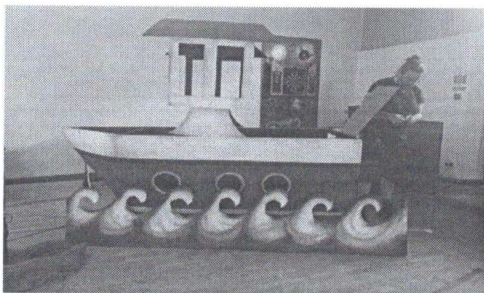
TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)
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October 2023: Inspiring Access: Introduction to Acting Workshop for the d/Deaf community
Our collaboration with the Grand Opera House enabled us to offer an acting workshop for the d/Deaf community.

May, June, July, September and then October 2023: Puppets in Your Place Show as part of the Enchanted House Puppetry Festival

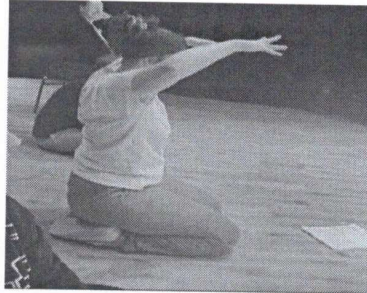
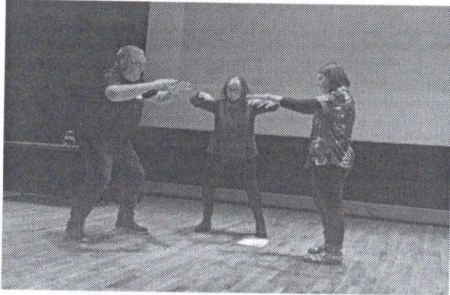
A community outreach project funded by Arts Council NI and the Rural Engagement Arts Programme - Ards and North Down Borough Council. This was a celebration of communities across Donaghadee, Portaferry, Comber and Hollywood. 25 participants ranging from 6 months old to grandparents put on a show as part of the Enchanted House of Puppetry Festival.



TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)
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November 2023: Introduction to Acting Workshop: Grand Opera House

10 artists from the d/Deaf community NI of mixed ages and abilities came together to integrate together and develop their acting, lip reading and BSL skills in a safe and creative environment.



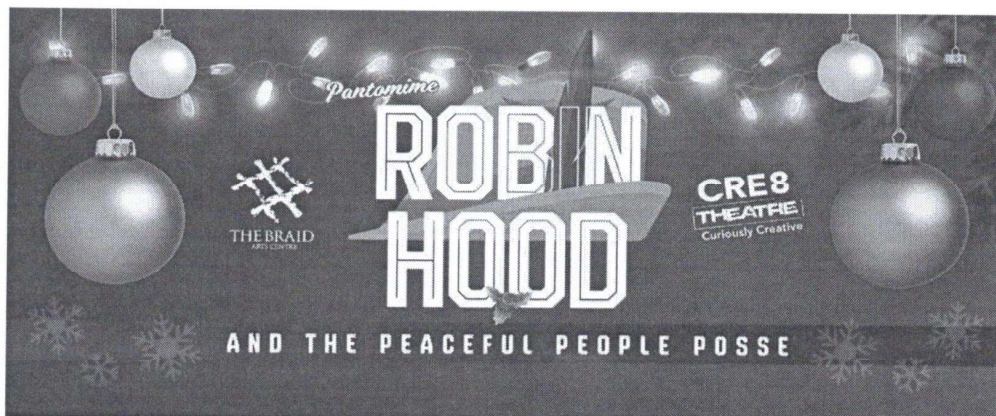
November and December 2023: 'Robinhood and the Peaceful People Posse'

Pantomime: 15th to 28th December 2023

Cre8 Theatre Ltd hosted its seventh pantomime with this year's being held at Braid Arts Centre, Ballymena, funded by Mid and East Antrim Council. The pantomime embarked on a whimsical journey through Sherwood forest, where the courageous Robin Hood and the Peaceful People Posse 'borrowed' from the rich and gave to the poor, all while outsmarting the notorious Sheriff of Nottingham in a bid to save Ballymena. With toe-tapping tunes and a sprinkle of magical moments, this pantomime guaranteed a hilarious time for audiences of all ages.

Audience Feedback:

Fabulous production'. 'Fantastic show'. 'That was brilliant! My boys loved it very much, we had a great time. Thank you'. 'It's a great family day out and a traditional Christmas experience. A full stage classic Pantomime Cre8 Theatre' 'You'd be mad as a mince pie to miss it!!'. 'This family-friendly extravaganza was captivating, a production by spellbinding blend of laughter, music and never-ending joy'.



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FOR THE YEAR ENDED 29 February 2024





January and February 2024: 'The Bincredible Shredder and Crusher'.

Rehearsal dates 8th - 13th January 2024 and Performance dates 15th January - 9th February 2024. Funded by the Belfast City Council's Environmental Education & Outreach department. This project was a tour of 40 primary schools across Belfast with the show 'The Bincredible Shredder and Crusher'. The two recycling superheroes embarked on the adventure to teach the young people of Belfast City how to sort, shred and crush their recycling at home and on the street.

January and February 2024: Comedy Improv Workshop for d/Deaf community

We laughed our socks off at the Improv Comedy Theatre Workshop, where members of the d/Deaf community created hilarious scenes. This was a 3 hour session where people from the the d/Deaf community workshopped with professional facilitators and artists to create side-splitting jokes, witty banter and outrageous skits. This in-person workshop took place at the MAC Theatre, Belfast.

January and February 2024: Inspiring Access: Acting Workshop for d/Deaf community

Our collaboration with the Grand Opera House enabled us to offer an acting workshop for the d/Deaf community. It helped us raise awareness, lift self esteem, bring the hearing and non hearing community together, develop acting skills and improve communication through BSL. Some participants at the workshop said: 'today was wonderful, magical, inspiring, innovative, confidence building, heart warming, playful, challenging and safe!'.

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)
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February 2024: Deaf Arts Festival NI 2024:

The month of February also saw all the work behind the scenes in preparation for the Deaf Arts Festival NI March 2024

Beneficiaries of Cre8 Theatre:

1. d/Deaf Community NI:

Cre8 Theatre Ltd are working on nurturing relationships and building on their work with the d/Deaf community NI, adults, young people and artists. Featuring the people of this community in the programming of year two of the Deaf Arts Festival NI 2024.

Cre8 Theatre Ltd are growing the festival experiences and engagements, such as:

- Connecting with more partners
- Increasing accessibility
- Integrating deaf and hearing communities
- Raising cultural awareness of the d/Deaf community NI
- Curating a unique catalogue of public facing work that engages communities in a sustained programme of outreach, skills training and collaboration

2. d/Deaf artists:

We are working hard on ensuring deaf artists are involved in relevant projects from project inception. Incorporating their skills, knowledge and creativity from the seed of the idea, through to project forming and shaping to the end product.

3. Hearing people and artists:

We are blending deaf and hearing people and artists together in all of our processes, driving integration in NI forward, against all odds. Invigorating and rewriting the narrative for access and inclusion of the marginalised d/Deaf community and giving time and space for hearing people and artists to learn about deaf culture and have new found knowledge about this community. Including progressing sign language education.

4. NI Venues:

We are opening eyes and access in NI, for example we are offering BSL workshops in host festival venue MAC Theatre Belfast. Helping and encouraging the venue to think more about accessibility and its output and day to day product.

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)
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5. Children and Young people:

We are continuing our work with the children and young people across NI offering summer schemes and holiday workshops in theatre skills.

6. Intercultural Communities:

We are annually delivering our programme 'Sunni Explores: Respecting Difference', which in its design connects with ethnic minority communities NI. This programme has huge reach as it's delivered digitally across NI and beyond. For example, delivering to 120,000 young people in their school settings in the last 2 years.

7. Older people:

We are engaging older people in care home settings in 2024 with our project 'Theatre in your front Room' which will see older community participants engage in workshops in puppetry, songwriting, storytelling and music. Their stories being shaped into a touring piece of live theatre performed by professional artists.

8. Rural living:

We are and will continue to programme outreach activity that occurs regionally and rurally in Northern Ireland for all ages.

Public benefit:

Cre8 Theatre Ltd's aim is to provide accessible professional theatre and arts experiences for all people. Varying project to project especially focussing on children and young people and adults, ethnic minorities, marginalised communities including the d/Deaf community and older people in Northern Ireland. Promoting creativity, making arts accessible and enjoyable for all. The benefit of our work is to provide accessible professional theatre and arts experiences for all families, children and young people ensuring positive impacts on:

- Confidence and self-esteem
- Personal development (including understanding themselves and others better)
- Social development (including potential to challenge cultural prejudices and societal differences)
- Emotional development (including the development of empathy and Emotional IQ)

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)
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In addition, the benefits of promoting creativity in the lives of children and young people means that engaging in creative activities can help develop intrinsic human qualities, such as communication, expression, identity, culture and imagination, helping children and young people to shape their individual, community and global identity.

Plans for future projects:

In the year of March 2024 to February 2025 Cre8 Theatre Ltd will offer:

March 2024: Deaf Arts Festival NI 2024 which will also showcase a new d/Deaf artist Cre8 production 'The Fishermans Friend'.

April 2024: Scriptwriting and rehearsals.

May 2024: Collaboration with Grand Opera House, Creative Learning Dept. and Jordanstown School about offering access to performing arts training.

June - July 2024: 'Theatre in Your Front Room' Show Tour funded by Mid & East Antrim Borough Council and Arts Council NI REAP Programme.

August 2024: Ards and North Down Summer Scheme and Grand Opera House Grand Family Festival d/Deaf artistic workshops.

September - October 2024: 'Sleeping Beauty' remount and theatre tour to Courtyard Theatre, Newtownabbey and GOH Studio Series and delivery of accompanying deaf arts BSL workshops across schools around Northern Ireland, under the 'First Steps to Sign Language Programme'.

January-February 2025: Belfast City Council school tour of 30 schools in the borough, educating about recycling and the environment.

Thank you to our funders:

Cre8 Theatre Ltd is truly grateful for the financial support it receives from its range of funders. The ongoing funding has enabled Cre8 Theatre Ltd to meet its missions to deliver visually stunning, innovative theatre that enriches, educates and entertains all everyone involved and to continue to ensure that young people and adults across Northern Ireland continue to benefit from our artistic productions and that we could continue to create new innovative projects for the future.

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 29 February 2024

Funders have included:

Belfast City Council (Good Relations/Arts and Heritage/Community Festivals)
Arts Council NI (Lottery)
Halifax Foundation NI
University of Ulster

Financial review:

Cre8 Theatre Ltd's total annual income for the year amounted to £117,642 (2023 : £111,581) with total annual expenditure of £128,316 (2023 : £61,817). The total deficit was £10,674 (2023 : surplus £49,763). Unrestricted reserves were £19,635 (2023 : -£7,199) and Restricted reserves were £14,296 (2023 : £51,804).

Reserves:

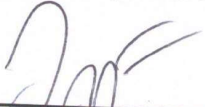
The trustees have examined the charity's reserves in light of the main risks to funding the organisation. The trustees continually observe the level of reserves, assessing if reserves are adequate and meet the needs of the charity, as they are aware of the future funding pots and projects the company will be running.

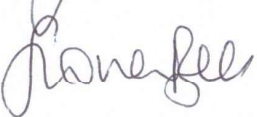
Risk management:

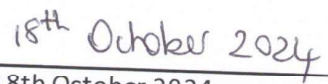
The board meets on a quarterly basis where they examine the current strategic risks faced by the Company. Actions are agreed at these meetings to mitigate against these risks.

Trustee Approval:

Approved by order of the board of trustees on 18th October 2024 and signed on its behalf by:



Darren Ferguson




18th October 2024