Charity number 1039935

A company limited by guarantee number 02909605

Annual Report and Financial Statements for the year ended 31 March 2020

theatre company







Annual Report and Financial Statements for the year ended 31 March 2020

Contents	Page
Trustees' report	2 to 6
Examiner's report	7
Statement of financial activities	8
Balance sheet	9
Notes to the accounts	10 to 13

Prepared by West Yorkshire Community Accounting Service

The Theatre Company Blah Blah Blah! Trustees' report for the year ended 31 March 2020

Reference and administrative details of the charity, its trustees and advisors

The trustees during the financial year and up to and including the date the report was approved were:

Name	Position	Dates
Pamela Storr	Chair of the board	
Anne Lloyd		
Gillian Morley	•	
Mick Connell		Resigned June 2019
Lauren Huxley		
Neil McCallum	•	Appointed June 2019
Madeleine Thorne		Appointed June 2019
Charity number	1039935	Registered in England and Wales

Registered	and	principal	address

Interplay Theatre
Armley Ridge Road State Control Con

See See See See Company number

Bankers

02909605

HSBC Bank Plc Leeds University 27 Blenheim Terrace Woodhouse Lane Leeds University LS2 9HE Registered in England and Wales

Egyptigal G

vijesti pstra in

Bross & Bross

Independent examiner

Simon Bostrom FCIE

West Yorkshire Community Accounting Service

Stringer House 34 Lupton Street Leeds LS10 2QW

Structure, governance and management

The charity is a company limited by guarantee and was formed on 17 March 1994. It is governed by a memorandum and articles of association as amended by special resolution on 24 June 1994 and amended on 4 January 2019 and 23 July 2020. The liability of the members in the event of the company being wound up is limited to a sum not exceeding £1.

Method of recruitment and appointment of trustees

The trustees of the charity are also the directors for the purposes of company law and are appointed by the members at the AGM.

Trustees' report (continued) for the year ended 31 March 2020

Objectives and activities

The charity's objects

To advance the education of children and young people in the appreciation and practice of the arts, in particular theatre, drama and the performing arts.

利益**物**的 被引 () 经 () () () ()

State of the state of

STATE OF STATE OF

3:3.2

War Charles Consult

The state of the state of

Maria Salah

The charity's main activities

The usual activity of Theatre Company Blah Blah Blah is to create original theatre performances and drama workshops primarily for and with children and young people, but also their teachers and families, with the purpose of engaging them in learning about the art form, themselves and the world. The charity carries out this work in schools, community settings and theatre venues.

Public benefit statement

In setting our objectives and planning our activities our Trustees have given serious consideration to the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit and in particular the advancement of education of children and young people and the appreciation and practice of the arts.

Achievements and performance

Introduction

2019-20 has been a period of continued artistic and strategic development for Theatre Company Blah Blah Blah, as it explores ways to build new audiences in theatre and community settings, and establish new partnerships with companies, funders, researchers, venues and cultural organisations to inform its touring strategy. During the year, company resources were focused on delivering one key project – a tour of The Vultures' Song – which embedded different strands of developmental activity designed to support the company in moving forwards with its strategic goals. An agreed level of reserves of £11,928 were deployed to underwrite this critically important work.

Unfortunately the escalation of the Covid-19 crisis and the beginning of the lockdown period coincided with the early stages of touring, resulting in cancellations and the interruption of accompanying developmental activity. By the end of March 2020, the company had rapidly instigated measures to ensure that some artistic activity could continue online, and had begun to explore alternative ways of sustaining its developmental work. However at the time of this report, there remains a great deal of uncertainty within the sector, and the company is currently engaging in ongoing conversations to review its programme of activities and business planning to adapt to the new reality.

Despite the unprecedented threat presented by the Covid-19 crisis, Theatre Company Blah Blah Blah believes that it is in a strong position to survive; having minimal overhead costs, a flexible staffing structure and a recent track record of re-shaping practice based on research and development.

Activity

During 2019/20, funding was successfully secured from the Arts Council of England and Leeds Inspired to support a tour of eleven performances of The Vultures' Song to nine theatre and community settings, including Square Chapel Arts Centre, Halifax; Interplay Theatre, Armley; Waterside Arts Centre, Sale; Mind the Gap, Bradford; Hawksworth Older People's Support Service, Leeds; Pyramid Theatre, Leeds; Helmsley Arts Centre and The Civic, Barnsley.

Inspired by the Partition of India and scripted by internationally acclaimed writer Mike Kenny, The Vultures' Song follows the story of a young girl forced to flee her home in search of safety. Fold by a comical committee of storytelling vultures; who transform into the girl and the people she meets along her journey; the play was one of three shortlisted for the Writer's Guild of Great Britain as Best Play for Young Audiences.

Trustees' report (continued) for the year ended 31 March 2020

Achievements and performance continued

Responses from audiences to the early stages of the tour were overwhelmingly positive, often singling out the performance's playful and resonant qualities, as recorded in this feedback from the leader of Mafwa Theatre, a women's drama group who meet at the Leeds Refugee Forum:

"Participants loved the inventive use of props, the humour mixed with tragedy and the set. Our group is made up of those who have and have experienced the hostile environment first hand and we try to avoid open discussions about participants' migration status or journeys in sessions, leaving these conversations to come up organically outside of the session. The play dealt with a subject that some participants have lived experience of and others have only heard of. Although it was difficult for some participants, the Q+A after the show, and the subsequent discussions that we had in our workshop, helped to spark fruitful discussions about why some people have to leave their homes."

The tour also embedded activity designed to meet the company's strategic aims of developing new audiences, partnerships and understanding to support its touring model:

- Employing Dr Elanor Stannage to carry out strategic research around touring work for 8 to 13 year olds; consulting with companies and venues including Z-Arts, Horse+Bamboo, Polka, Zest and Hullabaloo; articulating recommendations to help shape a future touring strategy for the company and sharing broad findings with the sector.
- Using funding to provide venues with additional capacity and support to create bespoke marketing materials responding to the needs of local audiences.
- Developing 'wrap around' activities to support the performance, including free to download resources for families, primary and secondary schools and facilitated Q&A sessions.
- Delivering 'page to stage' workshops with children as a part of the Big Malarky Festival in Hull.
- Inviting potential partners to experience the work and engage in further discussions to lay the foundations for future collaboration.
- Developing a day of drop-in family friendly craft and storytelling activities with local artist Matthew Bellwood in partnership with Leeds Central Library to raise awareness of local performances.

Further activities connected to the tour were designed to raise the profile of the company and its work, and disseminate learning across the sector:

- The company's Artistic Director was interviewed by BBC Radio Manchester and BCB Radio.
- Scholarly and feature articles were published in 'Drama', the quarterly journal of National Drama and in 'North Leeds Life' magazine.
- Research conducted into the 2018 school's tour of The Vultures' Song by Dr Madeleine Irwin, was
 published on the company's website and shared through the Leeds Cultural Education Partnership, on
 the Artsforms website and at the Creating Human Spaces event at Birmingham City University.

Impact of the Covid-19 crisis

The tour of The Vultures' Song was due to take place between January and May 2020, but as a result of the crisis, only three performances went ahead - at Square Chapel, Interplay and Waterside. The rest of the tour and the library session were cancelled. In response to the situation, the company made available a filmed version of the play from an earlier tour on You Tube, and provided links via its website to the accompanying resources and an interactive digital platform, Prospero. The latter had originally been developed to accompany the 2018 schools' tour of The Vultures' Song and was re-purposed to support home-schooling and the education of the children of key workers. Both the film and resources were made available for free and by the end of March the streamed performance had already had 293 views, and Prospero and the other online resources used for 1.462 sessions.

Trustees' report (continued) for the year ended 31 March 2020

Impact of the Covid-19 crisis continued

With the suspension of the tour, research activity also temporarily stalled. However, after an initial hiatus whilst venues and companies dealt with the immediate fallout of the lockdown, contact with interviewees was renewed and alternative arrangements made, using voice and video calling. The research and completed report will be used as leverage to reopen conversations with some of the potential partners who were unable to attend the performance due to the cancellation of the tour.

During 2019-20, the company was involved in a number of smaller projects, all of which went ahead:

- The Blahs' Artistic Director was a lead facilitator on National Drama's Primary Drama Initiative, a CPD programme designed to reintroduce drama to the classroom.
- The company delivered a workshop at the Story Rebels conference, an event for children, parents and teachers organised by the Story Maker's Network, part of Leeds Beckett University.
- Work continued to develop content for Stirring Up The Past, a partnership project with the Discovery Centre, for school, family and community groups, through informal sharing sessions with colleagues Significant amounts of fundraising were also undertaken during the year, resulting in successful bids to The National Lottery Heritage Fund, Wades Charity and the Foyle Foundation; two of which are new funders to the company. Project activity and funding agreements for Stirring up the Past are currently being re-negotiated due to the Covid-19 crisis.

From a financial perspective, whilst the charity has been affected by the Covid-19 crises, the trustees believe there are no material uncertainties so significant as to cast doubt over the ability to continue as a going concern.

Financial review

The net income for the year was £633, including net expenditure of £11,928 on unrestricted funds and net income of £12,561 on restricted funds.

Reserves policy

Trustees consider that the appropriate level of unrestricted reserves held by Theatre Company Blah Blah Blah should be the equivalent of a minimum of 3 and a maximum of 5 months' expenditure. This is to allow the smooth operation of the charity and to sustain activity during a period of uncertainty due to the Covid-19 pandemic. This currently equates to between £11,250 and £18,750. The reserves policy will be kept under review on an annual basis or if the risks change.

The charity's free reserves, excluding fixed assets, at the year end were £75,195.

£56,445 of reserves are currently being held above the upper limit specified in the reserves policy. Trustees have agreed that this amount will be invested over the period April 2020 – March 2023 to support organisational development activity to move the company to a position where it can apply for core funding. By the end of March 2023, remaining reserves will be within the range of the policy.

The Theatre Company Blah Blah Blah! Trustees' report (continued) for the year ended 31 March 2020

Statement of trustees' responsibilities

The trustees (who are also the directors for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the Trustees report and the financial statements in accordance with the applicable law and UK Accounting Standards.

Company law requires the trustees to prepare financial accounts for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the charitable company for the year. 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;

prepare the accounts on a going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charitable company will continue in operation.

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charitable company and to enable them to ensure that the financial accounts comply with the Companies Act 2006. 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.

This report has been prepared in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities (Charities SORP (FRS102)), and in accordance with the special provisions of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

Signed on behalf of the board of trustees:

Signed AMILLO	(Trustee)
Name LAUREN HUXLEY	
Date 20/09/2020	

Independent examiner's report to the trustees of The Theatre Company Blah Blah!

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the charitable company for the year ended 31 March 2020, which are set out on pages 8 to 13.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity's trustees of the charitable company (and also its directors for the purposes of company law) you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 ('the 2006 Act').

Having satisfied myself that the accounts of the charitable company are not required to be audited under Part 16 of the 2006 Act and are eligible for independent examination, I report in respect of my examination of your charity's accounts as carried out under section 145 of the Charities Act ('the 2011 Act'). In carrying out my examination I have followed the Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act.

Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

- 1 accounting records were not kept in respect of the company as required by section 386 of the 2006 Act; or
- 2 the accounts do not accord with those records; or
- 3 the accounts do not comply with the accounting requirements of section 396 of the 2006 Act other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair view' which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination; or
- 4 the accounts have not been prepared in accordance with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice for accounting and reporting by charities [applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102)].

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed:	Name:	Simon Bostrom
Relevant professional qualification or body: F	CIE	
Date:		
West Yorkshire Community Accounting Se	ervice	

Stringer House 34 Lupton Street Leeds LS10 2QW

The Theatre Company Blah Blah Blah! Statement of Financial Activities (including summary income and expenditure account) for the year ended 31 March 2020

	Notes				
		2020	2020	2020	2019
		Unrestricted	Restricted	Total	Total
		funds	funds ·	funds	funds
		£	£	£	£
Income from:					
Grants and donations	(2)	5,000	48,458	53,458	59,823
Performance and workshop fees		2,000	-	2,000	7,348
Teaching, consultancy and management fees		· <u>-</u>	-	-	6,347
Interest		262	· -	262	227
Other income		415	-	415	222
Total income		7,677	48,458	56,135	73,967
Expenditure on:			•		1
Salaries NICs and pensions	(3)	9,315	9,642	18,957	20,057
Motor, travel and tour costs		79	2,297	2,376	7,665
Rent and storage		1,080	1,090	2,170	2,743
Insurance		225	300	525	385
Telephone and internet		626	257	883	1,078
Administrative costs		417	380	. 797	6,310
Advertising		-	5,073	5,073	- 1,315
Professional fees and consultancy		5,880	2,480	8,360	27,289
Training and conferences		-	-	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	3,718
Subscriptions		66	. -	. 66	1,727
Production costs		-	13,855	13,855	35,535
Trustee expenses		•		·	214
Depreciation		150	-	150	225
Independent examination		210	510	720	1,020
Legal and governance		728	13	741	390
Other expenditure		829		829	2,018
Total expenditure		19,605	35,897	55,502	111,689
Net income / (expenditure)		(11,928)	12,561	633	(37,722)
Fund balances brought forward		87,236		87,236	124,958
Fund balances carried forward	(4)	75,308	12,561	87,869	87,236

All incoming resources and resources expended derive from continuing activities.

∜The Theatre Company Blah Blah Blah! The State of the Company Blah Blah! The State of the Company Blah Blah Blah!

Balance	sheet
----------------	-------

					•
Balance sheet			144 M 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1		
as at 31 March 2020		2020	2020	2020	2019
		Unrestricted £	Restricted £	Total £	Total £
Fixed assets					
Tangible assets	(5)	113	<u> </u>	113	263
Total fixed assets		113	<u> </u>	113	263
Current assets					
Debtors and prepayments	(6)	8,876	-	8,876	13,302
Cash at bank		69,145	12,561	81,706	77,351
Total current assets		78,021	12,561	90,582	90,653
Current liabilities:			•		
amounts falling due within one year			at a		
Creditors and accruals	(7)	2,826	<u> </u>	2,826	3,680
Total current liabilities		2,826	-	2,826	3,680
Net current assets / (liabilities)		75,195	12,561	87,756	86,973
Net assets		75,308	12,561	87,869	87,236
Funds					
Unrestricted funds		75,308	or the second	.: 75,308	87,236
Restricted funds			12,561	12,561	-
Total funds		75,308	12,561	87,869	87,236
and the property and the second secon			The state of the s		Carlotte Committee Committ

For the year ending 31 March 2020 the charitable company was entitled to exemption from audit under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

The members have not required the charitable company to obtain an audit of its accounts for the year in question in accordance with section 476. The trustees (who also the directors for the purposes of company law) 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 and with FRS 102 (effective January 2019).

The financial statements were approved by the board of trustees on

Date: 70/09/2020

(Trustee)

Name LAUREN UNIEY

The Theatre-Company Blah Blah Blah! The Theatre Company Rise Standard Notes to the accounts for the year ended 31 March 2020

1 Accounting policies

Basis of accounting

These accounts have been prepared under the historical cost convention with items recognised at cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant note(s) to these accounts. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019) and with the Charities Act 2011.

The charity constitutes a public benefit entity as defined by FRS 102.

There has been no change to the accounting policies since last year.

No changes have been made to the accounts for previous years.

Going concern

The trustees are satisfied that there are no material uncertainties about the charity's ability to continue.

Incoming resources

All incoming resources are included in the Statement of Financial Activities (SOFA) when the charity becomes entitled to the resources, it is more likely than not that the trustees will receive the resources and the monetary value can be measured with sufficient reliability.

Grants and donations

Grants and donations are only included in the SOFA when the charity has unconditional entitlement to the resources.

Where grants are related to performance and specific deliverables, they are accounted for as the charity earns the right to consideration by its performance.

Expenditure and liabilities

Expenditure is recognised on an accrual basis as a liability is incurred. Liabilities are recognised where it is more likely than not that there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to pay out the resources and the amount of the obligation can be measured with reasonable certainty.

Taxation

As a charity the organisation benefits from rates relief and is generally exempt from income tax and capital gains tax but not from VAT. Irrecoverable VAT is included in the cost of those items to which it relates.

Tangible fixed assets

Tangible fixed assets are capitalised and included at cost including any incidental expenses of acquisition. Gifted assets are shown at the value to the charity on receipt.

Depreciation is provided on all tangible fixed assets at rates calculated to write off the cost on a straight line basis over their expected useful economic lives as follows:

Fixtures and fittings: over 5 years

Pensions

The charity operates a defined contribution scheme for the benefit of its employees. The costs of contributions are recognised in the year they are payable.

Fund accounting

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

Restricted funds are subjected to restrictions on their expenditure imposed by the donor or through the terms of an appeal.

Further explanation of the nature and purpose of each fund is included in the notes to the accounts.

The Theatre Company Blah Blah Blah! The Year Company Blah Blah Blah! Notes to the accounts continued for the year ended 31 March 2020

2 Grants and donations		2020	2020	2020	2019
		Unrestricted	Restricted	Total	Total
		funds	funds	funds	funds
		£	£	£	£
Arts Council England (ACE)		-	44,985	44,985	54,798
Leeds City Council Arts @ Lee	eds	5,000	-	5,000	5,000
Leeds Inspired	·	-	3,473	3,473	-
Other donations				-	25
		5,000	48,458	53,458	59,823
3 Staff costs and numbers				2020	2019
				£	£
Gross salaries	•	•		18,647	19,789
Social security costs				-	-
Pensions				310	268
				18,957	20,057
The average number employed 3, 0.5 FTE). There were no er				5 full time equiv	valent (2019:
Defined contribution pension	n scheme		•	2020 £	2019 £
Costs of the scheme to the cha	arity for the year			310	268
Amount of any contributions or	•	ear end	•	97	
,					
	•		k e e	• • .	
4 Restricted funds	Balance b/f	Incoming	Outgoing	Transfers	Balance c/f
	£	£	£	£	£
ACE		44,985	32,424		12,561
Leeds Inspired		3,473	3,473		- 40.504
	-	48,458	35,897		12,561
Fund name ACE	Purpose of re		Song, delivering	11 performano	ces in 9
			. Activity also inc	•	
		•	arch into touring	-	
	•	•	te the strategic a build its small so	•	ing new
Leeds Inspired	community ver Support (HOP:	nues in Leeds - I S) - supporting to of developing ne	n performances on terplay and Have the company to me we audiences and	wksworth Older nove forwards v	People's vith its

Due to the Covid-19 crisis, the tour of The Vulture's Song was cancelled following 3 performances. The performance at HOPS was cancelled and income lost from this venue. Agreement was reached with Leeds Inspired to use the funding to ensure full payment of staff associated with the project. Also, agreement was reached with ACE to utilise the remaining balance to co-ordinate a response to the crisis, e.g. moving some activity online.

The Theatre Company Blah Blah Blah! Notes to the accounts continued for the year ended 31 March 2020

5 Tangible assets	Fixtures	
	and fittings	Total
<u>Cost</u>	£	£
At 1 April 2019	3,658	3,658
Additions		
At 31 March 2020	3,658	3,658
<u>Depreciation</u>		•
At 1 April 2019	3,395	3,395
Charge for year	150	150
At 31 March 2020	3,545	3,545
Net book value		•
At 31 March 2020	113	113
ACST WATCH 2020		113
At 31 March 2019	263	263
6 Debtors and prepayments	2020	2019
·	£	£
Debtors	8,626	13,127
Prepayments	250	175_
	8,876	13,302
7 Creditors and accruals	2020	2019
	£	£
Creditors	2,106	2,660
Accruals	720	1,020
	2,826	3,680

8 Related party transactions

Trustee expenses

During the year no trustees were paid expenses (previous year:2 trustees were paid £214 in respect of travel).

Trustee remuneration and benefits

No trustee received any remuneration or benefit during this or the previous year.

Remuneration and benefits received by key management personnel

The key management personnel of the charity include the trustees and Artistic Director. The total benefits received by the Artistic Director were £16,836 (previous year: £31,117).

No trustee received any remuneration or benefit in this capacity during this or the previous year.

There were no other related party transactions during this year or the previous year.

The Theatre Company Blah Blah Blah!
Statement of Financial Activities including comparatives for all funds (including summary income and expenditure account)
for the year ended 31 March 2020

·Income	2020 Inrestricted funds £	2019 Unrestricted funds £	2020 Restricted funds £	2019 Restricted funds £	2020 Total funds £	2019 Total funds £
Grants and donations	5,000	5,025	48,458	54,798	53,458	59,823
Performance and workshop fees	2,000	7,348	-	-	2,000	7,348
Teaching and consultancy fees	_,,	6,347	-	_	-,	6,347
Interest	262	227	-	-	262	227
Other income	415	222	-	-	415	222
Total income	7,677	19,169	48,458	54,798	56,135	73,967
Expenditure						
Salaries NICs and pensions	9,315	16,807	9,642	3,250	18,957	20,057
Motor, travel and tour costs	79	5,051	2,297	2,614	2,376	7,665
Rent and storage	1,080	1,123	1,090	1,620	2,170	2,743
Insurance	225	385	300	· -	525	385
Telephone and internet	626	455	257	623	883	1,078
Administrative costs	417	4,016	380	2,294	797	6,310
Advertising	-	1,056	5,073	259	5,073	1,315
Professional fees and consultancy	5,880	3,515	2,480	23,774	8,360	27,289
Training and conferences	-	951	-	2,767	-	3,718
Subscriptions	66	832		895	66	1,727
Production costs	-	5,463	13,855	30,072	13,855	35,535
Trustee expenses	-	214	-	-	-	214
Depreciation	150	225	· -	-	150	225
Independent examination	210	270	510	750	720	1,020
Legal and governance	728	390	13	-	741	390
Other expenditure	829	2,018			829	2,018
Total expenditure	19,605	42,771	35,897	68,918	55,502	111,689
Net income / (expenditure)	(11,928)	(23,602)	12,561	(14,120)	633	(37,722)
Fund balances brought forward	87,236	110,838	· <u>-</u>	14,120	87,236	124,958
Fund balances carried forward	75,308	87,236	12,561	_	87,869	87,236