

Garden Suburb Theatre

(Charity Number 1009309)

Annual Report for the year ended 31st August 2025

1. Charitable Purposes

Amateur theatre group promoting education and training in the theatre through producing at least five staged productions a year, including one outdoor show, as well as rehearsed and unrehearsed play readings. High involvement of local community and fund raising for local charities.

2. Review of Activities

Main Productions during the year

- **October 2024: *of Whose Life is it Anyway?*** by Brian Clark directed by Tim Solomons, fulfilling our brief to educate this was a play that deals with the complex moral and legal questions around an individual's rights to decide on the manner and time of their death. The production dealt with these themes in a sensitive way, not shying away from the humour within the text and was brought to life by an exceptional cast, with a bravura performance by Vicki Browning. A tough subject that was well served by all those involved.
- **November 2024: *Holding the Man*** by Tommy Murphy directed by Kayne McCutcheon. The play tells the love story between Tim Conigrave and John Caleo which started when they were at school in Australia and travels through decades with a multitude of characters. It was expertly staged with a minimal set and about a thousand costume changes and the resulting show was a heart-felt – sometimes sad, sometimes very funny, piece of important theatre, again fulfilling our brief to educate

The play was also our entry in the Isle of Man Festival over Easter 2025 where it won, in the Full Length Play category:

- Best Play.
- Best Director
- Best Set Conception, Design and Construction
- Best Drama

And was also nominated for:

- Best Male Performance (Daryl Hurst playing Tim)
- Best Use of Sound and Lighting
- Best Costume and Make-up.

The play was the only full length play invited to perform at the National Drama Festival in August 2025 where it won:

- Best Actor – Jointly for James Clarke and Daryl Hurst
- And the Adjudicator Award for the Slumber Party award.

Kayne McCutcheon was also nominated for Best Director.

- **February 2025:** The scheduled production, *Blithe Spirit*, had to be cancelled because of the illness of the director, Stephen Lannigan-O'Keefe. Instead we put on *Writing from Within 2*. A professional

writer, Simon Block, ran a series of workshops with members of GST to develop monologues they had written which were then directed and performed by the company. All the monologues were of an incredibly high standard and showcased the amazing talent we have within GST. The breadth of subjects that were covered was extraordinary, from very funny to searing and all done to the highest standard.

- **May 2025: *An Ideal Husband*** by Oscar Wilde and directed by Mary Groom and Omer Warman. The play was transported to the 1980's and Thatcher's Britain which proved to be a refreshing take on this classic. An ingenious piece of set design by Andy Farrer allowed the play to move seamlessly through the scenes and the play was incredibly well supported and enjoyed by sell out audiences. It also introduced us to new cast members which is lovely to see.
- **July 2025: *The Tempest*** by William Shakespeare directed by Teresa Poland. A fantastic cast brought this perennial favourite to life and, although the weather worked against us somewhat (too hot, not rain this time), audiences really enjoyed this magical offering. Being able to perform in the newly revamped wood setting was a joy.

All of our productions rely on the time and dedication of all those people who volunteer to work backstage, set designers, stage managers, lighting and sound designers and operators, costume designers, stage hands and publicists and we are all incredibly grateful for the time, dedication and support they have given us throughout this season.

Other productions

We had three Studio Productions this year:

- ***Aristotle's Wife***, directed by Nina Meinzer, a fabulous and thought-provoking show.
- ***Party*** by Tom Basden, directed by Freya Carrol, a very funny look at a group of young students attempts to set up a political party.
- A Snippets Evening, ***From Screen to Stage*** which allowed several directors to have an opportunity to direct scenes from some well-loved and well-known TV shows and Films.

All the Studio Productions were extremely well done and enjoyed by enthusiastic and appreciative audiences.

Social events

- The Wednesday Socials have been running frequently this year and continue to provide a lovely way for members to meet and enjoy a whole host of themed evenings, so well done to everyone involved with them, especially Colin Gregory for all the hard work he has put into organising them.
- Other social events we have had this year include Pub visits, a quiz and an Improv night and the Summer Picnic. These are another great way for members to meet up and celebrate the fact that, although we are an Amateur Dramatics Co., we are also a community of people and friends. Special thanks to Jo Moore and Gabi Maddox for all the work they have put into these events this year.

3. Organisation

Day to day administration of the group is through an annually elected General Committee. In addition there is an annually elected Casting and Selection Committee which selects plays and directors and assists with casting.

4. Financial Review

Last year was a really bad year financially.

If we start looking at the Production Accounts, ***Blithe Spirit*** was cancelled, and ***Whose Life is it anyway?*** and ***Holding the Man***, while critical successes, were expensive shows that didn't garner big audiences and even ***The Tempest***, another good show, didn't sell well – possibly in a first for the wood,

it was said to be too hot!. **Writing from Within 2** made a profit, but it was a much smaller scale show than **Blithe Spirit** would have been. **An Ideal Husband** mad a good profit.

Show costs this year were £16,000 as against last year's £21,000 – half of that being the difference between **Writing from Within 2** and **Blithe Spirit**. So last year's shows were more expensive to put on. However, we sold over 500 fewer tickets which equates to £8,000 in ticket sales; and 80 fewer members saw shows than last year. So as against a profit on shows last year of £4,181, this year shows only made £200 profit.

Looking at the Income and Expenditure Account, membership revenues were down by £500, although the fewer members who saw shows means slightly more of the membership fees carry into the Income and Expenditure Account than last year; many of the costs were slightly higher than last year but the big increase was in the unallocated Free Church Hall rental which was £1,300 higher – the lack of **Blithe Spirit** rehearsals helps account for this increase as most of that amount would have been allocated to them.

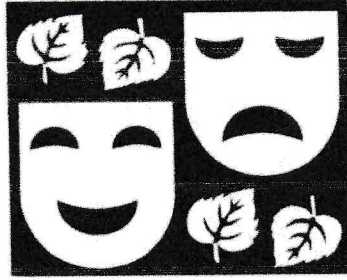
I have been asked why we are now charging each show £950 for rehearsals, and will do so whether or not they use the FCH. It's because we have an annual agreement for the FCH, and since we began that, the rent has only risen by inflation, but we are now paying £643 a month. Six weeks rehearsals is roughly one and a half times this – hence £950.

All of this means we made a loss of £5,834 this year – which is largely the £4,000 lower profit on the shows. But it is worth remembering that GST accounts are always swings and roundabouts. Last year we only lost £321, but the year before we made a £7,000 profit; over the last three years, we have made about £1,000 profit.

The danger is if low audiences continue, especially as the Gatehouse have told us that they will be charging VAT on the theatre hire soon. Maybe we should be more flexible and look for cheaper locations and shorter runs for plays that are relatively unknown and will not garner large audiences



TREASURER.



THE GARDEN SUBURB
● THEATRE ●

Charity No 1009309

ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED
31ST AUGUST 2025

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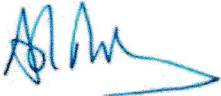
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**THE GARDEN SUBURB THEATRE
BALANCE SHEET
AS AT 31ST AUGUST 2025**

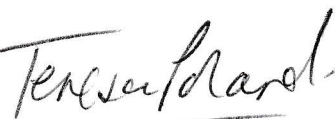


	2024-25		2023-24	
	£	£	£	£
Fixed Assets		2,955		3,195
Current Assets				
Cash at Bank	3,402		3,222	
Cash On Deposit	32,710		38,870	
Debtors	-		-	
Front of House & Merchandising Stock	25		85	
Prepayments & accrued income	1,725		1,279	
	<u>37,862</u>		<u>43,456</u>	
Current Liabilities				
Creditors	-		-	
Accruals	-		-	
	<u>-</u>		<u>-</u>	
Net Current Assets		37,862		43,456
		<u>40,817</u>		<u>46,651</u>
Accumulated Fund				
As @ 1st September 2024		31,301		31,622
Costume Fund		15,350		15,350
Profit/(Loss) for the year		(5,834)		(321)
		<u>40,817</u>		<u>46,651</u>

I have carried out an independent examination of these Accounts and in my opinion they give a true and fair view of the financial position of The Garden Suburb Theatre as at 31st August 2025.



**A.R. Ashman
Independent Examiner**

We declare that these Accounts are correct and have been approved by the members of The Garden Suburb Theatre.

Teresa Poland		Chair
Lynn Fidler		Secretary
David Lane		Treasurer

**THE GARDEN SUBURB THEATRE
INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST AUGUST 2025**

	2024-25	2023-24
Income		
Subscriptions	4,635	5,161
Less: Members Ticket Sales	<u>(2,384)</u>	<u>(3,032)</u>
	2,251	2,129
Bank Interest	847	980
Easy Fundraising	108	99
Donations	379	-
Grant from HGS Trust	-	600
Third Party Costume Hire	40	-
Profit/(loss) on Activities:		
Productions	200	4,181
Studio Productions	23	(564)
Socials/Xmas Party	(882)	(679)
Festivals	468	-
	<u>(191)</u>	<u>2,938</u>
Total Income	<u><u>3,434</u></u>	<u><u>6,746</u></u>
 Overhead expenditure		
Fees, Subscriptions and Donations	872	1,055
Insurance	1,437	1,406
AGM	36	48
Miscellaneous	597	103
Bank Charges	60	61
Little Wood Hut Rent & Maintenance	230	36
Free Church Hall rental after allocation	3,953	2,676
Garage Costs	780	780
Depreciation & write offs	707	532
Costume Storage	596	370
	<u>9,268</u>	<u>7,067</u>
Total Expenditure	<u><u>9,268</u></u>	<u><u>7,067</u></u>
 Profit/(loss) for the year	<u><u>(5,834)</u></u>	<u><u>(321)</u></u>
 Outward Giving		
Money collected in buckets at shows	86	469
Less Donations to North London Hospice	<u>86</u>	<u>469</u>
Balance	<u><u>-</u></u>	<u><u>-</u></u>

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THE GARDEN SUBURB THEATRE
PRODUCTION ACCOUNTS - YEAR ENDED 31ST AUGUST 2025

	hose Life is it Anyway (Nos)	Holding the Man (Nos)	Writing from Within (Nos)	An Ideal Husband (Nos)	The Tempest (Nos)	Totals 2024-25 £	Totals 2023-24 £
Receipts							
Ticket Sales	2,386	1,842	1,658	5,492	2,187	13,565	21,516
Members Ticket Sales	504	464	488	464	464	2,384	3,032
Profit on Refreshments	-	-	-	-	285	285	489
HGS Trust Grant	-	-	-	-	500	500	400
	<u>2,890</u>	<u>2,306</u>	<u>2,146</u>	<u>5,956</u>	<u>3,436</u>	<u>16,734</u>	<u>25,437</u>
Expenses							
Hire of Premises- venue	2,386	2,500	1,225	2,500	776	9,387	10,857
Hire of Premises- rehearsals	900	900	100	950	330	3,180	3,725
Royalties	370	402	-	-	-	772	2,409
Publicity	63	214	-	85	-	362	766
Programme costs	41	-	-	24	-	65	71
Fees and Books	100	-	-	-	-	100	354
Van Hire	-	-	-	26	-	26	182
Staging	12	24	-	303	-	339	1,043
Lighting	-	130	-	-	-	130	60
Sound	4	-	-	-	-	4	16
Music	-	-	-	-	-	-	18
Costumes	14	288	-	26	-	328	224
Wigs and Make-up	-	4	-	-	-	4	32
Properties	402	212	-	81	-	695	438
Hire of Chairs & Tents	-	-	-	-	676	676	575
Hire of Toilets	-	-	-	-	448	448	438
Sundries	18	-	-	-	-	18	28
	<u>4,310</u>	<u>4,674</u>	<u>1,325</u>	<u>3,995</u>	<u>2,230</u>	<u>16,534</u>	<u>21,256</u>
Profit	-	-	821	1,961	1,206	200	4,181
Loss	(1,420)	(2,368)	-	-	-	-	-