

IROKO

Theatre Company

REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE PERIOD

ENDED 31ST MARCH 2024

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Registered Charity Number 1063604

IROKO

Theatre Company

MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE'S REPORT FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31ST MARCH 2024

LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATION DETAILS AS AT 31st MARCH 2024

STATUS	Registered as a Charity on 26th July 1997	
REGISTERED OFFICE	158 Corporation Street Stratford London E15 3DY	
CHARITY NO	1063604	
HONORARY	Paul Adesanya (Chair)	IT/Finance
	Bola Soneye-Thomas (Deputy Chair)	Education
	Gladys Kombe (Treasurer)	Finance
	Jenny Copsey (First Secretary)	Education
	Dorothy Akwaboah (Second Secretary)	Finance/Local government
	Sam Otobo-Martins (Member)	Social Services
	Mike Waka (Member)	Home office
	Paizah Malek-Neave (Member)	Arts/Disabilities
BANKERS	NatWest Ground Floor Gredley House 1-11 Broadway Stratford London E15 4DX	
AUDITORS	Asiamah & Co Registered Auditors 12 Holliday Square London SW11 2HR	

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MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE'S REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2024

The Management Committee presents its report and the audited financial statements for the year ending 31st March 2024.

ACTIVITIES AND REVIEW

The main objectives of the organisation are to use the arts and, in particular, but not exclusively, African arts (storytelling, drama, music, dance, arts and crafts) as a vehicle to advance learning, skills, health and well-being of people of all backgrounds, age groups and abilities, particularly the disadvantaged so that they can achieve their full potential, play an active role in their community and have an improved quality of life. To achieve this, we provide resources and hold training, exhibitions, workshops, and performances in a fun and informal learning environment.

During the financial year under review, IROKO Trustees paid due regard to the Charity Commission's guidance. They continued to ensure that the public benefit of IROKO's work was at the forefront of all activities the company undertook, including the review and assessment of potential risks to its services. In adherence to our aims and objectives, we used our core activities to enhance the education, learning, self-esteem, confidence, health, and well-being of participants from varied backgrounds and abilities.

In all the venues and bookings mentioned, the aim was to use access and participation in the arts, especially African arts and culture, to enhance participants' education, learning, community cohesion and personal and social development.

The start of the year ending March 2024 saw IROKO begin the new 18-month project, 'Home from Home,' funded by the National Lottery Heritage Fund. The project aimed to raise awareness of and celebrate the contributions and achievements of British Nigerians to British society.

The 'Home from Home' project contained a wide variety of activities, and it kicked off with the recruitment of a team of volunteer researchers to research prominent British Nigerians in a range of areas such as sports, medicine, politics, entertainment, etc. These findings were uploaded to the new project microsite. They were the inspiration for writing a new music theatre piece, 'The Stone of Destiny', which was performed at various venues, including schools.

Various training programmes took place during the project, including training in oral history collection and documentation, website accessibility and useability for the visually impaired, oral history interviewing techniques for young people, and using the performative arts to raise awareness of heritage.

Guided educational visits to the Museum of London Docklands, the British Museum, and the Horniman Museum and Gardens were held. A conference on 'The Legacy of People of Nigerian Descent in Britain' was also held at the University of East London.

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Schools Outreach programmes and Sharing Days were held in various venues across London. The activities featured performances of 'The Stone of Destiny' and arts and craft workshops exploring the history and arts of the Kingdom of Benin. An exhibition featuring prominent British Nigerians accompanied the Sharing Days and Schools' Outreach programme. The project exhibition also toured 13 libraries in 7 London Boroughs.

Comments below indicate the impact the project made:

"The quality of IROKO's curation of it's "Home from Home" work is outstanding. This work should be shared with universities and other education organisations. The young people of our world deserve this. What a resource!". (Stratford Library Sharing Day participant)

"Please do more of these events. Thank you for an insightful event." (British Museum tour participant)

"I wanted to extend my heartfelt gratitude for the amazing African storytelling workshop you conducted. It was an enlightening and enriching experience that left a lasting impact. Your passion and expertise truly shone through, and I feel fortunate to have been a part of it. Please convey my gratitude to the rest of the team". (participant at Tower Hamlets performative Arts training).

"Thank you so much for putting together the conference "The Legacy of People of Nigerian Descent in Britain. It was a rich, inspiring, educative conference enriched with incredible calibre of speakers and talents."(Conference participant)

"What an absolute beautiful day I had yesterday. Overcame my imposter syndrome after being invited to do a brief overview about African Spirituality and the Osun River Ritual by the @irokothatre company. It is for their Heritage funded "Home from Home" project, locating the British/Nigerian connections, experiences and people." (Dr Michelle Yaa Asantewa)

Compared to our other National Lottery Heritage Fund-supported projects, "Home from Home" was the largest project IROKO has undertaken, and it proved to be a major success. As a legacy to the significant input British Nigerians have made to British society over the years, the extensive findings from the project are available to the public on the project microsite—www.hfh.irokotheatre.org.uk.

During the year under review, IROKO undertook the second year of the 'Forever Young' project funded by the Charity of Sir Richard Whittington, one of the Mercers' Family of Charities. As reported, the new funding enabled IROKO to upscale the initiative to six boroughs instead of the original four in the pilot programme. The boroughs are Newham, Redbridge, Tower Hamlets, Hackney, Barking & Dagenham, and Southwark.

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MARCH 2024

Drumming for wellbeing workshops, singing for fun, and festive sharing days were held in social clubs and clinical settings, as well as with groups such as Time to Talk, Redbridge Carers Support Service, and MIND in Tower Hamlets and Newham. As in the first year, a workshop on 'Understanding Old Age' was also held with young volunteers from Dagenham Park School.

The project has been a resounding success in achieving its key aims of combating loneliness and increasing confidence amongst older people and their Carers, as shown in some of the comments from organisations and users.

"The activities that Iroko bring to the older people attending the mental health service at Broad Street bring joy to them, an emotion rarely seen in this group of people. They also smile, share and support one another, and often appear younger during and after the sessions. It supports their physical strength and well-being, which has a positive effect on their mental wellbeing. Carers who join in are also supported in these ways and can experience positive feelings seeing their loved ones enjoying themselves. Staff can also have fun!

Lindsay Rohan, The Broad Street Centre, Dagenham.

"Your group enhances the wellness activities we carry out with our Members, giving them the opportunity to take part in an interactive activity."

Addie Silvain, Coordinator, Manor Park Over 50s Club

"I've loved every session and learnt such a lot of information about drums, rhythm and music. It's been marvellous. Thank you!"

Participant, MIND in Tower Hamlets and Newham

..... the session brought joy to my heart.

Participant at MIND in Tower Hamlets and Newham

IROKO also built on its Drumming for Wellbeing activities in Stevenage as reported in the last financial year. The continuation work was part of Stevenage Equalities Forum's 'Living Well Together' project, an initiative to reach out to those in the community who might be isolated and lonely and/or experiencing mental health issues.

In addition to working with older people, IROKO, in collaboration with Education Links, used the Drumming for Wellbeing programme to work with young people in Newham who are excluded from mainstream education. The aim is to use informal educational techniques to engage with young people needing mental or emotional support and who might benefit from a less formal educational approach. During the financial year under review, Space for Me, an organisation that caters to children and young people with special educational needs and disability (SEND), contracted IROKO on several occasions to provide its Drumming for Wellbeing activities for their service users.

IROKO continued to contribute to the Ubele Initiative Alagba Project, with the Artistic Director attending a series of workshops to formulate ideas for changing and helping direct policies about care for Black elderly people.

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MARCH 2024

For the second year, IROKO also appeared at the Hertfordshire Partnership University NHS Foundation Trust conference which featured a demonstration of IROKO's 'Drumming for Wellbeing' workshop.

IROKO's expertise in the field of culture and heritage, continued to be sought after by various organisations. For example, several community organisations aiming to apply for Arts Council or Heritage Fund's funding, came to IROKO for advice and support. Furthermore, the Artistic Director is a member of two panels at the British Museum. On one of the panels, he takes part in consultations, discussions, workshops, plus offering advice on how artefacts linked with the British Empire are displayed. On the other, he is a member of a cross team of people developing a new volunteer-led tour which focuses on African heritage and histories.

As always, repeat bookings and new bookings from schools and other venues continued to flow in.

Unfortunately, the year 2024 ended on a sad note with the theft of IROKO'S vehicle, the backbone of IROKO's work. It was a significant blow to the organisation and bookings were curtailed for a while until a new van could be sourced and purchased after the year end. To-date the vehicle has not been recovered. During this difficult time, it was heartwarming to receive so much goodwill and support. A GoFundMe campaign was set up by a music teacher at The Village School, Brent. TVS is a special needs school, and it supports children with complex needs, cognition and learning difficulties. Over the past twelve years IROKO has conducted yearly two-day (now three-day) residencies at TVS. We are incredibly grateful for the support of the music teacher and the school. Our sincere thanks go out to all those who contributed towards the GoFundMe Campaign

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MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE'S REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2024

APPRECIATION

IROKO Theatre Company extends its thanks to the following bodies and Trusts who helped and funded the Company throughout the year:

The Charity of Sir Richard Whittington, one of the Mercers' Family of Charities

Once again, supporting IROKO's 'Forever Young' project that uses creative arts to enhance the health and well-being of older people. The second round of this project was expanded to cover five rather than two London Boroughs, namely Newham, Redbridge, Tower Hamlets, Hackney and Barking & Dagenham. The second year of this three-year project was completed during the year in question.

National Heritage Lottery Fund

Supplying funding enables IROKO to carry out the 'Home from Home' project. Over an eighteen-month period, this project will cover a range of activities highlighting British Nigerians' contribution to British society.

IROKO also extends its thanks to all the volunteers who supported its work during the year under review.

Our thanks also go to all those who, through their generous donations, helped to support IROKO during the challenging time when the company van was stolen.

Our big thanks go to all our numerous clients (old and new) for their continued support.

Asiamah & Co were re-appointed as Independent Examiners

Approved by the Management Committee.

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Signed

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Position

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Date

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STATEMENT OF TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES

The Constitution of the organisation requires the Management Committee to prepare a Statement of Accounts for each financial year. The Accounts should give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the Charity at the end of the financial year and of the incoming resources and application of the resources of the charity for the period. In preparing these accounts, the Trustees are expected to:

- Select suitable accounting policies and apply them consistently.
- Make judgments and estimates that are reasonable and prudent.
- State whether applicable accounting standards and statements of recommended practice have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the statement of accounts; and prepare the accounts on an ongoing concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the Charity will continue its operation.

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and to enable them to ensure that the accounts comply with the regulation under S43 of the Charities Act 1993. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the Charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of error, fraud and other irregularities.

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INDEPENDENT EXAMINERS REPORT ON THE ACCOUNTS OF IROKO THEATRE COMPANY – CHARITY NO 1063604

Report to the Trustees of IROKO Theatre Company on the accounts for the year ended 31st March 2024 set out on pages 8 to 12.

RESPECTIVE RESPONSIBILITIES OF TRUSTEES AND AUDITORS

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under Section 114 of the Charities Act 2011 (the Charities Act) and that an independent examination is needed. It is my responsibility to:

Examine the accounts under Section 145 of the Charities Act.

To follow the procedures laid down in the general directions given by the Charity Commission (under Section 145(5)(b) of the Charities Act and

To state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

BASIS OF OPINION

My examination was carried out in accordance with general directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with these records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures on the accounts and seeking explanations from the trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a true and fair view and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S STATEMENT

In connection with my examination, no material matters have come to my attention, which gives me cause to believe that in any material respect accounting records were not kept in accordance with Section 130 of the Charities Act or the accounts do not accord with the accounting records. I have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Asiamah & Co
Chartered Certified Accountants &
Registered Auditors
12 Holliday Square
London SW11 2HR

DATE:

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STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31 March 2024

	NOTES	RESTRICTED <u>INCOME</u>	UNRESTRICTED <u>INCOME</u>	2024 <u>TOTAL</u>	2023 <u>TOTAL</u>
Incoming Resources					
Grants and Awards	9	146,713	0	146,713	38,213
Other income	10	0	78,652	78,652	49,470
Total Incoming Resources		<u>146,713</u>	<u>78,652</u>	<u>225,365</u>	<u>87,683</u>
Resources Expended					
Cost of Activities	11	141,051	81,261	222,312	101,296
Total Resources Expended		<u>141,051</u>	<u>81,261</u>	<u>222,312</u>	<u>101,296</u>
Net In(out)Resources		5,662	-2,609	3,053	-13,613
Net Movement in Funds					
Funds b/f 1.4.2023		5,662	-2,609	3,053	-13,613
Prior year adjustment		22,547	5,691	28,238	41,752
Funds c/f 31.3.2024		0	0		99
		<u>28,209</u>	<u>3,082</u>	<u>31,291</u>	<u>28,238</u>

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BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31ST MARCH 2024

	<u>NOTES</u>	<u>2024</u> £	<u>2023</u> £
Tangible Fixed Assets	3	<u>0</u>	<u>19,809</u>
Current Assets			
Debtors/Prepayment	6	1,065	3,585
Bank/Cash	7	<u>44,192</u>	<u>24,842</u>
		45,257	28,427
Creditors			
Amount falling due with one year	8	<u>14,483</u>	<u>19,998</u>
Net Current Assets		30,774	8,429
Total Assets		<u>30,774</u>	<u>28,238</u>
Funds			
Restricted Funds	12	27,692	22,547
Unrestricted Funds	13	<u>3,082</u>	<u>5,691</u>
		<u>30,774</u>	<u>28,238</u>

Signature

Position

Date

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NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2024

1 Accounting Policy

The accounts have been prepared under the historical cost convention and in accordance with SORP2 Accounting for Charities

Exemption has been taken from preparing a cash flow statement on the grounds that the charity is a small undertaking.

2 Incoming Resources

Incoming resources represent self-generated income due in the year, including grants.

3 Tangible Fixed Assets

All fixed Assets are written off during the year of acquisition.

4 Employment Information

There were two full-time employees and one part-time employee.

5 Reserve Policy

IROKO'S Reserve Policy takes into account the Charity's financial circumstances and other relevant factors. Consideration has been taken into account of levels of income for the coming years and the reliability of current and future funding and earned income. The Reserves Policy is designed to ensure that the Charity's future activities are not put at risk. IROKO'S current reserves policy is to aim to maintain a balance of unrestricted funds equating to approximately three months running costs.

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NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2024

	<u>2024</u>	<u>2023</u>
6 Debtors		
Various clients	1,065	3,585
7 Bank/Cash	20,611	5,727
No.1 Reserve	23,581	19,115
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	44,192	24,842
8 Creditors		
Amount falling due within one year		
BBL	12,648	15,875
Audit Fees	850	850
Sundry	985	3,273
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	14,483	19,998

	Restricted	Unrestricted	Total	Total
	£	£	2024	2023
				£
9 Income				
Grants / Awards				
NHLF: <i>Home from Home</i>	104,560	0	104,560	17,513
Newham Council: <i>Ageing Well Event</i>	0	0	0	200
Community Links: <i>Small Grants</i>	0	0	0	500
Mercers Foundation: <i>Forever Young</i>	21600		21,600	20,000
Insurance claim	20553		20,553	0
Total	<hr/> 146,713	<hr/> 0	<hr/> 146,713	<hr/> 38,213

10 Other Income

Workshops	76,951	76,951	49,404
Sundry Income	203	203	66
Bank Interest	0	0	0
Donation	1,498	1,498	0
Grand Total	<hr/> 78,652	<hr/> 78,652	<hr/> 49,470

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NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2024

11 Cost of Activities

	Restricted	Unrestricted	2024 Total	2023 Total
Costumes/Materials/Maintenance	504	1,172	1,676	818
Artistes/Other fees	12,614	14,858	27,472	19,161
Travel/Transport	875	5,826	6,700	3,532
Professional fees	36,491	1,411	37,902	3,882
Salary/Wages	35,532	37,286	72,818	50,724
Rent/Rates/Hall Hire	5,444	5,860	11,304	4,460
Volunteers Expenses	371	0	371	210
Telephone/Internet	1,770	2,621	4,391	3,350
Printing, Postage/Stationery/Website	3,133	737	3,870	1,361
Training	5,632	151	5,783	0
Repairs/Renewals/Computer	0	500	500	556
Audit	0	850	850	850
Project Refreshments/Subs	3,648	1,033	4,681	2,159
Insurance	581	2,136	2,717	3,102
Advertising/PR	7,686	285	7,970	1,045
Photography/Website	3,500	0	3,500	356
Sundries	163	1,505	1,668	239
Library/Research/Subscription	342	2,854	3,195	1,062
Bank Charges	0	279	279	805
Management and Supervision	2,289	900	3,189	2,911
Equipment Hire	0	0	0	0
Capital Expenditure	20,477	1,000	21,477	714
Total Expenditure	141,051	81,261	222,312	101,296

12 Unrestricted Funds

Bal.B/F	Surplus/Deficit for Year	Carried Forward	
1.04.2023	5,691	-2,609	3,082

13 Restricted Funds

Bal.B/F	Surplus/Deficit for Year		
1.04.24	22,547	5,662	28,209