Annual Report and Financial Statements

Year ending: 31st March 2026

CIO: registered number: 1166244

Ava Hunt Theatre: Report of the Trustees for the year ending 31st March 2026

The Trustees are pleased to present their annual report together with statement of financial accounts for the purposes of the Charities commission.

Purpose and activities

In shaping our objectives for the year and planning our activities, the trustees have considered the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit, including the guidance on public benefit and fee charging. AHT's purpose is to advance education in the arts for the public benefit primarily throughout the East Midlands and nationally by producing educational workshops, theatre performances, and training by creating:

- New theatre for young people to explore areas of personal, social and health education, citizenship in the school curriculum.
- Performances, workshops and training to a wide range of users with little or no access to high quality arts experiences due to either rural isolation, social deprivation, or because of being from a marginalised community/group or sector of society i.e. in relation to sexual orientation, disability, class, religion, ethnicity or gender.

1. **Trustees**

   Jay Pollett

   Samantha Rushton (Safeguarding Officer)

   Suki Sudhu

   Emma Waslin

   Tony Watts OBE (chair)

2. **Secretary's Report**

   March 2016 to March 2026: Secretary, Ava Hunt, is delighted to celebrate 10 years since the company was registered with the Charities Commission. The company looks forward to some celebratory events to recognise this moment and of course to the next five to ten years! Given the size of the company what has been achieved in ten years has been significant. AHT has achieved/received awards, critical recognition, regional, national and international performances, as well as working with hundreds of children/young people, and adult community audiences. AHT recognises the huge contribution that all our artists, Trustees and volunteers make towards the work and reputation of the company.

   In 2025/26 we toured primary schools with a fantastic performance and workshop to over 500 young people. **"Way Too Cool"** by Craig Christie performed to fifteen village/city schools across Derby, Derbyshire, and nationally to North Yorkshire. Several grants were received from Amber Valley local authority, Crich Parish Council, Bingham Trust and North Yorkshire County Council. We also received a further private donation. The excellent cast and artistic crew finished the tour by performing at Derby Theatre, to Derby Theatre's youth theatre group, members of the public, some of our Trustees, and donors.



(Celebrating AHT's 10th Anniversary)

Way Too Cool

Rowan Blake Prescott as producer worked extremely hard to generate new funders and schools in North Yorkshire as well as developing new relationships with Derbyshire schools. We were delighted to work in partnership with Derby Book Festival and Derby Theatre Canvas in the community. Comments from children and teachers included:

"It made me act kinder to people"
"It help me not to be nervous"
Pupils
"It helped them to understand that not everything is as we see it –

communication is key in any relationship"

"It was nice to see how mature some of the children's responses were to certain situations"

Teachers

Fundraising

Fundraising remains challenging however, at the year end the company was in receipt of both donations and grants putting the company in a stronger financial position compared with last year. There is a much anticipated mini-away day with the Trustees in May 2026, to review the company vision statement, artistic planning and strategic fundraising, that will support the company's growth and development for the coming years.

Governance:

Ava Hunt Theatre is a Charitable Incorporated Company and registered charity. It is governed by a constitution, which was passed on March 2016.

Trustees meet regularly throughout the year (May, September and January). Meetings are a combination of face-to-face meetings at Derby Theatre, with other Trustees joining on-line. The Trustees expressed their appreciation on the resignation of Trustees Richard Hall and Jessica Harris. Both had served on the board for a number of years. Their contribution has been significant and

will be missed. The Trustees were delighted to welcome Emma Waslin and Jay Pollett to the board. New Trustees/removal of resignations have been registered with UK Charity website, and with the company' bank (Co-Op) as well as opening up a savings account to keep the company's reserves in of £5k to earn a small amount of interest. Gift Aid from HMRC on donations has also been successfully received.

Reviewing the skills of the Trustee continued throughout the year identifying appropriate training programmes as provided by NCVO.

Policies

The company continued to work closely with Trustees to ensure that all policies are reviewed regularly. Policies reviewed and ratified in 2025/26 included Safeguarding, Data Management, Employment/Disciplinary and Health and Safety.

Volunteers

AHT continued membership of NCVO (National Council Volunteers). AHT received considerable voluntary support administratively throughout the year. Support from volunteers remains important to the company's operation however, these relationships need to be mutually beneficial. For example: on WTC a University of Derby Theatre Arts students volunteers during rehearsals gaining stage management/technical operation experience.

3. Financial Report

Finance Officer Pat Mee worked closely with Ava Hunt throughout the year, managing payments and preparing financial reports for all Trustee meetings. Uncertainty around achieving fundraising targets created challenges before contracts were issued to the creative team. Therefore, close monitoring of budgets was required. Additional Trustee meetings were scheduled to assess the tour's financial viability before contracts were signed.

Auditor and report for annual return

As the company's total income for the year is under £25,000 threshold it has been agreed by the Trustees to submit accounts to Charities Commission without the need for additional auditing fees. The accounts presented here are in full accordance with Charities Commission and HMRC.
Registered Office:

c/o University of Derby Theatre Limited
Derby Theatre, 15 Theatre Walk, Eagle Centre,
Derby, DE1 2NF.

CHARITY COMMISSION FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

AVA HUNT THEATRE | No (if any)

Receipts and payments accounts

CC16a

For the period from 01.04.2025 To 31.03.2026

Section A Receipts and payments

	Unrestricted funds to the nearest £	Restricted funds to the nearest £	Endowment funds to the nearest £	Total funds to the nearest £	Last year to the nearest £
A1 Receipts					
CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES	-	9,343	-	9,343	21,796
OTHER RECEIPTS	375	-	-	375	3,070
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total *(Gross income for AR)*	375	9,343	-	9,718	24,866
A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total receipts	375	9,343	-	9,718	24,866
A3 Payments					
ARTISTIC & CREATIVE FEES	-	17,337	-	17,337	8,665
OTHER PROJECT COSTS	-	361	-	361	-
MARKETING & PROMOTIONS	164	-	-	164	371
INSURANCE	108	100	-	208	208
PROFESSIONAL FEES	350	100	-	450	3,083
TRAVEL & TRAINING	-	628	-	628	131
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	622	18,526	-	19,148	12,458
A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)					
	-	-	-	-	
	-	-	-	-	
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total payments	622	18,526	-	19,148	12,458
Net of receipts/(payments)	- 247	- 9,183	-	- 9,430	12,408
A5 Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-	-
A6 Cash funds last year end	6,294	12,314	-	18,608	6,200
Cash funds this year end	6,047	3,131	-	9,178	18,608

Section B Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the period

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B1 Cash funds	COOPERATIVE BANK	6,047	3,131	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
	Total cash funds	6,047	3,131	-

(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s)) OK OK OK

	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B2 Other monetary assets		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-

	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
B3 Investment assets			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-

	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-

	Details	Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)
B5 Liabilities			-	
			-	
			-	
			-	
			-	

Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees	Signature	Print Name	Date of approval
		A J WATTS	28-5-26
		S. S. RUSHTON	28/6/26