



UNITY THEATRE TRUST

Annual Report and Financial Statements

Year Ended 31ST August 2025

Charity No: 210387



UNITY THEATRE TRUST

ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST AUGUST 2025

Administrative Information

Trustees

D. Okoh, Chair
A. Snow, Vice Chair
C. Gehle
K. O'Donoghue
C. Kenny
S. Adewusi
J. Wing

Administration

S. Chiles, Secretary
M. Kennard, Treasurer

Correspondence Address

93 Hurstbourne Road, London, SE23 2AQ

Charity Number: 210387

Auditors

C Zielinski AIPFM
50 Burnside Street, Carnoustie, DD7 7HL

Bankers

The Co-operative Bank, 1 Balloon Street, Manchester, M4 4B
Cambridge & Counties Bank, Charnwood Court, 5B New Walk, Leicester LE1 GTE

Report of the Trustees for the year ended 31st August 2025

The Trustees present their annual report and financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31st August 2025. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in Note 1 under Financial Statement on page 8 of this report and comply with the charity's trust deed, the Charities Act 2022 and the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities (SORP) published in 2019.



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Structure, governance and management

The Trust is a registered charity, number 210387, and is constituted under a trust deed dated 24 April 1962 as varied by deed dated 29 May 1964. The trust deed and rules govern the operation of the Trust and the Trustees.

The Trust does not actively fundraise and seeks to continue the charitable work desired by the original Trustees through the careful stewardship of its existing resources.

The Trust has a minimum of 4 Trustees. There are currently 7 Trustees who meet at two statutory meetings each year, and at special meetings as and when necessary.

Once appointed, Trustees continue in their role until death, retirement, or removal. New Trustees are appointed by existing Trustees following a nomination, discussion and voting process. When a vacancy occurs among the Trustees it shall be filled within three months of the occurrence of the vacancy. Nominations to fill the vacancy may be made by a member or members of the Trust.

The Trustees are supported by a Secretary and a Treasurer who administer the Trust.

Policies are reviewed annually.

Risk management

The Trustees have considered the major risks to which the charity is exposed and have reviewed those risks and established systems and procedures to manage those risks.

The Trustees consider variability of investment returns on the financial reserves committed to investment to constitute the charity's major financial risk. This is mitigated by split distribution and close monitoring of investments.

The funds available for grant funding are usually adjusted to reflect the variability of returns on investments.

The major operational risk is the extent to which projects that are funded by Trust grant can be determined to meet the definition of "public benefit". Our project review process is focused on how this is achieved from the selected projects and our funding of them.



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Objectives and activities for the public benefit

The objectives of the Unity Theatre Trust are:

“To advance the education of the public, by fostering, promoting, and increasing such interest in the art of drama and co-related arts.”

The Trustees refer to the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit when reviewing the Trust's aims and objectives and in planning future activities, and setting the grant making policy for the year.

Grant making policy

To deliver the Objects of the Trust, and achieve its objectives for the public benefit, the Trustees invite a number of applications for grant funding from interested parties a minimum of three times per year. The number of successful applications and the amount of grants awarded depends on the amount of funding available throughout the year.

The Trust will usually fund drama and theatre related activities, but it will also fund projects in film, TV, video, music and dance. The Trustees reserve the right to include other areas if an application merits it, as long as the application falls within the Trust's charitable aims.

Applicants are expected to have already raised, or are expecting to raise, a large proportion of the project's costs for which they are applying for a grant.

Applicants must consult the comprehensive “Guidance Notes and Conditions of Grant”, available via the Unity Theatre Trust website, complete their application via the online application form, and submit it in time for consideration at the advertised Trustee meetings. The grant application form asks for pertinent information for consideration by the Trustees including, but not limited to, a project synopsis, the social impact of the project, income and expenditure budget, organisation status, and safeguarding policies.

How our grants delivered public benefit:

Grant funding for the year provided meaningful support to a range of interesting and highly relevant projects aimed at stimulating public engagement across a range of subjects including culture, inclusion, diversity, access and mental health, with the public having been introduced to new perspectives and understanding of issues raised in the projects.



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A review of our achievements and performance

Since 1999, the Trust has distributed over £735,000 in funding to successful applications.

This year the Trust funded 50 projects that engaged and exposed the public to a variety of drama and co-related arts subjects. Some of the project titles and reports were:

- **Fifth Word Emerging Playwrights Programme**

“The programme fostered public interest through open-access taster sessions, an industry showcase, and a panel event exploring pathways from script to stage. By nurturing diverse new voices and connecting them with audiences and professionals, the project enriched the cultural life and creative ecology of the East Midlands.”

- **Jennie Lee: Tomorrow is a New Day**

“We believe the show broadened the interest of the public in the art of drama and co-related arts such as creative writing and literature by celebrating the lifelong support of Jennie Lee for access to the arts for all culminating in her becoming the first Minister for the Arts in the 1960’s. This show has popularised her story further and this grant funding helped to remove barriers to people on low incomes to participating culturally.”

- **Cast Youth Theatre**

“This project provided an unforgettable practical experience for the young people, enabling them to be involved in the creative process from genesis to performance. For many of the young people involved, Cast Youth Theatre is their only opportunity to access the arts - “Had I not been able to attend youth theatre, I likely wouldn’t have had the confidence to pursue the creative arts and would have very little experience in performance. I feel far more confident in myself, my creative ideas and my self-expression because of youth theatre.”

- **The Intrusion (The Cockroaches)**

“Through a bold creative vision, sharp comedic storytelling, and strong local and national partnerships, the project offered a fresh, collaborative approach to sparking dialogue around the climate emergency. Audience feedback affirmed this approach: “I thought it was so creative and funny, and had such an important message. It was brilliant!”

Grant recipients must complete a final report on the funded project on conclusion. Detailed accounts must be kept and made available to the Trust for inspection. Any unused grant must be returned, unless prior permission has been given by the Trust for any other use.

Trustees review the final reports to determine the success of the project in relation to the objectives of the Trust, and to identify potential areas of improvement in the grant awarding process.

Trustees must be invited to the performance of projects or events that have received grants.



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Financial Review

For the majority of the year the Trust investments have been with St. James's Place, M&G Charibond, and M&G Charifund. Following the closure and liquidation of the M&G Charibond scheme, that investment was returned and Trustees decided to invest this with St. James's Place.

Investment returns were impacted by the performance and closure of the M&G Charibond scheme resulting in reduced investment income compared to 2023-2024, however St. James's Place and M&G Charifund investments performed acceptably to help offset this.

Operational cash reserves are distributed across two bank accounts held at the Co-operative Bank and Cambridge & Counties Bank to balance the protection amount covered by the Financial Services Compensation Scheme.

This year the Trust faced increased annual expenditure but by making grants totalling less than the investment income received managed to end the year with an improved balance sheet position compared to 2023-2024 including growth in total assets.

Investment policy and performance

The Trustees recognise the importance of Internal financial controls in protecting the charity's assets, including money and investments, to make informed decision, meet their legal duties and manage the charity's resources responsibly.

The Trust's objective and attitude to risk remains Medium. The Trustees are keen on investing ethically in balanced and medium risk funds via financial advisers, companies, and/or managers, and interest-bearing deposits where appropriate, without restricting the ability of the Charity in its main objectives.

All the Trust's funds are Unrestricted and are used to fulfil the Trust's Objectives as per their Deed of Variation dated May 1964.

The Trust's investments with St. James's Place performed well with no cause for concern. M&G Charibond performed poorly and was ultimately closed by M&G while the M&G Charifund showed increased performance over 2023-2024.

Reserves policy

The policy of the Trust as regards its reserves is to aim to shield such reserves from being eroded by inflation, although this might not be always possible.

The Trust's reserves are currently in a healthy state.



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Plans for the future

The Trustees are continuing their funding policy of awarding grants to projects from organisations and individuals that meet the Trust's charitable aims.

Each year the archives held by the Trust and in supporting organisations are being added to and continue to be a useful resource to a range of individuals and organisations.

The website, unitytheatre.org.uk, provides the primary interface for exploring the history of the Trust and applying for a Trust grant, and is central to the digitalisation of the Trust and its operations. Functionality to enhance the experience of the user and the needs of the Trust and Trustees is continually under review and development.

Grant awards

The Trustees have continued their grant strategy and this year approved net grants to the value of £27,955 (last year £35,490) covering areas of theatre production and performance, theatre in education and the community, drama and music, workshops, play reading for older people and theatre and drama related events and activities.

103 applications were received in the year 2024-2025, 50 were successful. Grant amounts awarded ranged from £150 to £1,000.



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Financial Statement

Note 1: Accounts are prepared on a Receipts and Payments basis as at 31 August 2025.

ACCOUNTS 2024/2025

RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31.8.25

RECEIPTS	£	PAYMENTS	£
Bank deposit interest	£ 4,002.51	UTT Grants	£ 27,955.00
Investment income	£ 35,857.13	Computer Expenses	£ 1,200.00
M&G Charibond Investment sale	£ 188,525.91	Administrative services	£ 3,780.00
		Accountancy services	£ 4,332.38
		Audit fee	£ 525.00
		Trustees meeting expenses	£ 1,486.87
		General expenses	£ 470.00
		Insurance premium	£ 420.00
		M&G Charibond Investment sale	£ 188,525.91
Excess of payments over receipts	£ 309.61		
	<u>£ 228,695.16</u>		<u>£ 228,695.16</u>
FINANCED BY:			
Bank Balance 1.9.24	£ 29,342.18		
	<u>£ 29,342.18</u>		
Less:			
Bank Balance 31.8.25	£ 29,032.57		
	<u>£ 309.61</u>	Excess of payments over receipts	<u>£ 309.61</u>



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BALANCE SHEET

ASSETS		2025	2024
		£	£
31/8/25	St James's Place	£ 602,480.00	£ 379,630.00
31/8/25	M & G Charibond	£ 0.00	£ 191,413.19
31/8/25	M&G Charifund	£ 501,765.83	£ 481,464.23
31/8/25	Canbridge & Counties Bank	£ 88,845.72	£ 88,845.72
31/8/25	Co-op Bank Current Account	£ 29,032.57	£ 29,342.18
TOTAL		<u>£ 1,222,124.12</u>	<u>£ 1,170,695.32</u>



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Trustees' responsibilities in relation to the financial statements

As the Trustees, you are responsible for the preparation of financial statements for each financial year, which give a true and fair view of the Trust's incoming resources and application of resources for the year ended. In preparing those financial statements you are required to:

- Select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently.
- Make judgements 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 financial statements.
- Prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records, which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the Trust. You are also responsible for safeguarding the assets and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Approved by the Trustees on January 19 2026

Chair of the Trust



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**CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES**

**Independent examiner's
report on the accounts**

Section A Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees/
members of

On accounts for the year ended Charity no (if any)

Set out on pages (remember to update the page numbers of additional sheets)

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended 31/08/2025

Responsibilities and basis of report As the charity trustees of the Trust, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act").

I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent examiner's statement I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention ~~(other than that disclosed below *)~~ in connection with the examination which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Act or
- the accounts do not accord with the accounting records

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

**Please delete the words in the brackets if they do not apply.*

Signed: Date:

Name:

Relevant professional qualification(s) or body (if any):

Address:



CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Charity Name
Unity Theatre Trust

No (if any)
210387

CC16a

Receipts and payments accounts

For the period from	Period start date 1-Sep-24	To	Period end date 31-Aug-25
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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					
Interest received gross	4,003	-	-	4,003	4,157
	-0	-	-	-	-
Charitable Investment Income Gross	35,857	-	-	35,857	35,043
	-0	-	-	-	-
	-0	-	-	-	-
	-0	-	-	-	-
	-0	-	-	-	-
Sub total (Gross income for AR)	39,860	-	-	39,860	39,200
A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).					
M@G Charibond	188,526	-0	-0	188,526	
	-0	-0	-0	-	-0
Sub total	188,526	-0	-0	188,526	-0
Total receipts	228,386	-0	-0	228,386	39,200
A3 Payments					
Grants	27,955	-	-	27,955	35,490
	-0	-	-	-	-
Professional Fees	8,112	-	-	8,112	6,850
	-0	-	-	-	-
Audit	525	-	-	525	490
	-0	-	-	-	-
Website and host	1,200	-	-	1,200	935
Insurance premium	420	-	-	420	-
Admin and Sundry	1,957	-	-	1,957	1,199
Sub total	40,169	-	-	40,169	44,964
A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)					
St, James's Place	188,526	-0	-0	188,526	
	-0	-0	-0	-	-0
Sub total	188,526	-0	-0	188,526	-0
Total payments	228,695	-0	-0	228,695	44,964
Net of receipts/(payments)	309	-	-	309	- 5,764
A5 Transfers between funds	-0	-	-	-	-
A6 Cash funds last year end	118,188	-	-	118,188	123,952
Cash funds this year end	117,879	-	-	117,879	118,188

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	Co-operative Bank	29,033	-	-
	Cambridge & Counties Bank	88,846	-	-
		-	-	-
	Total cash funds	117,879	-	-
	(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))	OK	OK	OK
		Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B2 Other monetary assets		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
B3 Investment assets	Charitable Investments at cost		750,000	1,222,124
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
B5 Liabilities			-	
			-	
			-	
			-	
			-	
			-	
			-	
			-	
Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees	Signature	Print Name	Date of approval	
	<i>dokoh</i>	Dike Okoh	19/01/2026	



Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

**Report to the trustees/
members of**

Unity Theatre Trust

**On accounts for the year
ended**

31st August 2025

**Charity no
(if any)**

210387

Set out on pages

1 and 2

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended 31/08/2025

**Responsibilities and
basis of report**

As the charity trustees of the Trust, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act").

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**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 which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Act or
- the accounts do not accord with the accounting records

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

Signed:

C Zielinski

Date:

28/09/2025

Name:

Christopher Zielinski

**Relevant professional
qualification(s) or body
(if any):**

AIPFM

Address:

50 Burnside Street,

Carnoustie

DD7 7HL

Section B**Disclosure**

Only complete if the examiner needs to highlight matters of concern (see CC32, Independent examination of charity accounts: directions and guidance for examiners).

Give here brief details of any items that the examiner wishes to disclose.

n/a