

The trustees who are also directors of the charity for the purposes of the Companies Act 2006, present their report with the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31st March 2023. The trustees have adopted the provisions of Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to 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).

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Tinderbox

We are an artist collective driven and shaped by artistic process for the creation of new performances and projects. We collaborate equally with artists, participants and audiences to create new and ambitious creative experiences. Tinderbox has received immense recognition for our productions and creative training programmes with participants and audiences alluding to the celebration of playfulness, imagination and empowerment for all. Tinderbox radically shifted its approach to artistic collaboration providing a space for all artists and participants to share and unite through live performance. We provided space for artists to explore multi-artistic forms to fuel their own practice. We have explored the dynamics of Play with 300 artists through the Play Machine programme and have facilitated workshops in schools, prisons and community environments.

The Vision:

- Ignite the creative spark through artistic performances and projects.
- Champion creative process through development, training and performance programmes.
- Inspire collaboration with artists, audiences, participants and site-responsive spaces.
- Play with Freedom. Play with Integrity. Play with the creative process.
- Implement creative methodology and therapeutic approaches to enrich and inspire the creative process for everyone.

Mission Statement:

- Production: We devise live performances to challenge, provoke and inspire. We champion collaboration, inclusion and Innovation.
- Process: We work with the artistic process. We acknowledge the creative process of each artist and participant and create spaces to discover and champion authenticity.
- Play School: We deliver contemporary training in theatre making and devising at the Crescent Arts Centre. We manage the Makers Network where artists engage and practice across Tinderbox projects and platforms.
- Play for Change: We collaborate with artists, communities and audiences. We create a living space for artists, communities, audiences to connect and share stories with each other. We fight for Equality, Inclusion and Accessibility in society.

Values:

Transformative. Playful. Spontaneous. Truthful. Abandon. Collaboration. Necessary. Disruptive. Ignite. Spontaneous combustion.

History:

- For thirty-five years, we have championed new writing, producing world-class performances from Northern Irish writers to critical and international acclaim. We are a leading player in creative innovation, experimentation and contemporary theatre.
- Since 2016, Tinderbox have explored the fundamental nature of performance practice; questioning structure and form, challenging conventional narrative and posing an alternative model of creative engagement with our current arts ecology. We believe that access to the imagination without restriction is the key to dynamic practice and performance and we have created multiple programmes such as Take Away Theatre, Play Machine, Engine and Fuel for everyone to access their unique creative individuality.

TINDERBOX THEATRE COMPANY

Report of the Trustees FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2023

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Objectives and aims

SIGNIFICANT ACTIVITIES

Achievements and Performance

- **Birds of Passage in the Half Light** by Kat Woods premiered as part of Edinburgh Fringe 2022 at the Gilded Balloon, followed by a two-week run at the Duncairn Arts Centre, Belfast. The production was supported by a participatory programme at the Duncairn Arts Centre, including an art installation at the venue.
- Tinderbox Theatre Company in partnership with the MAC delivered the **Rage against the Play Machine** programme; a one week physical theatre intensive exploring creative activism and Protest theatre. Our theatre practice actively reflects and provokes the need for social change and previous productions such as *Ubu the King*, *The Man Who Fell to Pieces*, *Sylvan* by Jonathan M. Daley, *Immaculate* by Louise Mathews and our International collaboration with *Manifesto Poetico* are radical examples of rebel theatre both in form and content. Most importantly, we create spaces for artists to re-discover and re-spark their authentic stories, voice and bodies so they can feel freedom, strength and confidence in their own creative practice.
- Tinderbox Theatre Company in partnership with the Crescent Arts Centre delivered **The Play Machine** programme. This programme explored the fundamentals of devising, and exploring the imaginations, limitations and manipulations of the body, mind and space to create an unforgettable process in contemporary theatre making.
- Tinderbox established a brand new network for Theatre Makers in Belfast called **Incubate**. The network will create space for artistic connection, communication and creativity. The development of the network will be facilitated and let by Tinderbox but guided by the artists involved. First network meeting held in January 23. This will lead to the **Incubator Festival** in 2024.
- Through the Arts & Business Invest fund, Tinderbox developed **Deconstruct**; project looking at diversity and equality in the workplace with Portview Construction.
- Patrick's play *Dressed for Space* was selected to feature as part of **ECRN residency in Rotterdam**. He spent two weeks creating a new show on the Hofpooth focussing on themes of migration and climate change, using Theatre Green Handbook for the creation of the work.
- **Something Different** by Keith Singleton was premiered at The MAC in Belfast in March 2023. The cast was Keith Singleton and Nicky Harley. The production looked at the complicated nature of relationships and particularly those which are polyamorous.
- Having secured funding through the Art Work Fund/Future Screens, Ciarán Haggerty was appointed as **Creative Development Practitioner**, starting in July 2022
- Alice Malseed was appointment as Tinderbox's new **General Manager**, taking over from Meg Magill in June 2022. This job title then changed to **Creative Producer**.
- The company also delivered and took part in numerous other sectoral development events and initiatives.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

Financial position

Finances are managed on a daily basis by the Creative Producer. The company continues to run all projects on tightly monitored budgets, which all break even.

The charity has set a policy of building reserves to a level that equates to 25% of annual administration overheads. This policy has been implemented as part of the organisation's risk reduction strategy and would be utilised in the event of a future shortfall in funding. Due to the ongoing effects of the pandemic and the cost of living crisis, the company was not able to add to their reserves for the year 2022/23 however building reserves remains a target for 2023/24.

Report of the Trustees
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2023

FUTURE PLANS

April to December 2023

- **The HAP School** is a 4 day programme in **June 2023** offering specialist artist training complemented by creative therapy techniques to invite participants to engage in creating a stronger and healthier foundation for balance, restoration and self-empowerment. 20 artists/participants are part of the programme.
- **Dressed For Space** is an absurdist comedy about city rooftops, fantasy and freedom. It is a story that touches on the acceptance of ourselves, being comfortable in our own bodies and minds and the aspiration of feeling connected with our collective space. Patrick was artist in residence with the Rotterdam DakenDagen in 2022 and the festival programmed the show for 2-4 June.
- Tinderbox Theatre Company are thrilled to premiere Patrick J O Reilly's new adaptation **Rhino** at the Lyric Theatre as part of the Belfast International Arts Festival. A bold and darkly comic remix of Eugene Ionesco's absurdist masterpiece Rhinoceros. Through a powerful combination of physical theatre and multi-media design, RHINO is sure to cement itself as a landmark piece of this year's theatrical calendar, one that will leave you reflecting long after the lights have faded. Combining the absurdist comedy of Eugene Ionesco's 'Rhinoceros' with the provocative edge of Netflix's 'Black Mirror', RHINO offers a thrilling perspective of our 'Brave New World'. Rhino is an imaginative journey into the hall of mirrors with no escape. Expect an immersive performance riot bringing together live storytelling, film, sound design and complete logical nonsense.
- Patrick is delivering a series of workshops for **Women's Aid NI** on Healthy Relationships and the impact of domestic violence on women and young people.
- Ciarán will deliver a six-week screen writing workshop programme at the Crescent Arts Centre - **Thinking In Frame**
- **Aiken and Electric Ireland** Tinderbox commission to deliver a new 20 minute play focusing on resilience and girls in sport. We aim to deliver a full performance for the Company at their all-Ireland event in Belfast. Date TBC. Alice is writing the play and Ciaran is directing the work.

January to March 2024

- January - **Holding Ground** by Jack Dawson, plus a series of workshops and talks exploring domestic violence, and masculinity, presented at the Brian Friel Theatre
- March - **Incubator** Festival at the Mac Belfast, a festival of the work of 11 Incubate Artists; Mary O'Loan, Carley Magee, Louise Parker, Ashton, Jane McKeever, Aoibh Johnston, Matthew Sharpe, Richard McFerran, Francis Mezza, Fergus Wachala-Kelly and Colm McCready
- January - March - **Play Machine** training Programme
- March - **HAP School**- The Holistic Arts Practice Training School

Beginning April 2024:

- **The Inferno Programme**, a series of fiery new theatre productions and projects. This programme is created by artists who are determined to question the status quo. It creates space for new diverse voices to be heard on national creative platforms. As well as telling contemporary stories, Inferno will also deliver exceptional training and workshops on themes such as; theatre making; self-producing; financial well-being for artists; creative arts therapies and film-making.
- The Inferno programme includes:
 - a new adaptation of **Yerma** (by Federico Garcia Lorca, at Lyric Theatre);
 - a new studio-production **Marcus** (by Matthew Sharpe, exploring his experience of being bi-racial, to be presented at the Mac and at Dublin Fringe);
 - a remount of **Something Different** (by Keith Singleton with Tinderbox, presented at Edinburgh Fringe Festival (pitching to Pleasance Theatre));
 - March 2024 a studio-production of **The Incredible Secret Life Inside the Upside-Down House** (by Ciarán Haggerty, tell the story of a gay man in his 30s revisiting his teenage romance in West Belfast);
 - June 2024 **Lysistrata** (by Aristophanes, reinterpreted for contemporary Belfast by Alice Malseed, site-specific in Belfast);
 - plus two new international collaborative productions with European theatre companies.

We will also continue to support a cohort of Incubate Artists as they develop work for stages in Edinburgh Fringe with future potential in UK platforms.

We are confident that Tinderbox is in a position to continue trading throughout the forthcoming year and beyond.

**Report of the Trustees
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2023**

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Trustees

The trustees who served the charity during the period were as follows:

Neil Alan Collins (resigned 09/05/2022)
Stefanie Florence Lehner (resigned 09/05/2022)
Stephen David Beggs (Chair)
Lisa McGinley
Janine Marie Walker
Sarah Rees
Lee Robb
Rachel Leitch
Chris Traver
Matthew Jeffrey

The trustees are responsible for establishing and maintaining company policy and overseeing the management of its delivery.

Risk management

The trustees are responsible for ensuring that all Risk Management issues are managed by the Producer and Artistic Director.

Management

Responsibility for the ongoing running of the company lies with the Artistic Director and the Producer. The Artistic Director is responsible for ensuring that planned services are delivered according to company policy, that key indicators are met, and that agreed procedures are operative.

Approved by order of the board of trustees on 7th December 2023 and signed on its behalf by:



Lee Robb - Secretary