

REGISTERED COMPANY NUMBER: NI025285 (Northern Ireland)
REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER: 102778

Report of the Trustees and
Unaudited Financial Statements
for the Year Ended 31st March 2024
for
TINDERBOX THEATRE COMPANY

M.B.McGrady & Co
Chartered Accountants
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TINDERBOX THEATRE COMPANY

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FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2024**

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TINDERBOX THEATRE COMPANY

**Reference and Administrative Details
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2024**

TRUSTEES	Stephen David Beggs (resigned 30/12/2023) Lisa McGinley (resigned 4/4/2024) Janine Marie Walker Sarah Rees Lee Robb Rachel Leitch Matthew Jeffrey Chris Travers
COMPANY SECRETARY	Lee Robb
REGISTERED OFFICE	Crescent Arts Centre 2-4 University Road Belfast Co. Antrim BT7 1NH
REGISTERED COMPANY NUMBER	NI025285 (Northern Ireland)
REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER	102778
INDEPENDENT EXAMINER	M.B.McGrady & Co Chartered Accountants Suite 2B Cadogan House 322 Lisburn Road Belfast Co. Antrim BT9 6GH

TINDERBOX THEATRE COMPANY

Report of the Trustees FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2024

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 2024. 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 engages 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 over 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.

TINDERBOX THEATRE COMPANY

Report of the Trustees FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2024

- 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.

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Objectives and aims

SIGNIFICANT ACTIVITIES

Achievements and Performance

- In 2023-24, Tinderbox Theatre Company continued to deliver a dynamic range of artistic and developmental programmes, strengthening its impact on the theatre community and beyond. Key achievements included:

- May/June 2023: The HAP School, a week-long series of workshops, explored creative therapy with theatre professionals. Twenty actors, directors, musicians, and theatre-makers from across Northern Ireland participated in this intensive programme at the Crescent Arts Centre.

- October 2023: Tinderbox was successful in securing funding from the Dormant Accounts Fund for a two-year Business Development Producer. This milestone allowed the company to hire Louise Conaghan into a dedicated role, reinforcing the organisation's infrastructure and long-term sustainability.

- October 2023: The critically acclaimed production Rhino at the Lyric Theatre was a standout success, named one of the Top 50 Shows to See in the UK by The Stage. The production achieved a near sell-out run and was awarded Best Revival at the UK Theatre Awards.

- November 2023: Associate Director Ciarán Haggerty ran a six-week film course titled 'Thinking in Frame', designed to nurture emerging filmmakers. The course introduced participants to the language of film and provided essential insights for writing or directing short films.

- December 2023: A significant governance change saw Stephen Beggs step down as Chair of the Board. Trustees Janine Walker and Rachel Leitch were appointed as Co-Chairs, marking a new phase of leadership for Tinderbox.

- January 2024: The Holding Ground Festival explored the intersection of art and creative therapies while showcasing the production Holding Ground by Jack Dawson. Developed in partnership with Women's Aid, the festival highlighted the Social Action Youth Project, which amplified the voices of young people impacted by domestic violence. The project's outcomes were also shared with elected representatives at Stormont.

- February 2024: Tinderbox collaborated with AIKEN PR and Electric Ireland for Game Play, a production exploring resilience and the positive impact of teamwork on teenage girls. The play, informed by research from Electric Ireland's Game Changers campaign, was performed at the Ulster Museum for schoolgirls and sports professionals.

- March 2024: The Incubate Network culminated in the Incubator Festival at the MAC, Belfast. Ten theatre-makers showcased work-in-progress, alongside workshops and talks addressing critical themes such as power dynamics in theatre, self-producing, and financial sustainability for artists.

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 is equivalent to 25% of 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. The level of unrestricted funds at 31 March 2024 is in excess of that required by this policy.

TINDERBOX THEATRE COMPANY

Report of the Trustees FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2024

FUTURE PLANS

As we look forward to the next twelve months, the trustees remain committed to fulfilling our mission to ignite creativity, inspire collaboration, and celebrate the power of live performance. We remain dedicated to fostering innovative artistic practices and creating opportunities for artists, audiences, and participants to engage deeply with the creative process.

In 2024, our Play Machine Training Programme and HAP School will continue to equip artists with the tools to explore dynamic approaches to theatre-making, combining technical training with creative methodologies to enrich their practice. We will also support the development of emerging theatre-makers through the Incubate Network, providing mentorship, resources, and collaborative opportunities. This programme will culminate in the Incubator Festival, offering artists the chance to showcase new work and participate in vital conversations about the future of theatre.

During the year planned highlights include:

- Yerma, a reimaging of Lorca's classic;
- Marcus, a studio production exploring bi-racial identity;
- New international collaborations with European theatre companies, expanding our global reach.

Tinderbox will also maintain its commitment to addressing urgent social issues through art. Partnerships with community organisations, such as Women's Aid, will continue to focus on using theatre as a tool for empowerment, education, and advocacy.

Through these initiatives, we reaffirm our commitment to the transformative power of live performance, ensuring that Tinderbox continues to play a vital role in shaping the cultural landscape of Northern Ireland and beyond.

Securing sustainable funding remains essential to Tinderbox's mission. We are committed to advocating for increased core funding while exploring diverse income streams and partnerships to support our ambitious artistic and community programmes. Strengthening our reserves remains a key priority to ensure resilience and safeguard the company's future, enabling us to continue igniting creativity and inspiring change through our work.

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

and that agreed procedures are operative.

TINDERBOX THEATRE COMPANY

Report of the Trustees FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2024

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Trustees

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

Stephen David Beggs (Chair - Dec 2023)
Lisa McGinley
Janine Marie Walker (Co-Chair - from Dec 2023)
Sarah Rees
Lee Robb
Rachel Leitch (Co-Chair - from Dec 2023)
Matthew Jeffrey
Chris Travers

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 staff of the company.

Management

Responsibility for the ongoing running of the company lies with the staff team, managed by the Trustees. The staff are 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 20th December 2024 and signed on its behalf by:



Rachel Leitch - Trustee