



Annual Report & Accounts for year ended 30th April 2024

Website: www.southbankplayhouse.com

Facebook: @southbankplayhouse

Company Limited by Guarantee Company No: NI035043

Charity Registration No: NIC 102831

South Bank Playhouse Ltd

Trustees/Directors (at 1st July 2024)

Katherine Beggs (Chair)

Una Convery

Gillian Grattan

John Grattan (Treasurer)

Jenny Groves

Heather Johnson (Secretary)

Eamon Jones

Seán O'Hare

Katherine Weir

Joseph Wildy

Miriam Witts

Registered Office

1A Kimberley Drive

Belfast BT7 3EE

Company number

NI035043

Charity number

NIC 102831

Bankers

Danske Bank, Donegall Square West, Belfast BT1 6JS

Trustees' Report for year ended 30th April 2024

Introduction

This report has been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015 and in line with the guidance produced by the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland. It also represents the Directors' report for the purposes of company legislation.

Constitution and governance

South Bank Playhouse Ltd, also known as Southbank Players, is a company limited by guarantee and governed by its Memorandum and Articles of Association dated 20th October 1998. The objects of the company were amended by special resolution passed on 15th August 2011. The company was registered as a charity by the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland on 14th August 2015.

The Trustees constitute the directors of the company for the purposes of the Companies Act 2006, and trustees of the charity for the purposes of charity legislation.

The Trustees, of whom there should be not less than three, are appointed by members of the company at the Annual General Meeting and form the management committee of the company. They are appointed for a period of five years and are eligible for re-appointment for a second term. Trustees who served during the year ending 30th April 2024 were as follows:

Katherine Beggs (Chair)
David Fullerton
Gillian Grattan
John Grattan (Treasurer)
Jenny Groves
Heather Johnson (Secretary)
Eamon Jones
Ruth Osborne
Katherine Weir
Joe Wildy
Miriam Witts

The Trustees are responsible for the policies, activities, and assets of the charity. They met as the management committee eight times during the year ended 30th April 2024 to plan and manage the activities of the charity and to take appropriate decisions. No Trustee received any remuneration for services as a member of the Board of Trustees and the charity has no employees.

The Trustees have put in place an equal opportunities policy, a GDPR policy, financial procedures, and a safeguarding policy, all of which are reviewed regularly.

Purposes of the charity

We are an amateur theatre company with members from a wide range of backgrounds. We have produced quality drama that enhances and contributes to a rich cultural life in Belfast and across Northern Ireland since 1998. We produce drama that is accessible to members of the public of all

ages, from a variety of genres and both new and established playwrights. We present both formal productions and rehearsed readings, and also provide space for our members to write and produce original works. Additionally, we open our doors to other drama companies and charities to use our space for their own charitable activities that enhance the quality of their members' lives.

We are based in leased premises in a former Scout Hall on Kimberley Drive, in the Ormeau Road area of Southeast Belfast. The facilities include a large performance space which has bleacher seating with an audience capacity of 65 people, a lighting rig, and sound and lighting decks. Back stage we have a costume store and other storage rooms, and a set store located outside the back of the hall.

The purposes of our charity as set out in our governing document are as follows:

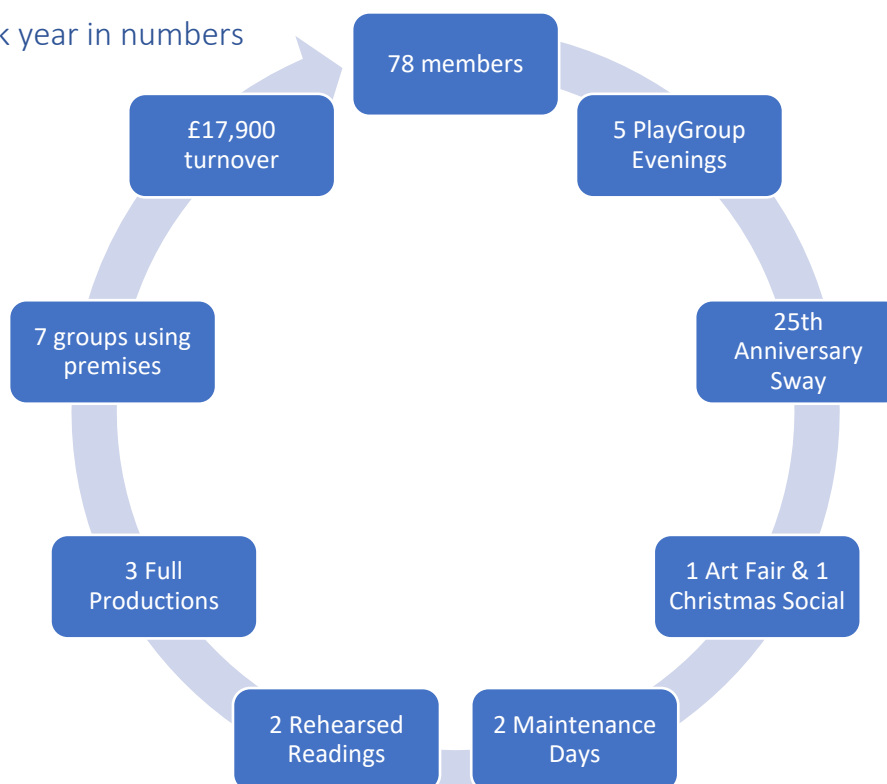
- a) To enhance & contribute to the cultural life of Belfast and the surrounding area;
- b) To present, promote, organize, manage & produce quality plays and events of cultural value;
- c) To encourage appreciation for, and participation in, performing arts activities;
- d) To offer opportunities for all to become involved in performing arts activities through the cultural activities we engage in;
- e) To promote and develop performing arts for the public in the area of benefit.

Our membership

At 30th April 2024 we had a total of 78 subscribed members as well as a number of other supporters and participants in the company.

Our AGM on 16th June 2023 was well attended, with 18 members of the company. Philip McDonagh and Johnny McGurgan both completed their second terms as Trustee, and stepped down from the Committee. Jenny Groves and Joe Wildy were duly elected by the membership to join the Committee.

The South Bank year in numbers



South Bank Productions

Our main activity during a normal year is the auditioning, rehearsal and performance of three productions in the summer, autumn, and spring. In 2023, we fully returned to a normal routine with the experience that we offer our members and guests enhanced by the lessons learned during Covid and the many improvements that we made to our premises.

The Summer production in 2023 was *Table Manners*, by Alan Ackbourne. One part of the celebrated Norman Conquest trilogy, the play is a comedy that dissects family drama between siblings and couples with action around three family meals. Directed by Arthur Webb, the cast of six included both new and returning members. Five performances from July 25th were very well received by sold-out audiences.

The Autumn 2023 production was *The 8th*, by Seanie Sugrue. Directed by Eugene O'Hare, this was the European premiere of a play from an emerging playwright. Set against the backdrop of the 'Repeal the 8th' Referendum in the Republic of Ireland, the play considers the bonds of family that endure amidst conflict, distance, and loss. The production was a huge success, celebrated by audiences who provided extremely positive feedback both on the night and afterwards. We piloted a new format for the shows, with six nights across two weeks, beginning on November 16. Despite the additional show, tickets were sold out.

Our third production for 2023-24 was *Single Spies*, by Alan Bennett. The play was a return to a different format for the Company, featuring two one-act plays. The show revolved around the events of the Cambridge spy ring in the mid-1950s and 1960s, and ranged from a squalid apartment in Moscow with Guy Burgess, to the offices of the Courtauld Institute and Buckingham Palace with Anthony Burgess. The backstage work to develop two sets and complex visuals was significant, and the production was a rousing success. We returned to the five-night format, and sold out tickets in record time. The show opened on April 9, and received high praise from audiences each night.

Other South Bank shows and events

This financial year marked the Company's 25th Anniversary in our Hall, and we marked the occasion with special events and member communications. Most particularly, the October PlayGroup meeting featured readings from 25 plays (with cake!) The Company Chair, Katherine Beggs, also prepared an interactive Sway that was distributed to all members, documenting and celebrating the plays and events from the past 25 years.

An ongoing contribution of the Company to the community has always been a sustained schedule of other shows and events for both our members and the wider public. PlayGroup, a members-only development evening, began in 2022, and continues to be an important monthly event. On the final Wednesday of each non-show month, we welcome members to do a table-read of a script. Attendance varies from 10 to 22 members. In 2023-24, we explored *The Hangmen* (Martin McDonagh), *Pride and Prejudice* (Constance Cox), *Blue Remembered Hills* (Dennis Potter), and *Under Milkwood* (Dylan Thomas).

We were also delighted to present two Rehearsed Readings. Rehearsed Readings are members-only events that serve to workshop potential future productions, explore innovative and new scripts, and develop the skills of cast and crew. June featured *Jenny's House of Joy* (Norm Foster), directed by Heather Johnson. Set in a brothel operating in an outback cattle down in Kansas in the late 1880s, the all-female cast explores female friendship and independence. In October, Stephen Beggs directed *The Dumb Waiter* (Harold Pinter), featuring two assassins who are preparing for their next job.

Finally, each year we open our doors for non-performance events. In the summer of 2023, two ‘maintenance days’ brought members together to clean, maintain, and improve the theatre space. In December, we returned to a pre-pandemic event, and hosted a public Arts and Crafts Fair in the Hall, featuring members’ work as well as second-hand and vintage items for sale or swap. Every December, we also welcome our members for an annual Christmas party featuring food, entertainment, and holiday cheer.

Other uses of the South Bank Hall

We actively encourage use of our facilities by other arts groups, drama companies, and charities to ensure that the facilities are well utilised and enjoyed by others. In difficult financial times for the arts sector, we have prioritised ongoing support of the local theatre community while also ensuring that the Hall is available to company members for their endeavours.

In 2023-24, seven groups used the facilities, primarily for rehearsals, workshops, and filming.

We are grateful to our members Kate Beggs and Penny Beggs who manage the subletting of the hall.

Marketing and promotion of our activities

Throughout this year, our focus has been to continue to engage with and connect to our members and to contribute to the rich cultural life of the community. We continue to maintain our public-facing website, which highlights both our current productions and the broader and historic activities of the Company. Regular Members Bulletins continue to be shared across our mailing list, which we have updated and renewed this year. We have also further developed both a public and a members-only Facebook page, as well as our Instagram account.

Improvements to the premises

Although we do not own the premises, we nevertheless continue to both maintain and improve the Hall in order to enhance the experience for our visitors, and to keep the facilities in good order. All necessary certifications (i.e. fire safety) are up-to-date, and we regularly review and maintain up-to-date health and safety policies, a safeguarding policy, and appropriate governance policies. In 2023-24, we repaired our fence, updated the heating in the toilets, and improved our back-stage lighting.

Looking forward

Southbank Players has a number of plans for the coming 2024/2025 year. We will continue our efforts to engage with our members, and to grow the company. We will also continue to engage with and support the local community, and particularly the arts community in Belfast. We have returned to our normal production schedule, and we look forward to developing more rehearsed readings and company events. Planned projects include a continued review of our Governance structure as well as developing the skills – such as direction, set building, lights, and sound design – of our members.

Public benefit

The trustees of South Bank Playhouse are pleased to confirm that they have complied with their duty to have regard to the public benefit requirement and statutory guidance of the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland.

Our public benefit is demonstrated in a number of ways:

- We provide a positive cultural experience by providing high quality drama for the audiences who attend our productions in our Hall and elsewhere. This is evidenced by the feedback we receive from audiences, and from managers of other venues where we perform;
- We also provide a positive cultural experience for all those who participate in our activities. Our activities are open to anyone, as evidenced by the extensive involvement of people of all ages and from a wide variety of community and cultural backgrounds;
- Our Company's ethos is to create an informal, friendly environment, welcoming and supporting everybody's participation in an enjoyable and social atmosphere. We have over 70 members, but we have many more who participate for one or two events over the year, or who support us regularly as audience members;
- We seek to engage with the local community in the Ormeau Road area and we are keen to increase the benefit we provide to local community groups by bringing an event out to their venues.

Financial Review

Our financial statement for the period 1st May 2023 to 30th April 2024 is attached to this report and shows that we had a surplus of income over expenditure of £5,432.18 for the period in question. As a result, our total funds at 30th April 2024 were £34,862.41 compared with £29,430.23 at 30th April 2023.

Our income from donations and legacies in the year was £24,779.02 compared with £22,707.69 in the previous financial year.

Our income ordinarily comes from three main sources: membership subscriptions; performance revenues; and donations from other groups for use of our premises. Breakdown of revenue streams was as follows:

- Membership subscriptions amounted to £10,372.50 including projected Gift Aid to be claimed. This was a small increase on the total of £10,183.13 for the previous year;
- Donations for performances in Southbank. This year saw us running three shows, and an increase in the number of performances to 6 nights for each show combined with very healthy attendance numbers saw record income this year, with donations from audience members totalling £10,706.52.
- Donations by other groups for use of the premises, which came to £3,700.00 compared with £3,755.00 in the previous year.

Our expenditure relating to operation of the theatre in the year came to £19,346.84, compared with £19,689.16 in the previous financial year. Our main expenditure is the rent that we pay to our landlords, The Scout Association.

Total rent paid in the accounting period is £9,143.72, in line with the previous year. We have recently re-negotiated our lease with the Scouts and will have rent increases in the coming years, however

our strong reserves position and the continued financial strength of the company mean we are reassured that we can accommodate these increases.

Other significant expenditures include:

- Production expenses totalling £2,972.18.
- Heating and lighting costs of £3,110.37.
- Repairs and renewals totalling £1,453.15.

Declaration

This report was approved by a meeting of the management committee on February 17 2025 and is signed on behalf of trustees.

Katherine Beggs
Chair

South Bank Playhouse Ltd.

Statement of Financial Activities for year ending 30 April 2024

	Note	Total Funds 2023/24 (£)	Total Funds 2022/23 (£)
Income:			
Donations and legacies	2	24,779.02	22,707.69
<i>Income from charitable activities:</i>			
Performances in other venues		0.00	0.00
Income from other trading activities		0.00	0.00
Investment income		0.00	0.00
Grant income		0.00	5,000.00
Total income		24,779.02	27,707.69
Expenditure			
<i>Expenditure on charitable activities:</i>			
Operation of theatre	3	19,346.84	19,689.16
Grant disbursement		0.00	5,000.00
Total expenditure		19,346.84	24,689.16
Net income/(expenditure) and net movement in funds for the year		5,432.18	3,018.53
Reconciliation of funds			
Total funds brought forward		29,430.23	26,411.70
Total funds carried forward		34,862.41	29,430.23

South Bank Playhouse Ltd.

Balance Sheet as at 30 April 2024

	Note	2024 (£)	2023 (£)
Fixed assets			
Tangible assets	4	1,388.69	2,082.69
Total fixed assets		1,388.69	2,082.69
Current assets			
Debtors			
<i>Gift Aid to be claimed</i>		9,842.32	7,917.42
Prepayment of Royalties		0.00	414.00
Prepayment – Water bill		157.45	157.45
Prepayment - Rent		2,285.93	0.00
Subscriptions received after year end		250.00	0.00
Cash at bank and in hand		23,394.48	20,784.48
Total current assets		35,930.18	29,273.75
Liabilities			
Creditors falling due within one year			
<i>Buildings insurance premium</i>		1,333.77	803.52
<i>First Night Insurance</i>		360.71	360.71
<i>Eurofire – Fire Safety Checks</i>		0.00	0.00
<i>Expenses paid after year end</i>		0.00	0.00
<i>Rent for extra month (year end amend)</i>		761.98	761.98
Net current assets		2,456.46	1,926.21
Total assets less current liabilities		34,862.41	29,430.23
Creditors – falling due after more than one year			
<i>Buildings insurance premium</i>		0.00	0.00
Net assets		34,862.41	29,430.23
The total funds of the charity		34,862.41	29,430.23

South Bank Playhouse Ltd.

Statement of Cash Flows for year ending 30 April 2024

	Note	2023/24(£)	2022/23(£)
Cash provided by operating activities	5	2,610.00	2,324.77
Cash flows from investing activities			
Purchase of leasehold improvements		0.00	0.00
Cash provided by (used in) investing activities		0.00	0.00
Increase (decrease) in cash and cash equivalents in the year		2,610.00	2,324.77
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the year		21,003.28	18,678.51
Total cash and cash equivalents at the end of the year		23,613.28	21,003.28

Notes on the accounts

1. Accounting Policies

The principal accounting policies adopted, judgements and key sources of estimation uncertainty in the preparation of the financial statements are as follows:

a) Basis of preparation

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with 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 2015) - (Charities SORP (FRS 102)), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Companies Act 2006.

South Bank Playhouse Ltd meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy note(s).

b) Preparation of the accounts on a going concern basis

The company's statement of financial activities shows an increase in funds for the year of £5,432.18, and we assert that the charity is a going concern on this basis.

c) Income

Income is recognised when the charity has entitlement to the funds, any performance conditions attached to the item(s) of income have been met, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured reliably.

Income from government and other grants, whether 'capital' grants or 'revenue' grants, is recognised when the charity has entitlement to the funds, any performance conditions attached to the grants have been met, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured reliably and is not deferred.

d) Expenditure

Expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to make a payment to a third party, it is probable that settlement will be required and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably.

e) Tangible fixed assets

Individual fixed assets costing £1,000 or more are capitalised at cost and are depreciated over their estimated useful economic lives on a straight line basis as follows:

Asset Category	Annual rate
Equipment	20%
Leasehold improvements	10%

2. Income from donations and legacies

	2023-24 (£)	2022-23 (£)
Donations from members (incl. Gift Aid)	10,372.50	10,183.13
Donations for performances	10,706.52	8,392.16
Donations for use of premises, props, costumes	3,700.00	3,755.00
Donations for performances by another company	0.00	377.40
Total	24,779.02	22,707.69

3. Analysis of expenditure on charitable activities

	2023-24 (£)	2022-23 (£)
Production expenses	2,972.18	2,429.92
Payment to other company for performance	0.00	400.00
Insurance	890.96	865.71
Rent	9,143.72	9,143.72
Repairs & renewals	1,453.15	1,835.95
Heat & light	3,110.37	2,823.42
Postage, stationery, household	513.02	182.53
Bank charges & fees	556.34	714.83
Sundry expenses	13.10	13.00
Depreciation & Amortisation	694.00	1,280.98
Total expenditure	19,346.84	24,689.16

4. Tangible fixed assets

	Equipment	Leasehold Improvements	Total
	£	£	£
Cost			
At 1st May 2023	13,038.38	5,358.71	18,397.09
Additions	0.00	0.00	0.00
Disposals	0.00	0.00	0.00
At 30th April 2024	<u>13,038.38</u>	<u>5,358.71</u>	<u>18,397.09</u>
Depreciation			
At 1st May 2023	12,240.40	4,074.00	16,314.40
Charge for the year	266.00	428.00	694.00
At 30th April 2024	<u>12,506.40</u>	<u>4,502.00</u>	<u>17,008.40</u>
Net book value			
at 30th April 2023	797.98	1,284.71	2,082.69
At 30th April 2024	531.98	856.71	1,388.69

5. Reconciliation of net movement in funds to net cash flow from operating activities

	2023-24 (£)	2022-23 (£)
Net movement in funds	5,432.18	3,018.53
Add back depreciation charge	694.00	1,280.08
Decrease (increase) in debtors		
<i>Gift Aid payment to be claimed</i>	(1,924.50)	(1,986.63)
<i>Gift Aid payment received</i>	0.00	1,857.69
<i>Accrual for subscription – P McDonagh</i>	(250.00)	250.00
Increase (decrease) in creditors		
<i>Buildings insurance premium</i>	530.25	(2,219.98)
<i>Prepayment – Rent</i>	(2,285.93)	0.00
<i>Prepayment – Royalties</i>	414.00	378.00
<i>Eurofire Fire Safety Inspection</i>	0.00	(133.20)
<i>Expenses to company members</i>	0.00	(480.43)
<i>Additional month's rent due to year end amend</i>	0.00	0.00
<i>First Night Insurance</i>	0.00	360.71
Net cash provided by operating activities	<u>2,610.00</u>	<u>2,324.77</u>

Signed:



John Grattan
Treasurer

Date:

22/2/25

Examined by:



Christopher Palmer

Date:

22/2/25