

Streatham Theatre Company

Treasurer's Report for Financial Year April 2019 to March 2020

What a difference a year makes. We ended the financial year 2018 to 2019 in a period of strong growth and consolidation helped by our production of *Agatha Crusty and the Village Hall Murders*, performed at the British Home in June 2018, which delivered our largest overall contribution.

We end this last financial year in a period of economic uncertainty which is proving especially precarious for those in the leisure and hospitality industries, and it is clear that we are still a long way from seeing light at the end of the tunnel.

Our *Income and Expenditure* report for the year does not make encouraging reading. This year we made a loss of £1063. However, this does include a donation of £500 to the Stroke Association, of which more shortly.

Our income was £3,965, over £500 down on last year.

Our shows (only two this year) raised an income of £2511.

We began the year with our pantomime, *Alice in Wonderland*, performed at the British Home in April. In spite of a very talented cast and high production values, including beautiful and imaginative props and costumes, the show sadly made a contribution of only £9.

We had forecast only a small contribution of around £230, but this was eroded due to the following factors:

- We had fewer walk-in audience members than we budgeted for
- The British Home is a beautiful venue, but at over £500 it's expensive to hire
- More rehearsal time was needed than we anticipated, which led to increased rehearsal venue hire charges

We performed our next show, *Sunday Morning at the Centre of the World*, a play for voices by Louis de Bernières, in October in the chapel at the British Home, as part of the Streatham Festival. We received very positive feedback from those who attended and those who took part, but sadly, audience figures were very low, possibly due to competition from other Festival events. Income from ticket sales was less than a third of the anticipated amount and low audience numbers led in turn to low bar sales.

Without the need to pay for set build or costumes, our expenditure was relatively low, but we did have to pay £180 for performance rights and £200 for hire of the chapel. All the above factors led to our making a loss of £231.

Our final production, *Sisters in the Snow*, by Holly Johnson was scheduled to be performed at the beginning of April but following increasing tensions around Covid-19 and the introduction of lockdown in mid-March, we were forced to abandon our plans and perform the show as a radio play. This meant that we lost any prospective revenue from the show, and so we claimed £517.21 on our insurance for costs incurred up to that point.

The amount was settled in full in April of this year, and so appears in the accounts for 2020 to 2021. I have not included it as a credit for this year, as if the show had taken place, any contribution made would only have been accrued this year.

On a more positive note, our events proved popular this year. We do not expect our events to make a contribution but this year our usual monthly events were very close to breaking even, with a small loss of only £6. This is a significant improvement on 2018-2019 when events made a loss of close to £220.

Income from membership subscriptions went down by just over £40. While a significant number of people renewed their membership automatically or at our events, the twelve members who either joined or renewed to take part in *Alice* did so in 2018-2019.

Donations were also slightly down this year by almost £20 to £88. . As well as our usual donations through TicketSource, we received an element of TicketSource referred income, which we are nominated to receive by organisations who partner with TicketSource on our recommendation. Each time one of these organisations uses TicketSource, we receive a small percentage of their commission.

Our expenditure during the year was incurred to allow us to achieve the objectives set out in our Constitution.

The most significant expenditure of £3,587 was incurred in putting on our shows. This is more than £500 up on last year.

Our regular events cost us a very economical £310, but in addition to these we ran the Finding Human Project in May, enabling participants to improvise a show over a weekend. Sandy and Diana Brown ran the workshop to gain experience, with help and advice from STC. We kept any workshop and membership fees, ticket sales, and bar takings, and in return paid for venue hire and participant refreshments, while Sandy and Diana took fifty percent of the box. The workshop made a loss of £66, mainly due to a lack of participants willing to give up an entire weekend.

In July we ran a charity comedy event at the Railway pub, Streatham Common, in aid of the Stroke Association, in memory of Committee Member Hild Liptrott, one of our founders, who sadly passed away after a series of strokes earlier in 2019. I'm proud to say that we were able to make a donation of £500 to the stroke association, which meant a net donation of £112 after income of £388 was deducted. The income came from ticket sales less comedians' expenses.

Other expenses included the usual insurance and bank charges, and miscellaneous expenses of £15.48, the cost of a new sound system battery. Total costs were £5,028, over £1,000 more than last year, leaving us with a deficit of £1063.

Our PayPal card readers are available at all our shows and events and the trend towards PayPal payments is forever increasing. A significant proportion of our members are now choosing to pay their subscriptions online from our website by PayPal or Credit Card. Without a personal PayPal account you can opt to make a single yearly payment or if you have an account, you can choose a recurring payment, which is like a Standing Order and can be cancelled at any time from your PayPal profile.

Our Balance Sheet shows a balance of £3,419.32, which is over £1,000 less than last year. However, we are still in a healthy financial position. Taking into account our fixed costs of insurance and bank charges, we could operate moribund for over 10 years, although I know it will not come to that.

In spite of the pressures towards the end of the year, I have very much enjoyed being your treasurer this year, and would be happy to carry on as usual, unless anyone here would like to volunteer to take over.

E. Burton

Liz Burton, 09/06/20