

Streatham Theatre Company

Treasurer's Report for Financial Year April 2024 to March 2025

Our Spring show this year was *God of Carnage* by Yasmina Reza, which we staged over four performances at Goldfinch School from Thursday May 29th to Saturday June 1st. Although this was a well-acted and thought-provoking show, it did not prove popular with audiences and only 60 people saw it, a quarter of the 240 seats available. The production generated income of £1054, less than half of the income from *Consuming Passions*. The refreshments and bar proved popular as always but sadly we ended with a heavy loss of £850.

We do not expect our monthly events to make money; rather, we hold them to maintain an engagement with our audience that extends beyond our shows. At the beginning of the year, we increased the price of non-member entry to events from £3 to £5, the first time we have made an increase since our inception in 2013, and this certainly contributed to our events raising a far greater contribution this year than last. We did not hold an event in April, but we were able to hold 11 events, including two social events: a celebration of our 10th birthday in May and a social in October for our chair David Harvey's 65th birthday. We also held two afternoon play readings in Carvalho's Café on Natal Road: Laura Wade's *Home, I'm Darling* in April, and Oscar Wilde's *The Importance of Being Earnest*, in October for the Streatham Festival.

Familiarity won out over novelty this year. The event which raised the most contribution was our annual fixture *Streatham's Got Talent* in December which raised just short of £150. In the runner-up spot was our other annual fixture *Streatham Shorts*, celebrating new writing, which raised £83. Overall, our events raised £609, an average contribution per event of £55.36, more than 12 times that of 2023-2024.

Even in this hostile climate, with a spiralling cost of living, our membership remains at £10 per year, which includes participation in any show, if cast; free entry to all our monthly events; and reduced ticket prices. Unlike some other groups, we do not charge people to audition, or to contribute to the financing of our shows. Undoubtedly, STC continues to offer the best value membership of any society in South London.

This year's membership subscription total of £423.85 was just over £50 up on last year, possibly because our April 2025 show, *Accidental Death of an Anarchist* by Dario Fo, adapted by Tom Basden, had a significantly larger cast than *God of Carnage*.

We received £22.94 in donations, thanks to £13.28 in donations via TicketSource and one member who did not accept a refund for duplicate membership payments.

We had no TicketSource referral income again this year.

Total income this year was £1768, slightly more than half of last year's total.

Our most significant expense was on our shows, *God of Carnage* in May/June 2024 and *Accidental Death of an Anarchist* in April 2025. This means that the very positive news relating to *Accidental Death* is strictly speaking outside the scope of this report.

This year, we spent £1337 on *Consuming Passions*. Although some of the significant expenses were incurred last year, including the deposit for the hire of Goldfinch School, the licence fee and scripts, this year we made the final payment to Goldfinch, and also covered a number of costs including refreshments, publicity material and programmes, costumes and props, the Temporary Events Notice, a discounted payment to David for the hire of Vinters for rehearsals, and a payment for the hire of rehearsal space when Vinters was unavailable.

Over December, February and March, we paid the usual expenses for the upcoming *Accidental Death*: scripts, licence, and venue hire. These totalled £1363, including £1000 for the hire of Woodmansterne School.

Our main expenses on events was £129 for refreshments for Terry Pratchett's Shorts in October, and £81.40 for *Importance of Being Earnest* scripts for our afternoon playreading, also in October. Our total expense on events was £353.43.

We had no other expenses than our usual ones of £284.29 for our insurance premium, an increase of £21 on last year, and bank charges of £71.40. Unity Trust's move from quarterly to monthly charging strangely benefitted us by £0.60.

Total expenses were £3409, slightly less than last year, leaving us with a loss of £1641.00.

Our costs were exacerbated this year once again by the fact that we received a contribution from only one show, whereas our outgoings also covered *Accidental Death*, performed in April this year. Our Balance Sheet shows a balance of £2,100.41, which is not exactly an unhealthy financial position, but as I hinted previously, *Accidental Death* raised the most contribution of any post-Covid show, which means that things are looking significantly healthier as I read this report.

Finally, in last year's report I stated that I was very happy to hand over the Treasurer's baton, and asked anyone who would like to take it on to see me after the meeting. To be absolutely honest I really enjoyed being Treasurer this year, and am happy to carry on, but obviously, if someone suitable comes forward, I shall hand on the baton.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "E. Burton". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Liz Burton, 08/07/2025