

REGISTERED COMPANY NUMBER: SC140452 (Scotland)
REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER: SC020599

Report of the Trustees and
Unaudited Financial Statements For The Year Ended 31 March 2026
for
Out of the Darkness Theatre Company

The Long Partnership
4 North Guildry Street
Elgin
Moray
IV30 1JR

Out of the Darkness Theatre Company

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Out of the Darkness Theatre Company

Report of the Trustees For The Year Ended 31 March 2026

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 31 March 2026. 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).

Out of the Darkness Theatre Company

Report of the Trustees

For The Year Ended 31 March 2026

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

On behalf of the Board of Trustees, I am delighted to present the Annual Report of Out of the Darkness Theatre Company (ODTC) for the year ending 31 March 2026.

This has been another remarkable year of growth, creativity, achievement and community impact. Through our performing arts programmes, day service activities, educational partnerships and productions, we have continued to provide inclusive opportunities that enable people to develop confidence, skills, friendships and pathways into further education, volunteering and employment.

The year has seen record audience attendance at our productions, increased student enrolment, successful fundraising initiatives, new educational opportunities and exciting progress towards our long-term ambition of securing a purpose-built theatre space for our community.

Our Purpose

Out of the Darkness Theatre Company exists to create inclusive opportunities through theatre, arts, creativity and performance. We support individuals of all ages and abilities to develop their confidence, skills, wellbeing and aspirations through accessible creative experiences.

Our activities include:

- Adult day service provision
- Performing arts training and education
- Community theatre productions
- Youth engagement initiatives
- Creative industry employability and work experience programmes
- Partnership working with schools, colleges and community organisations

Year in Review

April 2025

In April 2025, Out of the Darkness Theatre Company celebrated several significant achievements and milestones. Our members began using our new podcast sound recording studio, a fantastic addition to the organisation made possible through £9,150 of funding from the National Lottery Community Fund in 2024, for which we are extremely grateful.

We were also delighted to receive support from Deborah Bishop-Meiklejohn, the mother of one of our valued team members, Fraser, who took part in the Glasgow Kiltwalk on 26 April 2025 to raise funds for ODTC. Thanks to her dedication and generosity, she successfully raised an incredible £560.

Our NPA Acting and Performance students showcased their talents in the first end-of-year performances of this new course, presenting two outstanding productions of *Liar* by Gregory Burke under the direction of Gillian Murdoch from our UHI Performing Arts Team. We congratulate Gillian on a highly successful first year delivering the course. The performances demonstrated the students' growth, confidence and newly developed skills, thoroughly impressing audiences. Meanwhile, our HNC Acting and Performance students completed their final assessment for the Acting Methods and Practitioners unit, performing scenes in the style of Brecht alongside a Forum Theatre presentation inspired by Boal. Taught by our Creative Lead Practitioner, Emma, the students displayed remarkable skill, understanding, technique and talent across these contrasting theatrical styles, and we were immensely proud of everything they achieved throughout the unit and in their final performances.

May 2025

In May we experienced a month of transition, achievement and celebration. We said a fond farewell to Shannon-Lee Rowe, who had been a valued member of the ODTC team, contributing significantly to productions through the design of props and scenery, as well as supporting our members and numerous fundraising events. Having built strong relationships with both members and staff, Shannon-Lee will be greatly missed, and we wish her every success in her new full-time role. At the same time, we were delighted to welcome Ian Glover to the team. Ian was no stranger to ODTC, having worked with us during our early years at Elgin Town Hall, and it was wonderful to see a familiar face return after spending the last 12 years supporting pupils with additional support needs in schools.

Out of the Darkness Theatre Company

Report of the Trustees For The Year Ended 31 March 2026

May is always one of the busiest months in the ODTC calendar as our University of the Arts London (UAL) Performing and Production Arts and HNC Acting and Performance students present their end-of-year productions. This year, the HNC Acting and Performance students, under the direction of our Creative Director and Programme Leader Garry Collins, staged a challenging and ambitious programme featuring a double bill of *Anorak of Fire* and *I'm a Minger*, alongside an additional performance of *How to Disappear*. This marked the first time we had presented three productions for a single year group, and both audiences and staff were overwhelmed by the students' talent, dedication and ability to rise to the challenge. Our UAL students also delivered an outstanding showcase based on the theme *A Play on Words*. Directed by Garry Collins, with support from dance and voice lecturers Erika-Jayne Todd and Megan Chapman Campbell, the showcase featured a performance of *Gormenghast* by Mervyn Peake in Act One. Act Two highlighted the breadth of our students' abilities through a personalised showcase of selected works, including poetry, solo singing, movement pieces, classical and contemporary acting performances, musical duets and group dance medleys inspired by the theme.

All UHI performances were supported by ODTC's dedicated Technical Group members, Scott Collins, Alistair Hay, Grant Christie and Hugh Carter, under the supervision of Creative Practitioner Fraser Bishop. Our Multi-Arts Groups also played a vital role in the success of the productions by creating outstanding scenery and props, with thanks to Lead Practitioner Martin McAuslan and Creative Practitioners Ben Henderson and Ian Glover. The month proved to be an exceptional celebration of creativity and teamwork, highlighting the strength of our staff team and the remarkable talent of our members and students.

The end of the academic year also brought significant educational achievements. Student attendance and engagement across our performing arts programmes reached the highest levels within the college, and we were proud to see the majority of our learners progress to the next stage of study, either with us or at institutions including Aberdeen, Dundee and Queen Margaret Universities. In addition, our Foundation Apprenticeship in Creative and Digital Media received a High Confidence rating during its SQA External Verification visit. This success reflects the outstanding work of our Creative and Digital Media Lecturer Andrew French, who has developed and transformed the programme to industry standards, creating valuable real-world opportunities for students through initiatives such as Moray Game Jam and partnerships with organisations including the UHI Marketing Team, Developing the Young Workforce (DYW) Moray, Moray Council and Rizza's of Huntly. Collectively, these achievements further strengthen ODTC's commitment to providing high-quality education, training and opportunities within the creative and performing arts sector.

June 2025

In June 2025, preparations continued for Out of the Darkness Theatre Company's summer production of *Wonka* and the *Chocolate Factory*. Rehearsals were in full swing, with cast members working hard to develop their performances while our Multi-Arts and Technical Groups were busy behind the scenes designing and creating sets, props and costumes, as well as developing lighting and sound effects. These activities provided valuable opportunities for members to further enhance their creative and technical skills while contributing to a major production.

Although the academic year had concluded, our commitment to education and progression opportunities remained strong. ODTC attended the UHI Moray Open Day, where former students and members of our delivery team engaged with prospective learners interested in studying performing arts. Through demonstrations, discussions and first-hand experiences, they provided valuable insight into our courses and helped inspire future students considering enrolment for September.

Community engagement also remained a key focus throughout the month. A group of our performing arts students, supported by our Creative Lead Practitioner Emma, devised and delivered an original social awareness theatre piece centred on the theme of online safety and bullying. The performance was presented to Primary 7 pupils from across the Buckie area as part of their transition programme to Buckie High School during the annual Community Alert Day. Our students once again represented ODTC exceptionally well, using the power of drama to communicate important messages to young people preparing for the move to secondary education. The project highlighted both the talent of our students and the positive impact that theatre can have in promoting awareness and supporting local communities.

Out of the Darkness Theatre Company

Report of the Trustees For The Year Ended 31 March 2026

July 2025

In July 2025, Out of the Darkness Theatre Company continued to strengthen its connections within the local community through a range of engagement activities and partnership opportunities. Building positive relationships with other day service providers remains an important part of our work, and we were delighted to accept an invitation from Cedarwood and Artiquin Day Services to attend their outdoor music festival. Both staff and members enjoyed a fantastic afternoon of entertainment, social interaction and community spirit, further reinforcing the value of collaboration and inclusion across organisations.

We were also honoured to be invited by Elgin Rotary Club to deliver a presentation to its members about the work of Out of the Darkness Theatre Company. Our Creative Director, Garry Collins, attended the event and provided an in-depth overview of the organisation, including our programmes, recent achievements, current projects and future ambitions. A key focus of the presentation was our long-term vision to develop a purpose-built theatre space that will support the continued growth of ODTC and create greater opportunities for the people we serve. The presentation generated significant interest among attendees, with many thoughtful questions raised throughout the evening. The enthusiasm, support and engagement shown by Rotary members was greatly appreciated, and the event provided an excellent opportunity to raise awareness of our work and future plans within the wider community.

August 2025

In August 2025, Out of the Darkness Theatre Company celebrated another month of achievement, creativity and progression. We were delighted to support Career Ready student Kaysie Pyper from Speyside High School, who successfully completed a paid four-week internship with the company. Throughout the year, Kaysie was mentored by Fraser Bishop through regular monthly meetings designed to help her develop workplace skills and confidence in preparation for her placement. We are proud to play a role in the Career Ready programme, which is committed to ensuring every young person has the opportunity to build a rewarding future and gain valuable experience in the world of work.

August also marked the highly anticipated premiere of our summer production, *Wonka and the Chocolate Factory* directed by our Creative Lead, Emma and supported by our staff team and members. This ambitious project was a true company-wide collaboration, bringing together members from our Arts, Performance and Technical Groups to create a spectacular production for the local community. Demand for tickets was exceptional, with all three performances selling out in record time. Prior to opening night, we were delighted to welcome guests from Cedarwood and Artiquin Day Services to our dress rehearsal, providing our performers with their first opportunity to perform before a live audience. The production showcased the extraordinary creativity and commitment of our staff and members, with every aspect of the show, including set design, props, lighting, sound, filmmaking, media production and on-stage performance, created by our talented groups. Each individual contributed their own unique skills, imagination and dedication, resulting in an outstanding theatrical experience.

Following the success of the summer show, we organised a company-wide theatre trip to Eden Court to watch Starlight Musical Theatre Company's production of *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*. The outing provided a wonderful opportunity for staff and members to come together, celebrate their achievements and enjoy an inspiring evening of theatre. The performance was thoroughly enjoyed by everyone who attended and provided a fitting way to mark the success of our own production.

The month also saw one of our valued Performance Group members, Johnathan Heady, take an exciting next step in his journey as he left the group to begin paid employment with Elgin Town Hall for the Community. While we were sad to see him leave, we were incredibly proud of his achievement. Supporting our members to build confidence, develop interpersonal skills and progress into education, training and employment opportunities remains at the heart of our work. Johnathan's success is a wonderful example of the positive impact that participation in ODTC can have, and we wish him every success in his new role.

Out of the Darkness Theatre Company

Report of the Trustees For The Year Ended 31 March 2026

September 2025

In September 2025, we welcomed the start of a new academic year and a new intake of performing arts students as part of our continued successful partnership with UHI Moray. We were excited to begin another year of learning, creativity and development with our students, helping them build the skills and confidence needed for future careers in the creative industries. As part of the induction programme, students took part in an industry awareness visit to Eden Court in Inverness, providing them with valuable insight into the workings of one of the Highlands' leading arts venues. During the visit, students learned about the day-to-day operations of the organisation and explored the wide range of career opportunities available within the performing arts and creative sectors. They also participated a tour of the theatre and a question-and-answer session with members of the Eden Court team, giving them the opportunity to hear first-hand about different professional roles, experiences and pathways within the industry. The visit provided an inspiring and informative start to the academic year, helping students gain a broader understanding of the opportunities available to them as they progress through their studies.

October 2025

In October 2025, Out of the Darkness Theatre Company further strengthened its commitment to supporting young people and developing future talent by becoming a pledge partner with Developing the Young Workforce (DYW) Moray. Through this partnership, we committed to expanding our support for apprenticeships, work experience placements, school engagement activities, careers fairs and mentoring opportunities. Working alongside the DYW Moray team continues to be a privilege, and we are proud to play a role in inspiring and supporting the next generation as they explore pathways into employment and the creative industries.

The month also provided an opportunity to celebrate the achievements of our students from the 2024/25 academic year at the UHI Moray Graduation Ceremony, held at Moray Sports Centre. It was a proud moment for everyone at ODTC to see our graduates recognised for their hard work, dedication and accomplishments. Throughout their time with both ODTC and UHI Moray, these students demonstrated exceptional talent, creativity and commitment, making a lasting contribution to our organisation. We congratulate each and every graduate and wish them continued success in the next stage of their educational, professional and creative journeys.

We were also extremely grateful to receive a generous donation from BP's Clair Platform, organised through the support of Shane Simpson, uncle of one of our members. This kind contribution will help us continue delivering inclusive, community-focused theatre and creative opportunities across Moray and beyond. The support of individuals, businesses and community partners is invaluable in enabling us to expand our work and ensure that people of all backgrounds and abilities can access the benefits of participation in the arts.

November 2025

November continued to build momentum with a range of creative projects, fundraising successes and community celebrations. Our Multi-Arts Group proudly completed and handed over their 15th annual Guy for the Elgin Rotary Bonfire and Fireworks event at Cooper Park. Carefully designed and created by our members with the support of Martin McAuslan and Ian Glover, the project remains a much-loved tradition and a wonderful opportunity for our members to play a central role in one of Elgin's most popular community events.

Throughout the month, rehearsals continued at full pace for both our annual ODTC pantomime, Aladdin, and our University of the Arts London (UAL) Christmas production. Staff, students and members worked tirelessly behind the scenes and on stage to prepare for a busy festive performance season. Excitement grew even further when tickets for Aladdin went on sale, with all three scheduled performances selling out in record time. The overwhelming demand once again highlighted the growing need for a larger performance venue for ODTC. In response to this unprecedented support, an additional performance was added to the schedule for December, which also sold out within just a few days.

November also gave us the opportunity to celebrate one of our long-standing members, Steven Donald, who marked his 60th birthday. Steven, a valued member of our Thursday Technical Group, has been part of the ODTC family for many years, and it was a pleasure for staff and members to come together to share this special milestone with him. The celebration reflected the strong sense of community, friendship and belonging that remains at the heart of everything we do.

Out of the Darkness Theatre Company

Report of the Trustees For The Year Ended 31 March 2026

We were also incredibly grateful to receive a generous donation of £1,500 from the Madhatters of Buckie. The fundraising effort was organised by Suzanne Clark, whose son Jody is a member of ODTc and attends sessions on Mondays and Fridays. This wonderful contribution added to the tremendous support we have received from local groups and organisations throughout the year. These donations play a vital role in helping us continue to deliver inclusive, community-focused creative opportunities and ensure that people across Moray can access the many benefits that participation in the arts provides.

December 2025

In December, we rounded off another remarkable year with a series of outstanding productions, community achievements and significant milestones. Our University of the Arts London (UAL) Performing and Production Arts students spread festive cheer across Moray by touring their Christmas productions of *The Highway Rat* and *The Stick Man*, both based on the much-loved stories by Julia Donaldson. The performances were specially presented to Enhanced Provision pupils at Elgin High School and Lossiemouth High School, bringing theatre directly to young audiences and creating magical shared experiences. To conclude the tour, the students delivered a final performance for the children and staff of the UHI Moray Nursery, providing a fitting end to a successful and rewarding week.

December also saw the premiere of our annual pantomime, *Aladdin*, which once again proved to be a huge success for ODTc. Directed by Emma and supported by Martin, our staff team and dedicated Technical Group members, the production showcased the incredible talent, creativity and teamwork that exists across the organisation. From lighting, sound, media production and marketing to set design, prop creation, backstage support and the performances on stage, every aspect of the show was brought to life through the hard work and dedication of our members, students, volunteers and staff. All four performances were completely sold out, welcoming packed audiences of parents, carers, family members, friends and supporters from across the community. Their continued enthusiasm and encouragement remain invaluable to the success of our work and further demonstrate the growing demand for ODTc productions.

A particularly meaningful moment for the organisation came with the installation of a new defibrillator at our premises, dedicated to the memory of Sean Blacklaw, who tragically passed away following a cardiac arrest in November 2024. This life-saving equipment was made possible through fundraising efforts during Blacklaw's Allstar Showcase in June, alongside the generosity and support of the wider ODTc community. We are deeply grateful to everyone who contributed, volunteered or donated towards this important project. Special thanks must also go to Keiran's Legacy for their guidance, expertise and support in supplying and installing the defibrillator. We are proud to stand alongside Sarah and her team at Blacklaw Dance Company in helping to improve safety and wellbeing within our creative community for years to come.

The month concluded with another outstanding achievement as a group of young people from Speyside High School represented ODTc through the Youth and Philanthropy Initiative (YPI), supported by Creative Practitioner and YPI Champion Ben Henderson. The students delivered an inspirational presentation to a panel of judges, passionately championing the work of Out of the Darkness Theatre Company. Demonstrating confidence, creativity and professionalism throughout, they successfully raised awareness of our organisation and its impact across the community. Their dedication and commitment were rewarded with an incredible £3,000 funding award for ODTc. We were immensely proud of their efforts and grateful for the enthusiasm and professionalism they brought to the programme, making them exceptional ambassadors for both their school and our organisation.

January 2026

In January 2026, our HNC Acting and Performance students at UHI Moray concluded the term on a high, demonstrating exceptional commitment, creativity and resilience as they completed a demanding assessment period. A particular highlight was their Creating Devised Theatre assessment, where students worked collaboratively to devise, develop and stage an original production from scratch within just a few weeks. Under the expert guidance of Emma, the group embraced the challenge with enthusiasm and professionalism, producing imaginative and engaging work while developing their skills in collaboration, performance and creative theatre-making.

Out of the Darkness Theatre Company

Report of the Trustees

For The Year Ended 31 March 2026

As we looked ahead to the future, we continued to respond to the growing demand for creative and performing arts education across Moray. We were delighted to receive approval from UHI Moray to launch two new programmes: an HND Acting and Performance course and a National Progression Award (NPA) in Dance for Senior Phase pupils in S4 to S6, delivered on Wednesdays. These exciting additions will provide even greater opportunities for learners to develop their talents, gain recognised qualifications and explore pathways into further education, training and employment within the creative industries. The expansion of our educational provision highlighted the continued growth of the organisation and identified a need to strengthen our staff team. As a result, we began the recruitment process to appoint two new part-time team members who will support the delivery of these programmes and help us continue providing high-quality learning experiences for our students.

February 2026

In February 2026, Out of the Darkness Theatre Company continued to champion creativity, collaboration and opportunities for young people across Moray through a range of exciting partnerships and events. We were delighted to be involved in the inaugural Elgin Film Festival, part of Film Hub Scotland's Spotlight programme and hosted by Elgin Town Hall for the Community. Our chosen film, *Stand By Me*, was selected and curated by Out of the Darkness Theatre Company and UHI Moray Performing Arts students because of its powerful themes of storytelling, character development and friendship. Students introduced the screening and led a post-film question-and-answer session, sharing their reasons for selecting the film and encouraging discussion with the audience. The event celebrated young voices, creative thinking and the shared enjoyment of film, demonstrating how cinema can inspire meaningful conversations and strengthen community engagement.

Throughout the month, our Creative Practitioner, Ben Henderson, remained actively involved in Youth and Philanthropy Initiative (YPI) charity fairs across Moray's secondary schools. It was inspiring to engage with so many young people whose enthusiasm, curiosity and genuine interest in charitable work and community services highlighted the positive impact that youth engagement can have. These events provided valuable opportunities to raise awareness of the work we do and to showcase how inclusive arts programmes can support wellbeing, confidence and personal development for individuals across Moray and beyond.

We were also proud to support the wider creative sector by sponsoring the Moray Game Jam, reinforcing our commitment to encouraging creativity, innovation and opportunities within the region's growing creative industries. Supporting initiatives such as this helps nurture emerging talent and encourages collaboration between different creative disciplines.

Another highlight of the month was welcoming Scottish Youth Theatre to Out of the Darkness Theatre Company for their inspiring encounters workshop with our UHI Moray Performing and Production Arts students. The session was filled with creativity, collaboration and engaging discussion, offering students valuable insight into storytelling, devising techniques and youth-led theatre-making. Participants were encouraged to explore new ideas, challenge themselves creatively and develop their understanding of contemporary performance practice. The workshop left students feeling motivated, inspired and full of fresh ideas, and we are extremely grateful to Scottish Youth Theatre for sharing their expertise and creating such a supportive and dynamic environment in which our young artists could learn and thrive.

March 2026

March seen another inspiring month of creativity, collaboration and professional development. We were honoured to be invited by the trustees of The Gordon & Ena Baxter Foundation to share more about the work of ODTC, highlighting the creativity, inclusion and community spirit that sit at the heart of everything we do. The visit provided a valuable opportunity to discuss our future ambitions and vision for the organisation, and we are grateful to the Foundation for their interest and support for accessible theatre across Moray.

As part of our ongoing exploration of future development opportunities and our ambition to secure a purpose-built theatre space, representatives from ODTC visited Mind the Gap in Bradford, a pioneering theatre company working with adults with learning disabilities. The visit provided invaluable insight into their journey towards creating a dedicated theatre facility and offered inspiration as we continue planning for our own future. We were warmly welcomed by the Mind the Gap team and artists, whose passion, creativity and commitment to inclusion left a lasting impression. Special thanks go to MJ, Maria, Charli, and the talented artists Jake, Paul and Charlotte for sharing their experiences and providing a fascinating inspiring tour of their impressive facilities.

Out of the Darkness Theatre Company

Report of the Trustees

For The Year Ended 31 March 2026

During the month, Emma also delivered an engaging evening of improvisation and creativity for the Elgin and District Ladies Circle. Through a series of fun, confidence-building exercises and interactive activities, participants were encouraged to step outside their comfort zones, support one another and embrace the creative process. The event provided a fantastic opportunity for ODTC to connect with another local community group and demonstrate the positive impact that creative participation can have on confidence, wellbeing and social connection.

March was also an important month for our student performers. Our UAL Performing and Production Arts students presented their Project 2 production, *Little Shop of Horrors*, to a packed audience. Directed by Garry Collins, Erika-Jayne Todd and Megan Chapman Campbell, and supported by Fraser Bishop and our dedicated Technical Group members, the production showcased an impressive level of talent, commitment and teamwork. From performers and creatives to stage crew and technical support, every student played an important role in bringing the production to life. The growth in confidence, technical ability and stage presence demonstrated throughout the project was remarkable, and the final performance reflected the hard work and dedication invested by everyone involved.

Our NPA Acting and Performance students also took to the stage with their end-of-year production of *I'm Spilling My Heart Out Here* by Stacey Gregg, performed at Elgin Youth Café. Exploring the realities of teenage life through humour, honesty and emotion, the production allowed students to showcase the skills they had developed throughout their Senior Phase course. Their energy, creativity and commitment shone through in every scene, and it was wonderful to see how much each learner had progressed over the course of the year.

Adding further inspiration to the month, we were delighted to welcome professional actor, writer and author Tamzin Merchant to speak with our performing arts students. Drawing on her extensive experience within film, television, writing and publishing, Tamzin provided an insightful and honest account of her creative journey. Students gained valuable industry knowledge and advice while hearing about her work as an actor, screenwriter, director and the internationally published author of *The Hatmakers* series. Her openness, humour and generosity made the session both informative and inspiring for everyone in attendance.

We rounded off the month and financial year with our hugely successful 90s-themed fundraising trivia night. Packed with nostalgic music, colourful outfits and plenty of laughter, the event brought together supporters, members, staff and the wider community for an evening of fun and entertainment. As well as being a memorable social occasion, the event successfully raised valuable funds to support our production programme and outreach activities, helping us continue to deliver creative opportunities and inclusive arts experiences throughout Moray.

Highlights

Over the course of the year, Out of the Darkness Theatre Company has continued to grow and thrive, welcoming new members into our adult day services provision, increasing student enrolment across our educational programmes and strengthening partnerships with schools, Developing the Young Workforce (DYW) Moray and a wide range of local community organisations. These collaborations have enabled us to expand opportunities for participation, learning and creative engagement, ensuring that more people across Moray can benefit from inclusive arts experiences.

A particularly special milestone this year was the celebration of our Creative Lead Practitioner, Martin McAuslan's 20th work anniversary with ODTC in June. Martin's dedication, expertise and unwavering commitment have made an immeasurable contribution to the organisation over the past two decades. His creativity, support and kindness have positively impacted countless members, students and colleagues, and we are incredibly fortunate to have such a valued member of our team. Martin's passion for the arts and commitment to helping others ensures that every day at ODTC is a positive and inspiring experience.

Volunteer Support

The support of our volunteers continues to be invaluable to the success of Out of the Darkness Theatre Company. Throughout the year, volunteers have given their time, skills and enthusiasm to support our day service groups and activities, helping ensure that our members receive the best possible experience. We would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to Jackie Russell, Molly Proctor, Beth Manson, Evie Collins, Scott Collins, Kerry Peace and Emily Peace for their ongoing dedication and commitment. Their contribution plays a vital role in the day-to-day running of our programmes and is greatly appreciated by everyone at ODTC.

Out of the Darkness Theatre Company

Report of the Trustees

For The Year Ended 31 March 2026

Community Support

We are always incredibly grateful for the ongoing support we receive from individuals, businesses and community partners throughout the year. A special mention must go to "Tesco Tracy", whose generosity and continued support of ODTC has helped our productions and events throughout the year. Whether through donations, encouragement or simply taking an active interest in our work, Tracy has become a valued friend of the organisation. It is always a pleasure to welcome her to our productions and activities, and we extend our sincere thanks on behalf of all our staff, members and students.

Social Media Growth

Expanding our reach and raising awareness of our work continues to be a key focus for the organisation. Throughout the year, our social media presence has continued to grow, enabling us to engage with new audiences and showcase the incredible achievements of our members and students. Our Instagram platform has seen a steady increase in followers, while our TikTok channel, managed by Ben Henderson, has experienced significant growth and engagement. Several posts have achieved over 500,000 views, helping us reach audiences far beyond Moray and highlighting the positive impact and creativity that exists within ODTC.

Future Endeavours and Looking Ahead

Looking ahead, we remain focused on our long-term vision of securing a purpose-built theatre space that will allow us to continue expanding our services and opportunities for the people we support. Throughout the year, we have continued working closely with Moray Chamber of Commerce and Highlands and Islands Enterprise to explore funding opportunities and strategic support for this ambitious project. We are also actively investigating potential property opportunities within Elgin that could help bring this vision to life. The continued growth of our educational programmes, sold-out productions and increasing community engagement clearly demonstrate the need for a larger, dedicated home where ODTC can continue to inspire creativity, inclusion and personal development for generations to come.

The coming year promises to be another exciting chapter for Out of the Darkness Theatre Company.

Our key priorities include:

- Launching the new HND Acting and Performance programme.
- Delivering the new NPA Dance course.
- Continuing to expand opportunities for learners and members.
- Strengthening partnerships with educational and community organisations.
- Increasing employability pathways into creative industries.
- Continuing discussions with Moray Chamber of Commerce and Highlands and Islands Enterprise regarding funding opportunities.
- Exploring property opportunities in Elgin that could support the development of a future purpose-built theatre and arts facility.

Thanks

On behalf of the Board of Trustees, I would like to thank our staff team, volunteers, members, students, funders, partners and supporters for another exceptional year.

I want to acknowledge the work of our Creative Director Garry Collins. While we still navigate obtaining a premise for all operations, Garry is always on the move between HQ, the College, High Church Hall and everywhere else he may be required on a given day. Garry continues to lead the team and develop the company through this amazing journey allowing it to continually flourish and achieve. This is done with the full support of Business Manager Mark Sellars who applies the diligence and planning from the operational side to compliment the work of Garry. Mark manages the two contracts, Moray Council Health and Social Care for our members to attend our varied service throughout the week and UHI Moray students to study, learn, perform and achieve their course over the academic year. Further to this, the internal running of the Out of the Darkness Theatre Company requires monies for our rented building as well as building upkeep, maintenance, improvements, and comfortable surroundings to work in. For the UHI Moray side of the business, this requires monies for external hire, booking of various locations to study, correspondence with the Head of Curriculum, and much more. Without Mark's care, sound judgement, sharp financial overview, extensive knowledge of the business, his personal attention to the Creative Team's needs, well-being and progression to deliver the best, that the Out of the Darkness Theatre Company can offer, we would not progress in the successful manner and trajectory it is currently on, or in the years to come to expansive heights of success.

Your passion, dedication and belief in inclusive theatre continue to transform lives throughout Moray and beyond helping Out of the Darkness Theatre Company achieve its charitable aims each and every day.

Out of the Darkness Theatre Company

Report of the Trustees For The Year Ended 31 March 2026

FINANCIAL REVIEW

The directors have examined the requirements for unrestricted funds and consider that there are adequate resources to allow the charity to maintain its operational capacity. The total income for the year ended 31 March 2026 was £407,715 (2025 - £345,987) and expenditure was £389,174 (2025 - £329,288), this resulted in a surplus of £18,541 (2025 - £16,699). Reserves at 31 March 2026 stood at £129,963 and all relates to unrestricted funds. The reserves at 31 March 2026 are adequate to allow the charity to fulfil its aims as future funding is generated mainly through grants and income generated from services provided by the company.

It is the policy of the charity that unrestricted funds which have not been designated for a specific use should be maintained at a level equivalent to between three and six month's expenditure. The trustees consider that reserves at this level will ensure that, in the event of a significant drop in funding, they will be able to continue the charity's current activities while consideration is given to ways in which additional funds may be raised. This level of reserves has been maintained throughout the year.

The trustees have assessed the major risks to which the charity is exposed, in particular those related to the operations and finances of the charity, and are satisfied that systems are in place to mitigate exposure to the major risks.

Out of the Darkness Theatre Company

Report of the Trustees For The Year Ended 31 March 2026

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Governing document

The charity is controlled by its governing document, a deed of trust, and constitutes a limited company, limited by guarantee, as defined by the Companies Act 2006.

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Registered Company number

SC140452 (Scotland)

Registered Charity number

SC020599

Registered office

The Wards
Elgin
Moray
IV30 6AA

Trustees

J I MacMillan
J O Ramsay
H A Scott
L Young
M Munro
J Young

Independent Examiner

Alan Long FCA
The Long Partnership
4 North Guildry Street
Elgin
Moray
IV30 1JR

Bankers

Bank of Scotland
P O Box 17235
Edinburgh
EH11 1YH

Approved by order of the board of trustees on 2 September 2026 and signed on its behalf by:

J I MacMillan - Trustee

miner's Report to the Trustees of Out of the Darkness Theatre Company

I report on the accounts for the year ended 31 March 2026 set out on pages thirteen to twenty two.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the terms of the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 and the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 (as amended). The charity's trustees consider that the audit requirement of Regulation 10(1)(a) to (c) of the Accounts Regulations does not apply. It is my responsibility to examine the accounts as required under Section 44(1)(c) of the Act and to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of the independent examiner's report

My examination was carried out in accordance with Regulation 11 of the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on the view given by the accounts.

Independent examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention :

- (1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that, in any material respect, the requirements
 - to keep accounting records in accordance with Section 44(1)(a) of the 2005 Act and Regulation 4 of the 2006 Accounts Regulations; and
 - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and to comply with Regulation 8 of the 2006 Accounts Regulations

have not been met; or

- (2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Alan Long FCA
The Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales

The Long Partnership
4 North Guildry Street
Elgin
Moray
IV30 1JR

2 September 2026

Out of the Darkness Theatre Company

Statement of Financial Activities For The Year Ended 31 March 2026

	Notes	Unrestricted fund £	Restricted fund £	31.3.26 Total funds £	31.3.25 Total funds £
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM					
Donations and legacies		13,272	-	13,272	23,073
Charitable activities	2	393,543	-	393,543	321,788
Investment income	3	<u>900</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>900</u>	<u>1,126</u>
Total		<u>407,715</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>407,715</u>	<u>345,987</u>
EXPENDITURE ON					
Raising funds		275	-	275	-
Charitable activities					
General		388,741	-	388,741	328,976
Other		<u>158</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>158</u>	<u>312</u>
Total		<u>389,174</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>389,174</u>	<u>329,288</u>
NET INCOME		18,541	-	18,541	16,699
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS					
Total funds brought forward		<u>111,422</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>111,422</u>	<u>94,723</u>
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD		<u><u>129,963</u></u>	<u><u>-</u></u>	<u><u>129,963</u></u>	<u><u>111,422</u></u>

The notes form part of these financial statements

Out of the Darkness Theatre Company

Balance Sheet 31 March 2026

	Notes	Unrestricted fund £	Restricted fund £	31.3.26 Total funds £	31.3.25 Total funds £
FIXED ASSETS					
Tangible assets	8	20,632	-	20,632	27,508
CURRENT ASSETS					
Debtors	9	23,315	-	23,315	19,073
Cash at bank		<u>102,517</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>102,517</u>	<u>83,565</u>
		125,832	-	125,832	102,638
CREDITORS					
Amounts falling due within one year	10	(16,501)	-	(16,501)	(15,391)
		<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
NET CURRENT ASSETS		<u>109,331</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>109,331</u>	<u>87,247</u>
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES		129,963	-	129,963	114,755
CREDITORS					
Amounts falling due after more than one year	11	-	-	-	(3,333)
		<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
NET ASSETS		<u>129,963</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>129,963</u>	<u>111,422</u>
FUNDS	14				
Unrestricted funds				<u>129,963</u>	<u>111,422</u>
TOTAL FUNDS				<u>129,963</u>	<u>111,422</u>

The charitable company is entitled to exemption from audit under Section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 for the year ended 31 March 2026.

The members have not required the company to obtain an audit of its financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2026 in accordance with Section 476 of the Companies Act 2006.

The trustees acknowledge their responsibilities for

- ensuring that the charitable company keeps accounting records that comply with Sections 386 and 387 of the Companies Act 2006 and
- preparing financial statements which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company as at the end of each financial year and of its surplus or deficit for each financial year in accordance with the requirements of Sections 394 and 395 and which otherwise comply with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 relating to financial statements, so far as applicable to the charitable company.

The notes form part of these financial statements

Out of the Darkness Theatre Company

Balance Sheet - continued **31 March 2026**

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to charitable companies subject to the small companies regime.

The financial statements were approved by the Board of Trustees and authorised for issue on 2 September 2026 and were signed on its behalf by:

J I MacMillan - Trustee

The notes form part of these financial statements

Out of the Darkness Theatre Company

Notes to the Financial Statements For The Year Ended 31 March 2026

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Basis of preparing the financial statements

The financial statements of the charitable company, which is a public benefit entity under FRS 102, have been prepared in accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102) '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)', Financial Reporting Standard 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland' and the Companies Act 2006. The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention.

Income

All income is recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities once the charity has entitlement to the funds, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured reliably.

Expenditure

Liabilities are recognised as expenditure as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to that expenditure, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required in settlement and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. Expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all cost related to the category. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings they have been allocated to activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources.

Tangible fixed assets

Depreciation is provided at the following annual rates in order to write off each asset over its estimated useful life.

Freehold property	- 10% on cost
Plant and machinery	- 25% on reducing balance
Computer equipment	- 33% on cost

Taxation

The charity is exempt from corporation tax on its charitable activities.

Fund accounting

Unrestricted funds can be used in accordance with the charitable objectives at the discretion of the trustees.

Restricted funds can only be used for particular restricted purposes within the objects of the charity. Restrictions arise when specified by the donor or when funds are raised for particular restricted purposes.

Further explanation of the nature and purpose of each fund is included in the notes to the financial statements.

Employee benefits

The cost of any unused holiday entitlement is recognised in the period in which the employee's services are received.

Termination benefits are recognised as an expense when the charity is demonstrably committed to terminate the employment of an employee or to provide termination benefits

Retirement benefits

Payments to defined contribution retirement schemes are charged as an expense as they fall due.

Out of the Darkness Theatre Company

Notes to the Financial Statements - continued For The Year Ended 31 March 2026

2. CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

	31.3.26	31.3.25
	£	£
Service level agreement	147,140	114,506
NHS Highland Services	23,320	16,463
Workshops	2,296	24,120
Performance	49,909	53,004
Work skills	10,365	10,365
Arts	63,764	45,306
ILF Funding	25,355	12,265
SDS	32,250	18,279
Pantomime	5,655	3,264
Room hire and sundry income	15,420	13,066
In House Performances	4,714	3,275
NPA Acting and Performing	13,355	7,875
	<u>393,543</u>	<u>321,788</u>

3. INVESTMENT INCOME

	31.3.26	31.3.25
	£	£
Deposit account interest	<u>900</u>	<u>1,126</u>

4. NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)

Net income/(expenditure) is stated after charging/(crediting):

	31.3.26	31.3.25
	£	£
Depreciation - owned assets	9,298	8,034
Deficit on disposal of fixed assets	<u>315</u>	<u>-</u>

5. TRUSTEES' REMUNERATION AND BENEFITS

There were no trustees' remuneration or other benefits for the year ended 31 March 2026 nor for the year ended 31 March 2025.

Trustees' expenses

There were no trustees' expenses paid for the year ended 31 March 2026 nor for the year ended 31 March 2025.

Out of the Darkness Theatre Company

Notes to the Financial Statements - continued For The Year Ended 31 March 2026

6. STAFF COSTS

The average monthly number of employees during the year was as follows:

	31.3.26	31.3.25
Full time staff	4	4
Part time staff	<u>3</u>	<u>3</u>
	<u>7</u>	<u>7</u>

No employees received emoluments in excess of £60,000.

7. COMPARATIVES FOR THE STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

	Unrestricted fund £	Restricted fund £	Total funds £
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM			
Donations and legacies	13,923	9,150	23,073
Charitable activities	321,788	-	321,788
Investment income	<u>1,126</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,126</u>
Total	<u>336,837</u>	<u>9,150</u>	<u>345,987</u>
EXPENDITURE ON			
Charitable activities			
General	328,976	-	328,976
Other	<u>312</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>312</u>
Total	<u>329,288</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>329,288</u>
NET INCOME	7,549	9,150	16,699
Transfers between funds	<u>9,150</u>	<u>(9,150)</u>	<u>-</u>
Net movement in funds	16,699	-	16,699
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS			
Total funds brought forward	94,723	-	94,723
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD	<u>111,422</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>111,422</u>

Out of the Darkness Theatre Company

Notes to the Financial Statements - continued **For The Year Ended 31 March 2026**

8. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

	Freehold property £	Plant and machinery £	Computer equipment £	Totals £
COST				
At 1 April 2025	18,409	28,646	16,762	63,817
Additions	-	2,514	223	2,737
Disposals	<u>-</u>	<u>(834)</u>	<u>(4,351)</u>	<u>(5,185)</u>
At 31 March 2026	<u>18,409</u>	<u>30,326</u>	<u>12,634</u>	<u>61,369</u>
DEPRECIATION				
At 1 April 2025	12,887	15,170	8,252	36,309
Charge for year	1,841	3,587	3,870	9,298
Eliminated on disposal	<u>-</u>	<u>(519)</u>	<u>(4,351)</u>	<u>(4,870)</u>
At 31 March 2026	<u>14,728</u>	<u>18,238</u>	<u>7,771</u>	<u>40,737</u>
NET BOOK VALUE				
At 31 March 2026	<u>3,681</u>	<u>12,088</u>	<u>4,863</u>	<u>20,632</u>
At 31 March 2025	<u>5,522</u>	<u>13,476</u>	<u>8,510</u>	<u>27,508</u>

9. DEBTORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	31.3.26 £	31.3.25 £
Trade debtors	22,997	18,755
Prepayments	<u>318</u>	<u>318</u>
	<u>23,315</u>	<u>19,073</u>

10. CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	31.3.26 £	31.3.25 £
Bank loans and overdrafts (see note 12)	3,333	5,000
Trade creditors	-	886
Credit card	1,153	807
Social security and other taxes	5,845	5,114
Wages and pension	974	887
Accrued expenses	<u>5,196</u>	<u>2,697</u>
	<u>16,501</u>	<u>15,391</u>

Out of the Darkness Theatre Company

Notes to the Financial Statements - continued For The Year Ended 31 March 2026

11. CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE AFTER MORE THAN ONE YEAR

	31.3.26	31.3.25
	£	£
Bank loans (see note 12)	-	3,333

12. LOANS

An analysis of the maturity of loans is given below:

	31.3.26	31.3.25
	£	£
Amounts falling due within one year on demand:		
Bank loans	3,333	5,000
Amounts falling between one and two years:		
Bank loans - 1-2 years	-	3,333

13. LEASING AGREEMENTS

Minimum lease payments under non-cancellable operating leases fall due as follows:

	31.3.26	31.3.25
	£	£
Within one year	20,000	20,000
In more than five years	100,000	100,000
	120,000	120,000

14. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS

	At 1.4.25	Net movement in funds	At 31.3.26
	£	£	£
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	111,422	18,541	129,963
TOTAL FUNDS	111,422	18,541	129,963

Net movement in funds, included in the above are as follows:

	Incoming resources	Resources expended	Movement in funds
	£	£	£
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	407,715	(389,174)	18,541
TOTAL FUNDS	407,715	(389,174)	18,541

Out of the Darkness Theatre Company

Notes to the Financial Statements - continued For The Year Ended 31 March 2026

14. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS - continued

Comparatives for movement in funds

	At 1.4.24 £	Net movement in funds £	Transfers between funds £	At 31.3.25 £
Unrestricted funds				
General fund	94,723	7,549	9,150	111,422
Restricted funds				
National Lottery Community Fund	-	9,150	(9,150)	-
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>94,723</u>	<u>16,699</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>111,422</u>

Comparative net movement in funds, included in the above are as follows:

	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Movement in funds £
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	336,837	(329,288)	7,549
Restricted funds			
National Lottery Community Fund	9,150	-	9,150
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>345,987</u>	<u>(329,288)</u>	<u>16,699</u>

A current year 12 months and prior year 12 months combined position is as follows:

	At 1.4.24 £	Net movement in funds £	Transfers between funds £	At 31.3.26 £
Unrestricted funds				
General fund	94,723	26,090	9,150	129,963
Restricted funds				
National Lottery Community Fund	-	9,150	(9,150)	-
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>94,723</u>	<u>35,240</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>129,963</u>

Out of the Darkness Theatre Company

Notes to the Financial Statements - continued For The Year Ended 31 March 2026

14. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS - continued

A current year 12 months and prior year 12 months combined net movement in funds, included in the above are as follows:

	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Movement in funds £
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	744,552	(718,462)	26,090
Restricted funds			
National Lottery Community Fund	9,150	-	9,150
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>753,702</u>	<u>(718,462)</u>	<u>35,240</u>

15. RELATED PARTY DISCLOSURES

There were no related party transactions for the year ended 31 March 2026.

Out of the Darkness Theatre Company

Detailed Statement of Financial Activities For The Year Ended 31 March 2026

	31.3.26 £	31.3.25 £
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS		
Donations and legacies		
Donations	13,272	13,923
Grants	-	9,150
	<u>13,272</u>	<u>23,073</u>
Charitable activities		
Service level agreement	147,140	114,506
NHS Highland Services	23,320	16,463
Workshops	2,296	24,120
Performance	49,909	53,004
Work skills	10,365	10,365
Arts	63,764	45,306
ILF Funding	25,355	12,265
SDS	32,250	18,279
Pantomime	5,655	3,264
Room hire and sundry income	15,420	13,066
In House Performances	4,714	3,275
NPA Acting and Performing	<u>13,355</u>	<u>7,875</u>
	393,543	321,788
Investment income		
Deposit account interest	<u>900</u>	<u>1,126</u>
Total incoming resources	407,715	345,987
EXPENDITURE		
Other trading activities		
Bad debts	275	-
Charitable activities		
Wages	259,656	217,531
Pension costs	11,738	10,766
Rent, rates and water	30,222	26,431
Insurance	3,889	3,655
Light and heat	10,287	9,795
Marketing	3,394	1,648
Repairs and maintenance	6,543	8,045
Cleaning and consumables	11,203	7,857
Administration expenses	33,091	25,965
Service and provision expenses	8,063	8,261
Independent examiner	887	888
Freehold property	1,841	1,841
Plant and machinery	3,586	3,485
Carried forward	<u>384,400</u>	<u>326,168</u>

This page does not form part of the statutory financial statements

Out of the Darkness Theatre Company**Detailed Statement of Financial Activities
For The Year Ended 31 March 2026**

	31.3.26 £	31.3.25 £
Charitable activities		
Brought forward	384,400	326,168
Computer equipment	<u>3,871</u>	<u>2,708</u>
	388,271	328,876
Other		
Bank loan interest	158	312
Support costs		
Finance		
Bank charges	155	100
Loss on sale of tangible fixed assets	<u>315</u>	<u>-</u>
	<u>470</u>	<u>100</u>
Total resources expended	<u>389,174</u>	<u>329,288</u>
Net income	<u><u>18,541</u></u>	<u><u>16,699</u></u>

This page does not form part of the statutory financial statements