



STRANGE TOWN

Limited by Guarantee

**TRUSTEES' REPORT
AND
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

**CHARITY NUMBER: SC045646
COMPANY NUMBER: SC330197**

STRANGE TOWN

TRUSTEES' REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

Charity No: SC045646
Company No: SC330197

The Trustees/Directors submit their report and Financial Statements for the year ended 31 August 2025. The Financial Statements comply with the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005, the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 (as amended), the Companies Act 2006, the Memorandum and Articles of Association, and 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).

CHAIR'S REPORT

The year 2024-2025 marked a period of consolidation and resilience following a challenging financial year in 2023-2024. During this financial year, the intention of the organisation was to ensure that the Strange Town programme could continue with minimal impact on the young people. The small core staff team including, the part-time fundraiser, are to be commended for their commitment, creativity and output to meet this aim and accordingly there are many highlights to note.

Youth Theatre and Outreach

Strange Town continues to provide high-quality training and mentoring, supporting over 330 young people in Edinburgh through:

- Youth Theatre
- Strange Town Young Company for ages 18-25
- Theatre for Young Audiences – early-career professionals taking theatre to secondary schools
- Holiday Projects for 8-14 year olds
- The Actors' Agency, providing professional opportunities for young actors
- Employment and work experience opportunities for young adults

Productions and Touring Performances

There were performance opportunities for all age groups of the youth theatre, including

- sold out performances of Christmas shows;
- The Spark Showcase - a new format of short-form devised performances;
- introduction of an auditioned group of 8-25 year olds;
- expansion of the Film-making group (supported by Edinburgh Airport);
- sold out shows of 4-star show *The Dark Up Close* by Jack MacGregor:

"a play that has much to say about young people's feelings towards national defence and 'boots on the ground' in these tumultuous times.

All Edinburgh Theatre

- 7 new plays were commissioned,
- 3 showcases were performed in venues across Edinburgh including Scotland's home of new-writing, Traverse Theatre, Scottish Storytelling Centre and Summerhall.

The Touring Company revived *Her* by Jennifer Adam a vital piece of new writing about the impact of the digital world on teenagers. It was incredibly well-received by audiences in an extensive tour of Edinburgh's secondary schools before public performances at Summerhall. The play has been published by Salamander Street.

The Actors Agency

There were notable successes in the Agency:

- actors were in films that were showcased in eight international film festivals
- Ruaridh Mollica was nominated for Breakthrough Performance in Sebastian at the British Independent Film Awards
- Three projects featuring agency clients were nominated for BAFTA Scotland Awards
- Tallulah Greive made The List Hot 100, celebrating Scotland's most influential cultural contributors of the year.
- Client, Gilli Jones spent the summer in Brigadoon in Regent's Park Open Air Theatre.
- We had actors involved in feature films, TV drama's, on stage across the UK, in commercials, short films and voice overs.
- We continue to co-rep clients with London and New York based agencies, which supports our growing professional reputation and offers actors further opportunities.

Our **Youth Board**, met three times and remains an essential platform for young people to influence decision-making and improve engagement strategies. Their end-of-year report highlighted key discussions and recommendations for growth. Many of these meeting have been attested by a board member, strengthening the understanding of both the board and young people's priorities.

It remains a key aim of the organisation to ensure that our activities are accessible to all. The Access Fund made 85 awards across the whole range of participatory activities.

Training, Employment, and Work Experience

7 young people undertook the Stage Management work-experience programme and we continued our partnership with Edinburgh College with two students. Additionally, former youth theatre participants joined as volunteers to gain facilitation experience.

Strategic Development

Strange Town is an organisation with no long-term, core funding and was impacted by the long tail of Covid. We held a second strategy day in October 2024, which focused on the organisation's immediate financial situation. It was a difficult, uncertain and challenging time with various scenarios being planned for. However, there was collective cooperation across the core staff team and board, to ensure that Strange Town could weather this financial storm and we were pleased to enter the year 2025-2026 in a much more stable position. We are looking forward to creating and working to a 3-5 year plan.

Kate Taylor
April 2026

OBJECTIVES & ACTIVITIES

Established in 2008, Strange Town is a performing arts charity for that aims to foster creativity, nurture talent and increase access to opportunities in the arts for young people of all backgrounds. The Strange Town objectives are to:

- *Create exciting, high quality participatory theatre for and with children and young people, commissioning new plays that capture the imagination of audiences of all ages.*
- *Ensure an inclusive environment where everyone we work with is supported and enabled to engage and participate.*
- *Provide children and young people with facilities, training, education and mentoring to learn, make progress and reach their potential.*
- *Nurture the next generation of arts professionals by providing pathways into arts careers, including offering employment opportunities to early career artists.*
- *Advance and promote the importance and value of the arts for children and young people, supporting the development of their skills for life and work.*

Through its activity, the company focuses on the personal development of young people, encouraging both creative growth and growth as individuals. Open-access to all its activities and projects is encouraged and maintained, all our activity costs are subsidised and we also maintain an ongoing bursary scheme (Access Fund), giving free and discounted places to those from families on low incomes.

Based at Out of the Blue, a multi-arts hub in Leith, Strange Town delivers activity throughout Edinburgh and offers regular performing opportunities of new writing by young, emerging writers in some of the city's leading arts venues including the Traverse Theatre and The Scottish Storytelling Centre. Almost everything performed by Strange Town is written by young emerging writers.

The company also offers paid and voluntary work to young writers, directors, performers, stage managers, designers and administrators. Strange Town's social media presence continues to grow, with numbers of followers increasing weekly on Facebook and Instagram. There is also an increase in visitors to our website.

Strange Town strives to create work of the highest quality and provide training and mentoring, whether as part of a pathway into the arts as a career or to improve life skills through out-of-school drama programmes for over 330 young people in Edinburgh:

- **Youth Theatre** open to children and young people aged 5-18 years.
- Strange Town **Young Company**, for young people aged 18-25 years.
- **Theatre for Young Audiences**: offering performances to secondary schools in Edinburgh, touring issue-based plays on important topics including sexual harassment and climate change anxiety.
- **Actors' Agency**
- **Employment opportunities** for early career artists and professionals

Through the year our **Youth Theatre** groups continued to meet for weekly sessions. The 3 younger groups (spanning ages 8-14) performed 3 full length plays in December 2024 written by 3 emerging writers at the Scottish Storytelling Centre, one of the performances was completely sold out. In 2025 we tried a new format with these groups aiming for one day of performances of a series of 10-minute pieces: Spark showcase. Some were written and devised by the young people giving them space to explore their own ideas. Alongside this new format we introduced a writers development programme to offer opportunities to writers who need to gain more experience before being ready to write 1-hour long plays. We recruited 6 writers (who had previously applied to work with us) to work on 10-minute pieces. This group received mentoring and feedback along the way, learning about the specific skills needed to write for young performers and these writers will be encouraged to apply for future writing opportunities with us. The performances took place at these groups' home venue Out of the Blue Drill Hall with tickets offered to family and friends on a pay what you can model.

We made changes to an existing youth theatre group this year creating one group which all members of the youth theatre and young company are welcome to audition to join so potentially covering ages 8-25, and offering a

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TRUSTEES' REPORT-continued FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

chance to practice audition technique. The plan for this group in the long term is to vary the cast size to suit the script giving the writers more freedom, and also offer the chance for different members of our freelance team to work with the group so changing up the opportunities we are able to offer to our young people, freelance practitioners and writers. In May 2025 we held auditions for a new cohort of young actors to join this group in the following year. This mixed age group along with the 2 older youth theatre groups (ages 14-18) all performed at the Traverse Theatre in June 2025. Each group worked on developing a new script with writers before going on to rehearse the show in their weekly sessions.

The Improv Comedy group that had run in previous years did not run in the year ending August 2025 as there was not enough demand, though there was growing demand for our Film making groups so we increased capacity and recruited additional staff to meet this demand. Thanks to funding from Edinburgh Airport the film groups were able to purchase some additional and new pieces of equipment to improve sound quality and ease of filming. The film group created various short pieces across the year and shared them with family and friends at screenings in the Edinburgh Cinema and Video Society building in December '24, April '25 and Jun '25. We continued to run our weekly drama skills groups for ages 5-7 and 8-12s where participants can build their skills each week without the commitment to an end of term performance.

Our **new writing** programme was a focus for us this year, as we are often developing scripts for the coming year we agreed that in 25-26 we would produce a series of revivals giving new life to scripts we have produced previously. This freed up some time and space for the team to look at how we best manage our writing schedule in future and firm up our plans and what we are able to offer to emerging writers.

We were able to continue our relationship with the Edinburgh Fringe Festival and receive a voucher from them to allow us to bring a number of young people to see shows in the festival for no cost to our participants.

Our **youth board** met again 3 times across the year, with a number of new members joining the group. They were encouraged to engage with their fellow participants within session time in a series of 'youth board weeks' across the year, to ensure any issues were brought forward for discussion. The youth board led the charge on a pilot year of scripts being accessed on tablets or other hand held devices to cut down on printing for environmental reasons, we found by the end of the year it was creating more problems than it solved so we have returned to printed scripts but compromised that young participants' copies are now double sided to minimize waste. The youth board also created their own Instagram account this year to form a bridge between the groups, sharing what they are each working on. We also built on the bridge between the youth board and adult board by inviting members of the adult board to join youth board meetings and hear what the youth board are interested in talking about.

Our youth board also confirmed there is interest among the young people in the **stage management work experience programme** that has been offered in previous years. We ran it again in both the autumn and spring terms inviting 6-7 young people age 13-18 to join us on a weekly basis to assist with both making and managing set, props and costumes for our youth theatre shows, giving an insight into the work that goes in behind the scenes to make the shows happen. Some of these young people had participated previously with this programme and it was encouraging to see their confidence growing in taking on these backstage roles.

We continued our partnership with Edinburgh College taking on 2 students to complete their course work placements with our youth theatre. And we have continued to welcome back past participants to volunteer with our groups to help them gain experience in facilitating sessions. One of our current youth theatre participants also completed their school work experience programme with us in June 2025 assisting with admin in the office, attending sessions and supporting the team with the running of the Spark showcase day.

Our annual **Holiday Performance Projects** took place in the Easter and Summer school holidays offering young performers the opportunity to create their own mini plays from the spark of an idea into a performance across a short space of time. The 8-12s Easter Project was fully booked. The pieces were shared with invited family and friends at the end of the project. These projects encourage team building and story structure skills alongside performance opportunities.

The **Young Company** continued to meet weekly throughout the year. From September-December 2024 they worked with writer Jack MacGregor, director Steve Small and assistant Debi Pirie to develop a new play for performance in March '25.

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TRUSTEES' REPORT-continued FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

'I love working with Strange Town, getting to work with such kind and committed people. ... there was a brilliant sense of camaraderie in the cast' –
Young Company member

In January Steve Small had to relinquish directing duties for medical reasons. Debi Pirie took over as director and was assisted by Pollyanna Esse.

The new script which was called, 'The Dark Up Close', looked at the possibility of conscription returning to the UK and was performed at the Storytelling Centre at the end of March 2025 to sold out audiences. It was well received by the audience. The cast enjoyed rehearsing and performing the play and described it as unlike anything else they'd ever done or been in!

The current model of rehearsing a play specifically written for the group for two hours every week with a large group of young people aged 18-25 proved difficult – the members of the group had mixed levels of commitment and have jobs, are on courses and/or took other acting jobs with other drama groups. In other words, they were not all able to commit the necessary time required for the show. A new version of the young company is proposed – splitting the group into two – one performance group which reduces the number of performers and which has to be auditioned for and a skills group where different skills can be explored.

During the short April – June term Steve Small returned to lead the group assisted by Katie Fraser who returned from her maternity leave. The group focused on A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM by William Shakespeare.

The Strange Town team continues to offer sporadic on demand one to one audition coaching for young people wanting to study at drama school.

HER – by Jennifer Adam, the second play for the **touring company**, was revived for a second time and toured to schools from Sept- Oct '24 including 3 nights at Summerhall. The script for HER was published in October '24 by Salamander Street publishers and is available here - <https://salamanderstreet.com/product/her-by-jennifer-adam-paperback/>

Feedback from pupils on HER *'I really liked the performance because it made me think about my own life and not just watching. It was impactful. The acting was brilliant and the team made it interesting and engaging'*

Feedback from teachers on HER *'It's always great to have Strange Town in because you know it's going to be a slick professional performance. Some of our students never get to the theatre so this is a great way to bring quality theatre to them.'*

Feedback from the public on HER at Summerhall *'Incredibly enthralling and captivating performance! Very strong message executed perfectly'*

It was agreed to stop running our **After School Drama** programme this year as with low take up from schools it became impractical and was not having the impact we hoped it could- it was agreed to focus our energies on our other work.

The **Actors' Agency** had another successful year, despite the ongoing repercussions following the US union SAG (Screen Actors Guild) and WGA (Writers Guild of America) strikes and also the fact that less projects were being commissioned by UK companies, meaning that there was a reduction in productions and roles. We launched a new website for the agency that links with the software we use to help streamline admin.

We continued to work closely with London agencies The Artists Partnership and Conway Van Gelder Grant, co-repping four of our actors and one of these four with US management company Range Media, thus further widening the scope of performance opportunities for these and other agency clients. We also began co-repping a fifth client with New York based agency Bonafide and Emerging Artists (BEA) and have started working with US entertainment lawyer Michael Auerbach from Jackoway Austen.

Continuing steps were taken to increase the diversity of our client base, signing some new actors from different heritage backgrounds. The agency gives real life experience of the professional world of theatre, film and television and helps young people with career choices.

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TRUSTEES' REPORT-continued FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

In October 2024 the board and staff team came together for a second strategy day facilitated by Jacqueline O'Hanlon, Director of Learning, from the Royal Shakespeare Company. This strategy day focused on the difficult and challenging financial situation faced by Strange Town and many in the arts in Scotland at this time. The board and staff planned for various possible situations but the company ultimately successfully avoided the worst.

ACHIEVEMENTS & PERFORMANCE

Although the company was incorporated in 2007 it was not until September 2008 that 17 teenagers participated in the first youth theatre session at Out of the Blue. Sixteen years on and during the year Strange Town worked with:

- 195 young people in its Youth Theatre aged 8-18;
- 20 young people in its Young Company aged 18-25;
- 51 young people in its Actors' Agency;
- 45 young arts practitioners/volunteers (writers, directors, stage managers, actors, designers, drama tutors and arts administrators);
- 66 young people aged 8-18 via its holiday performance projects;
- Strange Town's work was seen by approximately 3,023 audience members in theatre venues and secondary schools.

Strange Town commissioned scripts for and put on performances of 7 brand new plays and 3 showcases of new work including 8 x 10 minute scripts written by emerging writers with casts ranging in age from 8 to 25 and for audiences across the city.

Our youth theatre groups (8-18) performed across 9 performances, including work by 12 writers at the Scottish Storytelling Centre, Traverse Theatre and Out of the Blue Drill Hall and film groups screened their work at the Edinburgh Cinema and Video Society 3 times across the year.

The 3 youth theatre performances at the Traverse Theatre in June 2025 received reviews from North West End

"Strange Town boasts a cast of talented young performers"

Living on a Prayer

"This imaginative Youth Theatre production grapples with important political and social issues and invites us to care about and look after all of our fellow human beings. If we do so, then there is hope for a less bleak future."

The Stars and After

"a company obviously riven through with talent and commitment and passion"

In the Cult of Work

The young company show 'The Dark Up Close' by Jack MacGregor received a 4 star review from AllEdinburghTheatre.com - <https://www.alledinburghtheatre.com/the-dark-up-close-strange-town-young-company-march-2025-review/>

The touring company production of HER by Jennifer Adam received a 4 star review in Corr Blimey - <https://corrblimey.uk/2024/10/09/review-her-summerhall-edinburgh/>

An info pack was produced for schools and a report on the tour has been completed.

The script for HER was published in October '24 by Salamander Street publishers and is available here - <https://salamanderstreet.com/product/her-by-jennifer-adam-paperback/>

The Actors' Agency actors (clients) appeared in films that were screened at international film festivals, including in Sundance, Venice, London, Toronto, Helsinki, Milan, Rio and New York.

Ruaridh Mollica was nominated as one of the Breakthrough Performance actors for his role in indie feature SEBASTIAN by the BIFAs (British Independent Film Awards).

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TRUSTEES' REPORT-continued FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

Three projects featuring Agency clients were nominated at the BAFTA Scotland 2024 awards; Blackwool (Short film/Animation WINNER), Shetland (Television scripted) and Annika (Actress Television) and Say Nothing was nominated at the BAFTA TV Awards in the International category. Kensuke's Kingdom was nominated for a BAFTA (Children's & Family Film) Award.

Mia McKenzie was nominated for a TV Times Award in the Favourite Young Actor category, for her role in BBC drama Rebus. Two shows featuring Agency clients were nominated for RTS Programme Awards in the Comedy Drama category: Boarders and Ludwig. Rebus won at the RTS Scotland programme awards in 3 categories - Best Drama, Writer, and Director: Scripted. The Primrose Railway Children, featuring an Agency client, won in the Children's category. Ludwig was also nominated for a National Television Award in the New Drama category.

Tallulah Greive made the Hot 100 List in Scottish publication The List. The annual list celebrates the most influential Scottish cultural contributors of the past year.

Aaron MacGregor won the Junior finals of West End Calling, the nationwide competition for aspiring musical theatre performers and performed at the Lyric Theatre in the West End.

Gilli Jones who was cast in Regent Park's Open Air Theatre production of Brigadoon, performed a song from the show at the WhatsOnStage Awards at the London Palladium.

Also during this year we had actors appear in or get cast/shoot as featured roles in feature films Sebastian (Bêtes Sauvages/Barry Crerar/Helsinki Film Oy/Lemming Film; lead role; cinema release), The Roses (Searchlight Pictures/SunnyMarch/South of the River Pictures), The Damned (Protagonist/Wild Atlantic/Elation/Ley Line Entertainment), CC Emily (Focus Features/Working Title/Parkville Pictures), Glenrothan (Gold Rush Pictures/Infinity Hill/Nevison), The Education of Jane Cumming (fka Miss Pirrie and Miss Woods; Heimatfilm/Dschoint Ventschr Filmproduktion/Sylph Productions), Child R (Raw Thread Pictures), Faraway Home (Powerscourt Pictures), Jack of Spades (codename for Amazon MGM feature), A Colt Is My Passport (Severn Screen for Orion/Amazon MGM), The Wolf Will Tear Your Immaculate Hands (Hobab/Need Productions/Quiddity Films/Resolve Media)...

...and as main cast or featured roles in TV dramas Visionquest (Marvel), Black Mirror (Netflix), Say Nothing (FX Productions/Color Force), The Franchise (HBO), Generation Z (The Forge for Channel 4), Ludwig (Big Talk Studios for BBC), The Primrose Railway Children (BBC), Karen Pirie (World Productions/ITV), Summerwater (Freedom Scripted/Channel 4), Department Q (Netflix), The Jetty (BBC), Boarders (S2 & S3), My Lady Jane (Amazon Studios), The Dumping Ground (BBC Childrens), An t-Eilean/The Island (Black Camel for BBC Alba), Down Cemetery Road (60Forty Films/Apple Studios), The Buccaneers S2 (The Forge Entertainment for Apple TV), Mint (BBC/House Production), The Ridge (Great Southern Television/Oble/Sinner Films for BBC Scotland & Sky New Zealand Originals), House of David S2 (Nomadic Pictures/Wonder Project/Amazon Studios), Crookhaven (BBC), Prodigies (Sister Pictures), House of the Dragon (HBO), Sterling Point (Amazon Studios), Blood Of My Blood (Left Bank).

Theatre projects of note that our actors performed in included Macbeth (West End transfer), Brigadoon (Regents Park Open Air Theatre), Lear (Raw Material Arts/National Theatre of Scotland), The Whistling (Mill Theatre Sonning), Coram Boy (Chichester Festival Theatre/The Lowry, Salford), We Will Hear The Angels (Magnetic North), The Seagull (Royal Lyceum/Chichester Festival Theatre), Clarkston (Wessex Grove), Mary Queen of Rock (Edinburgh Fringe), Club Life (Edinburgh Fringe), Her (with our own Touring Company).

Other various short films, commercials, voiceovers and online films also featured our actors. Our Agency Director gave talks to acting students in colleges/youth theatres about the industry and the role of an Agent. The Agency was nominated for agency of the year by the Edinburgh TV Awards 2025.

Through the year there was continued demand for our Access Fund, 85 separate bursary awards were made providing free or discounted places to 39 participants in Youth Theatre; 12 participants in Holiday Projects; 2 in the Young Company; and 2 young actors from the agency were supported as well.

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TRUSTEES' REPORT-continued FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

FINANCIAL REVIEW

Strange Town is not currently multi-year core funded and therefore has been in the majority dependent on generating income through its activities which are budgeted to cover the costs of the activity plus running costs. The Trustees have always given full consideration to what is achievable with the resources available and sought to raise funds that could create an organisation that will have greater impact amongst families and young people across Edinburgh and Scotland while operating on a financially sustainable basis.

It remains a prime focus of the Charity to target multi-year funders to provide greater stability and certainty to the financial planning and development of Strange Town, as well as generate further sustainable donations through Friends of Strange Town.

It continues to be a tough funding environment, however in the year Strange Town maintained its track record in securing funding, from new and existing funders, to enable the delivery of its programme – the Trustees are extremely grateful for all the grants and donations received (which are listed in Note 3 to the financial statements).

The Trustees consider that the year ended 31 August 2025 was again a successful balance between the levels of activity achieved and careful financial management. The ongoing use of our restricted funds in relation to bursaries allowed the company to continue to offer affordable pricing to encourage access while the restricted Agency funds put value back into the community of participants as well as providing an important gateway to acting as a career.

The increase in unrestricted funds in the year was broadly in line with budget and maintains reserves around the stated policy in order to give a platform for building a sustainable future as we work through the difficult funding environment in the arts.

RISK MANAGEMENT

A risk assessment exercise with all Board members took place in 2019 and a revised overall risk framework was established to focus on the plans and procedures required to mitigate identified risks. The framework was fully reviewed and updated in year ended 31 August 2022 and was subject to ongoing annual review by the Board in the year ended 31 August 2025.

RESERVES POLICY

The Trustees aim to maintain reserves at a level which equates to approximately three months of running costs and office expenditure, with any surplus to be spent on charitable activities. The Trustees consider that in normal circumstances a level of three months is sufficient given the income generating nature of the charitable activities. At the end of the year ending 31 August 2025, unrestricted reserves were just below the target level of three months.

PLANS FOR FUTURE PERIODS

We have planned another strategy day for Autumn 2025 and are looking forward to being able to share discussions and thoughts with the staff and board with a generally more positive outlook.

We plan to keep our youth theatre activity consistent for the coming year, maintaining our new auditioned for group, and giving all groups 1 full-length performance opportunity per year, aiming to continue our relationship with Scottish Storytelling Centre and Traverse Theatre, as well as our new showcase model for the younger groups though we may revisit the venue this showcase is performed at. We will continue to run our new Writers Development Programme alongside this and plan to grow the programme to include 2 writers to work with our film groups.

It has been agreed to revive existing Strange Town plays across the year 2025-2026 which will give us a longer lead in time to the next round of new plays to be written for 2026-2027 so we plan to finalise a schedule for this and work will begin on recruitment and developing these new plays.

We are delighted to have received funding for our Work Experience programme across the autumn term and plan to work with local schools to increase interest in this offer as well as offering more time to the participants to build their skills. We also look forward to continuing our relationship with Edinburgh College and supporting any Strange Town members who wish to volunteer with us to gain more experience.

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TRUSTEES' REPORT-continued FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

Our youth board will aim to meet 3 or 4 times across the coming year with an opportunity for new members to join at the start of the year. We plan to work with them on themes for upcoming shows, developing a connection with our Adult Board and gain their feedback across the year on how things are running generally as well as any specific items that come up across the year.

We plan to adjust the age ranges offered through our holiday projects to better meet the high demand in the 11-14s age range and ensure no young people have to miss out on this opportunity.

Due to the increase in interest in audition coaching we offered more sessions in regular slots over a set period of time in early '25. This saw an increase in the number of sessions and income to Strange Town.

The Young Company will spend the first six weeks looking at audition techniques and the members will then be offered the chance to audition for a new show, 'Aphrodite Rogue', by Eleanor McMahon. This will be performed at the end of March '26 (venue TBC). Those who audition unsuccessfully will be a part of a skills group and will benefit from different leaders giving them opportunities to try out new skills. After the performances in March the two groups will come back together as one group for the April – June block of classes.

HER by Jennifer Adam will be revived for a third tour with additional funding from the city of Edinburgh Council and will tour schools September - October 2025 with public performances at the end of the tour (venue TBC). Schools will be sent an info pack and thanks to the additional funding from COEC a copy of the script will be given to every COEC school.

We continue to aim to increase the diversity across all our areas of activity; in particular the Youth Theatre and Actors' Agency. We will also continue to endeavour to further streamline numbers in the Agency as workload increases; to make this a more manageable client base and to ensure we are providing actors with the support they need in an effective way. Our Agency Director aims to continue to proactively develop networking opportunities to further raise the profile of the agency within the industry and ensure our actors are being presented with the best performance opportunities. The ideal is still to be able to increase the agency staff base to three in order to facilitate this.

We plan to further promote our Friends of Strange Town support scheme to formalise regular donations to the charity.

We also plan to continue holding an annual strategy day for the board and some team members.

The Trustees have reviewed and approved a budget for next year which is based on reasonable prudent assumptions. After careful consideration of those reports and the level of reserves as at 31 August 2025 the Trustees confirm that there is no reason to believe that the charity will not have sufficient funds to meet its working capital requirements for at least the next twelve months and as such the Financial Statements have been prepared on a going concern basis.

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TRUSTEES' REPORT-continued FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE & MANAGEMENT

GOVERNING DOCUMENT

Strange Town is constituted as a company limited by guarantee in Scotland which was founded in 2007, and incorporated under the Companies Act 2006 with the Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator on 1 June 2015. The organisation is an incorporated body having charitable status under the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 and is governed by the Board of Trustees. The Charity was established under a Memo and Articles dated 18 February 2015.

Charity No: SC045646

Company No: SC330197

RECRUITMENT, APPOINTMENT AND TRAINING OF TRUSTEES

The Memo and Articles allow for the further appointment of any person who is willing to act as a charity Trustee by way of a resolution passed unanimously at a Trustees' meeting. The Trustees meet quarterly to determine strategy, policy and other considerations as well as managing the assets of the charity.

Our current Trustees received appropriate professional training on the requirements of good governance to ensure that they act consistently and diligently in their duties and responsibilities.

The Board has a strong mix of relevant knowledge including expertise in digital marketing and software development.

DECISION MAKING

The Trustees of the Charity are responsible for the Charity's decision making. The Trustees, who are the Directors of the Charitable Company for the purposes of company law, who served during the year and since the year end are:

Andrew Baker CA
Robert Davidson
Kate Taylor
Catherine Ward-Stoddart
Bob Giulianotti
Kate Bayne (retired on 5 May 2025)
Serden Salih (appointed on 22 November 2025)
Janine Marvin (appointed on 12 February 2026)
Company Secretary: Murray Jack

The day-to-day management of the charity has been delegated to the Joint Executive Directors, Steve Small and Ruth Hollyman.

REGISTERED OFFICE

Out of the Blue
36 Dalmeny Street
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EH6 8RG

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER

Sarah Hollis CA
Hollis Accounting Limited
3 Melville Crescent
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EH3 7HW

BANKERS

Royal Bank of Scotland
142-144 Princes Street
Edinburgh
EH2 4EQ

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TRUSTEES' REPORT-continued FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

STATEMENT OF TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES

The Trustees are responsible for preparing the Trustees' annual report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

The law applicable to charities in Scotland requires the Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial period which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the Charity and of the incoming resources and application of resources of the Charity for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the Trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP;
- make judgments and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the Charity will continue in business.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the Charity and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005, the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 (as amended), the Companies Act 2006 and the provisions of the Charity's constitution/Memo and Articles. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the Charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

This report has been prepared in accordance with the special provisions for small companies under part 15 of the Companies Act 2006.

Approved by the Trustees and signed on their behalf by:



Andrew Baker
Trustee

Date 18 May 2026

STRANGE TOWN

INDEPENDENT EXAMINERS REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

I report on the accounts of the Charity for the year ended 31 August 2025 which are set out on pages 14 to 21.

Respective responsibilities of Trustees and Examiner

The Charity's Trustees (who are also the Directors of the company for the purposes of company law) are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the terms of the Companies Act 2006, the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 and the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006.

The Charity's trustees consider that the audit requirement of Regulation 10(1) (a) to (c) of the Accounts Regulations does not apply and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to examine the accounts as required under section 44(1) (c) of the Charities Act and to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of Independent Examiner's Statement

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 seeks explanations from the 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 the course of 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 charitable records in accordance with section 386 of the Companies Act 2006, 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 comply with the accounting requirements of the Companies Act 2006, section 44(1) (b) of the 2005 Act and 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

Signed:



Sarah Hollis CA
Hollis Accounting Limited
3 Melville Crescent
EDINBURGH
EH3 7HW

21/5/26

STRANGE TOWN

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES INCORPORATING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

	Notes	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2025 £	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2024 £
INCOME							
Income from donations and legacies							
Donations	3	19,173	-	19,173	6,570	-	6,570
Income from charitable activities							
Youth Theatre classes		71,935	-	71,935	62,151	-	62,151
After School Drama classes		-	-	-	2,730	-	2,730
Holiday and School projects		7,867	-	7,867	11,483	-	11,483
Agency – gross income		88,793	245,735	334,528	102,790	191,669	294,459
Performance related grants	3	89,768	95,231	184,999	17,990	80,126	98,116
Ticket income from performances		7,912	-	7,912	8,400	-	8,400
Income from other trading activities		9,276	-	9,276	9,605	-	9,605
TOTAL INCOME		294,724	340,966	635,690	221,719	271,795	493,514
EXPENDITURE							
Expenditure on raising funds	4,5,6	30,302	-	30,302	21,212	-	21,212
Expenditure on charitable activities		252,003	310,427	562,430	226,200	262,865	489,065
TOTAL EXPENDITURE		282,305	310,427	592,732	247,412	262,865	510,277
NET INCOME / (EXPENDITURE)		12,419	30,539	42,958	(25,693)	8,930	(16,763)
NET MOVEMENTS IN FUNDS		12,419	30,539	42,958	(25,693)	8,930	(16,763)
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS							
TOTAL FUNDS BROUGHT FORWARD		53,087	27,085	80,172	80,305	16,630	96,935
TRANSFERS		(5,402)	5,402	-	(1,525)	1,525	-
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD	10,11	60,104	63,026	123,130	53,087	27,085	80,172

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year.
All income and expenditure relate to continuing operations.

STRANGE TOWN**BALANCE SHEET
AS AT 31 AUGUST 2025**

Company No:SC330197

	Notes	2025 £	2024 £
CURRENT ASSETS:			
Debtors	7	589	40,549
Cash at bank and in hand		181,394	66,579
CURRENT LIABILITIES:			
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year	8	(58,853)	(26,956)
NET CURRENT ASSETS		123,130	80,172
NET ASSETS		123,130	80,172
THE FUNDS OF THE CHARITY			
Restricted income funds	9	63,026	27,085
Unrestricted income funds	10	60,104	53,087
		123,130	80,172

For the year ended 31 August 2025 the company was entitled to exemption from audit under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies and its members have not required the company to obtain an audit of its financial statements for the year in accordance with section 476.

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the special provisions of Part 15 of the Companies Act relating to small companies and constitute the annual accounts required by the Companies Act 2006.

The Directors acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the act with respect to accounting records and the preparation of accounts.

The Financial Statements on pages 14 to 21 were approved by the Trustees and authorised for issue on 18 May 2026 and are signed on their behalf by:



.....
Andrew Baker
Trustee

STRANGE TOWN

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Basis of Preparation

The Financial Statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention.

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) accounting standards, the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 (as amended) and the Companies Act 2006.

Strange Town meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102.

Going Concern

No material uncertainties that may cast significant doubt about the ability of the Charity to continue as a going concern have been identified by the Trustees, and the financial statements have therefore been prepared on a going concern basis.

Funds

In line with the Statement of Recommended Practice, all income and expenditure is dealt with through the Statement of Financial Activities. Funds are classified as either Restricted or Unrestricted funds, defined as follows:

Restricted funds are funds which 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.

Unrestricted funds are funds which are expendable at the discretion of the Trustees in furtherance of the general objects of the Charity.

Designated funds represent Unrestricted funds set aside by the Trustees for particular purposes in the furtherance of the general objects of the Charity. There are currently no designated funds.

Income

Income is recognised when it is receivable, the Charity has entitlement to it, and it is quantifiable. Fees for classes and holiday projects are stated before deducting bursaries granted by the Charity.

Expenditure

Expenditure is included in the Statement of Financial Activities on an accruals basis.

Expenditure on raising funds includes expenditure incurred in relation to bringing donations and general grants into the Charity, such as time spent on applications.

Charitable expenditure comprises those costs incurred by the Charity in the delivery of activities and services undertaken to further the purposes of the Charity. It includes both costs that can be allocated directly to such activities and those costs of an indirect nature necessary to support them.

Governance costs include those incurred in the governance of the Charity and its assets and are primarily associated with constitutional and statutory requirements.

VAT

The Charity is not registered for Value Added Tax and accordingly expenditure includes VAT where appropriate.

STRANGE TOWN

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

2. EMPLOYEES

The average number of staff employed by the organisation during the year amounted to:

	2025	2024
	No.	No.
Operational	4	4
Administrative	1	1
Total	<u>5</u>	<u>5</u>

The aggregate payroll costs of the above were:

	£	£
Wages and salaries	142,472	133,503
Social security costs	9,411	3,613
Pension costs	4,219	4,005
	<u>156,102</u>	<u>141,121</u>

No remuneration or expenses were paid to the Trustees in the period for their role as Trustees (2024 – nil).

No employees received employee benefits of more than £60,000 (2024- nil).

3. GRANTS & DONATIONS

	2025	2024
	£	£

During the period grants were received from the following sources:

Income from charitable activities

Thrive Edinburgh (NHS Lothian)	75,000	80,126
The Backstage Trust	20,000	-
Garfield Weston Foundation	20,000	-
Esmee Fairbairn	12,000	-
Youthlink	11,831	-
Awards for All	8,400	-
Craer Trust	6,900	-
Scottish Childrens Charity	6,000	-
Stafford Trust	4,600	-
Dr Guthrie's Association	2,500	1,000
Tillyloss Trust	2,000	1,000
Russell Trust	2,000	-
WCH	2,000	-
Dr Summers	2,000	-
New Park Education Trust	1,500	-
Sir Iain Stewart	1,500	-
Noel Coward Trust	1,218	-
Edinburgh Airport	1,050	-
Mitchells Robertson	1,000	-
Cordis Trust	1,000	-
Walker Shoolbraid	1,000	-
JK Young	1,000	-
JTH Charitable Trust	500	-
The Society of WRI	-	990
Foyle Foundation	-	15,000
	<u>184,999</u>	<u>98,116</u>

STRANGE TOWN

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

During the period donations were received from the following sources:

Income from donations and legacies

John & Margery Naylor	5,485	5,000
Nancie Massey	3,000	-
Mr & Mrs Hollyman	1,225	120
Ms M Berry	500	-
Foundation Scotland	500	-
Mr A Rowland	185	-
Caram Trust	-	1,000
Other (including Gift Aid reclaim)	8,278	450
	19,173	6,570

Income from all sources totalled £635,690 (2024 - £493,514) of which £294,724 (2024 - £221,719) was unrestricted and £340,966 (2024 - £271,795) was restricted. Donations received from Trustees totalled £2,000 (2024 - £nil).

4. TOTAL EXPENDITURE

	Staff/ Freelance costs £	Other costs (note 6) £	Governance costs	Support costs (note 5) £	Total 2025 £
Expenditure on raising funds	29,768	534	-	-	30,302
Expenditure on charitable activities	240,365	300,519	750	20,796	562,430
	270,133	301,053	750	20,796	592,732
	Staff/ Freelance costs £	Other costs (note 6) £	Governance costs	Support costs (note 5) £	Total 2024 £
Expenditure on raising funds	20,844	367	-	-	21,212
Expenditure on charitable activities	231,171	238,722	750	18,423	489,065
	252,015	239,089	750	18,423	510,277

Governance costs are an amount payable to the independent examiner inclusive of VAT, for the review of the financial statements. Expenditure on raising funds includes an allocation of full-time staff costs, this is reviewed by the Trustees to agree a suitable apportionment.

Expenditure totalled £592,732 (2024 - £510,277) of which £282,305 (2024 - £247,412) was unrestricted and £310,427 (2024 - £262,865) was restricted.

STRANGE TOWN

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

5. SUPPORT COSTS

	2025	2024
	£	£
Premises expenses	15,881	14,339
General office expenses	4,915	4,084
	<u>20,796</u>	<u>18,423</u>

Premises expenditure relates to office space rented at Out of the Blue Drill Hall from Out of the Blue Arts & Education Trust (Charity No. SC 022812).

6. OTHER COSTS

	2025	2024
	£	£
Bursaries granted (Restricted)	9,680	8,151
Actors Agency fees paid (Restricted)	245,735	191,669
Marketing (Expenditure on raising funds)	534	367
Performance production costs	6,864	4,612
Workshop space and school rental for classes	21,619	19,672
Other	16,621	14,618
	<u>301,053</u>	<u>239,089</u>

7. DEBTORS

	2025	2024
	£	£
Bike2Work Scheme	589	1,549
Agency Commission	-	39,000
	<u>589</u>	<u>40,549</u>

8. CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	2025	2024
	£	£
Agency fees	29,774	-
Deferred income	16,040	14,730
Accruals	13,039	12,226
	<u>58,853</u>	<u>26,956</u>

Deferred income consists of Theatre classes fees for the September to December 2025 term received in advance (£16,040 - 2024: £14,730)

STRANGE TOWN

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

9. RESTRICTED INCOME FUNDS

The income funds of the Charity include Restricted funds comprising the following unexpended balances of donations held on trust for specific purposes:

	Movement in funds				Balance at
	Balance brought forward	Income	Expenditure	Transfers	31 August 2025
	£	£	£	£	£
Bursary Funds (Discounted and Free Places)	-	8,400	(9,680)	4,975	3,695
Brendan O'Connor Bursary	4,585	-	(5,012)	427	-
Thrive Edinburgh	22,500	75,000	(50,000)	-	47,500
Stage Management (Youthlink)	-	11,831	-	-	11,831
Agency	-	245,735	(245,735)	-	-
	27,085	340,966	(310,427)	5,402	63,026

	Movement in funds				Balance at
	Balance brought forward	Income	Expenditure	Transfers	31 August 2024
	£	£	£	£	£
Bursary Funds (Discounted and Free Places)	6,626	-	(8,151)	1,525	-
Brendan O'Connor Bursary	4,585	-	-	-	4,585
Thrive Edinburgh	5,419	80,126	(63,045)	-	22,500
Agency	-	191,669	(191,669)	-	-
	16,630	271,795	(262,865)	1,525	27,085

Agency - Strange Town represents 51 young actors, many of whom regularly participate in the company's performance projects to enhance and develop their skills. Since the agency's launch in 2011, its reputation has grown and members have been cast in national and international TV productions, feature films, shorts, commercials and professional stage productions. The restricted income relates to amounts received and administered by Strange Town but due and paid to the actors cast.

The Brendan O'Connor Bursary is used to support emerging young actors in need of financial assistance when applying to drama schools. Funds were returned during the year in order to be directly administered by the family of Brendan O'Connor.

Thrive Edinburgh – the funding is held specifically for the Theatre for Young Audiences (TYA) strand of our work and is supporting a number of newly commissioned issue-based plays to be toured to schools. The first play 'Storm Lantern' toured in September 2022 (revival in May/June 2024) while the second 'HER' toured in February 2023, the third play 'AND...AND...AND' toured in September and October 2023. This year saw a successful revival of 'HER' in September and October 2024.

STRANGE TOWN

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

10. UNRESTRICTED INCOME FUNDS

	Balance brought forward £	Income £	Movement in funds Expenditure £	Transfers £	Balance at 31 August 2025 £
Unrestricted funds	53,087	294,724	(282,305)	(5,402)	60,104
Designated funds	-				
	53,087	294,724	(282,305)	(5,402)	60,104

	Balance brought forward £	Income £	Movement in funds Expenditure £	Transfers £	Balance at 31 August 2024 £
Unrestricted funds	80,305	221,718	(247,411)	(1,525)	53,087
Designated funds	-				
	80,305	221,718	(247,411)	(1,525)	53,087

The company gained Charitable Status on the 1 June 2015 and the Trustees have decided given the modest level of unrestricted funds not to designate any funds at this stage, this will continue to be considered further during the current financial year.

11. ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS BETWEEN FUNDS

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2025 £
Fund balances at 31 August 2025 are represented by:			
Cash	118,368	63,026	181,394
Other net current assets/(liabilities)	(58,264)	-	(58,264)
	60,104	63,026	123,130

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2024 £
Fund balances at 31 August 2024 are represented by:			
Cash	39,494	27,085	66,579
Other net current assets/(liabilities)	13,593	-	13,593
	53,087	27,085	80,172