

Calderdale Theatre School Association

Report of the trustees for the year ending 31st July 2022

Our purposes and activities

The purpose of the charity is to advance the education and skills of young people in Calderdale by developing their understanding, knowledge and appreciation of the arts and culture through theatre, drama and other activities.

In planning our activities for the year, we kept in mind the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit and fee charging. Calderdale Theatre School (CTS) aims to serve young people from all backgrounds and abilities. Of the 36 students registered during the year, 21 identified as female and 15 as male with 5 students reporting additional needs. CTS relies on the income from fees and charges to cover its operating costs. In setting the level of fees, charges and concessions, the trustees give careful consideration to the accessibility of the charity for those on low incomes. During the year 5 students received a means-tested reduction and a further 4 received a reduction for families with more than 1 student.

During the summer holidays CTS organised and delivered two four-day drama workshops at The Victoria Theatre, Halifax as part of Calderdale Council's 'Healthy Holidays' programme for children in receipt of free school meals. Short notice meant that the numbers of students served was smaller than we hoped but it allowed us to offer drama opportunities to a wider demographic and was well received by those who attended.

"I just wanted to drop you a short line to thank you for your kind support and professionalism in delivering our theatre Healthy Holidays programme at the Victoria Theatre."

This year we were able to revert to face-to-face workshops and live performances. The workshops were delivered by a team of freelance professional drama practitioners who also rehearsed and directed the shows.

- Saturday morning drama workshops during school terms
- Street performances at the GLOW festival in Sowerby Bridge
- A double bill of plays performed at the Orange Box Young Peoples' Centre in Halifax

These activities benefited young people by building confidence, developing creativity, improving verbal and non-verbal communication skills, developing empathy and concentration, and encouraging teamwork and collaboration.

"All my girls have had an amazing time at CTS and you have inspired them to be more confident and outgoing."

"Thank you very much for the taster session on Saturday my daughter loved it and commented on how nice and friendly everyone was."

We welcome all young people, aged between 11 and 18, regardless of personal background, ability, faith, gender or personal circumstances.

*Calderdale Theatre School Association is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation
Charity No: 1151269*

We are greatly assisted by the work of our volunteer trustees and parents. They do a lot of the administration work of the charity and help behind the scenes making and maintaining costumes and creating props.

Achievements and performance

We worked with 36 students during the year. In December students helped devise and then performed *The Green Man*, a piece of live street theatre, as part of the Sowerby Bridge Winter GLOW festival.



The piece was performed three times during the afternoon and attracted a large and enthusiastic audience. It was wonderful for the students to be back performing to a live audience.

"Thanks so much for being part of it. We have heard nothing but praise about how brilliant you all were. Well done all."

"It was so good to see CTS live again and as good as ever. We were utterly charmed."

"What a fabulous and brilliant group of thespians."

"The colours and the costumes and the effect of the lights on everything was lovely."

"A brilliant performance."

In May we presented a double bill of one-act plays at The Orange Box Young People's centre in Halifax.

Years 7-9 performed *Us and Them* by David Campton.



Years 10-12 performed *The Wardrobe* by Sam Holcroft



Both performances of the plays were enjoyed by a packed audience of students' friends and families.

"The young people were professional and polished and just wonderful in their performances. We were so impressed!"

Financial Review

Careful management of our funds during the Covid pandemic meant we started the year in a healthy financial position. A reduction in the number of students returning meant that we needed fewer workshop leaders so were able to keep fees at the same level and still cover our costs. We were able to return to the Orange Box for the Saturday workshops and as a venue for the plays. We are grateful to Calderdale Council for their support. Cash at the bank at 31/07/2022 was £15,500 in unrestricted funds. The main financial risk to the charity is a sustained reduction in student numbers and the increasing cost of premises to hire for workshops and performances. We aim to keep enough reserve funds to cover 4 months expenditure and to meet any unforeseen expenditure that may occur.

Structure, Governance and Management

Calderdale Theatre School Association is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) governed by its constitution dated 26th January 2013.

The board of trustees, which can have up to 12 members, administers the charity. The board meets every 2 months. The board engages the services of freelance drama practitioners to deliver the drama workshops and other activities. In accordance with the constitution one third of trustees retire each year but they are eligible for re-election. All trustees give their time voluntarily and receive no remuneration or other benefit.

The charity has a Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy and an Equality and Diversity Policy. All freelance staff who work directly with the students are required to have an enhanced Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) check.

Trustees

Rachel Smith – Chair

Tony Clark – Vice Chair

Gerry Powell – Treasurer

Paul Cotton – joint Secretary

Sarah Cotton – joint Secretary

Adelle Beswick

Michaela O'Sullivan

Alison Roberts