

LEWISHAM YOUTH THEATRE LTD

REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Year ending 31st August 2025

COMPANY REGISTRATION NUMBER: 02135342

CHARITY REGISTRATION NUMBER 297075

**Frank S Lachman
31 Fairview Way
Edgware
Middlesex
HA8 8JE**

LEWISHAM YOUTH THEATRE LTD

Legal and Administrative Information

31st August 2025

Company Registered Number	02135342		
Registered Charity Number	297075		
Registered Office	436 Lewisham High Street London SE13 6JG		
Patrons	Phaldut Sharma Lucian Msamati		
Directors and Trustees	Genine Whitehorne		Resigned 15th September 2025
	Thomas Toomse-Smith		Resigned 2nd December 2024
	Edison Huyn		Resigned 2nd December 2024
	Freneka Mumford		
	Ian Paish		Resigned 10th February 2025
	Jamiel Thomas		
	Louise Gordon	Chair	
	Mairi Hayes		Resigned 4th April 2025
	Tyreke Leslie		
	Alice Chen	Treasurer	Appointed 2nd December 2024
Independent Examiner	Frank S Lachman Chartered Accountant 31 Fairview Way Edgware Middlesex HA8 8JE		
Bankers	Co-Operative Bank 151 Lewisham High Street Lewisham London SE13 6AA		
Staff Team	Staff Team: Victoria Shaskan - CEO (to April 2025) Filiz Ozcan - Creative Director (to September 2024) Sara Myers - Creative Director (from September 2024 - August 2025) Molly Cox - Senior Producer Jess Drader - Participation Manager (to April 2025) Anna Smith - Production Manager Maizy Wright - Outreach Producer (Promoted to Participation Manager from July 2025) Isla McGregor - Admin & Finance Coordinator Monique Uwiragiye - Creative Programmes Manager (from August 2025) Natalie Parsons - Volunteer Coordinator (to January 2025) Dean Coffey - Participation Assistant (to August 2025)		

DIRECTORS' AND TRUSTEES' REPORT

The directors/trustees present their report and the financial statements for the year ended 31st August 2025.

DIRECTORS' RESPONSIBILITIES

Company Law which is also applicable to charitable companies in England and Wales requires the directors, who are also trustees of the company, to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the company and of the results of the company for that period.

In preparing those financial statements, the directors/trustees are required to:

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

The directors/trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the company and to enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

PRINCIPAL ACTIVITY AND CHARITABLE OBJECTIVE

The purpose of the charitable company as set out in the governing documents continues to be the promotion, improvement and advancement of education and the encouragement of the appreciation of the arts in all their aspects by the presentation of educational plays and other suitable schemes.

The main activities undertaken in relation to these purposes are the provision of participatory arts projects and performances designed to develop the skills, capacities and capabilities of mainly, but not exclusively, young people up to the age of 24 who live or learn in Lewisham.

The charity's mission statement, published in the Strategic Plan is:

All young people have a powerful voice and a right to be heard.

Lewisham Youth Theatre (LYT) nurtures and inspires young people's voices through free participatory theatre activities, helping them to develop enduring and transferable skills that lead to increased life chances and long term well-being.

We bring young people together from across the Lewisham community to create outstanding theatre in an environment of high expectations and collaboration. We work from the core belief that artistic excellence is key to expanding young people's horizons and creating lasting transformation.

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

The company was incorporated on 29th May 1987 and is governed by its Memorandum and Articles of Association. In April 2017, the Council of Management, after seeking approval from the Charity Commission for regulated changes, resolved to approve a new Memorandum and Articles in order to bring the charity's governing documents in line with current charity law.

The company is limited by guarantee and has no share capital. The guarantees of individual members are limited to £10.

The company is a registered charity, number 297075.

The appointed directors of the company are also the charity's trustees. The directors form its Council of Management and Governing Body and are empowered to act as necessary in order for the company to fulfil its objectives.

The Directors delegate the day-to-day management of the company to the CEO. The directors are responsible for ensuring that Executive staff's decisions are in accordance with the company's objects and legal framework. Long-term organisational strategy is the joint responsibility of the directors and the CEO. Directors are responsible for ensuring that this strategy is in accordance with the company's objects, and for overseeing the effectiveness of this strategy.

Directors may be appointed by the members of the company or fellow directors at any time. New directors/trustees are provided with an induction pack outlining their roles and responsibilities as both directors of the company and trustees of the charity. They are provided with the company's governing documents and the current business plan.

ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE

Over the year, 627 Lewisham young people have taken part in 374 sessions, with 228 taking part in regular activities.

The year started with a residential trip to Macaroni Woods with the LYT Members' Committee. The weekend gave space to young people to co-design and interrogate LYT's strategic pillars, tracing their own journeys and future ambitions across the pillar and mapping out the programme year for the membership. Their ambitions have given the organisation direction throughout the year and continually re-focused the organisation's efforts, during a year of continued change.

This year has seen LYT articulate our practice within the framework of Creative Health, delivering an impactful pilot project supported by Maudsley Charity, that explored satellite work in the borough to support those with additional mental health barriers.

Our 2nd year in the Creative Hub (436 Lewisham High Street), gave us the opportunity to share the space and our practice with the local community and transform the space into a home of performance, rehearsal/workshops rooms and a community event venue. We have continued to make improvements to the space, with inclusivity, diversity and creativity at the forefront of all decisions.

This year has been one of change, collaboration and reflection. It reminded us that LYT's rich history is something to be proud of, and it doesn't limit us, but instead sets the foundation for what comes next. As we make space for fresh ideas and the creativity of future generations, we're embracing the one constant we can rely on: change itself.

Read below to find out more about what we've delivered and how we've achieved against our strategic pillars this year.

DELIVERING AGAINST OUR STRATEGIC PILLARS

Pillar 1 – Personal & Creative Growth

"We're a place where young people can evolve. It's like a flower blooming in a thunderstorm. It's all about finding yourself"
- Members' Committee

We delivered:

- **Juniors 8-11s:** 67 aged 8-11, 7 peer mentors aged 13-15 and 6 Trainee Facilitators aged 18-25 engaged in 66 sessions across 4 session groups. In April, the Junior performance companies devised *How Curious?!* and *The Fairground Mystery*, both exploring themes around change and belonging and how to celebrate individuality. Whilst the Junior Theatre makers collaborated on an original script, *When I Speak of Lewisham*, a new work-in-progress play exploring how young people use imagination to navigate making changes for Lewisham.
- **Juniors 12-14s:** 51 aged 12-14, 3 peer mentors aged 14-16 and 4 Trainee Facilitators aged 18-25 engaged in 44 sessions across 3 session groups. In August, the Junior performance company performed an immersive double bill with the Senior Performance Company titled *FLOOD!* In collaboration with *SMASHFest*, both pieces explored the impact of rising water levels on the future generations. The Junior company's piece was site-specific, performed in Ladywell Park, the site of Lewisham's infamous flood of 1968. *Waves of Time* explored the relationship between science and media in relation to flooding during 3 periods of history.
- **Seniors 15-21s:** 32 aged 15-18, 2 peer mentors aged 16-19 and 1 Trainee Facilitator aged 21 engaged in 26 sessions across 2 session groups. Alongside the Juniors, the Senior performance company performed *Into the Ark*, a court case drama, following a jury of young people confronted with the stories of regular people charged with being responsible for climate change, their fate lies in their hands.

- **Technical Theatre:** 37 aged 11-17, 2 peer mentors aged 16-18 and 2 Trainee Facilitators engaged in 52 sessions across 5 session groups, with 22 young people aged 13-18 going on to assist productions as tech crew.
- **Creative Minds:** Across 4 sessions, 12 young people aged 10-18s help us design a series of workshops exploring addiction and substance misuse and the local services available in the borough. This workshop will tour to schools and community groups next year.
- **Feeling Creative:** Over 3 days during February half term, 12 participants aged 12-18 took part in 6 well-being workshops exploring the cultural offer in Lewisham and how it can support mental health and wellbeing outcomes, culminating in an inspiring walk from Goldsmith's Community Centre to Lewisham Music with local stakeholders.
- **Outreach:** 18 one-off drama & technical theatre sessions in schools & community settings reaching 357 participants aged 7-19

Participation Indicators:

- 128 young people performed, worked backstage in productions or delivered their own workshops
- 240 audience members attended 4 youth theatre performances
- 83% of this years' participants disclosed significant disadvantage, across a range of needs.
- 96% of participants in sustained projects have taken part in 3 or more sessions, with 77% taking part in 10 or more sessions.
- 96% of participants in sustained projects have completed their project
- 66% of 'workshop' project participants went on to join a next step performance project within the year.

Participant Self-Assessment Indicators:

- **Social/Emotional Skill:** 94% of all evaluation respondents reported a significant increase in at least one social/emotional skill (confidence, teamwork, communication and emotional literacy)
- **Creative Skills:** 74% of all evaluation respondents reported an increase in their creative skills
- **Resilience:** 85% of all evaluation respondents indicated an increase in resilience, saying they had significantly improved at 'following through with my plans' and/or that they had gained 'more pride in myself'.

Qualitative Feedback:

"It made me have confidence in myself to continue, even when it's hard you work with what you have"
– 12-14s backstage participant

"I was very brave, and I loved what games we played and everything about it. [The staff] were really nice and they made me feel so confident and I could do anything"
– 8-11s outreach workshop participant

"I can't wait to come back next year for SYT, this was super fun, and I really look forward to doing it again"
- 15-18s Performer

"It has made me want to work backstage one day as a set designer"
– 12-14s backstage participant

"I am now better at giving ideas and dialogue to others and the thing I enjoyed the most about this project was making a play with my new friends"
- 8-11s Performer

"I loved the theatre making programme as we were able to make our own play and were able to make creative choices, were to stand and what to say"
- 8-14s Theatre Maker

“I wanted to make new friends, and I’ve made them through this project”

- 15-18s Performer

“My daughter found LYT a welcoming space and even told me she learnt more about theatrical techniques on this short course than she has from her drama GCSE at school! ...we have noticed an increase in confidence in her social skills and an enhanced enjoyment of theatre”

- Parent of 8-11s performer

“We’re so impressed at the work you and all the young people put in and how great the sets looked. The enthusiasm and imagination everyone put into it was really on show.”

- Partner

Pillar 2 – Community Change-Makers

“We both give to and receive from our community. We allow young people to have a voice and through this process are lifted up to a higher social level.”

– Members’ Committee

We Delivered:

- **Peer Mentor training:** A project that trains young people aged 12-17 to become peer mentors for LYT’s core performance projects. Training sessions were held during the October half term. 12 young people joined LYT projects as Peer Mentors.
- **Members Committee:** Participants worked together to transform our outside space, interviewed freelance & permanent staff, produced events, including the Annual General Review and the Member’s Festive Party, as well as organised youth-led social action campaigns.
- **Rainbow Criteria:** In celebration of LGBT+ History Month, Members’ Committee, across 11 sessions, actioned their youth-led campaign to make Lewisham more LGBTQIA+ youth friendly. Culminating awarding the Rainbow Criteria to 10 successful organisations across Lewisham borough. Organisations were presented with a Rainbow Criteria certificate and window sticker to display in their window, highlighting them as a safe space for other LGBTQIA+ young people.
- **Gardening:** In collaboration with Civic Futures – a cross London project funded by the GLA – LYT members aged 9-18 took part in 10 creative health sessions focused on learning gardening and produce growing skills, to promoting wellbeing through access to green spaces. Culminating in a full day session with adult growing groups from across London, including Black Roots, Culthorpe Community Gardens and Grow Lewisham, where Members’ Committee and growing groups shared plants, wisdom and skills to improve LYT’s garden.

Participation Indicators:

- 53 youth theatre members volunteered as part of Members’ Committee, peer mentors on projects, technical and backstage crew, or took part in work experience.
- 42 aged 11-18 took part in 54 Members’ Committee sessions
- 12 Peer Mentors supported younger groups on projects from October 24-August 25.
- **Leadership:** 76% of all participants completing projects across the year indicated an increase in leadership capabilities. 42% said they had improved at ‘being a role model for others’, 33% of all respondents reported they had gained the ‘ability to lead others’.

Pillar 3 – Creative Careers

“We’re inspiring young people to acquire skills, to learn about and choose their pathway in life”

– Members’ Committee

We Delivered:

- Following last year’s HATCH commissions and festival, LYT expanded the HATCH programming to encompass all work with members 18 – 25. HATCH standing for **Home of Artistic Talent and Creative Horizons**
- **H.A.T.C.H. programmes:** We delivered dedicated training, mentoring, paid placements and residencies for early career artists in youth arts facilitation, stage design and theatre making. These programmes culminated in:
 - 6 creative wellbeing workshops delivered in schools
 - 1 Design Residency, working with LYT as a designer on our performance companies mentored by Production Managers. This resident has since received a full scholarship to study design at Yale University to continue their practice.
- **Qualifications & Accreditations:** 15 aged 12-14 took part in 25 hours of mentoring to work towards a Bronze-level Arts Award Qualification. We also offered 20 AQA accreditations as part of the Peer Mentor and Facilitator Training programmes.
- **Work Experience:** 10 young people aged 14-20 joined LYT’s Core Staff team for 198 hours of work experience, receiving an insight into arts administration, facilitation, programme management and participation. Work experience placements are bespoke and supported by the core team. 7 placements were in Lewisham schools, 3 were in alternative schools or out of borough schools.
- **Creative Hub workshops:** 132 aged 8-25 engaged in 13 masterclasses, workshops and open days including a creative workshop with Lewisham-based theatre director Arne Pohlmeier; a LGBTQ+ History month celebration with Proud 2 be Me CIC; a masterclass with Wimbledon Arts College and two wellbeing workshops with Children in Care Council.
- **See Theatre:** 137 aged 8-25 attended 10 performances or tours across London’s theatres and organisations, including backstage tours of The Phantom of the Opera and Moulin Rouge! and a performance of Hamilton.

Participation Indicators:

- 139 young people engaged in 23 interactions with professional theatre companies, including trips to see theatre, backstage tours, masterclasses and panel discussions with industry professionals.
- 13 participants aged 18-25 received dedicated training and paid work experience, gaining employability skills.
- 17 young people received support to access next steps at LYT and beyond.
- 15 young people completed the Bronze Arts Award qualification and 20 young people received AQA Unit Award Accreditations.
- **Ambition:** 83% participants indicated an increase in ambition. 75% said they had significantly improved in ‘knowing what I want and working to achieve it’

Next Steps: Our direct support to connect participants to next steps and opportunities around London has meant that:

- 6 of our Backstage Theatre participants received placements at National Youth Theatre Backstage programme
- SYT member performed in Hungry Bowl by Edward Bond directed by Niko Kreigar at the Rose Bruford MA/MFA Contemporary Directing Practice showcase.
- 8 members performed with Urban Synergy as part of Lewisham’s winning entry to the London’s New Year Day parade.
- 2 members went on to secure places at prestigious west end summer school opportunities.
- 1 member was selected to present the European Young Audience Award at European Film Club Awards in Berlin.

Qualitative Feedback:

“I loved going to see the play, I hardly ever get to go to the theatre” – 12-14s participant

“Students got to work creatively and imaginatively with their peers. Some students in the workshop really came out of their shell as they are usually quite shy + resistant to get involved.”

– Teacher

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“The activities are inclusive and allow them to think on their feet and improvise. They also allow for the young people to work not only with their friends, but everybody”

– AFRIL worker

“This project has made me want to work backstage one day as a set designer

– Backstage Theatre Participant

Pillar 4: Creative Ecosystem

“We’re breathing life into local creative ability, giving creatives a place to go, collaborating with our neighbours and reviving creativity in our services.”

– Members’ Committee

Sharing our Creative Hub: Over the year, 325 community members & young people attended 7 performances & events at the Creative Hub. As well as our own performances, we hosted:

- Theatre company Teatro Vivo continue to use our storage space to house costumes and props
- My London - Youth Steering Group used our space to hold their weekly meetings
- Rehearsal space for local artists, including *Izzy Ponsford*, *Bushra Baig*, *Niko Kreigar*, *Wake the Beast Theatre*.
- Audition space for Komola Collective
- Urban Synergy rehearsed along with LYT participants for the New Year’s Day parade.
- LEAN held their Annual General Meeting at the Creative Hub
- Youth Justice Team used our Creative Hub for their all-department team meeting.
- Change Grow Live hired in kind some set pieces and instruments for their annual Pride event.
- Subira Damali hosted a film screening of her documentary *Sacred Strands*
- SE London Pride hosted a Tea Party for LGBTQIA+ over 30s

“Just wanted to say a big thanks for the equipment loan last week. The performance went down really well. The team also appreciated you all cheering them on as they completed the last stretch of the Pride walk!”

– CGL Service Manager

Training & Exchanges: We have exchanged with partners to highlight our own work, while supporting a wider adoption of quality youth-led practice. Activity included delivering:

- **Sharing our Youth-led practice:** 2 members of Members’ Committee delivered a workshop on how to embed youth-led practice in organisations during the LEAN AGM and at a “Lunch and Learn” virtual session for GLA staff.

“Just wanted to drop you a note to say a huge thank you for today’s lunchtime session. It was the perfect way to share how LYT does things and that was easily the most engaged lunchtime session I’ve seen in my two and a bit years at the GLA! Super fun and positive, and I really appreciate you taking the time out to run the session. Also, congrats for translating those activities into an online version. They worked really well!” - **GLA staff**

- **Sharing Creative practice:**

In collaboration with SMASHFest, LYT shared applied theatre practice with Middlesex University students at the Creative Hub. Providing dramatic techniques and creative pedagogy that would inform their creation of prototype immersive experiences that explore flooding in relation to climate change.

“Thank you for an excellent day. It has really helped each team to coalesce their general 'Discovery' thinking into promising creative directions.”

- Created bespoke workshops for Youth First, sharing how drama and creativity can improve your wellbeing and mental health. Delivered these across youth clubs during Mental Health Awareness Week.

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- LYT continues to actively participate in both the Lewisham Education and Cultural Partnership (LCEP) and Lewisham's Cultural Partnership Board, to share our collective experience and members voices with the wider sector.

Volunteering: This year, 19 volunteers and placement students gave up their time to support on our projects. Following placements at LYT our volunteers have been supported to rejoin employment, access future creative opportunities or join next steps training and education.

"Thank you again for our conversation yesterday [midpoint check in] – I really appreciated it. Your suggestions were genuinely helpful and gave me a lot to think about. I especially felt encouraged to express myself more, and that has given me a bit more confidence. So thank you for that! I'm really glad to be part of the LYT sessions. It means a lot to feel so supported." - Student placement

REFERRAL PARTNERSHIPS: LYT continues to receive referrals through local partnerships. This year, our partners have included:

Local Primary Schools: Holy Cross, John Stainer, Lancelot, Dalmain, Rushey Green, and Haberdasher's Knights.

Local Secondary Schools: Bonus Pastor, Forest Hill Boys, Prendergast Vale, Prendergast Ladywell School, Sedgehill Academy, Sydenham Girls, Haberdashers Knights Academy, Lewisham College and Riverston school

Community Referral Partners: Action for Refugees in Lewisham, CAMHS, Children in Care, Free to be Kids, Looked After Children, SLAM, Special Guardianship Support Team, Youth First, Parent & Carer Forum, TNG Youth & Community Centre, Honor Oak Youth Club, Bellingham Gateway Youth & Community Centre, Woodpecker Youth Club, Adult Learning Lewisham, Marsha Phoenix Memorial Trust, Lewisham CSC and Lewisham Parent & Carer Forum

Partner Feedback:

"Some of our children started this session quite reticent and not really joining in, but by the end most were participating! I think this was a great experience to show them that they can be creative in front of others without having to feel embarrassed."

- Primary School Teacher

"Students got to work creatively and imaginatively with their peers. Some students in the workshop really came out of their shell as they are usually quite shy and resistant to get involved."

- Secondary School Teacher

ORGANISATIONAL DEVELOPMENTS

Staff Training: During the year, staff undertook training in Domestic Abuse & Disclosure; Designated Safeguarding Lead, AQA unit award, CLORE - Emerging Leaders workshop, Being a champion in diversity and racial identity, Mental Health Training: Awareness of First Aid Level 1, Exploring consent with young people, ADHD Awareness, Trauma Informed Practice in Youth Work, Emergency First Aid at Work and Emergency Paediatric First Aid, Individual Fundraising and Templates and Systems.

Staffing Changes:

Leavers:

Filiz Ozcan, Creative Director, end date: September 2024
Natalie Parsons, Volunteer Coordinator, end date: January 2025
Jess, Participation Manager, end date: April 2025
Victoria Shaskan, CEO, end date: April 2025
Sara Myers, Creative Director, end date: July 2025
Dean Coffey, Participation Assistant, end date: August 2025

New staff team members:

Maisy Wright, Participation Manager, formally Outreach Producer, start date: April 2025

Bushra Baig, Outreach Producer, start date: April 2025

Monique Uwiragiye, Creative Programmes Manager, start date: August 2025

Following a period of consultation LYT will be changing leadership structures to best reflect our values, mission and vision. You can read more about this in plans for future periods.

Board Changes: Our Council of Management (Board of Trustees) welcomed new members Alice Chen, Head of Central Bank, Sovereign & Supranational FX & Depo Sales, HSBC Bank Plc – Associate Director as our new treasurer. We thank Mairi Hayes, Ian Paish and Genine Whitehorne who are stepping down from the Board due to external commitments.

Premises Changes:

We've continued to make improvements to our Creative Hub on Lewisham High street, including improving the garden by installing a pond, beds and a bug hotel with the help of Members' Committee; installing double glazing windows in our ground floor space, as well as installing an air conditioning unit to improve the overall temperature of the hall. Changes like these continue to make our building more efficient and a greater asset to share with the wider community.

PLANS FOR FUTURE PERIODS

New Leadership Structure:

From January 2026, LYT will be adopting a co-leadership model - between Executive Creative Director, Monique Uwiragiye and Executive Producer, Molly Cox.

Monique is a theatre practitioner, with nearly a decade of experience leading socially engaged, collaboratively driven creative work across the South of England. Her practice is grounded in research, lived experience and community storytelling, creating bold, politically resonant theatre that explores race, culture, heritage and identity. Monique champions collaborative decision-making, values-led leadership and artistic processes that empower others to take ownership of their stories.

Alongside theatre-making, Monique brings extensive leadership experience as a facilitator and producer. Having led youth-led programmes, artist development initiatives and multi-partner collaborations with organisations including Beyond Face, Lyrici Arts, Lewisham Youth Theatre and Theatre Deli.

Molly is an applied theatre practitioner, specialising in youth-voice and community practice. She's been an integral part of LYT's staffing team for over 3 and a half years, starting as the My London Project Manager before transitioning into the leadership team as the Senior Producer. Molly's commitment to authentic co-production is the foundation for all her decisions, keeping the voice of LYT members and the Lewisham community at the heart of the organisation.

Having started as a volunteer, then a freelancer, and now a core staff member at LYT, Molly has an innate understanding of the organisation's history, nuances, and commitment to its mission.

We believe that a co-leadership structure best meets LYT's evolving needs and allows for our company values of equity and care to be structurally embedded across the leadership of the organisation. The benefit of having dual perspective will strengthen LYT's execution of the organisational strategy and allow for more sustainable capacity across the team. This structure gives space for us to be inclusive, sustainable and brave with LYT's future plans and we are excited to be committing to this new way vision of creative leadership.

New work with 18 - 25s: We plan to expand our programme offer for 18 - 25 year olds. Starting with creative leadership opportunities, as a next step to our Members' Committee to co-produce this offer. We will be using this work to challenge existing engagement barriers for young early-carer creatives, driving systemic change that will impact access to creativity.

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PLANS FOR FUTURE PERIODS

FINANCIAL REVIEW

LYT has had another positive year, managing to end the year with a surplus of £12,833. We have continued to enjoy support from a wide range of public and private sponsors. This year we raised £386,069 through grants, donations and charitable activities. This fundraising success allowed us to spend £373,236 (cash expenditure) on our own charitable activities.

On top of the cash income and expenditure, we have secured in-kind support towards our premises costs estimated at £10,750 bringing our total income to £396,819.

The charity remains in a good financial position, with £247,140 of funds carried forward to the next financial year.

RESERVES POLICY

Unrestricted Designated funds carried forward (shown in notes 9 and 10) are monies allocated to projects going forward. The Trustees deem these fund are available for use in the following year's operational budget as a contingency towards the project and running costs of the next year. This policy allows the charity to plan and deliver a cohesive annual programme to meet the needs of our service users should fundraising not meet expected targets.

As of 31 August 2025, the Trustees designate £68,176 of carried forward funds to projects in the 2025/26 financial year.

The charity endeavours to maintain a level of non-operational reserves that will enable it, if the situation arises that funding is curtailed, to carry on its activities whilst alternative sources of funding are obtained. Total carried forward funds current total 6 months running costs, with non-operational Reserves (defined as carried forward funds not designated) at the level of £130,000 currently totalling approximately 4 months of the overall 2023/24 cash expenditure. The directors consider this to be an appropriate level of reserves as at 31 August 2025 as a contingency against statutory obligations.


The movement in reserves is shown in note 8 to the accounts.

DIRECTORS/TRUSTEES

The directors/trustees set out below have held office during the whole year of this report unless otherwise stated.

Genine Whitehorne		Resigned 15th Septyember 2025
Thomas Toomse-Smith		Resigned 2nd December 2024
Edison Huyn		Resigned 2nd December 2024
Freneka Mumford		
Ian Paish		Resigned 10th February 2025
Jamiel Thomas		
Louise Gordon	Chair	
Mairi Hayes		Resigned 4th April 2025
Tyreke Leslie		
Alice Chen	Treasurer	Appointed 2nd December 2024

This report was approved by the board on 12/29/2025 and signed on its behalf by

Signed by:

D4A850ED21A6494...
Treasurer and Trustee
Alice Chen
Lewisham Youth Theatre Ltd

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Independent Examiner's Report on the Accounts

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the company for the year ended 31st August 2025 which are set out on pages 12 to 20 .

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity's trustees of the company (and also its directors for the purposes of company law) you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 ('the 2006 Act').

Having satisfied myself that the accounts of the company are not required to be audited under Part 16 of the 2006 Act and are eligible for independent examination, I report in respect of my examination of your charity's accounts as carried out under section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 (the '2011 Act'). In carrying out my examination I have followed the Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act.

Independent examiner's report

Since the company's gross income exceeded £250,000 your examiner must be a member of a body listed in section 145 of the 2011 Act. I confirm that I am qualified to undertake the examination because I am a member of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England & Wales, which is one of the listed bodies.

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe:

- (1) accounting records were not kept in respect of the company as required by section 386 of the 2006 Act; or
- (2) the accounts do not accord with those accounting records; or
- (3) the accounts do not comply with the accounting requirements of section 396 of the 2006 Act other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair' view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination; or
- (4) the accounts have not been prepared in accordance with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended practice for accounting and reporting by charities applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102).

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



Frank S Lachman
Chartered Accountant
Independent Examiner

31 Fairview Way
Edgware
Middlesex HA8 8JA

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Statement of Financial Activities
(incorporating an Income and Expenditure Account)
For the year ended 31st August 2025

	Notes	Restricted Funds			Unrestricted Funds			Total Funds	2024 £
		Revenue £	Designated £	Reserves £	2025 £	Revenue £	Designated £	Reserves £	
Income									
Donations and legacies	2	327,419	58,482	-	385,901	379,070	63,857	-	442,927
Bank interest		-	3,252	-	3,252	-	3,615	-	3,615
Charitable activities	4	5187	2479	-	7,666	-	11,622	-	11,622
Total income		332,606	64,213	-	396,819	379,070	79,094	-	458,164
Expenditure									
Charitable Activity Costs	3	343,642	40,344	-	383,986	382,840	47,778	-	430,618
Total expenditure		343,642	40,344	-	383,986	382,840	47,778	-	430,618
Net income/expenditure		(11,036)	23,869	-	12,833	(3,770)	31,316	-	27,546
Reconciliation of funds									
Total funds brought forward		-	74,307	130,000	204,307	-	56,761	120,000	176,761
Transfers between funds		30,000	(30,000)	-	-	3,770	(13,770)	10,000	-
Total funds carried forward	9	18,964	68,176	130,000	217,140	-	74,307	130,000	204,307

The statement of Financial Activities reflects the results of continuing activities for the year.

There were no recognised gains or losses other than the net outgoing resources for the year.

The net outgoing resources for the year have been calculated on the historical cost basis.

The notes on pages 14 to 20 form part of these accounts.

LEWISHAM YOUTH THEATRE LTD**Balance Sheet at 31st August 2025**

	Notes	2025		2024	
		£	£	£	£
Current assets					
Debtors	7	241		7,601	
Cash at bank and in hand		276,866		233,602	
Total current assets		<u>277,107</u>		<u>241,203</u>	
Creditors due within one year	8	<u>59,967</u>		<u>36,896</u>	
Net current assets			217,140		204,307
Net assets			<u>217,140</u>		<u>204,307</u>
The funds of the charity					
Restricted Funds			18,964		-
Unrestricted Funds - Designated			68,176		74,307
- Reserves			130,000		130,000
Total charity funds	9		<u>217,140</u>		<u>204,307</u>

For the year ended 31 August 2025 the company was entitled to exemption under section 477(2) of the Companies Act 2006.

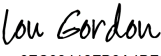
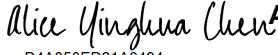
No members have required the company to obtain an audit of its accounts for the period in question in accordance with section 476 of the Companies Act 2006.

The directors acknowledge their responsibility for:

- i. ensuring the company keeps accounting records which comply with section 386; and
- ii. preparing accounts which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the company as at the end of the financial year and of its profit and loss for the financial year in accordance with the section 393, and which otherwise comply with the requirements of the Companies Act relating to accounts, so far as applicable to the company.

The accounts have been prepared in accordance with the special provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies' regime under Companies Act 2006.

Approved by the directors on 12/29/2025, and signed on their behalf by

Signed by:  6FC09418FB9A4BF...	Louise Gordon	- Chair
Signed by:  D4A850ED21A6494...	Alice Chen	- Treasurer

LEWISHAM YOUTH THEATRE LTD**Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended 31st August 2025****1 Accounting Policies**

(a) 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 2022) - (Charities SORP (FRS 102)), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Companies Act 2006.

As a small company, Lewisham Youth Theatre has not presented a cashflow in these accounts on the basis of the small company exemption under FRS102, section 7.

Lewisham Youth Theatre meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102.

Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy note(s).

(b) Income

Income is recognised when the charity has entitlement to the funds, any performance conditions attached to the items of income have been met, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured reliably. Income from grants, whether capital or revenue grants, is recognised when the charity has entitlement to the funds, any performance conditions attached to the grants has been met, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured reliably and is not deferred.

(c) Expenditure

All expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis. Expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to make a payment to a third party. It is probable that settlement will be required and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably.

Costs are allocated to a category either because such costs are directly incurred in relation to such category, or because they are support costs in respect of which an apportionment has been made between the categories.

Support costs consist of infrastructure costs for salaries, premises, office administration. Such costs are apportioned on a reasonable and consistent basis to the various categories with a view to determining, as accurately as possible, the total resources expended for each category. The basis of apportionment used is either a function of staff time applied to a given activity, or an estimate of the proportion of costs associated with the same, or a combination of both.

Direct and Support costs are separately shown by natural classification in Note 5 to these accounts for each category of cost.

(d) Taxation

The company as a registered charity (number 297075) is exempt from taxation on most investment income insofar as it is applied for charitable purposes. The company is also exempt from taxation on capital gains.

(e) Debtors

Trade and other debtors are recognised at the settlement amount due after any trade discount offered. Prepayments are valued at the amount prepaid net of any trade discounts due.

(f) Creditors and provisions

Creditors and provisions are recognised where the charity has a present obligation resulting from a past event that will probably result in the transfer of funds to a third party and the amount due to settle the obligation can be measured or estimated reliably. Creditors and provisions are normally recognised at their settlement amount after allowing for any trade discounts due.

(g) Tangible Fixed Assets

Tangible fixed assets are written down over the useful life on a fixed line basis. Computers are deemed to have a four year life

**Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended 31st August 2025**

2 Grants and donations	Restricted Funds £	Unrestricted Funds £	2025 £	Restricted Funds £	Unrestricted Funds £	2024 £
Support In Kind						
As below	-	10,750	10,750	-	17,032	17,032
Grants for General Running Costs						
- LB of Lewisham - Main Grant	-	30,000	30,000	-	30,000	30,000
Grants and Donations						
- Arts Council England	3,000	-	3,000	30,000	-	30,000
- ASDA Foundation	1,200	-	1,200	-	-	-
- A2Dominion	1,000	-	1,000	-	-	-
- City Bridge Foundation	75,935	-	75,935	49,063	-	49,063
- Children In Need	10,000	-	10,000	-	-	-
- Garfield Weston	-	-	-	15,000	-	15,000
- <i>Greater London Authority</i> My London	-	-	-	60,000	-	60,000
- Groundword - Tesco	1,000	-	1,000	-	-	-
- Haberdashers Benevolent Fund	3,150	-	3,150	5,000	-	5,000
- Henry Smith Charity	28,500	-	28,500	29,000	-	29,000
- Hillcote Trust	5,000	-	5,000	-	5,000	5,000
- Ironmungers	4,490	-	4,490	-	-	-
- Jack Petchey Foundation	9,240	-	9,240	13,860	-	13,860
- <i>LB of Lewisham</i> Economy, Jobs & Partnerships	2,500	-	2,500	2,500	-	2,500
Safer Neighbourhoods	-	-	-	4,000	-	4,000
LGBTQ	-	1,000	1,000	500	-	500
Essentials Grant	4,834	-	4,834	7,000	-	7,000
NCIL Borough Wide	-	-	-	7,500	-	7,500
Inspiring Lewisham Community Fund Culture	30,000	-	30,000	-	-	-
Bridging the Gap Project	-	7,500	7,500	-	-	-
- Lee Charity of William Hattcliffe	5,000	-	5,000	5,000	-	5,000
- London Youth	-	-	-	-	2,000	2,000
- Maudsley Charity	13,065	-	13,065	-	-	-
- National Lottery Community Fund	84,695	-	84,695	81,007	-	81,007
- People's Society Trust	-	-	-	-	-	-
- Percy Bilton	-	-	-	3,550	-	3,550
- Royal Free London NHS Foundation	-	-	-	5,000	-	5,000
- Sir William Boreman Foundation	-	-	-	-	-	-
- Skinners' Charity Foundation	10,000	-	10,000	10,000	-	10,000
- SMASH-UK CIC	7,500	-	7,500	-	-	-
- The Clothworkers	7,400	-	7,400	-	-	-
- The Grocers Charity	-	-	-	5,000	-	5,000
- The Merchant Tailors Foundation	4,500	-	4,500	4,500	-	4,500
- Youth First	30,000	-	30,000	-	-	-
Donations						
- Individual and Corporate Donors	-	6,315	6,315	-	9,825	9,825
Deferred Grants brought forward	16,410	2,917	19,327	58,000	2,917	60,917
Deferred Grants carried forward	(51,000)	-	(51,000)	(16,410)	(2,917)	(19,327)
	327,419	58,482	385,901	379,070	63,857	442,927

LEWISHAM YOUTH THEATRE LTD

**Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended 31st August 2025**

		2025	2024
Support in Kind comprises			
London Borough of Lewisham	Rent	10,750	9,375
Mishcon de Reya	Legal Support	-	7,657
		10,750	17,032

	Restricted £	Unrestricted £	2025 £	Restricted £	Unrestricted £	2024 £	
Deferred Grants brought forward							
LB of Lewisham							
Main Grant	-	2,917	2,917	-	2,917	2,917	
Local Essentials	2,000	-	2,000	-	-	-	
Greater London Authority							
My London	7,600	-	7,600	10,000	-	10,000	
Arts Council England	-	-	-	3,000	-	3,000	
BBC Children In Need	-	-	-	20,000	-	20,000	
People's Society Trust	-	-	-	25,000	-	25,000	
Jack Petchey	2,310	-	2,310	-	-	-	
Merchant Taylors Foundation	4,500	-	4,500	-	-	-	
		16,410	2,917	19,327	58,000	2,917	60,917

	Restricted £	Unrestricted £	2025 £	Restricted £	Unrestricted £	2024 £
Deferred Grants carried forward						
LB of Lewisham						
Main Grant	-	-	-	-	2,917	2,917
Local Essentials	-	-	-	2,000	-	2,000
Inspiring Lewisham	20,000	-	20,000			
Greater London Authority						
My London	-	-	-	7,600	-	7,600
Youth First	30,000	-	30,000			
Jack Petchey	-	-	-	2,310	-	2,310
Merchant Taylors Foundation	-	-	-	4,500	-	4,500
Clarion Futures	1,000	-	1,000	-	-	-
		51,000	-	16,410	2,917	19,327

LEWISHAM YOUTH THEATRE LTD**Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended 31st August 2025****3 Charitable Activity Costs**

	Support Costs		Charitable Activity Costs		Governance	Total
	Restricted	Unrestricted	Restricted	Unrestricted	Costs	2025
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Direct costs						
Staff costs	3,270	8,375	265,870	8,908	3,171	289,594
Project Costs						
Freelance Fees	-	-	28,344	-	-	28,344
Graduate Creatives Apprenticeships	-	-	5,985	-	-	5,985
Production Costs	-	-	2,110	54	-	2,164
Documentation and Evaluation	-	-	385	-	-	385
Theatre tickets	-	-	485	-	-	485
DBS Checks	-	-	808	29	-	837
Workshop Materials and Costs	-	-	2,750	117	-	2,867
Travel and subsistence	-	-	64	-	-	64
Volunteer Expenses	-	-	374	17	-	391
Legal Expenses	-	-	6,345	-	3,276	9,621
Computing Equipment and Software	-	-	263	59	-	322
Essentials Bursaries	-	-	4,862	533	-	5,395
Equipment and software	-	-	89	-	-	89
Support In Kind	-	10,750	-	-	-	10,750
Accountant's fee	-	-	-	-	2,000	2,000
AGM, Council of Management and Annual report costs	-	-	-	12	-	12
Telephone, internet and postage	-	-	1,060	316	-	1,376
Organisational Promotion and travel	-	-	562	456	-	1,018
Operational/Service costs	-	-	9,621	76	-	9,697
Insurance	-	-	-	811	-	811
Subscriptions	-	-	1,978	503	35	2,516
Refreshments	-	-	64	150	-	214
Printing and Stationery	-	-	1,380	472	-	1,852
Bank fees	-	-	-	-	-	-
Light, power, heating and cleaning	673	-	6,300	224	-	7,197
Total 2025	3,943	19,125	339,699	12,737	8,482	383,986

LEWISHAM YOUTH THEATRE LTD**Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended 31st August 2025****3 Charitable Activity Costs**

	Support Costs		Charitable Activity		Governance Costs	Total 2024
	Restricted	Unrestricted	Restricted	Unrestricted		
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Direct costs						
Staff costs	-	9,005	273,896	10,056	3,239	296,196
Project Costs						
Freelance Fees	-	-	29,590	-	-	29,590
Graduate Creatives Apprenticeships	-	-	25,326	-	-	25,326
Production Costs	-	-	3,154	-	-	3,154
Documentation	-	-	2,241	-	-	2,241
Accreditation costs	-	-	644	-	-	644
My London Partnership	-	-	9,644	-	-	9,644
Theatre tickets	-	-	673	-	-	673
DBS Checks	-	-	1,337	39	51	1,427
Workshop Materials and Costs	-	-	2,309	-	-	2,309
Travel and subsistence	-	-	1,511	-	-	1,511
Volunteer Expenses	-	-	556	32	-	588
Computing Equipment and Software	-	-	4,303	-	-	4,303
Essentials Bursaries	-	-	4,529	-	-	4,529
Equipment and software	-	-	2,238	-	-	2,238
Support costs	-	17,032	-	-	-	17,032
Accountant's fee	-	-	-	-	2,000	2,000
AGM, Council of Management and Annual r	-	-	909	719	-	1,628
Telephone, internet and postage	-	-	712	1,030	-	1,742
Organisational Promotion and travel	-	-	1,623	24	-	1,647
Operational/Service costs	-	-	7,605	-	-	7,605
Insurance	1,967	-	-	655	-	2,622
Subscriptions	-	-	1,577	501	-	2,078
Refreshments	-	-	110	257	-	367
Printing and Stationery	-	-	812	1,324	-	2,136
Bank fees	-	-	-	-	-	-
Light, power, heating and cleaning	5,574	-	-	1,814	-	7,388
Total 2024	7,541	26,037	375,299	16,451	5,290	430,618

4 Charitable activities	Restricted	Unrestricted	2025	Restricted	Unrestricted	2024
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Workshops and commissions	5,187	2,479	7,666	-	11,622	11,622
	5,187	2,479	7,666	-	11,622	11,622

LEWISHAM YOUTH THEATRE LTD**Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended 31st August 2025**

5 Employees	2025	2024		2025	2024
	£	£		No.	No.
Wages	261,209	271,250	Administration	2	2
Staff Pension costs	5,439	6,009	Tutors	8	9
Employers NI	15,434	18,937			
Freelance fees	28,344	29,590			
	<u>310,426</u>	<u>325,786</u>		<u>10</u>	<u>11</u>

No employee earned more than £60,000 during the year. (2024 none)

6 Tangible Fixed Assets	Computers	Total
	£	£
Cost at 1st September 2024 and 31st August 2025	<u>1,059</u>	<u>1,059</u>
Depreciation at 1st September 2024 and 31st August 2025	<u>1,059</u>	<u>1,059</u>
Written down value at 31st August 2023 and 31st August 2024	-	-

7 Debtors	2025	2024
	£	£
Trade debtors	<u>241</u>	<u>7,601</u>
	<u>241</u>	<u>7,601</u>

8 Creditors due within one year	2025	2024
	£	£
Trade creditors	6,530	10,507
Deferred Grants	51,000	19,327
Other creditors	437	-
Accruals	2,000	7,062
	<u>59,967</u>	<u>36,896</u>

9 Reconciliation of Movement in Funds		Balance at				Balance at 31st
		1st	Income	Expenditure	Transfers	August 2025
		September	£	£	£	£
		2024				
		£				
Restricted Funds		-	332,606	(343,642)	30,000	18,964
Unrestricted Funds	- Designated	74,307	64,213	(40,344)	(30,000)	68,176
	- Reserves	130,000	-	-	-	130,000
		<u>204,307</u>	<u>396,819</u>	<u>(383,986)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>217,140</u>

LEWISHAM YOUTH THEATRE LTD**Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended 31st August 2024****The above funds comprise:**

Reserves: these are monies representing approximately 4 months of overall budget costs in the 23-24 year, which can be used by the Trustees at their discretion for any purpose and which have not been designated by them previously.

Designated Fund: are monies the Trustees have allocated to projects moving forward, which will be released for use in the 2024/25 operational budgets

Transfer of any remaining funds between restricted and unrestricted general has been made following successful completion of projects to the satisfaction of funders in order to ensure the long-term sustainability of the charity.

10 Analysis of Net Assets between Funds

	Net Current Assets	Fixed Assets	Total 2025	Total 2024
	£	£	£	£
Restricted Funds	18,964	-	18,964	-
Unrestricted Funds:				
Designated	68,176	-	68,176	74,307
Reserves	130,000	-	130,000	130,000
	<u>217,140</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>217,140</u>	<u>204,307</u>

11 TRUSTEES

No trustee received remuneration for services provided to, or reimbursement of expenses incurred on behalf of, the company while a trustee/director during the year.

No trustee resigned in the year and took paid employment with the company