ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 5 APRIL 2020

5 April 2020

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Legal and Administrative: Backstage Trust (Charity Number 1145887) was established under a Trust Deed

dated 30 January 2012.

<u>Trustees:</u> Lady Sainsbury of Turville CBE, Hon. RAM, Hon. FRIBA, Hon D.Litt

Mr David Wood Mr Dominic Flynn

<u>Administrator:</u> Ms Helen Cave

Advisers: Baroness Genista McIntosh of Hudnall

Professor Ian Ritchie CBE RA

Office: North House

27 Great Peter Street

London SW1P 3LN

Charity Number: 1145887

Bankers: C Hoare & Co

37 Fleet Street

London EC4P 4DQ

Solicitors: Portrait Solicitors

21 Whitefriars Street

London EC4Y 8JJ

Auditors: Crowe U.K. LLP

55 Ludgate Hill London EC4M 7JW

Investment advisers: Sarabaite Limited

North House

27 Great Peter Street London SW1P 3LN

<u>Investment Powers:</u> The Trust Deed empowers the Trustees to appoint investment advisers who have

discretion to invest the funds of the Trust within the guidelines established by the

Trustees.

Objects: The objects of the Trust set out in the Trust Deed are for general charitable

purposes.



TRUSTEES' REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 5 APRIL 2020

Backstage Trust was established under a Trust Deed dated 30 January 2012 and the Trustees submit their report for the year ended 5 April 2020.

1. Objectives and Scope of Grant Making

The Trustees of Backstage believe that art, philanthropy and government working together really can make a difference. The need for a healthy and innovative arts sector in the UK is very clear: a vibrant industry spanning all art forms is essential for the cultural and social life of the country, and also makes an enormous contribution to the economy, particularly in the regions.

The main focus for Backstage grants is encouraging and enabling the experience of live arts. Small theatres with an adventurous and exciting programme are often the starting point for exceptional new writing, and where talented young freelance actors, musicians, designers and directors can launch their careers. We know that participating in, and learning from, live performance has a positive impact on individuals, contributing in turn to a wider public benefit. But the sector relies heavily on private philanthropy as public bodies cannot, or will not, take the necessary risks to make a difference.

In 2020 COVID19 has had a profound and devastating effect on the lives and livelihood of all who are connected with the performing arts, and at the time of writing it is not at all clear how much irreparable damage will be done to the industry. Backstage has adopted a flexible policy towards the use by some organisations of grants, awarded for a specific purpose, which have been usefully redirected to provide the means of keeping the organisation afloat. In March 2020, the Trustees also earmarked a proportion of Backstage's funds specifically to provide emergency COVID19 grants to cover running costs for a number of grantees. These rapid-response funds have been welcomed by the industry. A substantial grant to the Theatre Artists Fund in July 2020 marks the recognition by Backstage of the perilous position of the many thousands of freelancers who create the world of theatre.

The need for a constant and generous element of philanthropic funding to promote the arts will remain acute, probably more so now than ever. Successive governments have eroded the budget for all the arts, leaving many organisations struggling in the face of chronic under-funding. Such organisations work tirelessly to promote and energise their art. Their work makes a real difference to the lives of practitioners and audiences, and delivers tangible public benefit. Their achievements are remarkable, and they deserve financial stability. While very welcome, it is not clear how realistic or effective the Government rescue package announced in summer 2020 for the arts will be, and Backstage Trustees will continue to encourage imaginative proposals for support from organisations with a relevant, realistic and clearly expressed set of aims.

Grants awarded by Backstage provide support in diverse areas, mainly in the UK but occasionally for educational projects overseas. Trustees are open to suggestions which relate to different ways in which the arts can touch society. Currently Backstage is delighted to be supporting Good Chance Theatre — who devise remarkable projects such as "Jungle" -highlighting the plight of refugees. "Little Amal" is a charismatic 15ft-tall puppet who will tell her story of life as a young refugee girl as she walks through Europe in 2021. She will be meeting and interacting with arts groups and telling her stories throughout her long journey to the UK.



APPLYING TO BACKSTAGE

Backstage can only offer assistance to registered charities or to activities which have clear charitable aims; the trust cannot fund individuals directly. The majority of grants awarded since the Trust was established come under one of the following headings:

- providing advice and mentoring to help with professional development of small and medium scale arts organisations
- providing advice on fundraising, recruiting development staff and preparing a case for support
- assisting with feasibility studies for capital projects and advice on project management
- funding elements of capital projects including the less appealing items
- encouraging new writing
- assisting live arts projects involving outreach and the disadvantaged
- encouraging the involvement of young people in the performing arts

Applicants need to demonstrate clearly the potential viability of their project, and show that the organisation, through good governance and management, has the capacity to use charitable funding in the most effective way. Trustees will want to see evidence of realistic fundraising plans, and an understanding that while Backstage might act as a catalyst to encourage other grant-giving bodies, it should not be regarded as sole funder. A critical need for most arts organisations – in addition to enthusiasm, energy and a determination to make a difference – is professional advice providing support in areas where they, understandably, are unable to gain access to or afford appropriate guidance. Backstage can sometimes provide, or cover the costs of such advice, allowing a small organisation to benefit from help which would be beyond their means. All applications that meet the funding criteria will be considered carefully.

Organisation

Backstage Trust is a small charity of which Lady Sainsbury of Turville is the Settlor and a Trustee. She and her fellow Trustees work closely with the administrator to assess all grant proposals to ensure they meet the Trust's criteria and that there are no conflicts of interest. Grant approvals are often made between meetings but all grants are ratified at the regular formal Trustee meetings and all are made subject to specific conditions which are monitored throughout. The Trustees meet periodically with the advisers to discuss strategy as well as approved and potential grants, however the advisers have no decision making powers. Trustees are appointed by existing Trustees and are provided with relevant information relating to their responsibilities as Trustees.

Policies

Reserves Policy

It is the Trustees' intention to continue to approve grants annually that exceed the available income. Consequently, some grants will be met from the Trust's expendable endowment for the foreseeable future and a transfer of £3,670,304 has been made from the expendable endowment to enable the Trust's commitments to be met. The Trustees regularly review cash flow projections for income and expenditure, to ensure that the level of disposable net assets is adequate and that the Trust is in a position to meet all its commitments.

Having assessed the Trust's financial position and plans for the foreseeable future, the Trustees are satisfied that it remains appropriate to prepare the financial statements on the basis that the Trust is sustainable as a going concern.

The Covid-19 pandemic has not had a significant impact on the Trust's finances. The Trust's principal source of income is from the endowment fund. The endowment assets of the Trust remain significant, and the Trust will continue to pay out to its beneficiaries in accordance with the Trust's objectives.

5 April 2020

Investment Policy

The Trustees have held significant funds on deposit to enable the Trust to draw on capital when required and the Trustees meet regularly to discuss strategy and review performance.

Remuneration Policy

Backstage Trust has no employees and therefore no policy is in place.

Risk Assessment

The Trustees have examined the major strategic, business and operational risks to which the charity may be exposed. Adequate systems are in place to manage such potential risks as the Trustees have identified. They continue to keep processes under review.

The Trustees identified the potential misuse of funds by a grantee charity as a significant risk. To mitigate this risk, the Trustees normally restrict grants to charities registered with the UK Charity Commission or equivalent bodies. The awards are made following a thorough assessment and grants are routinely monitored; multi-year grants are paid only on receipt of satisfactory progress reports.

The Trustees also identified liquidity as constituting a significant risk and this is mitigated by holding sufficient funds in cash or near cash to meet expected liabilities as and when they fall. The Trustees regularly review the investment strategy and cash hold policy.

Charity and Public Benefit

The Trustees are aware of the Charity Commission guidance on public benefit, and confirm that they have complied with the duty in Section 17 of the Charities Act 2011 to have due regard to it. This report aims to set out information covering the Trust's aims, activities and achievements. The report describes the areas of specific interest to the Trust. The benefits provided by these grants can be seen in the professional development of the recipients, and through them to the public. The charity does not raise funds from the public.

2. Review of the Year

During the year, Backstage Trust's primary source of income were donations from Lady Sainsbury of Turville and the Gatsby Charitable Foundation totalling £4.1m (increased donations were received to increase Backstage Trust's ability to make emergency Covid-19 grants). During the year the trustees approved 75 grants which totalled £4.1m. The activities for the year resulted in a net surplus of £0.45m and total reserves at the year-end amounted to £2,088,321, which are all part of the expendable endowment.

Grant Making

The Trustees met twice during the year to make grants and to review investments. At the year end, outstanding commitments which were entered into during the year and not included in the accounts amounted to £639,500 (note 10). During the year, 75 grants totalling £4,114,895 were made to Arts Organisations.

Main Grants Approved

Arts

Clean Break £50,000

Support for the core activities over 2 years

Hall for Cornwall £50,000

Support of the final phase of core funding

BackstageTrust

Mustardseed Trust Continued support for capital project (\$70,000)	£51,541
East, Central & Southern Africa College of Physicians Continued support of the fundraising and grants	£60,000
Mustardseed Trust Support for provision of fund raising advice	£72,000
City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra Support of CBSO's Education Programme	£75,000
Liverpool Everyman and Playhouse Support for Community Engagement Programme	£75,000
World Heart Beat Music Additional support of their Capital Campaign	£75,000
Almeida Support for the refurbishment of the Front of House are	£75,000 eas
Public Theatre in New York Support of the production of "The Michaels"	£79,158
Kiln Theatre Support of core funding	£100,000
Roots Theatre Support of core funding	£100,000
British Youth Music Theatre Support for the "Increasing access to the Arts" project	£105,000
Good Chance Theatre Funding of the theatres Puppet Workshop	£130,000
Shoreditch Town Hall Support the second phase of their refurbishment	£150,000
Royal Academy of Music Renovation and improvement of the foyer area	£205,000
Papatango Theatre company Core funding for the next three years	£210,000
Royal Shakespeare Company Support for the 2021 "Mischief Festival"	£250,000
Royal Academy of Music Support for RAM's enhancement of HR infrastructure	£262,500

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Old Vic

£300,000

Support of the capital project "The Green Room"

Roundhouse Theatre

£500,000

Grant towards the new studio capital project

Emergency Covid-19 Grants Approved

Southwark Playhouse

£90,000

Emergency support for core costs

Kiln Theatre

Emergency support for core costs

£150,000

Cardboard Citizens

£200,000

Emergency support for core costs

Future plans

The Trust will continue to support the activities set out on pages 4 to 6 by award of grants.

Approved by the Trustees on 29 October 2020 signed on their behalf by:

TRUSTEE

5 April 2020

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR THE 12 MONTHS ENDED 5 APRIL 2020

	Notes	Unrestricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total Funds 2020	Total Funds 2019 *
to a constant for the c		£	£	£	£
Income and Endowments from:					
Donations and gifts		70,873	4,125,000	4,195,873	2,182,837
Investments		8,445	-	8,445	8,546
Total Income		79,318	4,125,000	4,204,318	2,191,383
Expenditure:					
Charitable activities					
Grant-making	2	3,655,395	-	3,655,395	2,021,280
Grant related support costs	3	94,227	_	94,227	76,292
Total Expenditure		3,749,622		3,749,622	2,097,572
rotal Experiatore		3,7 +3,022		3,743,022	2,037,372
Net gains on investments	5	-	-	-	136,634
Net (Expenditure)/Income		(3,670,304)	4,125,000	454,696	230,445
Transfers between funds		3,670,304	(3,670,304)	-	-
Net movement in funds			454,696	454,696	230,445
Total funds brought forward		-	1,633,625	1,633,625	1,403,180
Total funds carried forward			2,088,321	2,088,321	1,633,625

^{*} See note 4.

The notes on pages 10 to 16 form part of these accounts.

5 April 2020

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 5 APRIL 2020

	Notes	2020 £	2020 £	2019 £
CURRENT ASSETS				
Short term investments Debtors Cash at bank and in hand	5 6	1,793,412 225,000 1,445,696 3,464,108		1,997,359 225,000 120,062 2,342,421
LIABILITIES				
Creditors - amounts falling due within 1 year	7 _	1,375,787		708,796
NET CURRENT ASSETS			2,088,321	1,633,625
NET ASSETS		=	2,088,321	1,633,625
THE FUNDS OF THE CHARITY:				
Endowment funds	8		2,088,321	1,633,625
		_	2,088,321	1,633,625

Approved by the Trustees on 29 October 2020 and signed on their behalf by:

TRUSTEE

The notes on pages 10 to 16 form part of these accounts.

5 April 2020

CASH FLOW STATEMENT FOR YEAR ENDING 5 APRIL 2020

		2020 £	2019 £
Net Movement in Funds per Statement of Financial Activities		454,695	230,445
Increase in debtors		434,093	(85,000)
Increase/(decrease) in creditors		666,991	(698,506)
Income received in shares		-	(030,300)
Profit on sale of shares		_	(136,634)
Income from Investments		(8,445)	(8,546)
Net cash used in operating activities		1,113,241	(698,241)
open seed in open seed to be a seed to			(000)= :=/
Cash flows from Investing Activities			
Income from Investments		8,445	8,546
Proceeds from disposal of investments		-	624,834
Net cash received in Investing Activities		8,445	633,380
-			· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·
Net increase/(decrease) in cash and cash equivalents		1,121,686	(64,861)
Analysis of the balance of cash as shown in the balance sheet			
			Change in
	2020	2019	year
	£	£	£
Cash at bank and in hand	1,445,696	120,062	1,325,634
Short term investments	1,793,412	1,997,360	(203,948)
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the year	3,239,108	2,117,422	1,121,686

BackstageTrust

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS102) applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland and the Charities Act 2011 and UK Generally Accepted Practice as it applies from 1 January 2015.

The financial statements have been prepared to give a 'true and fair view' and have departed from the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 only to the extent required to provide a 'true and fair view'. This departure has involved following Accounting and Reporting by Charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS102) rather than the Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice effective from 1 April 2005 which has since been withdrawn.

The Trust constitutes a public benefit entity as defined by FRS102.

Having assessed the Trust's financial position and plans for the foreseeable future, the Trustees are satisfied that it remains appropriate to prepare the financial statements on the basis that the charity is sustainable as a going concern.

The Covid-19 pandemic has not had a significant impact on the Trust's finances. The Trust's principal source of income is from the endowment fund. The endowment assets of the Trust remain significant, and the Trust will continue to pay out to its beneficiaries in accordance with the Trust's objects.

The principal accounting policies adopted are as follows:

a) Income

- (i) Income is shown gross which includes the associated tax credit unless the tax so deducted is considered irrecoverable.
- (ii) Interest is recorded on an accruals basis.
- (iii) Donated shares have been recognised at market value at the date of transfer.

b) Grants payable

Grants for which there is a legally binding commitment are accounted for within the Statement of Financial Activities. Payments that are due within one year of the year-end date are included within grants payable in the Statement of Financial Activities. Other grants are accounted for in the Statement of Financial Activities when conditions attaching to the grant are fulfilled.

c) Support costs

Most of these costs support the grant-making activity of the Trust and are so allocated.

d) Charitable activity

The Trustees consider that grant-making is the Trust's sole charitable activity.

e) Governance costs

Governance costs comprise all costs involving the public accountability of the charity and its compliance with regulation and good practice. These costs include fees for statutory audit and legal fees where relevant.

f) Gift of Staff Time

Individuals employed by Lady Sainsbury provide various services towards the running of the Trust. The cost of their time is recognised as a gift as well as shown as an expense based on an estimate of time incurred by the staff involved.

BackstageTrust

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS (continued)

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)

g) Funds Funds represent cash or cash equivalents held with UK banks

h) Financial Instruments

The Trust has financial assets and financial liabilities of a kind that qualify as basic financial instruments. Basic financial instruments are initially recognised at transaction value and subsequently measured at amortised costs using the effective interest method. Financial assets held at fair value consist of shares, and financial assets held at amortised costs comprise cash at bank and in hand, accrued interest and other debtors. Financial liabilities held at amortised cost comprise grants payable and accruals.

At the balance sheet date, the charity held no financial assets at fair value (2019: £Nil), financial assets at amortised cost of £3,239,108 (2019: £2,117,421) and financial liabilities at amortised cost of £1,375,787 (2019: £708,796).

i) Critical Accounting Judgements and Key Sources of Estimation Uncertainty

In the application of the Trust's accounting policies, which are described in note 1, Trustees are required to make judgements, estimates, assumptions about the carrying values of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. The estimates and underlying assumptions are based on historical experience and other factors that are considered to be relevant. Actual results may differ from these estimates.

The estimates and underlying assumptions are reviewed on an ongoing basis. Revisions to accounting estimates are recognised in the period in which the estimate is revised if the revision affects only that period, or in the period of the revision and future periods if the revision affects the current and future periods.

In the view of the Trustees, no assumptions concerning the future or estimated uncertainty affecting assets and liabilities at the balance sheet date are likely to result in a material adjustment to their carrying amounts in the next financial year.

j) Cash and Cash Equivalents
 Cash and cash equivalents include cash at bank, cash held for reinvestment and on call deposits.

2. GRANT EXPENDITURE

	2020	2019
	£	£
Reconciliation of grants payable:		
Commitments at 6 April	701,295	1,396,664
Grants approved in the year	4,114,895	2,027,780
Grants approved in prior year	180,000	248,500
Grants cancelled in the year	-	(75,000)
Grants not accrued at 5 April	(639,500)	(180,000)
	3,655,395	2,021,280
Grants payable for the year	4,356,690	3,417,944
Grants paid during the year	(2,995,550)	(2,716,648)
Commitments at 5 April due within one year (note 7)	1,361,140	701,296

BackstageTrust

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS (continued)

2. GRANT EXPENDITURE (continued)

	2020 £
Arts & Business Cymru	40,000
Graeae Theatre Company	40,000
Hackney Empire	40,000
Reading Rep Theatre	40,000
The Prince's Foundation	40,000
Clean Break	50,000
Hall For Cornwall	50,000
Liverpool Everyman and Playhouse	50,000
Somerset House	50,000
The Malvern Theatre	50,000
East, Central & Southern Africa College of Physicians	60,000
British Youth Music Theatre	70,000
StreetInvest	70,000
Almeida	75,000
Caryl Jenner Productions (Unicorn Theatre)	75,000
City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra	75,000
Opera North	75,000
World Heart Beat Music	75,000
Public Theatre in New York	79,158
Southwark Playhouse	90,000
Cardboard Citizens	100,000
Headlong	100,000
Kiln Theatre	100,000
Roots Theatre	100,000
Little Angel Theatre	115,000
Mustardseed Trust	141,540
Good Chance Theatre	130,000
Papatango Theatre Company	140,000
Kiln theatre	150,000
Shoreditch Town Hall	150,000
Old Vic Theatre	200,000
Royal Shakespeare Company	200,000
Royal Academy of Music	385,000
Roundhouse Theatre	500,000
Grants up to £35,000 were also made	650,992
Total Grants Payable per Statement of Financial Activities	4,356,690

BackstageTrust

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS (continued)

3. ALLOCATION OF SUPPORT COSTS

. ALLOCATION OF SOFT ON COSTS	Charitable Activity	Governance	2020 Total	2019 Total
	£	£	£	£
Bank and Custody fees	652	-	652	857
Gift of Staff Time	70,873	-	70,873	57,837
Legal fees	13,357	1,303	14,660	11,658
Professional fees	-	2,340	2,340	-
Auditors' remuneration	-	5,702	5,702	5,940
	84,882	9,345	94,227	76,292

Included above is £11,544 payable for legal services to Portrait Solicitors (2019: £8,502), a firm in which Mr Dominic Flynn is a partner and £70,873 being the estimated cost of services provided by employees of Lady Sainsbury (2019: £57,837). No Trustees received remuneration or were reimbursed expenses during the year (note 9).

4. STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR THE 12 MONTHS ENDED 5 APRIL 2019

	Notes	Unrestricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total Funds 2018
Income and Endowments from:				
Donations and gifts Investments		57,837 8,546	2,125,000	2,182,837 8,546
Total Income	-	66,383	2,125,000	2,191,383
Expenditure:				
Charitable activities				
Grant-making	2	2,021,280	-	2,021,280
Grant related support costs	3	76,292	-	76,292
Total Expenditure	- -	2,097,572		2,097,572
Net gains on investments	5	136,634	-	136,634
Net (Expenditure)/Income	- -	(1,894,555)	2,125,000	230,445
Transfers between funds		1,894,555	(1,894,555)	-
Net movement in funds	-		230,445	230,445
Total funds brought forward		-	1,403,180	1,403,180
Total funds carried forward	=	-	1,633,625	1,633,625

5 April 2020

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS (continued)

5. SHORT TERM INVESTMENT

	2020	2019
J Sainsbury plc shares	£	£
Market Value at the beginning of the year	-	488,200
Less: Disposals	=	(624,834)
Net gains on revaluation	<u> </u>	136,634
Market Value at end of financial year	-	-
Instant access call accounts with UK banks	1,793,412	1,997,359
	1,793,412	1,997,359
6 DED#000		
6. DEBTORS	2020	2010
	2020	2019
	£	£
Gift aid tax repayment	225,000	225,000
	225,000	225,000
7. CREDITORS		
	2020	2019
	£	£
Grants payable (note 2)	1,361,140	701,296
Legal fees	8,172	1,500
Audit fees	5,840	5,700
Taxation fees	636	300
	1,375,787	708,796

BackstageTrust

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS (continued)

8. ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS BETWEEN FUNDS

	Unrestricted Funds	Expendable Endowment	Totals 2020
	£	£	£
Fund balances at 5 April 2020 are represented by:	4 275 707	2 000 224	2.464.400
Current liabilities	1,375,787	2,088,321	3,464,108
Current nabilities	(1,375,787)	-	(1,375,787)
Total net assets	-	2,088,321	2,088,321
	Unrestricted Funds	Expendable Endowment	Totals 2019
Fried belonged at F. Amril 2010 and represented by	£	£	£
Fund balances at 5 April 2019 are represented by : Current assets	708,796	1,663,625	2,372,421
Current liabilities	(708,796)	1,003,023	(708,796)
Current habilities	(708,730)	_	(708,730)
Total net assets	-	1,663,625	1,663,625
Movement in the year	Unrestricted Funds	Expendable Endowment	Totals 2020
,	£	£	£
Opening balance as at 5 April 2019	-	1,633,625	1,633,625
Total income and endowments	79,319	4,125,000	4,204,319
Charitable activities	(3,749,623)	-	(3,749,623)
Net gains on investments	-	-	-
Transfers between funds	3,670,304	(3,670,304)	
Closing balance as at 5 April 2020		2,088,321	2,088,321
	Unrestricted	Expendable	Totals
Movement in the year	Funds	Endowment	2019
	£	£	£
Opening balance as at 5 April 2018	-	1,403,180	1,403,180
Total income and endowments	66,383	2,125,000	2,191,383
Charitable activities	(2,097,572)	-	(2,097,572)
Net gains on investments	136,634	-	136,634
Transfers between funds	1,894,555	(1,894,555)	<u>-</u>
Closing balance as at 5 April 2019	-	1,633,625	1,633,625

9. RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

Donations which are subject to Gift Aid from the Trustees totalling £900,000 (2019 £900,000) were received during the year plus as more fully explained in note 3, the other related party transactions were the payment for legal services by Portrait Solicitors, of whom Dominic Flynn is a partner and services provided by employees of Lady Sainsbury.



NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS (continued)

10. CONTINGENT LIABILITIES

At 5 April 2020, grants approved amounting to £639,500 (2019 £180,000) which fall due to be paid more than 12 months after the balance sheet date have not been accounted for as they are subject to conditions that have not been met at the year-end.



STATEMENT OF TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES

The Trustees are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and regulations.

Charity law requires the Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year in accordance with Charities SORP (FRS102) applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland and the Charities Act 2011 and UK Generally Accepted Practice as it applies from 1 January 2015.

Under charity law the Trustees must not approve the financial statements unless they are satisfied that they give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of its net outgoing resources for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the Trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- 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;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue to operate.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that are sufficient to show and explain the charity's transactions and 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 Act 2011. 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.



Independent Auditor's Report to the Trustees of Backstage Trust

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Backstage Trust for the year ended 5 April 2020 which comprise the statement of financial activities, the balance sheet, the cash flow statement and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102. The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charity's affairs as at 5 April 2020 and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011.

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the charity in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Conclusions relating to going concern

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the ISAs (UK) require us to report to you where:

- the trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is not appropriate; or
- the trustees have not disclosed in the financial statements any identified material uncertainties that may
 cast significant doubt about the charity's ability to continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting
 for a period of at least twelve months from the date when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Other information

The trustees are responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information included in the annual report, other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with our audit of the financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether there is a material misstatement in the financial statements or a material misstatement of the other information. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

5 April 2020

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 require us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- the information given in the financial statements is inconsistent in any material respect with the trustees' report; or
- sufficient accounting records have not been kept; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit

Responsibilities of trustees

As explained more fully in the trustees' responsibilities statement set out on page 17, the trustees are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the trustees are responsible for assessing the charity's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the trustees either intend to liquidate the charity or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

We have been appointed as auditor under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 and report in accordance with the Act and relevant regulations made or having effect thereunder.

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located on the Financial Reporting Council's website at: www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities. This description forms part of our auditor's report.

Use of our report

This report is made solely to the charity's trustees, as a body, in accordance with Part 4 of the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charity's trustees those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charity and the charity's trustees as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

Crose U.K. LLP

Crowe U.K. LLP

Statutory Auditor

London

4 November 2020

Crowe U.K. LLP is eligible for appointment as auditor of the charity by virtue of its eligibility for appointment as auditor of a company under section 1212 of the Companies Act 2006.