

Company number 4622154  
Charity number 1116008

**SICK! Productions Ltd**

**(Limited by Guarantee)**

**Amended Report and Financial Statements**

**for the year ended 31 March 2023**

**Breckman & Company Ltd**  
**Chartered Certified Accountants**  
**49 South Molton Street**  
**London W1K 5LH**

**SICK! Productions Ltd**

**(Limited by Guarantee)**

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## **SICK! Productions Ltd**

**(Limited by Guarantee)**

### **Reference and Administrative Details**

#### **Constitution**

The charitable company is a private company limited by guarantee registered in EW - England and Wales, company number 4622154, incorporated under the Companies Act and its governing document is its Memorandum and Articles of Association. The company is a registered charity, number 1116008.

#### **Directors and Trustees**

The Directors of the Charitable Company ("the Charity") are its Trustees for the purpose of Charity law and throughout this report are collectively referred to as the Trustees.

As set out in the Articles of Association, at every AGM, one-third of the Trustees in office must retire. A Trustee who retires by rotation is eligible for reappointment if he/she is willing to continue to act as Trustee. The Trustees to retire by rotation are those who have been longest in office since their last appointment or re-appointment. Policies and procedures adopted for the induction and training of Trustees are ongoing and incorporated indirectly into the regular Trustees meetings.

The Trustees during the year and since the year end, were :

Christine Ann D'Cruz (Chair)	appointed 5 October 2023
Charmaine Connor	appointed 19 July 2023/resigned 5 October 2023
Craig Duncan	resigned 10 August 2022
Paul Ferry	resigned 5 October 2023
Prof. Sandeep Ranote	resigned 5 October 2023
John McLuckie	resigned 5 October 2023
Peter Bulkley	resigned 5 October 2023
Paul Brian Russ	appointed 5 October 2023
Joseph Strickland	resigned 17 October 2023

#### **Chief executive / day to day management**

Helen Medland - CEO/Artistic Director

#### **Independent examiners**

Breckman & Company Ltd, Chartered Certified Accountants, 49 South Molton Street, London W1K 5LH.

#### **Bankers**

The Co-operative Bank, P.O. Box 250, Delf House, Southway, Skelmersdale WN8 6WT.

#### **Registered office and operation address**

Unit 3, The Sharp Project, Thorp Road, Manchester M40 5BJ.

#### **Name**

SICK! Productions Ltd is also known as "SICK! Festival".

## **SICK! Productions Ltd**

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### **Trustees' Report**

The trustees present their annual report together with the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 March 2023 which are also prepared to meet the requirements for a directors' report and accounts for Companies Act purposes.

The reference and administrative information on page 1 forms part of this report. The financial statements comply with Charities Act 2011, the Companies Act 2006, the Memorandum and Articles of Association and Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102).

#### **OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES PURPOSE AND AIMS**

The principal activity of SICK! Productions is to foster and promote the improvement, development, maintenance and advancement of artistic knowledge, understanding and appreciation by providing resources, facilities and a creative space for the education of the public in the fields of visual and performing arts and film.

The trustees review the aims, objectives and activities of the charity each year. This report looks at what the charity has achieved and the outcomes of its work in the reporting period. The trustees acknowledge the success of each key activity and the benefits the charity has brought to those groups of people that it is set up to help. The review also helps the trustees ensure the charity's aims, objectives and activities remain focused on its stated purposes.

The trustees have referred to the guidance contained in the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit when reviewing the charity's aims and objectives and in planning its future activities. In particular, the trustees consider how planned activities will contribute to the aims and objectives that have been set.

In shaping our objectives for the year and planning our activities, the trustees have considered the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit, including the guidance 'public benefit: running a charity (PB2)'

#### **ACTIVITIES**

The main activities of SICK! Productions are: a biennial international festival which takes place across Greater Manchester with a focus on the communities of Moston, Harpurhey and Charlestown; an innovative cross-artform commissioning programme which brings artists together with local communities with lived experience, the health sector, community groups/charities and researchers; and a growing year-round programme of neighbourhood engagement and projects in Manchester.

All charitable activities are undertaken to further SICK! Productions charitable purposes for the public benefit.

#### **ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE STRATEGIC PROGRAMMES AND PROJECTS**

SICK! Productions has made significant progress in 2022/23 towards realising its ambitions detailed in our Business Plan 2021 to 2023, including in its successful delivery of SICK Festival 2022 in May (last was October 2019) and in delivering year-round work in the community. Key highlights have been set out below.

#### **FESTIVAL 2022**

SICK! Festival 2022 took place throughout May, with activities taking place in Moston, Harpurhey and Charlestown, in the City Centre, at venues in South Manchester/Hulme, and across the GM Metrolink network.

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### **Trustees' Report**

The 2022 Festival marks a major change in the way that the organisation presented the festival programme. It was significantly different from previous festivals in three key ways:

- 1) The majority of the programme comprised public realm projects or projects taking place in community venues, rather than focusing on presenting with major cultural institutions.
- 2) Around 70% of the programme was presented in the North Manchester wards of Moston, Harpurhey and Charlestown.
- 3) The majority of the festival programme was focused on commissioning work, which was created with participants and organisations from the community in which we work.

#### **Key Facts and Figures:**

- " 22 projects/activities
- " 164 days of artwork/project presentation
- " 40 artists
- " 13 artists commissioned to produce 9 new artworks
- " 752 participations across 83 sessions with 30 participants
- " Public engagement audiences of 1,131,800
- " Events audiences of 4,601
- " Interactive digital audience of 1,300

98% of audiences rated their experience as "Very Good" or "Good" and 94% said that they would recommend SICK! Festival to a friend. One audience said about their experience:

"To hear such open, honest, sensitive, raw discussions being held in such a safe and instructive arena was beautiful. The artists were outstanding, the audiences were beautiful and having a singer was incredible. I will attend more events based on this experience tonight. Well done SICK! Festival".

#### **COMMISSIONING PROGRAMME**

Commissions presented as part of SICK! Festival 2022 included:

##### **I Am:**

Opened by Camilla, Queen Consort (then the Dutchess of Cornwall), I Am was a new collection of portraits by award-winning photographer Allie Crewe. It was commissioned by SICK! Festival and developed in partnership with domestic abuse charity, SafeLives. Her bold and powerful images bear witness to the lives and experiences of survivors of domestic violence from Manchester and across the UK.

Twelve images were installed as a public exhibition in St Peter's Square and across Greater Manchester's Metrolink network. Taking the project into the heart of the city, they aim to challenge the narratives around domestic abuse and the perceptions of those affected..

##### **SICK! Cars and LOVE Letters to Moston Lane:**

LOVE Letters to Moston Lane and SICK! Cars were presented at the Green, a central hub for SICK! Festival 2022 installation work, located nearby to Harpurhey Shopping Centre. The commissions were presented alongside Jimmy Cauty's MDZ Estate and the Mindgames Arcade featuring the Never, Forever, Always prototype video game.

SICK! Cars was a new project that challenged stereotypes about masculinity and looks at the pressures we put on people to "be a man". Two "vinyl-wrapped" cars were covered in amazing artwork created by artists Woodrow Phoenix, Courtney Hayles and a group of young men based in North Manchester.

LOVE Letters to Moston Lane was created by Jack Poole and members of the local community of Moston, Harpurhey and Charlestown who decorated the installation over the course of the festival with colourful art materials. Thousands of local people left their mark and shared their feelings about where they live, who and what they love.

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### **Trustees' Report**

#### **Soundpaths:**

Supported by Dutch Culture, Soundpaths is an immersive sounds-walk developed with Brighter Sounds. Soundpaths takes the sounds and voices of the community and transforms them into an unforgettable atmospheric journey. The audio is accompanied by a beautiful original orchestral score and uses an audio App for phones created by musician Yonatan Collier.

Soundpaths MHC leads audiences around the vibrant streets of Moston, Harpurhey and Charlestown with local memories, ambient recordings and sounds from local musicians.

Soundpaths Boggart Hole captures sounds of nature and conversations with the Boggart Hole Ramblers who know and love this beautiful park.

Soundpaths was shortlisted for a 2022 Manchester Culture Award and is still available to download and experience.

#### **YEAR-ROUND PROJECTS**

##### **SMASH: Mental Health Arts Programme**

After the successful delivery of the festival in May, achieving long term funding to secure the future of the highly successful SMASH programme became the main development priority. In September 2022, we received two small grants from Big Life Group and Manchester Local Care Organisation to deliver a SMASH Explore, targeted at men struggling with their mental health and living in North Manchester. SMASH Explore uses group walking and photography blended with mental health support. The first phase of this project was delivered in October 2022 with the second due to commence in April 2023. An exhibition of participants photography is also planned for July 2023.

In December 2022, we were delighted to have been successful in our application to the Pilgrim Trust to introduce a new Women & Girls focused version of the SMASH Programme, which will run from April 2023 to March 2026 and delivered in partnership with Manchester Youth Zone

In January 2023, we achieved further funding from Manchester City Council to secure the future of the mixed SMASH Programme from April 2023 to March 2026, which will continue to be delivered in partnership by No 93 Wellbeing Centre, Harpurhey.

##### **MENOPAUSE BUS**

Funded by Pro Helvetia and developed with WildWuchs (Switzerland), Menopause Bus was an international collaboration around the themes of menopause. Two choirs of women, from Manchester and Zurich, shared their experiences and thoughts about ageing and the menopause through a WhatsApp-based pen-pal system. From this online collaborative process, songs were written by two composers and then performed by the choirs aboard an open top double decker bus. The project was presented in five locations in Manchester in October 2022: Harpurhey Shopping Centre, The Lowry, the University of Manchester and Piccadilly Gardens.

##### **MOSTON LANE SHUTTERS PROJECT**

Moston Lane is a central hub of the area with a large number of shops catering for the diverse and vibrant local community. The shutters project aims to improve the look and feel of the lane after shops have closed. In December 2022, the first shutter, by artist Hammo and funded by Winning Hearts & Minds/Manchester Active, was unveiled. The shutter artwork was informed by research into local history and heritage. In March 2023, we learnt that we had been successful in our application to the Heritage Fund to co-produce three new shutter artworks with local shop keepers and young people.

##### **NEIGHBOURHOOD ENGAGEMENT**

In 2021, we made a 10-year commitment to the North Manchester communities of Moston, Harpurhey and Charlestown. In 2022, post festival, activating deeper neighbourhood engagement in Moston, Harpurhey and Charlestown was the key focus of the Creative Team.

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Our Ambassadors Scheme was re-launched with a greater focus on engaging young people (18 to 30) who live and work in Moston, Harpurhey and Charlestown. The young people work with our team to help them understand local priorities, sensitivities and communities. Through regular meetings, the Ambassadors help shape commission and projects that are relevant, exciting and important for local people. Through their participation, young people develop agency, confidence and skills, while increasing their exposure and understanding of art and performance. The Ambassadors are currently supporting the generation of ideas for 2024 commissions.

Community partner engagement continued to grow, connecting with local service providers to support presentation and delivery, local partners includes Moston Matters, Moston Clean-Ups, No 93 Wellbeing Centre, Manchester Youth Zone, Simpson Memorial Hall, Boggart Hole Clough, Harpurhey Shopping Centre, The shopkeepers of Moston Lane, Manchester College and FC United of Manchester.

### **FINANCIAL REVIEW**

Historically, SICK! Festival's biennial model has seen restricted and unrestricted grant funding secured for a festival in the previous financial year, with expenditure against these restricted funds taking place in the following financial year. This business model has resulted in significant restricted and designated fund balances carried forward in non-festival financial years, and net expenditure in financial years where festivals take place. These fluctuations have been partly mitigated through the growth in year-round activity (such as SMASH), meaning that extensive restricted funds have been rolled forward due to greater spending for Festival 2022.

In January 2023, we were delighted to receive a conditional offer from Arts Council England to continue in the National Portfolio (Let's Create), which was confirmed in March 2023. This means that we will continue to receive vital standstill core funding that we support SICK! between 2023-26

Support from the Postcode Neighbourhood Trust has also strengthened our core funding position, enabling us to recruit a second Creative Producer who started with us in March 2023. We are grateful for the continued support of the Oglesby Charitable Trust, who provide valuable core funding.

Significant new multi-year grants from Manchester City Council and the Pilgrim Trust will provide vital funding to sustain the growing SMASH Programme throughout the new NPO period between 2023-26.

### **INCOME**

SICK! received £254,091 over the reporting period from Arts Council England NPO funding. Other funds were secured from a number of charitable foundations from within the UK, as well as cultural funders from the EU. Our thanks go to all our funders in 2022/23, including:

- " Arts Council England
- " Manchester City Council
- " Pilgrim Trust
- " Oglesby Charitable Trust
- " Postcode Neighbourhood Trust
- " Greater Manchester Integrated Care Partnership
- " The Finnish Institute
- " Arts Society
- " Heritage Fund
- " Big Life Group
- " Manchester Local Care Organisation
- " Co-op Bank
- " Winning Hearts & Minds

Total income for the year was £390,057, of which £30,749 was restricted, and £359,308 was unrestricted.

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Total expenditure came in generally within budget, with the final out-turn of spending for the period of £372,942 of which £0 was restricted and £372,942 was unrestricted.

YEAR-END POSITION The charity finished the 2022/23 financial year with net surplus of £17,115. Funds carried forward to 2023/24 total £273,101 of which £106,816 is restricted and £166,285 is unrestricted.

#### **RISK MANAGEMENT**

The organisation has a risk management strategy which is reviewed on a regular basis, with risk management being a regular agenda item at quarterly board meetings. Board meetings also serve to establish systems and procedures to mitigate ambition at the heart of risk assessment. Consideration is given to the charity's appetite for such risks and the balance of financial and artistic risk.

#### **PRINCIPAL RISKS AND UNCERTAINTIES**

The main risks and uncertainties faced by the charity in the current period are identified as (1) a shortfall in funding to deliver the artistic programme and other charitable activities; (2) the impact of the cost of living crisis on partners and funders; and (3) challenges regarding audience development relating in particular to our shift of focus towards presenting the majority of the festival in Moston, Harpurhey and Charlestown, areas with historically low engagement with the arts. Our risk management processes identified risks including the future financial position of external partners, safeguarding risks, attracting and retaining staff and managing staffing capacity.

#### **RESERVES POLICY AND GOING CONCERN**

The reserves policy of SICK! Productions Ltd is to hold a minimum of three months' base operating costs in cash at the bank, currently calculated to be £70,000 in the 2022/23 budget. This is deemed sufficient to meet all liabilities in the event of SICK! Productions Ltd ceasing to operate as a going concern (current unrestricted reserves is £166,285 which incorporates £70,000 reserves plus the remaining £106,816 which is allocated towards festival delivery).

#### **PLANS FOR THE FUTURE**

SICK! Productions is in the process of writing its 2023-26 Business Plan which is informed and closely aligned to our successful Arts Council England National Portfolio application. The Arts Council England's Let's Create Investment Principles are also closely aligned to our own strategic priorities. Those Arts Council England's principles of:

- " Ambition and Quality
- " Dynamism
- " Environmental Responsibility
- " Inclusivity & Relevance

This work will be supported by an increased level of engagement and input from our Trustees. Through our 2023-26 Business Plan, we aim to:



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### **Trustees' Report**

CONNECT, forging supportive relationships in diverse communities. Working with local residents, healthcare and charities partners, we connect with communities affected by subjects we address that face socio-economic disadvantage.

CREATE powerful and engaging work by international, national and local artists, who make their work with, alongside and for local communities, people with lived experience, health workers, charities and researchers.

COMMUNICATE, sharing the experiences, knowledge and understanding generated through our engagements in ways that are powerful, thought provoking and accessible. Through our festival, year-round activity, presentations and online, we stimulate, challenge, inform and inspire large, diverse audiences.

We will achieve this by addressing the following priorities:

#### **FESTIVAL**

We will present festivals in May 2024 and 2026, which will be increasingly rooted and developed by with and for the communities of Moston, Harpurhey and Charlestown. The festival will continue to present innovative, high-quality work by local, national and international artists in a high-profile, cross-art form programme.

The festivals in 2022 had more presentations in the public realm than previous years, which was partial due to the disruption to arts venues by the COVID-19 pandemic. In 2024, we will continue to present work in the public realm but will also reinstate venue-based work, however we will aim to support and build capacity in Moston, Harpurhey and Charlestown based venues including North West Theatre Arts, The Miners Community Arts & Music and Simpson Memorial Hall. Some presentations within city centre cultural venues will still occur. Through the festival programme we will collaborate with non-arts partners from healthcare, the charities sector and academia, which will remain fundamental to the delivery of the programme.

We will present a highly diverse programme in 2024 with at least 50% of presented artists representing protected characteristics or lower socio-economic backgrounds. The programme will be developed with, and designed to engage the diverse communities of Moston, Harpurhey and Charlestown, taking into account the demographics and cultural habits of people living in these areas.

Additionally, the long-term vision of the festival's growth, development and plans for international showcasing and commissioning will be defined and developed during this year for 2024 and beyond.

#### **- COMMISSIONING PROGRAMME**

Over the next period we will deliver newly commissioned projects in three areas:

#### **INTERNATIONAL**

Every two years we will deliver 2-3 ambitious (public realm, performance, digital) projects by artists of international calibre and profile with significant potential for national and international legacy, extending the reach and recognition of our work. We will invite international artists to come and engage directly with our own local communities, bringing new perspectives and, where possible, connecting with other communities internationally that share similar experiences or challenges.

Work currently in development includes Never, Forever, Always 2.0, funded by the Finnish Institute, which will take the prototype games developed for SICK! Festival 2022 by a group of young people from Finland and North Manchester into a full-length art video game.

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#### **NATIONAL**

Every two years we will deliver 2-3 Connect Commissions in collaboration with other commissioning partners in the UK. In each location the projects will engage the local community and healthcare/grassroots partners. We will provide mentoring in cross-sectoral collaboration practices for the commission recipients. Aimed at early-to-mid-career artists, these mid-scale commissions will provide opportunities for the artists to extend their networks and reach new audiences nationally as well as in Manchester.

Work currently in developed includes an untitled work by Dan Daw, who will work with young people from Manchester Youth Zone to co-produce a new work exploring what it is like to be young and disabled in Manchester. The project has so far received funding from Greater Manchester Integrated Care Partnership.

#### **MOSTON, HARPURHEY AND CHARLESTOWN**

Each 2-year cycle we will produce two major commissions responding to contexts/experiences of communities in Moston, Harpurhey and Charlestown, developed in collaboration with neighbourhood representatives, reflecting urgent issues these communities face. Projects will be presented in community venues and public spaces during SICK! Festival.

Work currently in development includes the SAFE commission, which will explore what makes people feel safe or unsafe in Moston, Harpurhey and Charlestown. The commission will be led by the Ambassador group.

#### **CONNECTING TO OUR COMMUNITY**

SICK! will continue and expand delivery of its 10-year plan to embed our work in Moston Harpurhey and Charlestown. We will bring together local people and organisations to better understand the issues affecting these areas, directly involving the community in the shaping and delivery of our activity in order to maximise social benefit. We will consult diverse and marginalised groups in an area that face economic, social and health challenges, working across boundaries to increase social cohesion.

Ambassadors Scheme: We will work with 10-15 local ambassadors, aged 18- 30, to help us better understand the diverse communities of the area. They will offer community-specific knowledge and insight, attending monthly meetings on different aspects of programming and delivery, from website and social media content to strategic planning and project development. They will work with us to deliver three community dinners per year, welcoming 30-50 members of the local community to join us for food and conversation. These will provide opportunities to share our plans with a wider cross-section of the community, an informal context to discuss matters of importance to the community and a chance to listen to the concerns and aspirations of our neighbours.

We will create a year-round programme of live and online, thematically-focused Community Conversations, exploring issues identified as most urgent in the local community. This will enable us to engage more deeply with our community around these themes, as well as generating ideas for future activity, offering a public forum for debate, and providing a space for reflection on past activities.

We will expand delivery of SMASH, our Mental Health Arts Programme that offers a range of creative and cultural experiences for people experiencing mental health problems in North Manchester developed with leading cross-artform artists with experience of mental health problems and cultural institutions in the city. With the programme now secured for 2023-26, we will seek to deepen our evaluation and model the programme with the aim of growing the programme further and sustaining it beyond 2026. We will continue to work with No.93 Wellbeing Centre and other referring organisations from health and social care.

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### **Trustees' Report**

#### **AUDIENCE DEVELOPMENT**

Growing diverse audiences for our activities has been identified as a key strategic opportunity for the next few years. Over the next year we will:

- " Focus on growing our audience and participant engagement in Moston, Harpurhey and Charlestown, putting audiences and communities in North Manchester at the centre of programming.
- " Increase year-round engagement with audiences and participants in North Manchester.

#### **BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT**

We will increase our work around fundraising and business development by securing further funding for Festival 2024 and 2026, enabled by a mix of community project bids, large scale trust and foundation bids. In 2023/24 there will be particular focus on achieving multi-year core funding to increase and embed our year-round activity, which will increasingly inform commissions and festival presentations. This will be supported by the development of advocacy and partnership relationships. Additionally, work will take place on producing an international development plan, exploring further partnerships, consultancy and export models.

#### **STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT**

SICK! Productions Ltd is a Charitable Company Limited by Guarantee, incorporated on 16 December 2002 and registered as a charity on 4 September 2006. The Company was established under a Memorandum of Association, which established the objects and powers of the Company and is governed by its Articles of Association. All trustees give their time voluntarily and receive no benefits from the charity. Any expenses reclaimed from the charity are set out in note 4 to the accounts. The organisation's staffing structure for 2022/23 consisted of CEO/Artistic Director, Head of Business Development, Creative Producer, Operations Manager and Marketing Officer

#### **RECRUITMENT AND APPOINTMENT OF TRUSTEES**

The Directors of the Company are also charity trustees for the purposes of charity law. Under the requirements of the Memorandum and Articles of Association, a third of the trustees retire by rotation every year and may then seek re-appointment by members at the Company's Annual General Meeting. All the trustees are also members of the Company. There are no other members. The members of the Company are keen to ensure that the needs of its beneficiaries are appropriately reflected through the diversity of the Trustee body. To enhance the potential pool of trustees, the charity has sought to identify key members with specialist experience and Board recruitment is discussed regularly at Board meeting. Trustees receive an induction pack on joining the organisation, providing:

Outline of trustees' role and obligations

The main documents which set out the operational framework for the charity, including the Memorandum and Articles of Association.

An outline of the charity's financial model and the current financial position as set out in the latest published accounts.

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**Trustees' Report**

**ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURE**

The Company is governed by a board of trustees, who are also the sole members of the Company. At present, the board has five members with a variety of experience relevant to the work of the charity, with an aim to increase this number to ten Trustees. Sub-groups and Board champions will also be identified and implemented within this next financial year.

Trustees regularly review the progress of the charity and its funding, as well as reviewing the risks, controls and financial management of the charity. Trustees are responsible for approving the strategy for SICK! Productions and ensuring both the public benefit delivered through its outcomes and impact and the sustainability of the charity. The trustees are responsible for the appointment of the Chief Executive/Artistic Director.

**MANAGEMENT**

A system of delegation is in place and day-to-day responsibility for the provision of the services rests on the Senior Management Team: CEO/Artistic Director, Head of Business Development and Creative Producer with the CEO/Artistic Director having overall responsibility for ensuring the charity delivers its objectives. This Senior Team is supported by an Operations Manager and Marketing Officer. We are also supported by one Kickstart role supporting digital communications and festival production.

**SMALL COMPANY EXEMPTIONS**

The above report has been prepared in accordance with the special provisions relating to companies subject to the small companies regime within Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006.

This report was approved by the Board of Trustees on 12 December 2023 and signed on its behalf by



**Christine D'Cruz**  
**Chair**

**Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees  
of SICK! Productions Ltd**

I report on the accounts of the Company for the year ended 31 March 2023, which are set out on pages 12 to 24.

**Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner**

The Trustees (who are also the Directors of the Company for the purposes of Company law) are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The Trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed. The Charity's gross income exceeded £250,000 and I am qualified to undertake the examination by being a qualified member of The Association of Chartered Certified Accountants.

Having satisfied myself that the Charity is not subject to an audit under Company law and is eligible for independent examination, it is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act;
- follow the procedures laid down in the general directions given by the Charity Commission (under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act; and
- state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

**Basis of independent examiner's report**

My examination was carried out in accordance with general directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the Charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from you as Trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a "true and fair view" and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

**Independent examiner's statement**

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

1. which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in, any material respect, the requirements:

- to keep accounting records in accordance with section 386 of the Companies Act 2006; and
- to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records, comply with the accounting requirements of section 396 of the Companies Act 2006 and with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities have not been met; or

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



**Richard Nelson FCCA  
Breckman & Company Ltd  
Chartered Certified Accountants**

49 South Molton Street  
London W1K 5LH

12 December 2023

**SICK! Productions Ltd**

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**Statement of Financial Activities (including Income and Expenditure Account)  
for the year ended 31 March 2023**

	Notes	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	2023 Total £	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	2022 Total £
<b>Income and endowments from:</b>	<b>2</b>						
Donations and legacies - page 13		329,906	-	329,906	263,591	-	263,591
Charitable activities:							
Festival and hire income - page 13		29,402	30,749	60,151	22,714	118,340	141,054
<b>Total</b>		<u>359,308</u>	<u>30,749</u>	<u>390,057</u>	<u>286,305</u>	<u>118,340</u>	<u>404,645</u>
<b>Expenditure on:</b>							
Raising funds:							
Fundraising		22,800	-	22,800	2,454	-	2,454
Charitable activities:							
Festival - page 14		350,142	-	350,142	243,935	171,323	415,258
<b>Total</b>		<u>372,942</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>372,942</u>	<u>246,389</u>	<u>171,323</u>	<u>417,712</u>
<b>Net income / (expenditure)</b>	<b>3</b>	(13,634)	30,749	17,115	39,916	(52,983)	(13,067)
<b>Reconciliation of funds:</b>							
<b>Total funds brought forward</b>		<u>179,919</u>	<u>76,067</u>	<u>255,986</u>	<u>140,003</u>	<u>129,050</u>	<u>269,053</u>
<b>Total funds carried forward</b>	<b>12, 13</b>	<u><u>166,285</u></u>	<u><u>106,816</u></u>	<u><u>273,101</u></u>	<u><u>179,919</u></u>	<u><u>76,067</u></u>	<u><u>255,986</u></u>

The notes on pages 17 to 24 form an integral part of these financial statements.

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year. All income and expenditure derives from continuing activities.

**SICK! Productions Ltd****(Limited by Guarantee)****Year ended 31 March 2023**

	<b>2023</b>		<b>2022</b>	
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
<b>Income from donations and legacies</b>				
<b>Grants</b>				
Arts Council England, NPO		254,091		254,091
Oglesby Charitable Trust		54,000		9,500
The Big Life Company		1,500		-
Postcode Neighbourhood Trust		20,315		-
		<u>329,906</u>		<u>263,591</u>
<b>Income from charitable activities</b>				
<b>Festival and hire income</b>				
Hire income - Jubilee Square	-		20,230	
Box office income	79		-	
Partner contributions	-		800	
Other income	29,323		1,684	
		<u>29,402</u>		<u>22,714</u>
<b>Project specific funding</b>				
<b>Grants/donations</b>				
Manchester CC	730		14,950	
Peter Sowerby Foundation	-		21,000	
Creative & Cultural Skills	-		6,206	
Dutch Culture	-		17,436	
Oglesby Charitable Trust	-		35,500	
Wildwuchs Festival	3,798		-	
Finnish Insititute	10,116		23,248	
GMCVO	9,500		-	
Co-Op Bank	1,000		-	
Arts Society	3,000		-	
MCR Active/Winning Hearts & Minds	2,605		-	
		<u>30,749</u>		<u>118,340</u>
		<u>60,151</u>		<u>141,054</u>

**SICK! Productions Ltd****(Limited by Guarantee)****Year ended 31 March 2023**

	<b>2023</b>	<b>2022</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
<b>Expenditure on charitable activities</b>		
<b>Festival</b>		
<b>Production/running costs</b>		
Production costs	110,530	114,825
Wages/salaries	138,012	186,671
Pension	2,819	11,151
Artists	35,061	58,450
Marketing/website	9,773	8,508
	<u>296,195</u>	<u>379,605</u>
Support and governance costs - page 15	53,947	35,653
	<u>350,142</u>	<u>415,258</u>
Unrestricted	350,142	243,935
Restricted	-	171,323
	<u>350,142</u>	<u>415,258</u>



**SICK! Productions Ltd****(Limited by Guarantee)****Year ended 31 March 2023**

	<b>2023</b>		<b>2022</b>	
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
<b>Support and governance costs</b>				
<b>Support costs</b>				
<b>Office overheads</b>				
Rent	7,864		5,440	
Premises costs	4,280		8,328	
Telephone/stationery/computer	7,733		3,384	
Depreciation of fixtures/fittings	17		-	
Depreciation of computer equipment	48		-	
	<u>          </u>	19,942	<u>          </u>	17,152
<b>Administration costs</b>				
Staff welfare	1,684		1,966	
Travel/accommodation/subsistence	6,443		1,360	
Entertaining	143		570	
Sundries/tickets	3,766		179	
	<u>          </u>	12,036	<u>          </u>	4,075
<b>Professional/financial - Jubilee Square</b>				
Consultancy fees	13,198		369	
Bank charges	-		231	
Discounts allowed	-		4,000	
	<u>          </u>	13,198	<u>          </u>	4,600
		<u>45,176</u>		<u>25,827</u>
<b>Governance costs</b>				
<b>Professional/financial</b>				
Legal/accountancy/consultancy	7,790		8,028	
Subscriptions/licences	981		1,798	
	<u>          </u>	8,771	<u>          </u>	9,826
		<u>53,947</u>		<u>35,653</u>

**SICK! Productions Ltd****(Limited by Guarantee)****Balance Sheet  
31 March 2023**

		<b>2023</b>		<b>2022</b>	
	<b>Notes</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
<b>Fixed assets:</b>					
Tangible assets	<b>8</b>		942		-
<b>Current assets:</b>					
Debtors	<b>9</b>	2,658		1,261	
Cash at bank and in hand		272,650		288,483	
		<u>275,308</u>		<u>289,744</u>	
<b>Liabilities:</b>					
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	<b>10</b>	(3,149)		(33,758)	
<b>Net current assets</b>			<u>272,159</u>		<u>255,986</u>
<b>Total assets less current liabilities</b>			<u>273,101</u>		<u>255,986</u>
<b>The funds of the charity:</b>					
Unrestricted funds	<b>12</b>		56,990		161,212
Designated funds			109,295		-
			<u>166,285</u>		<u>161,212</u>
Restricted funds	<b>13</b>		106,816		94,774
<b>Total charity funds</b>			<u>273,101</u>		<u>255,986</u>

For the year ending 31 March 2023 the Company was entitled to exemption from audit under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small Companies.

Directors' responsibilities:

- The Members have not required the Company to obtain an audit of its accounts for the year in question in accordance with section 476;
- The Directors acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Act with respect to accounting records and the preparation of accounts.

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions of the Companies Act 2006 applicable to companies subject to the small companies regime.

The financial statements were approved by the Board of Trustees on 12 December 2023 and signed on its behalf by



**Christine D ' Cruz**  
**Trustee**

The notes on pages 17 to 24 form an integral part of these financial statements.

**SICK! Productions Ltd****(Limited by Guarantee)****Notes to the Financial Statements  
for the year ended 31 March 2023****1. Accounting policies****1.1. Basis of preparing the financial statements**

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice (issued October 2019) applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019) - (Charities SORP (FRS 102)) and the Companies Act 2006.

The charity 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 notes.

**1.2. Tangible fixed assets and depreciation**

Individual fixed assets costing £100 or more are capitalised at cost.

Depreciation is provided at annual rates calculated to write off the cost less residual value of each asset over its expected useful life, as follows:

Fixtures/fitings	-	25% straight line
Computer equipment	-	25% straight line

**1.3. Debtors**

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

**1.4. Cash at bank and in hand**

Cash at bank and in hand includes cash and short term highly liquid investments with a short maturity of three months or less from the date of acquisition or opening of the deposit or similar account.

**1.5. 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.

**1.6. Fund accounting**

Funds held by the Charity are either:

- Unrestricted general funds - these are funds which can be used in accordance with the Charitable objects at the discretion of the Trustees.

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

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

**SICK! Productions Ltd**

**(Limited by Guarantee)**

**Notes to the Financial Statements  
for the year ended 31 March 2023**

**1.7. Incoming resources**

All incoming resources are included in the Statement of Financial Activities when:

- the Charity is legally entitled to the funds
- any performance conditions attached to the income have been met or are fully within the control of the Charity
- there is sufficient certainty that receipt of the income is considered probable
- the amount can be reliably measured

**Donations and legacies**

Grants/donations are recognised in incoming resources in the year in which they are receivable, except as follows:

- when donors specify that grants/donations given to the Charity must be used in future accounting periods, the income is deferred until those periods
- when donors impose conditions which have to be fulfilled before the Charity becomes entitled to use such income, the income is deferred and not included in incoming resources until the preconditions for use are met.

**Donated services and facilities**

Donated services or facilities are recognised as income when the Charity has control over the item, any conditions associated with the donated item have been met, the receipt of economic benefit from the use by the Charity of the item is probable and that economic benefit can be measured reliably. On receipt, donated services and facilities are recognised on the basis of the value of the gift to the Charity which is the amount the Charity would have been willing to pay to obtain services or facilities of equivalent economic benefit on the open market; a corresponding amount is then recognised in expenditure in the period of receipt.

**Investment income**

Interest on funds held on deposit is included when receivable and the amount can be measured reliably by the Charity; this is normally upon notification of the interest paid or payable by the Bank.

**SICK! Productions Ltd****(Limited by Guarantee)****Notes to the Financial Statements  
for the year ended 31 March 2023****1.8. Expenditure**

All expenditure is included on an accruals basis inclusive of any VAT which cannot be recovered and is recognised when:

- there is a legal or constructive obligation to make a payment
- it is probable that settlement will be required
- the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably

**Costs of raising funds**

Costs incurred in attracting donations, and those incurred in trading activities that raise funds.

**Charitable activities**

Festival costs - costs incurred in production and running of festivals in the year.

**Support costs**

The administrative and overhead costs associated with running the office from which the Company operates as well as governance costs. Support costs are wholly attributable to production costs.

**Governance costs**

Costs associated with the constitutional and statutory requirements of the Charity.

**1.9. Pensions**

The company operates a defined contribution scheme for the benefit of its employees. Contributions payable are recognised as expenditure when due.

**1.10. Significant Accounting Estimates and Judgements**

In determining the carrying amounts of certain assets and liabilities, the charity makes assumptions of the effects of uncertain future events on those assets and liabilities at the balance sheet date. The charity's estimates and assumptions are based on historical experience and expectation of future events and are reviewed annually. Further information about key assumptions concerning the future, and other key sources of estimation of uncertainty, are set out in the notes.

**2. Incoming resources**

The total incoming resources for the year have been derived from the principal activity undertaken wholly in the UK.

**3. Net income/(expenditure) for the year is stated after charging:**

	<b>2023</b>	<b>2022</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Depreciation of tangible fixed assets	65	-
Independent examiners fees:		
- Independent examination	2,250	2,250
- Other services	250	-
	<u>2,305</u>	<u>2,250</u>

**SICK! Productions Ltd****(Limited by Guarantee)****Notes to the Financial Statements  
for the year ended 31 March 2023****4. Trustees' emoluments and reimbursed expenses**

The Trustees received no remuneration during the year (2022 - £nil).

The aggregated amount reimbursed to Trustees during the year was £nil (2022 - £nil).

**5. Staff costs and numbers**

	<b>2023</b>	<b>2022</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
<b>Staff costs</b>		
Salaries and wages	158,358	186,410
Pension costs	2,819	11,151
	<u>161,177</u>	<u>197,561</u>

No employee earned £60,000 or more during the year (2022 - nil).

The key management personnel of the charity comprise the Trustees and the Senior Management Team. The total employee benefits of the key management personnel of the charity were £54,232 (2022 - £52,898).

**Staff numbers**

The average numbers of employees (including casual and part time staff) during the year was made up as follows:

	<b>2023</b>	<b>2022</b>
	<b>Number</b>	<b>Number</b>
Festival/programme	3	3
Administration	2	2
	<u>5</u>	<u>5</u>

**6. Pension costs**

The company operates a defined contribution pension scheme in respect of its employees. The scheme and its assets are held by independent managers. The pension charge represents contributions due from the company and amounted to £2,819 (2022 - £11,151).

**7. Corporation taxation**

The Charity is exempt from tax on income and gains falling within section 505 of the Taxes Act 1988 and section 252 of the Taxation of Chargeable Gains Act 1992 to the extent that these are applied to its Charitable objects.

**SICK! Productions Ltd****(Limited by Guarantee)****Notes to the Financial Statements  
for the year ended 31 March 2023****8. Fixed assets - tangible assets**

	<b>Fixtures/ fittings £</b>	<b>Computer equipment £</b>	<b>Total £</b>
<b>Cost</b>			
1 April 2022	4,500	14,370	18,870
Additions	431	576	1,007
31 March 2023	<u>4,931</u>	<u>14,946</u>	<u>19,877</u>
<b>Depreciation</b>			
1 April 2022	4,500	14,370	18,870
Charge for year	17	48	65
31 March 2023	<u>4,517</u>	<u>14,418</u>	<u>18,935</u>
<b>Net book values</b>			
31 March 2023	<u>414</u>	<u>528</u>	<u>942</u>
31 March 2022	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>

**SICK! Productions Ltd****(Limited by Guarantee)****Notes to the Financial Statements  
for the year ended 31 March 2023**

<b>9. Debtors</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>2022</b>
	£	£
Trade debtors	1,098	1,098
Other debtors	1,560	163
	<u>2,658</u>	<u>1,261</u>

<b>10. Creditors: amounts falling due within one year</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>2022</b>
	£	£
Other creditors	24	-
Accruals	3,125	33,758
	<u>3,149</u>	<u>33,758</u>

**11. Limited by guarantee**

The private limited company is registered in EW - England & Wales, is limited by guarantee, and does not have a share capital. Each Member gives a guarantee to contribute a sum, not exceeding £1, to the Company should it be wound up. At 31 March 2023 there were 5 Members.

<b>12. Unrestricted funds</b>	<b>Brought forward</b>	<b>Incoming resources</b>	<b>Outgoing resources</b>	<b>Transfers</b>	<b>Carried forward</b>
	£	£	£	£	£
General fund	179,919	359,308	(372,942)	(109,295)	56,990
Designated funds:	-	-		109,295	109,295
	<u>179,919</u>	<u>359,308</u>	<u>(372,942)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>166,285</u>



**SICK! Productions Ltd****(Limited by Guarantee)****Notes to the Financial Statements  
for the year ended 31 March 2023**

<b>13. Restricted funds</b>	<b>Brought forward £</b>	<b>Incoming resources £</b>	<b>Carried forward £</b>
Arts society	-	3,000	3,000
Peter Sowerby Foundation	9,450	-	9,450
Wildwuchs x 2	17,630	3,798	21,428
Finnish Institute	28,987	10,116	39,103
GMCVO	-	9,500	9,500
Co-op bank	-	1,000	1,000
University of manchester	-	730	730
Oglesby Charitable Trust	20,000	-	20,000
MCR Active/Winning Hearts & Minds	-	2,605	2,605
	<u>76,067</u>	<u>30,749</u>	<u>106,816</u>

**Arts society**

Supporting a new project working with young people around issues of violence

**Peter Sowerby Foundation**

Peter Sowerby Foundation funding towards the SMASH programme

**Finnish Institute**

Supporting the youth digital project Never, Forever, Always 2.0

**GVMCO**

Supporting a new inclusion commission that will co-produce a new work of dance theatre with disabled young people

**Co-op Bank**

Supporting a new project working with young people around issues of violence

**Oglesby Charitable Trust**

Funding for Commissions and Community programme.

**MCR Active/Winning Hearts & Minds**

Supporting us to explore local heritage as part of the Moston Lane Shutters Project.

**SICK! Productions Ltd****(Limited by Guarantee)****Notes to the Financial Statements  
for the year ended 31 March 2023****14. Analysis of net assets between funds**

	<b>General funds £</b>	<b>Restricted funds £</b>	<b>Total £</b>
Fund balances at 31 March 2023 are represented by:			
Tangible fixed assets	942	-	942
Net current assets	165,343	106,816	272,159
	<u>166,285</u>	<u>106,816</u>	<u>273,101</u>

**15. Related party transactions**

There were no related party transactions requiring disclosure.