

Company Registration Number 10599285

Registered Charity Number 1180001

# **FERTILE GROUND DANCE LIMITED**

(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

## **REPORT AND ACCOUNTS**

**For the year ending 28 February 2023**



**FERTILE GROUND DANCE LIMITED**  
**(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)**  
**TRUSTEES' REPORT**  
*For the year ended 28 February 2023*

The Trustees, who are also Directors for the purposes of company law, present their report and the unaudited financial statements of the charity for the year ended 28 February 2023.

**REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS**

<b>Registered charity name</b>	Fertile Ground Dance Limited
<b>Charity registration number</b>	1180001
<b>Company registration number</b>	10599285
<b>Registered office</b>	2nd Floor, Dance City, Temple Street, Newcastle upon Tyne NE1 4BR

**Trustees**

For the purposes of the Companies Act 2006, the Board of Trustees is the Board of Directors of the charitable company and is referred to as "the Trustees" throughout this report.

The Trustees of Fertile Ground Dance Limited during the year and to the date of signing this report are as follows:

Dora Frankel	
Camille De Groote	Appointed 24 August 2022
Jennifer Gabbitus	Appointed 24 August 2022
Elizabeth Highmore	Appointed 14 November 2022
Sue Hurrell	
Ann Schofield	
Lisa-Marie Tonelli	Appointed 24 August 2022
Leigh Venus	

<b>Bankers</b>	Barclays Bank plc, 49-51 Northumberland Street, Newcastle upon Tyne NE1 7AF
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<b>Independent Examiner</b>	Mr P O'Hara FCA, 4 Stonehurst Road West, Gosforth, Newcastle upon Tyne NE3 1PG
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**STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT**

**Governing Documents**

The Company is a Company Limited by Guarantee and was incorporated on 3 February 2017 and registered with the Charity Commission on 20 September 2018.

The charitable company is governed by its Memorandum and Articles of Association, as registered with Companies House on 3 February 2017 and as amended by special resolution registered at Companies House on 25 June 2018. The Directors of the company are also Trustees of the charity.

Eligibility for membership of the charity and membership of the Board of Trustees is governed by the Memorandum and Articles of Association. There are no restrictions in the governing document on the operation of the charity other than those imposed by general charity law.

**Governance**

Fertile Ground (FG) currently has eight Trustees.

**The charity regularly reviews the Board's skillset in order to strengthen** its governance, approaching individuals and advertising the opportunity through the company website and social media channels (LinkedIn, Twitter, Facebook, Instagram), alongside voluntary sector, business, and arts and culture channels when skills gaps are identified.

Following a period of Board recruitment, four new Trustees were recruited, co-opted, and then formally elected, doubling the number of Board Members and giving the charity both continuity and a range of fresh perspectives.

Between them the four new Board Members bring experience in external relations, strategic development, project management, stakeholder management, programming, film production and distribution, and accessible dance, significantly expanding the skillset available to the charity and bolstering the Board ahead of the planned departure of founder Dora Frankel at the 2023 Annual General Meeting (AGM).

In May the Trustees agreed that the new role of Artistic Director Emeritus be created, and that Dora Frankel would be appointed to this role. An Artistic Director Emeritus is a former Artistic Director—who usually a founder—who has completed their service and continues to be associated with the organisation and is permitted to retain the rank of the last office held as an honorary title.

The term often refers to Board Members who are no longer full Board Members but who are being honoured for outstanding service or who are still involved with the organisation in some way. This is an uncompensated role created to indicate history, legacy, and oversight externally; recognise Dora for her work in the creation of FG; be honorific, given as a mark of respect while having few or no duties; avoid potential conflict of interest with the founder having a Trustee role.

When Dora steps down as a Trustee at the 2023 AGM, she will not receive meeting minutes, vote on Board matters or have any legal liability for the **Board's actions**. **The Artistic Director Emeritus** may, if requested, volunteer to serve on a committee to provide expertise, advice, and insight as someone who is intimately aware of the organisation, its mission, vision and strategic goals, and otherwise be available to advise and offer insight to the board and executive.

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**STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT (CONTINUED)**

**Governance**

The Board meets a minimum of four times per year and conducts an AGM. The quorum is at least three Trustees and meetings may be held in person or remotely via video call.

**At Trustees' meetings, held at least quarterly, the Trustees agree on the broad strategy** and areas of activity for the charity, including but not limited to the consideration of artistic activity and engagement, projects, fundraising, governance, reserves, risk management, policies, performance, and business planning.

Detailed written reports and an agenda are prepared by senior staff and these are circulated in **advance of Board meetings in accordance with the notice periods defined in the charity's** Memorandum and Articles of Association.

**Appointment and Induction of Trustees**

The appointment of Trustees is carried out at regular Trustee meetings and is by unanimous agreement of the existing Trustees. Trustees are appointed for a three-year term and are eligible for re-election at the end of that term.

The Memorandum and Articles of Association determine that the Board is made up of no less than three Trustee Directors.

Trustees are nominated by invitation given that they have the necessary skills and expertise to **contribute to the charity's activities and to be able to discharge** their obligations as Trustees. The skills and composition of the Board is reviewed on a regular basis, taking into consideration succession planning, representation and experience, empathy and knowledge of the charity.

**Management and Organisational Structure**

Co-Artistic Director Malgorzata Dzierzon stood down in November 2022 to pursue a new role as **ballet director at the Wrocław Opera, recognising that taking this opportunity would mean she** would be unable to commit to supporting FG as she wished to.

Day-to-day management is now delegated to Artistic Director Renaud Wiser, who remains responsible for most of the key activities of the charity including the content of the artistic and engagement programme, recruiting and appointing FG artistic and administrative freelance staff, tour booking, working with fundraising consultants and, jointly with the Finance Manager, for regulatory compliance.

Across the year, fundraising activities have been supported by Sam Hobrough, a freelance arts sector fundraising consultant who works predominantly in the North East with a range of arts and charity organisations.

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**STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT (CONTINUED)**

**Key Management Personnel**

The Trustees consider the Board of Trustees and the Artistic Directors as comprising the key management personnel of the charity in charge of directing and controlling the charity and running and operating the charity on a day-to-day basis.

All Trustees give their time freely. No Trustee remuneration was paid in the year. Details of Trustee expenses and related party transactions are disclosed in the Notes to the Financial Statements.

Trustees are required to disclose all relevant interests and register them with the Chair, and in **accordance with the charity's Conflict of Interests policy, withdraw from decisions where any such conflict of interest arises.**

**Grant-making**

The charity does not currently engage in grant-making activity.

**Policies on Reserves**

The Trustees have reviewed the charity's needs for reserves in line with the guidance issued by the Charity Commission.

The Trustees aim to hold a level of Unrestricted Reserves which enables the charity to have sufficient financial resources to meet various liabilities which would crystallise if FG Dance Limited were unable to continue operating, together with an allowance to enable the charity to respond flexibly to issues or appropriate initiatives which might be identified outside of its annual budgeting process.

At present, the Trustees estimate that the Unrestricted Reserves required to cover all known liabilities amount to approximately £2,500. In addition, the Trustees consider that a contingency of at least £10,000 is prudent, resulting in an optimum level of Unrestricted Reserves in the region of £12,500.

Fertile Ground Dance Limited currently holds Unrestricted Reserves of £16,158 at 28 February 2023. Free reserves, defined as non-designated Unrestricted Reserves, minus the value of Tangible Fixed Assets, are £15,643 which provides a small additional level of contingency.

The Trustees believe that Unrestricted Reserves should, wherever possible, be maintained at least at this level to ensure the charity can run efficiently and meet the needs of the beneficiaries. FG will continue to use reserves, where necessary, to support the annual programme, but the objective is to achieve 100% funding for each programme.

This policy will be reviewed by the Trustees on an annual basis as part of **the charity's budgeting processes.**

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**OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES**

Fertile Ground Dance Limited aims to advance the arts for the public benefit by the promotion, in particular, but not exclusively, of the art of dance.

**Fertile Ground (FG) is the North East's only contemporary touring dance company which specialises in creating opportunities for young professional dancers to develop their early careers.**

FG offers performances and workshops across the North East region and beyond, showcasing great talent performing in theatres, galleries and outdoor spaces.

**Aims & Objectives**

The vision that shapes our annual activities remains working with emerging dance artists, creating and touring contemporary dance across the North East and removing barriers for children and young people to access high quality contemporary dance.

Our organisational objectives remain to:

- Provide professional opportunities for emerging dancers who are native to, have trained or are based in the North East;
- Inspire children and young people through engagement programmes where interaction with professional dancers and choreographers promote creativity and encourage physical well-being;
- Continue to increase the artistic profile and visibility of FG by working with internationally recognised collaborators
- Create, produce and present inspiring and innovative dance programmes toured in North East and beyond

**Public Benefit**

The Trustees understand and have discussed the implications of the provisions of the Charities Act 2006, which state that all charities must demonstrate that they are established for public benefit, and have had due regard to the public benefit guidance issued by the Charity Commission. The Trustees believe that the charity meets both of the key principles.

Principle 1 - There must be an identifiable benefit, or benefits

Principle 2 - Benefit must be to the public, or a section of the public

**The charity's principal public benefits are:**

- Education and development of young people - **The charity's participatory activities focus on** strengthening the social and emotional capabilities of young people – such as confidence, resilience, creativity, communication, managing feelings, problem-solving, relationship-building, responsibility and perseverance - through participation in creative activities.
- Performances for the general public - The charity produces performances and events which are delivered to a high standard by paid professional staff.

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**OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES (CONTINUED)**

**Public Benefit (Cont.)**

The main beneficiaries are:

- Members of the public who attend our events and performances and who engage with FG online
- Emerging dancers from the North East of England who form the FG Company
- Emerging dancers from the North East of England who are the beneficiaries of the professional development programme (360 programme)
- Children and young people and adult participants who take part in our workshops and residencies in education settings
- Artists and crew who create and contribute to our touring programmes

**Impact and Value**

FG remains dedicated to creating a lasting impact and providing significant value through its focus on talent development and the empowerment of young dancers in the North East.

Each year, we make it a priority to select a minimum of four promising emerging young dancers who have strong connections to our region, either through their birthplace, training, or current residency. These talented individuals are given a remarkable opportunity to join our company as members for a year-long intensive program. Throughout this transformative experience, they collaborate closely with experienced and acclaimed dance artists, honing their skills.

Our young dancers not only gain invaluable artistic growth, but they also have the chance to showcase their talent on a national tour, bringing their innovative performances to audiences across the country. Moreover, they actively contribute to our educational initiatives by assisting in the delivery of workshops and educational programs. As believers in the value of ethical employment practices, we ensure that our dancers receive professional fees.

In our ongoing efforts to break down barriers and make high-quality dance accessible to all, we offer a range of free educational activities in local schools, community centres, and in collaboration with our partners. These initiatives aim to eliminate obstacles that may prevent young people from accessing the transformative power of dance. By engaging directly with professional dancers, our programs inspire young individuals, promote their overall well-being, and nurture their creativity.

Recognising the challenges that newly trained dancers aged 18-25 often face when trying to establish themselves in the industry, we have established the '360 professional development program.' This unique initiative is specifically designed to provide support to young dancers who may struggle to secure their first professional job due to a variety of socio-economic factors. By offering comprehensive assistance and mentorship, we equip these individuals with the resilience and essential skills needed to navigate the early stages of their careers successfully.

Through our unwavering commitment to talent development and the provision of inclusive opportunities, we create a profound impact on the lives of young dancers in our community. By investing in their growth, we not only foster the next generation of exceptional dancers but also contribute to their personal and professional development, ultimately enriching the cultural landscape of the North East.

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**OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES (CONTINUED)**

**Impact and Value (Cont.)**

The work of FG is rooted in its artistic programme. The Artistic Director collaborates with diverse international guests each year to curate a fresh repertoire, delving into various cross-genre art forms such as film, theatre, digital media, and live music. These guest artists actively participate in our engagement initiatives, infusing their specialised expertise into workshops and school residencies.

Our ultimate goal is to produce exceptionally high-quality work that is both captivating and unpredictable. We aspire to present dance that pioneers unexplored territories, captivating audiences through a multitude of formats and venues, and challenging their preconceptions of contemporary dance.

**Testimonials**

*"The Company members themselves were highly motivational and through the experience it was clear that the students grew in their self confidence and in their ability to work with concentration, focus and dedication. As this project contributed to the overall module grades for the students the residency offered a real value both in experience and in results."* Mandy Rogerson BA (Hons) Dance Programme Leader at Newcastle College

*"Following the workshop you provided and the incredible bravery displayed by the small number of boys who took a risk to participate, many more of our boys have been inspired and have volunteered to participate in other dance acts."* Rachika Patel, Assistant Head of School, Mount Stewart School

*"It has impacted very positively, especially after the past couple of years where work has been uncertain, having the stability of this contract as well as the support offered by the Artistic Directors has been great. It has also just been lovely to be able to focus on my role as a dance artist in the works and being able to perform to audiences again."* Lila Naruse, FG cast member

**Wider Operating Context**

The pandemic acted as a catalyst for change, prompting rapid and creative responses from arts organisations which strengthened their connections with the communities they serve and expanded relationships with, for example, through the creation of dance film. Despite the challenges, FG maintained its core focus on talent development and retention in the North East, presenting inspirational and organisational dance for regional audiences.

Throughout the year, various factors contributed to a challenging environment, including the cost-of-living crisis, the impact of Brexit, inflationary pressures on salaries and freelance pay, rising energy costs, static performance fees, the lingering effects of Covid-19, and increased production expenses, circumstances particularly challenging for touring companies like FG.

Audience attendance has not fully recovered to pre-pandemic levels, with dance audiences slower to return compared to other art forms. Booking behaviours have become less predictable, presenting venues with multiple challenges, including static funding or limited increases, soaring inflation and operating costs, uncertain local authority support, and the conclusion of the UK's participation in Creative Europe. Venue and festival programming has become more risk-averse overall, with static fees (amounting to real terms reductions) and fewer commissions.



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**OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES (CONTINUED)**

**Wider Operating Context (Cont.)**

The fundraising landscape remains difficult. A 2022 Charity Giving public reported 55% of respondents whose financial situations made it harder to donate. While many loyal donors have supported the arts throughout the pandemic, their contributions have primarily benefited larger organisations. While trusts and foundations initially responded swiftly to the pandemic with dedicated funds and targeted support, many have since grappled with an overwhelming volume of applications, resulting in wildly reduced success rates. Some funders temporarily halted applications, while others chose to only support existing recipients. Specialist fundraising consultancies have also reported decreased success rates.

The return of live performances and events has facilitated the rebuilding of trust and lasting relationships, allowing attendees to engage with the work. However, independent artists and companies remain vulnerable, with limited access to financial support during the pandemic. Freelancers are leaving the sector and relocating from cities, and the closure of undergraduate dance courses is impacting employment opportunities for artists.

Although not receiving National Portfolio Organisation (NPO) status was disappointing, FG achieved a "good" rating on three of the four investment principles that Arts Council England (ACE) considers crucial for well-run organisations. While NPO status would have been a significant endorsement, FG remains in a favourable position due to other forms of support it has received, including the Newcastle Community Investment Fund.

**Risk Management**

The Trustees regularly review the major governance, operational and financial risks which the charity faces as part of its annual business planning process and confirm that systems have been established to mitigate these risks.

The charity has a risk management strategy in place which comprises:

- an annual review of the strategic risks the charity may face via the business plan
- the establishment of systems and procedures to mitigate those risks identified
- the implementation of procedures designed to minimise any potential impact on the charity should those risks materialise.

Trustees are satisfied that appropriate financial systems and controls and employment policies and practices are in place.

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**OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES (CONTINUED)**

**Risk Management (Cont.)**

They consider the key risks facing the charity at this time to be:

- Business continuity and resilience - The organisation has experienced a broad range of challenges over the past year, including the impact of the pandemic, the departure of a Co-Artistic Director, the onboarding of new Trustees, and the lack of success in achieving 2023-2026 NPO status in what was a very competitive environment (with the associated sunk cost of a significant investment in time and capacity to develop, build, and submit our application to ACE)
- Financial capacity - New sources of income are **needed to make give the charity's operations** long term security, however the risk here is a lack of available funds to support research, investment, and speculative ideation
- Increased competition for funding - This applies in particular to ACE, who have historically been reliable funders of FG. ACE is experiencing significant oversubscription to their programmes (resulting in project funding success rates of one in three), at a time when total funding available was reduced

The Trustees have managed the potential impact of these risks by ensuring that:

- A Board Away Day is planned with an external facilitator to kick off the next round of business planning, identify skills gaps within the board, and ideate around future artistic vision, governance, management structures, organisational continuity and resilience, income streams, development opportunities, and partnerships
- Conservative budgets have been set for the next financial year which recognise a difficult funding landscape for the cultural sector;
- The charity maintains a low-cost base, using freelancers and minimising liabilities;
- Regular management accounts are produced, demonstrating performance against budget, allowing for interrogation, challenge, and advice from Trustees;
- Contingency plans and alternative ways forward are discussed among the Executive and Trustees ahead of major commitments on spend and activity
- A reserves policy is in place providing for an appropriate amount of uncommitted reserves to enable the charity to meet all liabilities if income targets are not achieved

**ACHIEVEMENTS IN THE YEAR**

**Artistic Achievements**

Across the year, FG continued delivering exceptional dance experiences and inspiring engagement activities to the communities of the North East. While our artistic work usually involves the research and development of new programs, this year presented a unique opportunity. Building upon the interest garnered by our 2021 production of *Myths and Dreams*, we restaged this programme, which included the *Somnium* by Malgorzata Dzierzon, *Plubel* by Fabritia D'Intino and *Clémentine Vanlerberghe*, and *Labyrinth* by Renaud Wiser, for new audiences.

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**ACHIEVEMENTS IN THE YEAR (CONTINUED)**

**Artistic Achievements (Cont.)**

- May 6 2022 - Myths and Dreams presented at Gosforth Civic Theatre as a triple bill with a virtual reality installation in the foyer.
- July 16 2022 - A screening of Somnium took place at Ouseburn Festival.
- August 11 2022 - Opening of They Went to Sea digital mural in Doncaster as part of ArtBomb 2022 festival. This was a collaboration with international artist Jola Yola Kudela with choreography by Malgorzata Dzierzon and performance by FG. The mural triggers a video of a performance by FG connected via augmented reality app. Supported by the Polish Cultural Institute in London, this work is on display for the foreseeable future. The film was submitted by the artist Jola Kudela to a number of festivals and won several awards including: Florence Film Awards, Hollywood Gold Awards, International Sound Future Awards (New York), Paris Film Awards (Honourable mention).
- October 19 2022 - Myths and Dreams presented at Dance City, aimed at younger audiences, schools and colleges. This activity benefited our cast of emerging artists who gained further experience and confidence in performing live to an estimated total audience of 80.

**Engagement**

FG provided over 44 sessions for learning and participation across the year.

- April 2022 - Week-long residency at Newcastle College creating Dédale, a new work for students in year one of their BA (Hons) Dance. The piece was presented later in May to a live audience in the College Studio Theatre as part of their end of year performance.
- May 2022 - Workshops with 90 students from Year 6 at the Mount Stewart School in London, consisting of an introduction to dance and to FG, sharings of our work, and creative sessions based on Somnium. During our time at the school, we worked closely with a smaller group of 13 students who performed their pieces to their peers and at the end of the year performance in July.
- December 2022 - Two classes and two creative sessions with 18 second-year higher education students as part of their school assessment, exploring the process behind the creation of Labyrinth.

**Emerging Artists Professional Development**

- Spring 2022 - Recruited for the 2022/23 cohort of our professional development programme, the "360". **Four NE emerging dancers were selected and completed the scheme over the spring and the autumn, by attending professional classes with the Company and through observerships, paid event support, sessions on marketing and finance and one to one mentoring sessions.**
- Autumn 2022 - **Trained two new emerging dancers from the North East to join the company's cast - Pagan Hunt and Ellie Trow. Both had been members of FG's 2021 professional development programme and were able to successfully start their professional career as performers, testimony of the programme's success as a pathway into the professional world.**

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**ACHIEVEMENTS IN THE YEAR (CONTINUED)**

**Fundraising**

Our primary focus across the year was our submission to ACE to become a NPO. To facilitate the delivery of both this work and our ongoing artistic, engagement, and professional development activities, the Trustees agreed to a split of activities proposed by our then Co-Artistic Directors.

This split saw Renaud responsible for delivery of the Myths & Dreams tour, including overseeing the technical, marketing/PR, HR, engagement, budgets, and recruitment of the 2022/23 360 cohort, while Gosia would lead on the NPO application alongside fundraising and partnerships.

Working with freelance fundraising consultant Samantha Hobrough, we submitted 6 funding applications to trusts and foundations to support FG's **charitable activities**.

In 2022/23 FG received:

- £5,000 from Garrick Charitable Trust to support our work with emerging professional dance talent in the North East in 2022
- £2,500 from Sir James Knott Trust for new programme

We remain recipients of Newcastle Culture Investment Fund 2022-2025, funding us with £10,000 annually towards artistic and outreach programmes in Newcastle, in recognition of the vital part FG plays in delivering the cultural vision for the city.

**Financial Review**

The financial out-turn for the year is an overall unrestricted deficit of £(3,675) (2022: Unrestricted Surplus of £2,427), leaving a balance on Unrestricted Funds of £16,158 at 28 February 2023.

The Trustees consider the financial performance of the charity to be satisfactory.

**PLANS FOR THE FUTURE**

In the previous financial year, FG created an ambitious five-year artistic and strategic plan for 2022-2026, built fit for purpose in the event of the charity becoming a NPO yet available as a foundational body of work to be put under consideration by the Executive and Trustees in the event this ambition was not achieved.

This artistic and strategic plan will be used to inform the Board Away Day 2023. Facilitated by Theresa Beattie OBE, the away day will bring all Trustees and Executive together to meet in person and celebrate FG's achievements; reaffirm shared purpose; take a longer-term view of FG's ambitions and how Trustees can contribute; reimagine a more stable and sustainable structure with reduced ACE dependency; map realistic activity and baseline support 2024/25; and identify high level objectives and priorities for the next three years.

The work of the away day will lead into the development of a refreshed vision and new three-year business plan for FG which is intended to deliver stability and financial resilience.

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**RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE TRUSTEES**

The Trustees (who are also the Directors of Fertile Ground Dance Limited for the purposes of **company law**) are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Annual Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

Company law requires the Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial period which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the charitable company for that period.

In preparing these financial statements, the Trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP;
- make judgments and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable 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 charitable company will continue in operation.

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

Signed by order of the Trustees

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Leigh Venus', with a horizontal line drawn through the middle of the signature.

**Leigh Venus**  
**Chair of Trustees**  
**Company Registration Number 10599285**

**2 August 2023**

## **INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS ON THE UNAUDITED ACCOUNTS OF FERTILE GROUND DANCE LIMITED FOR THE YEAR ENDED 28 FEBRUARY 2023**

I hereby report to the Trustees of Fertile Ground Dance Limited (Charity Registration Number 1180001) on my examination of the accounts for the year ended 28 February 2023 set out on pages 15 to 24.

### **Responsibilities and basis of report**

As the charity's Trustees (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').

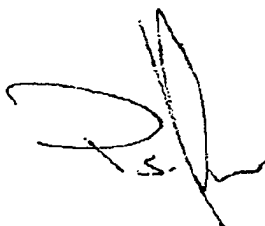
Having satisfied myself that the accounts of the Company are not required to be audited under Part 16 of the 2006 Act and are eligible for independent examination, I report in respect of my examination of your charity's accounts as carried out under section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 ('the 2011 Act'). 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 Statement**

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 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 or 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 (FRS102)).

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.



**Pete O'Hara, FCA, Chartered Accountant**  
**Fellow of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England & Wales**

4 Stoneyhurst Road West, Gosforth, Newcastle upon Tyne NE3 1PG

2 August 2023

**FERTILE GROUND DANCE LIMITED**  
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**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES**

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 28 FEBRUARY 2023**

	Note	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
<b>Income</b>					
Income from Investments	3	-	-	-	-
Income from Donations & Legacies	4	-	-	-	5
Income from Charitable Activities	5	2,800	17,500	20,300	74,230
Other Income	6	627	-	627	12,858
		<b>3,427</b>	<b>17,500</b>	<b>20,927</b>	<b>87,093</b>
<b>Expenditure</b>					
Expenditure on Raising Funds	7	1,000	-	1,000	2,900
Expenditure on Charitable Activities	8	6,102	24,500	30,602	95,766
		<b>7,102</b>	<b>24,500</b>	<b>31,602</b>	<b>98,666</b>
<b>Net Income/(Expenditure)</b>		<b>(3,675)</b>	<b>(7,000)</b>	<b>(10,675)</b>	<b>(11,573)</b>
Balance brought forward		19,833	11,000	30,833	42,406
<b>Balance carried forward</b>		<b>£16,158</b>	<b>£4,000</b>	<b>£20,158</b>	<b>£30,833</b>

The notes on pages 17 to 24 form part of the financial statements.

All of the activities of the company are classed as continuing.

The Statement of Financial Activities includes all gains and losses in the year and therefore a statement of total recognised gains and losses has not been prepared.

**FERTILE GROUND DANCE LIMITED**  
**(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)**  
**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION/BALANCE SHEET**  
**AS AT 28 FEBRUARY 2023**

	Notes	2023 £	2022 £
<b>Fixed Assets</b>			
Tangible Fixed Assets	11	515	904
<b>Current Assets</b>			
Debtors	12	888	12,356
Cash At Bank & In Hand		21,891	24,116
		<u>22,779</u>	<u>36,472</u>
<b>Creditors – Amounts Falling Due Within 1 Year</b>	13	(3,136)	(6,543)
Net Current Assets/(Liabilities)		<u>19,643</u>	<u>29,929</u>
<b>Total Assets less Current Liabilities</b>		<b>20,158</b>	<b>30,833</b>
<b>Total Net Assets</b>	14	<b>£20,158</b>	<b>£30,833</b>
<b>Represented by:</b>			
Unrestricted Reserves	15	16,158	19,833
Restricted Reserves	15	4,000	11,000
		<u>£20,158</u>	<u>£30,833</u>

The notes on pages 17 to 24 form part of the financial statements.

The Trustees are satisfied that for the year ended 28 February 2023 the charity was entitled to exemption under section 477(2) of the Companies Act 2006.

The Trustees also confirm that the Members have not required the charity to obtain an audit in accordance with section 476 of the Companies Act 2006

The Trustees acknowledge their responsibilities for:

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

**These financial statements were approved by the Board of Trustees on 2 August 2023 and signed on their behalf:**



**Leigh Venus**  
**Chair of Trustees**  
**Company Registration Number 10599285**



**FERTILE GROUND DANCE LIMITED**  
**(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)**  
**NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 28 FEBRUARY 2023**

**1. Accounting Policies**

**Basis of Accounting**

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with applicable United Kingdom accounting standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102 – 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland' ('FRS 102'), and with the Companies Act 2006 and the Statement of Recommended Practice (Charities SORP FRS 102) "Accounting and Reporting by Charities" and the Charities Act 2011.

The financial statements have been prepared on the historical cost basis, modified to include certain financial instruments at fair value.

Advantage has been taken of the provisions in the SORP for Charities applying FRS 102 Update Bulletin 1 not to prepare a statement of cashflows.

The financial statements are prepared in sterling, which is the functional currency of the charity.

**Taxation Status**

Fertile Ground Dance Limited is a Charity registered under the 1960 Charities Act and is accorded exemption from liability to taxation on its income under S505 Income and Corporation Taxes Act 1988.

**Going Concern**

There are no material uncertainties about the charity's ability to continue.

**Income**

All income is included in the statement of financial activities when the charity is entitled to the income, any performance related conditions attached have been met or are fully within the control of the charity, the income is considered probable and the amount can be quantified with reasonable accuracy.

The following specific policies are applied to particular categories of income:

- Donations and legacy income is received by way of donations, legacies, grants and gifts and is included in full in the Statement of Financial Activities when receivable. Where legacies have been notified to the charity but the criteria for income recognition have not been met, the legacy is treated as a contingent asset and disclosed if material.
- Grants, where entitlement is not conditional on the delivery of a specific performance by the charity, are recognised when the charity becomes unconditionally entitled to the grant.
- Investment income is included when receivable.
- Income from charitable trading activity is accounted for when earned.
- Other income is accounted for when receivable.

**FERTILE GROUND DANCE LIMITED**  
**(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)**  
**NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 28 FEBRUARY 2023**

**1. Accounting Policies (Continued)**

**Expenditure**

Expenditure is recognised on an accruals basis as a liability is incurred. Expenditure includes any VAT which cannot be fully recovered, and is reported as part of the expenditure to which it relates:

- Costs of raising funds comprise the costs associated with attracting donations, grants and legacies and the costs of trading for fundraising purposes.
- Charitable expenditure comprises those costs incurred by the charity in the delivery of its activities and services for its beneficiaries. It includes both costs that can be allocated directly to such activities and those costs of an indirect nature necessary to support them.
- Other expenditure includes all expenditure that is neither related to raising funds for the charity nor part of its expenditure on charitable activities.

**Tangible Fixed Assets and Depreciation**

Capital items costing over £250 are capitalised and included in fixed assets.

Depreciation is provided on any fixed assets at rates calculated to write off the assets over their remaining useful lives as follows:

IT Equipment – 3 years

**Impairment of Fixed Assets**

A review for indicators of impairment is carried out at each reporting date, with the recoverable amount being estimated where such indicators exist. Where the carrying value exceeds the recoverable amount, the asset is impaired accordingly. Prior impairments are also reviewed for possible reversal at each reporting date.

**Financial Instruments**

A financial asset or a financial liability is recognised only when the charity becomes a party to the contractual provisions of the instrument. Basic financial instruments are initially recognised at the amount receivable or payable including any related transaction costs.

Current assets and current liabilities are subsequently measured at the cash or other consideration expected to be paid or received and not discounted.

Debt instruments are subsequently measured at amortised cost where there is a material adjustment.

**FERTILE GROUND DANCE LIMITED**  
**(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)**  
**NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 28 FEBRUARY 2023**

**1. Accounting Policies (Continued)**

**Fund Accounting**

Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of the purposes of the charity.

Designated funds are unrestricted funds earmarked by the trustees for specific purposes.

Restricted funds are subjected to restrictions on their expenditure imposed by the donor.

**Judgements and Key Sources of Estimation Uncertainty**

The preparation of the financial statements requires management to make judgements, estimates and assumptions that affect the amounts reported. These estimates and judgements are continually reviewed and are based on experience and other factors, including expectations of future events that are believed to be reasonable under the circumstances.

There are no significant judgements or estimation uncertainty included within the financial statements.

**2. Legal Status**

The charity is a company limited by guarantee and has no share capital. The liability of each member in the event of winding up is limited to £1.

**3. Income from Investments**

	<b>Unrestricted Funds</b>	<b>Restricted Funds</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>2022</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Bank Interest Receivable	-	-	-	-
	<b>£-</b>	<b>£-</b>	<b>£-</b>	<b>£-</b>

**4. Income from Donations & Legacies**

	<b>Unrestricted Funds</b>	<b>Restricted Funds</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>2022</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Donations - General	-	-	-	5
Gift Aid	-	-	-	-
	<b>£-</b>	<b>£-</b>	<b>£-</b>	<b>£5</b>

The 2022 total of £5 relates wholly to Unrestricted Funds.

**FERTILE GROUND DANCE LIMITED**  
**(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)**  
**NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 28 FEBRUARY 2023**

**5. Income from Charitable Activities**

	<b>Unrestricted Funds</b>	<b>Restricted Funds</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>2022</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
<b>Grant Income</b>				
Arts Council England – Myths & Dreams	-	-	-	30,000
Community Foundation – Newcastle Cultural Investment Fund	-	10,000	10,000	15,000
Garrick Charitable Trust	-	5,000	5,000	-
LGA Foundation	-	-	-	3,000
Maria Bjornson Memorial Fund	-	-	-	8,000
Sir James Knott Trust	-	2,500	2,500	-
Scops Trust	-	-	-	5,000
Three Monkeys Trust	-	-	-	5,000
	<b>-</b>	<b>17,500</b>	<b>17,500</b>	<b>66,000</b>
<b>Earned Income</b>				
Performance Fees/Commissions	2,800	-	2,800	7,662
Ticket Sales	-	-	-	418
Workshop Fees	-	-	-	150
	<b>2,800</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>8,230</b>
	<b>£2,800</b>	<b>£17,500</b>	<b>£20,300</b>	<b>£74,130</b>

The 2022 total of £74,130 comprises £8,230 relating to Unrestricted Funds and £66,000 relating to Restricted Funds.

**6. Other Income**

	<b>Unrestricted Funds</b>	<b>Restricted Funds</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>2022</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Rental Income	-	-	-	750
Theatre Tax Relief	627	-	627	12,108
	<b>£627</b>	<b>£-</b>	<b>£627</b>	<b>£12,858</b>

The 2022 total of £12,858 relates wholly to Unrestricted Funds.

**FERTILE GROUND DANCE LIMITED**  
**(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)**  
**NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 28 FEBRUARY 2023**

**7. Expenditure on Raising Funds**

	<b>Unrestricted Funds</b>	<b>Restricted Funds</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>2022</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Fundraising Consultancy	1,000	-	1,000	2,900
	<b>£1,000</b>	<b>£-</b>	<b>£1,000</b>	<b>£2,900</b>

The 2022 total of £2,900 relates wholly to Unrestricted Funds.

**8. Expenditure on Charitable Activities**

	<b>Unrestricted Funds</b>	<b>Restricted Funds</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>2022</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
<b>Production &amp; Activity Costs</b>				
Bursaries/360 Programme	-	1,645	1,645	2,000
Freelance Fees	-	19,582	19,582	48,305
Advertising, Marketing & PR	591	-	591	5,760
Travel & Subsistence Costs	1,017	507	1,524	6,316
Other Direct Costs	-	2,766	2,766	29,683
<b>Support Costs</b>				
Premises Costs	1,848	-	1,848	1,375
Office Costs	547	-	547	504
Depreciation	389	-	389	263
<b>Governance Costs</b>				
Accountancy & Book-keeping Fees	1,710	-	1,710	1,560
	<b>6,102</b>	<b>24,500</b>	<b>30,602</b>	<b>£95,766</b>

The 2022 total of £95,766 comprises £15,766 relating to Unrestricted Funds and £80,000 relating to Restricted Funds.

**9. Net Movement in Funds**

	<b>2023</b>	<b>2022</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
The net movement in Funds is stated after charging/(crediting):		
Depreciation of Owned Fixed Assets	389	263
<b>Independent Examiner's Fees – Independent Examination</b>	<b>1,080</b>	<b>1,080</b>
<b>Independent Examiner's Fees – Other Services</b>	<b>360</b>	<b>360</b>

**FERTILE GROUND DANCE LIMITED**  
**(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)**  
**NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 28 FEBRUARY 2023**

**10. Staff Costs & Directors' Remuneration**

The charity employed no staff in the year (2022: None)

No remuneration was paid to or waived by Trustees/Directors in the year (2022: £Nil) and no costs (2022: £Nil) were reimbursed to Trustees in respect of their attendance at meetings of the charity.

**11. Tangible Fixed Assets**

	Office & ICT Equipment £	Total Fixed Assets £
<b>Cost</b>		
At 1 March 2022	1,447	1,447
Additions	-	-
At 28 February 2023	<u>1,447</u>	<u>1,447</u>
<b>Depreciation</b>		
At 1 March 2022	543	543
Charge for year	389	389
At 28 February 2023	<u>932</u>	<u>932</u>
<b>Net Book Value</b>		
At 28 February 2023	<u>£515</u>	<u>£515</u>
At 1 March 2022	<u>£904</u>	<u>£904</u>

**12. Debtors**

	2023 £	2022 £
		
Trade Debtors	-	-
Theatre Tax Relief	627	12,108
Prepayments	261	248
	<u>£888</u>	<u>£12,356</u>

All sums are due within 1 year.

**FERTILE GROUND DANCE LIMITED**  
**(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)**  
**NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 28 FEBRUARY 2023**

**13. Creditors – Amounts Falling Due Within 1 Year**

	<b>2023</b>	<b>2022</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Trade Creditors	60	-
Accruals	3,076	6,543
	<b>£3,136</b>	<b>£6,543</b>

**14. Analysis of Net Assets between Funds**

	<b>Unrestricted Funds</b>	<b>Restricted Funds</b>	<b>Total 2023</b>	<b>Total 2022</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Fixed Assets	515	-	515	904
Debtors	888	-	888	12,356
Cash at Bank and In Hand	17,891	4,000	21,891	24,116
Creditors – Due Within 1 Year	(3,136)	-	(3,136)	(6,543)
	<b>£16,158</b>	<b>£4,000</b>	<b>£20,158</b>	<b>£30,833</b>

**15. Analysis of Charitable Funds**

	<b>At 1 March 2022</b>	<b>Income in Year</b>	<b>Expenditure in Year</b>	<b>At 28 February 2023</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
<b>Unrestricted Funds</b>	<b>19,833</b>	<b>3,427</b>	<b>(7,102)</b>	<b>16,158</b>
<b>Restricted Funds</b>				
Community Foundation – Newcastle	-	10,000	(8,000)	2,000
Cultural Investment Fund				
Garrick Charitable Trust	-	5,000	(5,000)	-
Sir James Knott Trust	-	2,500	(500)	2,000
LGA Foundation	3,000	-	(3,000)	-
Maria Bjornson Memorial Fund	8,000	-	(8,000)	-
<b>Total Restricted Funds</b>	<b>11,000</b>	<b>17,500</b>	<b>(24,500)</b>	<b>4,000</b>
<b>Total Funds</b>	<b>£30,833</b>	<b>£20,927</b>	<b>£(31,602)</b>	<b>£20,158</b>

**FERTILE GROUND DANCE LIMITED**  
**(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)**  
**NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 28 FEBRUARY 2023**

**15. Analysis of Charitable Funds (Cont.)**

<b>Name of Restricted Fund</b>	<b>Description, Nature &amp; Purpose of the Fund</b>
Community Foundation – Newcastle Cultural Investment Fund	Towards the cost of schools work, plus a contribution to the posts of Development Director and Artistic Director
Garrick Charitable Trust	To support our work with emerging professional dance talent in the North East in 2022, contributing directly to the costs of professional fees and development of these young dancers through these two programmes (Dancers in Myths Dreams & 360 Programme)
Sir James Knott Trust	To provide employment opportunities for young professional dancers
LGA Foundation	To offer bursaries to 4/5 young emerging NE dancers from less affluent backgrounds, to enable them to take part in the 360 programme
Maria Bjornson Memorial Fund	Towards support of core costs

**16. Related Party Transactions**

There were no transactions in the year with related parties, such as are required to be disclosed under the Financial Reporting Standard for Smaller Entities (Effective April 2008) (2022: Nil).

**17. Financial Commitments**

No material financial commitments have been made in respect of future financial periods.

**18. Company Limited by Guarantee**

The company was under the control of its Trustees in the current and previous financial years.

The charity is incorporated under the Companies Act 1985 and is limited by guarantee, each member having undertaken to contribute such amounts not exceeding £1 as may be required in the event of the company being wound up whilst he or she is still a member or within one year thereafter.

There are currently 8 members of the company (2022: 4).