

BORDER CROSSINGS THEATRE COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE

Directors' Report and Accounts
For the Financial Year
From 1st June 2024 to 31st May 2025



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Directors and advisors

Directors

Jatinder Verma MBE (Chair)
Justyna Cwojdzńska
Niall Henry
Conall Morrison
Catriona Sinclair

Company Secretary and Artistic Director Michael Walling

Registered office The Factory Performance Space
Lower Quay Street
Sligo
F91 FX45
Republic of Ireland

Registered Number 646686

Charity Registration
Number: 20205762

Tax Exemption Number: CHY 22624

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Directors' report

The directors submit their reports and accounts for the year ended 31st May 2025 (the accounting reference date).

Objectives and principal activities

The Company is a Not-for-Profit Organisation and the objects for which the company was established are the production of theatrical presentations, the encouragement of the arts and the promotion of education in drama, music, film and other arts. There were no significant changes in the activities of the company during the period of these accounts.

Structure, Governance and management

Border Crossings Theatre Company Ltd. is a company limited by guarantee. The constitution of the company is set out in its memorandum and articles of association. The governing body of the company is the board of directors, which meets on a regular basis. The board has responded to the strategic needs of the organisation by developing and expanding its membership.

This company is related to Border Crossings Limited, a company limited by guarantee and a registered charity based in the United Kingdom. While there is no formal link between the two organisations, the key objectives are the same, and two directors of the UK company, including the Chair, sit on the board of this Company, so close collaboration is undertaken.

Financial performance and financial position

The financial performance for the year is detailed in the Statement of Financial Activities and shows a net surplus of €6,664 (2024 surplus €6,664).

The financial position at the year-end is detailed in the Balance Sheet and shows total reserves of €27,268 (2024 €27,268).

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Report of the Artistic Director of Achievements and Public Benefit

2024-25 was a key year in the development of Border Crossings' work in the Republic of Ireland and the European Union. The company continued to be led by Michael Walling (Artistic Director) and Lucy Dunkerley (Associate Director). Additional freelance contractors undertook work with the company as required by projects and allowed by funding.

The board met regularly throughout the year. Many board meetings were held jointly online with the board of our sister organisation, Border Crossings (UK). This sister company issues its own Annual Report and Accounts.

Artistic and Education Achievements - THE LEGEND OF EUROPA

During the summer of 2024, the company received notification of a Creative Europe grant¹ to develop a new devised play called THE LEGEND OF EUROPA through the calendar years 2025 and 2026. This was one of only two Irish-led projects to receive a grant in this funding round, with a score of 92% at the assessment stage. The Creative Europe grant covers up to 80% of the project budget. Border Crossings was fortunate to receive an additional grant from The Arts Council / An Chomhairle Ealaíon to cover the remaining 20% of costs for our work as the Irish partner.

The partners for the EUROPA project are the Théâtre du Soleil (France), Teatro dell'Argine (Italy), Riksteatern (Sweden) and The Fence (Sweden). The partnership has developed from our CRE-ACTORS project, with Riksteatern (the National Touring Theatre of Sweden) joining after having hosted our meeting in Stockholm. In line with the previous project, the process will involve a series of devising workshops in Sligo, Bologna and Paris, leading to a further period in Stockholm where the work created under the leadership of different partners will be brought together and presented as work-in-progress.

The project is based on the founding legend of Europe: the abduction of the Lebanese woman Europa by Zeus in the form of a bull, with the subsequent search for her, and the story of her son Minos, and of the Minotaur. The aim is to re-tell this story in the light of contemporary migrations across the Mediterranean and within Europe, with particular emphasis on questions of cultural and gender diversity and equality. The project also includes the development of an environmentally sound touring model.

The first devising workshop was led by Border Crossings, and was held in Sligo from May 11-19 2025. Jonathan Meth (Dramaturg - The Fence) wrote of this work:

¹ THE LEGEND OF EUROPA and PERFORMING POSSIBILITY are funded by the European Union. Views and opinions expressed are however those of the author(s) only and do not necessarily reflect those of the European Union or the European Education and Culture Executive Agency (EACEA). Neither the European Union nor EACEA can be held responsible for them.

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“While the rape and abduction of Europa is the Act’s inciting incident, the creative choice was made to dramatise the implications and knock-on impact rather than dwelling on its literal rendering. So as not to erase the central voice of Europa, the Act instead ends with this character centre stage. As a priming coat for the audience, or an antechamber to the main action ensuing; two female characters each frame what the audience will encounter via the personage of a contemporary public presentation on visual art - and the choices made over many centuries of how to represent the rape and abduction of Europa. With a majority female group of devisers and performers, it is key to the evolving creative methodology that the place and voices of women in the narrative is constantly foregrounded and interrogated. This was powerfully reflected in the material generated.

The project partners had taken considerable care to assemble groups of Cre-Actors from a wide range of heritages, including those with experience of first and second generation migration. The creative approach drew from these identities, though not in a directly personal autobiographical way, to combine with the underlying myths, so as to create a rich tapestry of contemporary narratives and voices. This aspect of Border Crossings’ methodology differs noticeably from (e.g.) that of the Théâtre du Soleil, and we look forward to the dramaturgical and cultural contrasts that will ensue.”

The project’s progress is being documented by film-maker Thomas Briat. His short film of the Sligo workshop is available online².

Artistic and Education Achievements - PERFORMING POSSIBILITY

Border Crossings is also collaborating with Teatro dell’Argine on an Erasmus + project called PERFORMING POSSIBILITY. Other partners are YMCA (Cork) and Opera di Padre Marella (Bologna). This project complements EUROPA by bringing young people’s voices into play, encouraging them to explore their own understanding of Europe, and to compare these with the thoughts of their counterparts in the other country. The young people in Italy are largely from refugee and migrant backgrounds, so the project deals with a range of key issues. Its outputs will be digital collaborations: videos and podcasts, together with a digital training manual.

The first workshop was held in Cork from April 21-26, working with a group of young people, mainly from the rural areas of West Cork. One of the participants, Niamh McGrath, wrote a blog piece³ about the experience. Here is an extract:

“Ireland is on the edge of the European Union. This means that the young people in Ireland are not as connected with the rest of our EU peers to the extent we should be. Therefore the cultural exchange that PERFORMING

² <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WoqukwAtIns&t=18s>

³ <http://bordercrossingsblog.blogspot.com/2025/07/performing-possibility-guest-blog-by.html>

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POSSIBILITY offered is one that is so valued. For myself and 20 other young people in Cork, we had to opportunity to talk to other young people living in the EU. These young people are living in Bologna in Italy, another edge of the EU. These young people were immigrants, who had come from places such as Tunisia, Ukraine and Afghanistan. We were able to talk over Zoom. We talked about our dreams for the future, our music tastes and parts of our cultures (e.g. food). I hope that this cultural exchange will only be the beginning.”

The project will develop further in 2025-26.

Michael Walling

Michael Walling
Artistic Director
Date: 22nd September 2025



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Taxation status

The company is in the Republic of Ireland exempt from liability to taxation and the Tax Exemption Number is CHY22624.

Risk Review

The directors of the company carry out a risk analysis for each project to be entered into by the company and update this throughout the life of each project, identifying and quantifying the level of risk exposure that the company is subject to. Strategies are implemented to mitigate identified risks and their potential impact on the company.

Signed on behalf of the Board of Directors



Jatinder Verma – Chair of the Board

Date: 22nd September 2025



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STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MAY 2025				
	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total funds 2025	Total funds 2024
	€	€	€	€
Income from:				
Donations and legacies	-	-	-	-
Charitable activities	-	224,492	224,492	7,625
Other trading activities	-	-	-	-
Investments	-	-	-	-
Total	-	224,492	224,492	7,625
Expenditure on:				
Raising funds	-	-	-	-
Charitable activities	158	108,364	108,522	961
Total	158	108,364	108,522	961
Net income/(expenditure) before tax	(158)	116,128	115,970	6,664
Tax payable	-	-	-	-
Net income/(expenditure) after tax	(158)	116,128	115,970	6,664
Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-
Net movement in funds	(158)	116,128	115,970	6,664
Reconciliation of funds:				
Total funds brought forward	27,268	-	27,268	20,604
Total funds carried forward	27,110	116,128	143,238	27,268

The notes to the accounts on pages 9 & 10 form part of these financial statements.

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BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31st MAY 2025				
	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total Funds 2025	Total Funds 2024
	€	€	€	€
Fixed assets:				
Tangible assets	-	-	-	-
Total Fixed Assets	-	-	-	-
Current assets:				
Stock	-	-	-	-
Debtors	-	-	-	-
Cash at bank and in hand	27,127	120,207	147,334	27,268
Total Current Assets	27,127	120,207	147,334	27,268
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	17	4,079	4,096	-
Net current assets / (liabilities)	27,110	116,128	143,238	27,268
Total assets less current liabilities	27,110	116,128	143,238	27,268
Total net assets	27,110	116,128	143,238	27,268
Funds:				
Restricted income funds	-	116,128	116,128	-
Unrestricted income funds:	27,110	-	27,110	27,268
Total funds	27,110	-	143,238	27,268

The notes to the accounts on pages 9 & 10 form part of these financial statements.

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BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 MAY 2025 (continued)

We as directors of the Border Crossings Theatre Company Limited, state that:

- a) The company is availing itself of the exemption provided for by Chapter 15 of Part 6 of the Companies Act 2014,
- b) The company is availing itself of the exemption on the grounds that the conditions specified in s358 are satisfied,
- c) The members of the company have not served a notice on the company under s334(1) in accordance with s334(2),
- d) We acknowledge the company's obligations under the Companies Act 2014, to keep adequate accounting records and prepare Financial Statements which give a true and fair view of the assets, liabilities and financial position of the company at the end of its financial period and of its surplus or deficit for such period and to otherwise comply with the provisions of the Companies Act 2014 relating to Financial Statements so far as they are applicable to the company,
- e) The company has relied on the specified exemption contained in s352 Companies Act 2014 (as a micro company); has done so on the grounds that the company is entitled to the benefit of that exemption as a small company and the abridged Financial Statements have been properly prepared in accordance with s353 Companies Act 2014.

On behalf of the Board of Directors:



Jatinder Verma MBE (Chair)
Date: 22nd September 2025



Conall Morrison (Director)
Date: 22nd September 2025

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Notes to the accounts:

Border Crossings Theatre Company Limited is a private company limited by guarantee and has no share capital.

1. Accounting policies

a) Basis of preparation and format of the accounts

The accounts are prepared under the historical cost convention and in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP); Accounting and Reporting by Charities and in accordance with Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and the Republic of Ireland.

b) Going Concern

It is the policy of the board of the company to take careful account of the funding available for each production before entering into financial commitments for that production in order to ensure that the company will be able to meet its financial commitments. The board has no reason to believe, that for the foreseeable future any events are likely to occur which would put achievement of this policy at risk. Therefore, the board continues to adopt the going concern policy when preparing the accounts of the company.

c) Income and costs of production

The direct costs of productions completed or in progress are taken to the statement of financial activities as they are incurred. Any associated income, including grant income for such productions is similarly matched and taken to the statement of financial activities.

d) Stocks

Stocks are valued at the lower of cost and net realisable value.

e) Depreciation

Depreciation is provided to write off the cost of assets by equal instalments over their estimated useful life. All equipment is written off at a rate of 20% on a straight-line basis.

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Notes to the accounts (continued):

2. Expenditure on charitable activities:

	2025	2025	2025	2024
	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total	
	€	€	€	€
Administration costs	158	-	158	350
Direct Project expenses	-	108,364	108,364	611
Total	961	-	108,522	961

None of the Directors (or any person connected with them) received any remuneration or benefits during the period.

There were no employees during the period.

3. Creditors (amounts falling due within one year):

	2025	2024
	€	€
Creditors and Accruals	-	-
Amount owing to related company	4,096	-
Total	4,096	-

The related company is Border Crossings Company Limited, a company registered in the UK.

There were no contingent liabilities nor capital or financial commitments at the year-end.

There is no controlling party.