

# **The South Devon Players Theatre & Film Company Constitution**

## **1. NAME**

The name of the Company shall be THE SOUTH DEVON PLAYERS THEATRE & FILM COMPANY. This is the trading name of the South Devon Players Limited, registered at Companies House as a not-for-profit volunteer-run company limited by guarantee: Company number 11569166.

## **2. OBJECTIVE**

The company exists to create local opportunities for local people to create high-quality performances in theatre, exploring history, culture & classical literature, (in so doing the company has won numerous awards for its work in the community, including being the Creative Lives All-England Epic Award winner in 2017, and the Volunteer Theatre Actors Association Theatre Partner Award at the Long Island theatre festival in New York (USA) in 2019.)

Our focus is breaking down barriers to participating in theatre for regional actors, crew, and audiences alike. We love to hear from new prospective actors, creatives and audiences at any time, regardless of age, ethnicity, gender, or experience. We are based in an area of high deprivation and were created by local people to create opportunities where none existed before, to encourage and enable people to build a self employed freelance career in theatre.

We are launching free education packs online accompanying each show from 2021 onwards, teaching various aspects of theatre production, peripheral historical/cultural/ specialist skills, and working towards closer links with schools.

## **3. COMPOSITION**

The Company shall consist of the three permanent company directors (who are unpaid), a few volunteers (eg fundraisers/ publicity) who join us for as long and when they are able; and the self-employed freelance actors and crew who join us on a production by production basis.

## **4. MEMBERS**

We do not have paid membership, or charge for involvement, since those can preclude peoples ability to become involved if they are on a low income; and most people involved with us, join us on a production by production basis. Involvement shall be open to all persons prepared to participate in a production, undertake volunteering for the benefit of the Company or provide other assistance, at the discretion of the company directors. Involvement as a performer is decided by audition.

The company operates a strict equal opportunities policy as available from our website, and people are welcomed to join our productions regardless of gender identity, ethnicity, religion, disability, or previous experience.

## **FUNDS**

Funds or donations “in kind” of fabrics/ set building materials, equipment, etc, and all monies and properties held by the South Devon Players Theatre & Film Company, are for the sole purpose of furthering our work in creating and disseminating theatre work, and promoting involvement in theatre.

### **Usual outgoing costs are:**

–Hiring a community centre room for rehearsals –Insurances and performing rights

–Payments to actors and production crew (each person involved in a show, earns from that show. This allows them to build a professional portfolio, join Equity or Spotlight, and begin or further their careers.)

–Buying items (usually second hand) for making costumes, props or sets

–Hiring fees, or box office splits with performance venues

–Travel using shared or public transport, to performance venues

– Printing posters and flyers to advertise shows, castings and other

community outreach.

–Tea, coffee and biscuits for rehearsals and backstage at shows –

Basic equipment (lighting, sound, projection) for creating our shows.

–A small fee for our website domain name.

### **Incoming monies**

We fundraise in whatever way is possible, while remaining ethical, to create our work. We try for grants, but often find them hard to obtain as grants are more focussed on the urban areas . All funds incoming are paid either directly into the bank account in the name of The South Devon Players LTD, or to our paypal address of [sdevontheatrefunds@gmail.com](mailto:sdevontheatrefunds@gmail.com). Our fundraising therefore largely comes from the following sources as relevant to the projects

–Show ticket sales

–Programme sales

–An ebay shop selling donated used postage stamps, DVDs and other second hand or hand-crafted items

- A Redbubble shop selling photography and artwork printed onto clothing and homewares “print on demand” for which we receive a small commission.
- An Easyfundraising account which raises a small amount each time a supporter shops online.
- Tabletop sales
- Sponsored activities, for example where the company directors volunteer to be thrown into the harbour by the current show cast.
- A donate paypal button on our website.

### **In the event of closure**

In the event of dissolution or winding up of the Company, any surplus funds and assets remaining after all liabilities have been met, shall be disposed of to a theatre company with a proven track record, with similar aims, and like us also struggling financially, as voted on by the registered company directors, so that all items fundraised for or donated, can continue to further the aim for which they were given.

### **Company Directors**

Being a company director with The South Devon Players Theatre And Film Company is a strictly voluntary position, for which no payments in kind or in money, are given or offered. In the event of closure, they will have no personal claim against the South Devon Players Theatre And Film Company's assets.

### **MANAGEMENT**

The affairs of the Company shall be administered by two to three volunteer company directors, as registered with Companies House, assisted by a volunteer treasurer.

### **RULES**

The company directors are empowered to make rules governing the operation of the Company, in discussion, with majority decisions.

### **ACCOUNTS**

The annual accounts of the South Devon Players LTD will be prepared by a qualified accountant from outside the company, in conjunction with records prepared by our treasurer and will be publicly available within the time required by law, on our Companies House listing.

## **DISCIPLINE**

We require that all persons involved with our company behave in a socially acceptable manner, and do not act in a manner which causes distress to another person in the company or visiting as audience, or in a manner which jeopardises a production. Aggressive/ angry or abusive behaviour, bullying, sexual impropriety, stealing, and discriminating against another persons ethnicity/ religion/ gender/ political belief/ visible or non-visible disability/ sexuality etc, are all actions for which a person may receive a written warning or be required to leave the production and the company. Persons involved in productions are expected to be good timekeepers and able to carry out their agreed tasks.

## **10. AMENDMENTS**

No alterations of, or addition to, this Constitution shall be made except in a meeting of the company directors as registered with Companies House