Southampton Film Theatre

A Registered Charity and
Company Limited by Guarantee

Trustees Reports and Financial Statements
For the year ended 31 July 2025

Charity number	**276825**
Company number	**1383708**

Trustees and Directors present their report and financial statements for the year ended 31 July 2025.

STATUS

Southampton Film Theatre, popularly known as the Phoenix (and also referred to below as the Phoenix or the Society) is run in association with the volunteer led Union Films, based in Southampton University's Students' Union.

The Society enjoys charitable status and is registered with the Charity Commission (Registration No 276825) under the name of Southampton Film Theatre.

The Society is also registered with Companies House (Registration No 1383708) under the name of Southampton Film Theatre, and is a company limited by guarantee and does not possess share capital. Liability of members is restricted to £1 each in the event of the Society being wound up.

The Registered Office address is:
The Phoenix (Southampton Film Theatre), 2 Mulberry Walk, Southampton, SO15 5GA.

The website address is: https://www.thephoenix.org.uk

The Phoenix is a member of Film Hub South West.

GOVERNANCE

The charity Trustees and Directors of the company are known, including in the company's Articles, as members of the Council of Management. According to the requirements of the Memorandum and Articles of Association the members of the Council of Management are elected to serve for a period of three years after which they must be re-elected at the next Annual General Meeting. Members of the Council of Management are set out on page 4.

PURPOSES AND AIMS

The purposes and aims of the Society, its Charitable Objects, are as detailed in its Articles of Association and form the basis of its registration as a charity. Briefly, they are to encourage the development of film and public appreciation of the medium of film, and to promote the use of film as a record of contemporary life, particularly with reference to Hampshire and the City of Southampton.

ENSURING OUR WORK DELIVERS OUR AIMS

The Council of Management reviews the Society's aims, objectives, activities and risks each year. The review process helps us to ensure that our aims, objectives and activities remain focused on our stated purposes. We also identify risks and prioritise them in terms of likelihood of occurrence and potential impact. Our review process was extended as the Covid-19 pandemic developed; since the easing of Covid-19 restrictions we have maintained the extended review process and our conclusions are set out in detail on pages 2 and 3.

Our key risks comprise the loss of key members of the Council of Management; a material reduction in the Society's membership; a sustained fall in the popularity of cinema towards small screen streaming services; various issues relating to Brexit including the availability and pricing of film; and operational issues including venue loss.

The Council of Management has paid due regard to the guidance contained in the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit when reviewing our aims and objectives and in planning our future activities. In particular, the Council consider how planned activities will contribute to the aims and objectives they have set.

HOW OUR ACTIVITIES DELIVER PUBLIC BENEFIT

The Society's main activity, who we hope to benefit and our achievements and performance in the year are described in the "Review of Business" on pages 2 and 3. All our charitable activities are undertaken to further our charitable purposes, as embodied in our Charitable Objects, for the public benefit.

REVIEW OF BUSINESS

Working with the Students' Union and Union Films

The Phoenix operates in conjunction with Southampton University's Union Films from the Southampton University Students' Union Cinema, which offers DCI-compliant and 35mm projection facilities in a comfortable, well-ventilated environment for film-watching.

We retain our status as Union Films' 'World Cinema' provider whilst maintaining our identity as a standalone film society serving the wider public with an interest in the medium of film in and around Southampton. We value the often annually changing personnel in Union Films and our contact with the Students' Union team; we understand that the Union values our community involvement.

From our return to screening after the Covid-19 closure to the 2024-25 year

Whilst the Covid-19 pandemic seems to some as being in the distant past, we continue to comment on our response to the pandemic as the planning undertaken at that time has been significant in guiding our strategic thinking about how best deliver on our Charitable Objects.

We resumed screenings in October 2021 having decided to temporarily cease screenings ahead of HM Government's decision to order the closure of cinemas and much of the economy on 24 March 2020. Our Covid-19 recovery plan, developed during the period of cinema closures, assumed an immediate significant reduction in annual memberships, door receipts and attendance compared to pre-Covid levels, and a return to an albeit smaller Phoenix over a period of up to 5 years.

In 2021-22 we offered a programme of 26 screenings and recorded a small deficit of £230, an improvement on our expectations.

In 2022-23 we offered a programme of 26 screenings, and a further free-entry film in conjunction with and funded by The Parkes Institute, and recorded a small surplus in that year, of £78, also an improved position compared to our expectations.

In 2023-24 we again offered a programme of 26 screenings and benefitted from an enhanced team of Phoenix volunteers but experienced increased difficulty in ensuring that booked films were available, an element already identified within our risk review process. In that year, we recorded a small surplus, of £396, a small improvement on our expectations.

In the current year, 2024-25, we offered a programme of 27 screenings and an additional joint screening with Union Films; with a consistent average audience of 93. We are grateful that we retained the support of the Union Films team as well as a stable team of Phoenix volunteers. As a result of increased interest income, we recorded a surplus of £1,260, broadly in line with expectations.

Delivering our objectives

During the year our members, including students who enjoy reciprocal membership, continued to benefit from weekly film notes and the opportunity to express their vote for each of our screenings, involvement in Southampton Film Week, films focused on themes (e.g. International Human Rights), and our traditional Christmas event involving a well-received, film-oriented quiz. In short, our Phoenix community continued to enjoy the best of world cinema both affordably and comfortably.

Another great year of film – our Film Selection Committee continues to get it right!

The film selection for this past year was again warmly appreciated and frequently generally positively commented on by our members.

Our average audience vote was a very respectable 84%, a slight increase on the previous year's 83%.

Five screenings scored at least 90% (7 did in 2023-24), our most popular being 'No Other Land' and 'Rose', both at a strong 95%, 'Green Border' at 93%, 'Io Capitano' at 92% and 'Rosalie' at 91%.

Our reserves
Members of Council continue to monitor the Society's reserves on a regular basis and consider the reserves held by the Phoenix to be satisfactory, recognising both continuing uncertainties and possible future events, and to adequately cover risks identified in our risk register (page 1).

As a consequence of our review process, the Council agreed to transfer £1,250 from the undesignated fund reserve to the designated fund Equipment reserve (note 8).

Going concern
In recent years we have aimed to market our memberships ahead of details of the programme being available and we saw a strong demand for 2022-23 annual memberships (with receipts before 31 July 2022 of £7,700). For operational reasons we were not able to sell 2023-24 memberships in advance, but in summer 2024 we again opened our advance membership campaign and were delighted with the demand for 2024-25 memberships (with receipts before 31 July 2024 of £9,115). We are very satisfied that before 31 July 2025 we received £8,807 in relation to 2025-26 annual memberships.

Members of Council have assessed the ability of The Phoenix to continue as a going concern. That assessment included consideration of the potential for a shock (such as Covid-19) to again disturb the operation and finances of The Phoenix including reviews of different scenarios and the assumptions underpinning them, the level of cash held as reserves and the associated risk profile of the organisations holding our money, the key risks as identified in our risk register (page 1) and our budgets for 2025-26 and for 2026-27 constructed using conservative assumptions.

The assessment made by the Members of Council is that The Phoenix will remain a going concern for a period of at least 12 months from the date of approval of this report and of the financial statements.

Thanks
We wish to record publicly our thanks to:

- the Union Films Manager and Union Films volunteers who work so hard to deliver an amazing experience for our members;
- Michaela Trescakova, a former Union Films Manager, Projectionist and volunteer who was a long-term friend to The Phoenix and who has now moved away from Southampton;
- the SUSU management who continue to support our activity;
- our growing number of non-student volunteers who attend week in, week out, to welcome our members, manage the preparation of our film brochure and play an important part in supporting our film selection; and
- the individuals who, as the Phoenix Council, continue to search out and enable the showing of the best of world cinema and perform the tasks which ensure that The Phoenix is able to operate throughout our advertised programme.
- Wendy White, a long-time and valued member of our team who, as set out on page 4, has decided to stand down as a Trustee of The Phoenix.

We would also like to thank our members for their loyalty, particularly for the faith many members have again shown in our film selection by purchasing memberships in advance of the publication of our programme of films and also for those who have felt able to volunteer their support to the Council of Management.

Finally, and sadly, we were advised of the death of our long-term member and volunteer Jenny Turner in July, and we pass our condolences to Jenny’s family and her many friends who will miss her greatly.

Conclusion
Having concluded that the state of the Society's affairs and the accounts for the year are satisfactory in the current circumstances, the Trustees and Directors of the Phoenix recommend acceptance of this report.

COUNCIL OF MANAGEMENT
Members of the Council comprise Trustees of the Charity and Directors of the Company.

No member of the Council of Management receives remuneration or other benefit from their activities as a Trustee or Director of the Phoenix. Any connection between a member of the Council of Management of the Phoenix and a contractual party must be disclosed to the Council. During the year under review we note only that Ms White, a Trustee, is an employee of the University of Southampton.

During the year the Council Members were:

S Edwards	(elected 27 November 2024)
A Jackman (also Company Secretary)	(elected 27 November 2024)
R Troughton	(elected 29 November 2023)
S Troughton	(elected 29 November 2023)
W White – Charity Trustee	(elected 23 November 2022, resigned 29 October 2025)

We note that Ms White resigned as a director of the company on 23 December 2023 but remained as a Trustee of the charity. Ms White gave notice that she will not stand for re-election at the 2025 AGM and resigned as a Trustee of the charity on 29 October 2025. We are grateful for her support to The Phoenix over many years.

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
STATEMENT OF DIRECTORS' RESPONSIBILITIES IN RESPECT OF THE ACCOUNTS
Company law requires the directors to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the company and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the company for that period. In preparing those financial statements, the directors are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP);
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent; and
- prepare the financial statements on a going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the company will continue in business.

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

By order of the Council

A Jackman
Company Secretary
Southampton Film Theatre
29 October 2025

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
(Incorporating an Income and Expenditure Account)
for the year ended 31 July 2025

	Notes	***2025***	*2024*
INCOME	2		
		£	£
Membership		**10,370**	10,070
Door receipts		**1,712**	2,308
Other operating income		**-**	-
Deposit account interest	3	**1,836**	327
TOTAL INCOME		**13,918**	12,705
EXPENDITURE			
Film hire and purchase		**4,710**	4,691
Venue hire		**5,200**	5,200
Administration expenses		**649**	712
Promotion (including printing and advertising)		**2,099**	1,706
TOTAL EXPENDITURE		**12,658**	12,309
SURPLUS ON ORDINARY ACTIVITIES BEFORE AND AFTER TAXATION	4	**1,260**	396
RETAINED FUNDS BROUGHT FORWARD General fund £2,472 (£2,076); designated fund £28,750 (£28,750) - note 8		**31,222**	30,826
RETAINED FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD General fund £2,482 (£2,472); designated fund £30,000 (£28,750) - note 8		**32,482**	31,222

There are no recognised gains or losses attributable to members other than the surplus for the period of £1,260 (2024: surplus of £396).

BALANCE SHEET
at 31 July 2025

	Notes	***2025*** **£**	*2024* £
CURRENT ASSETS			
Cash at bank and in hand	5	**56,952**	54,903
Trade debtors		**-**	466
Total current assets		**56,952**	55,369
CREDITORS: amounts falling due within one year	6	**24,470**	24,147
NET CURRENT ASSETS		**32,482**	31,222
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES		**32,482**	31,222
FUNDS			
Unrestricted funds:			
General funds (undesignated)		**2,482**	2,472
Designated fund: Equipment Reserve	8	**30,000**	28,750
		32,482	31,222

For the year ending 31 July 2025 the company was entitled to exemption from audit under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

- 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.

)
S Edwards)
) **Directors and Trustees**
A Jackman)
)

29 October 2025

CASH FLOW STATEMENT
for the year ended 31 July 2025

	2025	*2024*
	£	£
Net surplus	1,260	396
Decrease / (increase) in debtors	466	(466)
Increase in creditors	323	9,805
Cash flow from operating activities*:*		
Net cash provided by / (used in) operating activities	2,049	9,735
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the year	2,049	9,735

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

at 31 July 2025

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Basis of accounting and going concern

The accounts are prepared under the historical cost convention and are drawn up in accordance with the requirements of the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP FRS102).

The Trustees and Directors assess whether the use of the going concern basis of accounting is appropriate, i.e. whether there are material uncertainties related to events or conditions that may cast doubt on the ability of the Phoenix to continue as a going concern. The Trustees and Directors review forecasts and projections covering a period of at least one year from the date of approval of the financial statements in making that assessment. The Trustees and Directors do not consider that there are any such material uncertainties as considered further in the Review of Business on pages 2 and 3 and recognising that the Phoenix is a volunteer-led organisation with a low level of fixed cost. As a result of this review process, the Trustees and Directors consider that the going concern assumption remains valid.

Income and expenditure

Income is recognised when the company has entitlement to the funds, any performance conditions attached to the income have been met, it is probable that the income will be received, and the amount can be measured reliably.

Expenditure is recognised when a liability is incurred.

Trustees and Directors' responsibilities

See Statement on page 4.

2. INCOME

The Phoenix is not required to register for Value Added Tax.

3. INTEREST

	2025	*2024*
	£	***£***
Bank deposit account interest	**1,836**	327

4. TAXATION

HM Revenue & Customs ("HMRC") has confirmed that the company is a charity for tax purposes in line with Paragraph 1 of Schedule 6 Finance Act 2010, and that the company is regarded for tax purposes as a charitable company. The charity reference number supplied by HMRC is EW05773. No provision for corporation tax is required.

5. CASH AT BANK AND IN HAND

	2025	*2024*
	£	*£*
Current account (Starling Bank)	**7,433**	19,767
Current account (Santander Bank)	**1,856**	809
On demand deposit account (COIF)	**47,663**	34,327
	56,952	54,903

6. CREDITORS: Amounts falling due within one year

	2025	*2024*
	£	*£*
Trade creditors	**15,663**	15,032
Membership income in advance	**8,807**	9,115
	24,470	24,147

7. MEMBERS' LIABILITY

The liability of the members is limited to £1 each.

8. EQUIPMENT RESERVE

The principle of establishing an equipment reserve was discussed by Council and at the AGM 2005. This designated, unrestricted fund has been established in order that the means to achieve the aims of the Charitable Company can continue to be met, particularly in relation to projection of future digital productions.

In the current year, an amount of £1,250 (2024: £nil) was transferred from the undesignated general fund to the designated equipment reserve, resulting in a balance in this reserve at the end of the year of £30,000 (2024: £28,750).

Movement on reserves:

	General fund	Equipment fund	Total funds
At 31 July 2023	2,076	28,750	30,826
Surplus - year ended 31 July 2024	396	-	396
At 31 July 2024	2,472	28,750	31,222
Surplus - year ended 31 July 2025	1,260		1,260
Transfer undesignated to designated funds	(1,250)	1,250	-
At 31 July 2025	2,482	30,000	32,482