

# Audience feedback for Mayflower November 2021

Ruth & I really enjoyed the play - interesting, informative, and engaging. - **Phil Heaps, Minister of Highbury Baptist Church**

I think that there are notorious traps in telling the story of the Mayflower, and it is to your credit that you avoided these in the play. For example, you resisted the idealised 'friendly natives' narrative. Also, it was very good that you gave female voices such a strong role in the play, recovering the often-lost voices of women from history. I thought your exploration of the Separatist context in the UK was well done, accurate, and told in a way that showed how people's convictions led to their historical actions. The play had a good balance of drama and humour, and kept my attention throughout. I thought that it worked as a script readthrough, and I could see how it might work as a more staged production as well. I hope it has a life beyond this initial launch! The actors were superb, and all of them played their parts with aplomb! - **Simon Woodman, Minister of Central Baptist Church Bloomsbury**

I did indeed enjoy your play....You got the sense of the danger of the journey to America. And it was shocking at the end to hear that Elizabeth was to die so quickly. Did you create her character to be such a sensible person or was she reported to be like that? - **audience comment**

Enjoyed the play and felt it held together well. I thought the first act had a strong narrative: the second portrayed a series of crises which actually occurred but meant the sense of movement to a conclusion was less. I was particularly taken by the subtleties of the interaction between Elizabeth Winslow and Dorothy Bradford: two reluctant pilgrims who nevertheless braved all that was involved out of loyalty to their men. – **Helen Dewar**

Well done! It was really excellent and all those I spoke to enjoyed it very much indeed. I did particularly like the scenes on the ship, especially as we were in the 'nave' of the church, and all the All Hallows maritime connections felt very strong. The link at the end to the real life stories in the epilogue did bring the stories to life in a special way. A great ensemble cast with some very moving performances. - **Katherine Hedderley, Vicar of All Hallows and Area Dean of the City of London**

I really enjoyed the play. I felt that it captured the immense stresses and dilemmas of such a huge undertaking as sailing to the New World and the ending was particularly moving with the reporting of what happened subsequently to some of the passengers, including premature deaths. After seeing it, I looked up more about the Mayflower and pilgrims online as I didn't know much about it. - **Debbie King**

Thank you for a fine evening, which came across remarkably powerfully just as a play reading. The topic is so thought-provoking ... The disparity in terms of agency between the men and the women, which other audience members commented on afterwards, is certainly striking. Likewise, the degree to which sheer contingency comes into it – the contrast between the mercenary mariner and the divinely-driven pilgrims came over well, but maybe the women's powerlessness could be pointed up more....

Overall I think the whole cast did well - congratulations to all, and so good to see live theatre. - **Angus Wrenn**