

MAYFLOWER – 22 NOVEMBER 2020 PERFORMANCE ON ZOOM – AUDIENCE FEEDBACK

We are writing to congratulate you and everyone at Historia for yesterday evening's entertainment – a great accomplishment in such challenging circumstances. Your text skilfully knitted together the disparate interests at work – religion, kin, commercial boosterism and exploitation, shipping – and provided a rich spread of characters to bring those themes to life. Your cast gave your script the variety of characterisation it demanded; they served you very well, some outstandingly so. A memorable evening! Many thanks indeed, to everyone. We hope you're savouring the compliments that filled the Chat room.
Richard Carwardine and Linda Kirk Sheffield.

A triumph!

The play is one of your best and it was so well cast. I often forgot it was a rehearsed reading as all the actors performed brilliantly. I hadn't seen a reading via zoom and didn't realise it could work as well particularly as we didn't see them reading from the scripts.

Lindsay Driscoll Bradford on Avon

What a pleasure it was yesterday to experience The Mayflower. Kate, the play was just exceptional and we can't imagine the work involved writing it and making the presentation available to us via Zoom! To be able to visit with you all after the performance was frosting on the cake. *Pat and Mike Schaefer Minnesota, USA*

Nick (my husband) and I much enjoyed the play on Sunday evening – many congratulations. It can't have been an easy thing to do on Zoom and it worked very well - the actors were excellent. I liked the inclusion of some strong female characters, especially to balance the list of founding fathers you used at the end which of course didn't include any women. Unimaginably sad to be forced to leave a child behind. It was great too to have it shown how very precarious the whole undertaking was, because of course with the hindsight of history it somehow feels inevitable that they got there, whereas in reality this was far from certain. *Sophia Acland Gloucestershire*

I feel so privileged to have been invited to see your fascinating play. As many have said, it was beautifully written, acted and directed and with excellent sound too. Well done to everyone concerned. *Liz Felton Carmarthen, West Wales.*

This was an interesting take on the story of the Pilgrim Fathers, not least because it brought out the story of the Pilgrim Mothers, whom we rarely hear about. It also showed what led to the voyage to a new, untried land, rather than what happened when they got there, which we also tend to know more about.

The performance was made under very difficult circumstances, and I congratulate you all on your efforts. I particularly enjoyed the characters portrayed by Harry Saks.

I am not a fan of Zoom, and have experienced difficulties with it in the past, but I am impressed that you had the courage to include such a large audience in one meeting. There were a few glitches at the beginning (not of your making), but it went very well.

Congratulations all round! *Mary Bridson Canada*

Loved the writing, - a mixture of informative and the very natural exchanges of dialogue.

Technically it worked very well, with good sound quality (well done whoever sorted out the echo so quickly! Ah yes, Michael Murray, presumably. What a super job all round!).

Congrats to the Director, Kenneth Michaels, and all the cast. A limited scope for acting, obviously, but the most made of the voice and upper body language!

David Walker North London

What a wonderful play - so touching and also very interesting. I did of course learn so much. You certainly captured the highs and lows of their venture into the unknown - actually there were rather more lows sadly. What a brave collection of people they were. I thought the readings were jolly good too - only occasionally did the words get lost. On the whole it was all very audible and for a first time via Zoom deserves a huge clap!

Lena Boyle, Brancaster, Norfolk.

I liked the **writing** – it gave you a good sense of the plot and structure. The only scene that I did not think worked was the opening one with the mother and son – it was too long and I found the dialogue too informal. As regards the **sound**, I thought it was very good and evocative, and supported the structure.

Actors: I particularly liked Georgia Riley as Elizabeth Winslow – very believable and excellent in the role. Simon Brandon was also very good. Kenneth Michaels as William Brewster also did a good job. *Julia Wigglesworth, France .*

Just a short note to say how much we enjoyed Mayflower. A great effort by all to adapt it to Zoom, and especially nice as I'm starting to get to know your company and the actors. I hope you'll find opportunities in future to put on a performance in a venue. It's certainly worth a wider audience. *Martin Carr Croydon*

Thank you and your company for performing your play so effectively. It was a joy to hear and it was read with feeling. *David Bartle, London*

Congratulations Kate, a very thought-provoking presentation, with some very powerful characters portrayed, loved the first half – extremely interesting, the second half was good but lost a bit of energy towards the end but that may just be the presentation format – there must be a new genre of writing for Zoom presentation now! Would love to see the play staged. *Di Robertshaw London*

We were enormously touched seeing and hearing the performance Sunday. Wow. Given the circs, having the play brought to our house was a wonderful treat.

We loved reading the play (it IS a bit of a page-turner) but seeing you all perform it was very, very moving and an entirely different experience. This sounds like the statement of a simpleton (and I may be such!) but it is just to say that we were keen on reading it but bowled over by the performance.

We knew we would both enjoy it ---- lots ---- but we experienced something far more than "enjoy"----we were struck by so many things and really felt, in addition to "enjoy" awe, gratitude, admiration, thankfulness, respect, and much more. We were both in tears more than once. The play and its performers and their performances stayed with us very emotionally throughout the day. All of you did so well with the parts. We loved the sound effects.

We absolutely loved the part in the written play when the Mayflower Compact is brought forth, and the signers come to sign. But hearing the names read out by the actors was even far more moving----I had tears, thinking on the fact that this was the first effort at democratic government in the New World, and that these brave souls were risking everything to make a new life in an unknown world. Remarkable. *John Mustain, California. USA*

Thanks so much for inviting us to watch the performance! It really, really made me want to see the staged version. All the actors were great. *Cynthia Wall, Virginia. USA*

I thoroughly enjoyed your play and was impressed at the historical accuracy. In my bible study group today we talked of the landing and when I visited the Wikipedia account of the covenant I saw all those familiar names you introduced us to. Excellent job. *Steve Johnson, Minnesota. USA*

I really enjoyed the play. It stayed with me all day. The way the characters illustrated the multiple problems faced by the Pilgrims was very effective. I want to see it again though! Good acting throughout. A triumph.

Congratulations! I really did find it very vivid and convincing, with great dialogue. *Nicky Wormald, Melbourne Australia.*

Well done for tonight - it was so good that you made it happen. Really interesting play. I learnt a lot about the Mayflower! Sorry you had all the technical problems at the beginning, but it got better and better. Lovely cast and sound too, and great direction as always. *Claire Laubier France*