

# History of Historia Theatre Company

Historia Theatre Company was founded in 1997 with the aim of putting on plays that have their source in or inspiration from history. Early productions included *A PASSIONATE ENGLISHMAN* (written by Kate Glover, directed by Amanda Hill at the Hen and Chickens June 1997) which then went on to transfer to the City of London Festival in 2000 with a prestigious production at All Hallows By the Tower.

The Company became Registered Charity 1099807 in 2003. The object is *the advancement of education by the encouragement of the arts including the arts of drama, mime, dance, singing and music, particularly through the establishment of a theatre company to stage plays which have their inspiration or source in history*. We have four Trustees: Lindsay Driscoll, (lawyer with a specialism in Charities Law), Wally Sewell, playwright, Iain Dewar and Lena Boyle.

## **Productions since then have included:**

*EVELINA* (An adaptation of the novel by Fanny Burney) by Kate Glover, premiering as a rehearsed reading at Dr Johnson's house and then going onto a 4 week production at Pentameters Theatre in March 2004

2005: *FIVE ELEVEN: THE POWDER TREASON* written by Kate Glover and directed by Rebecca Atkinson-Lord. This was about the Gunpowder plot. It toured in London and in Warwickshire (the heartlands of the plotters) and was timed to coincide with the 400<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Plot on 5<sup>th</sup> November 2005.

2007-2008: *AN AFRICAN'S BLOOD* by Kate Glover, was also an anniversary play. It opened days after the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary marking the passing of the act to stop the slave trade in March 1807. This toured, with 6 actors, as a rehearsed reading. The play toured the country from Liverpool, Bristol, Hull (Birthplace of Wilberforce), Cambridge and Wisbech (birthplace of Clarkson). It also had many performances in schools, museums and theatres in London.

A bereavement made it impossible to do any productions in 2009

2010: *JUDENFREI: LOVE AND DEATH IN HITLER'S GERMANY* written by Kate Glover and directed by Tom Scott, was staged as a short touring production. It told the true story of Jewish lawyers who were not allowed to work in Hitler's Germany. It was inspired by an exhibition at the Temple Church in 2010 called *Lawyers Without Rights*.

2011: *JUDENFREI* was taken on as an in-house production by the New End Theatre, Hampstead (a Jewish house). It was timed to coincide with Holocaust Memorial Day (marked by a moving Q and A session). It played throughout January.

2012-2013 THE SOUND OF BREAKING GLASS by Sally Sheringham was about the Suffragettes. The play toured schools, as a costumed rehearsed reading (scripts in hand). 6 actors took part.

2014: QUEEN ANNE by Kate Glover and directed by Kenneth Michaels, had a 4 week run at the Barons Court Theatre July/August. It was a full and costumed production. It was designed to coincide with the 300<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the death of Queen Anne on 1st August 1714. Kate Glover was interviewed by Jenni Murray on WOMAN'S HOUR. Jenni came to see the play and was very complimentary about it.

2015: MAGNA CARTA written and directed by Kate Glover toured London + venues associated with King John (e.g. Rochester Cathedral and Newark Castle) as a rehearsed and costumed reading. 7 actors were involved.

2016: FIRE AND PHOENIX (about the Great Fire of London 1666) by Kate Glover and directed by Kenneth Michaels, had a week's run at The Bridewell Theatre in November, followed by a tour of City Churches either affected by the Fire or with Pepysian associations. 8 actors took part.

2018: DEAR CHOCOLATE SOLDIER based on the letters of Bombardier Edwin Hassall. He served in the trenches from 1914 to 1918 and was involved in some of the most notorious engagements of the war. Two short tours in May/June and again in November.

2019: Reprise of DEAR CHOCOLATE SOLDIER in April: St Hugh's College Oxford.

2020-21 MAYFLOWER : THEY KNEW THEY WERE PILGRIMS. A successful ZOOM production in November 2020, was followed by a tour of churches - arguably the "doctrinal heirs" of the Pilgrims - from November 18th -30<sup>th</sup>

2022 MAY AND JUNE : MAYFLOWER enjoyed a successful 3 week run at THE HEN AND CHICKENS THEATRE ISLINGTON.