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LAURISTON

The Garrick
ACADEMY
of Performing Arts



Altrincham Garrick
PLAYHOUSE

Lauriston Studio 2021-22
Productions sponsored by

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THE HISTORY + GIRL

by **Elaine McCann & Dean Sumner**
with additional material by **Miranda Watkin**

Thursday 31 March – Saturday 2 April 2022

The Garrick
ACADEMY
of Performing Arts

Thursday 31 March –
Saturday 2 April 2022
at 7.30pm



**THE
HISTORY
GIRL⁺**

Script by **Elaine McCann**
& **Dean Sumner**
with additional material by
Miranda Watkin

Music and Lyrics by
Dean Sumner

Directed by
Dean Sumner & Grace Garside

Choreography
Grace Garside

Performed by
GAPA Classes 3 & 6



The Garrick
ACADEMY
of Performing Arts

The Garrick Academy of Performing Arts (GAPA) is a theatre company looking to welcome any young person, aged from 5 to 18, who is interested in any aspect of the theatre, or performing arts (on or off stage), and who wants to take part in a FUN activity.

Our main aims are that all of our students are fully engaged with our active classes and, most of all, enjoy themselves.

Every Saturday we run a range of sessions for students aged from 5 to 18 and, through a series of workshops, exercises and rehearsals we introduce our pupils to a range of stage skills that will enable them to take part in, and contribute to our main productions. There are lots of opportunities for students to perform on stage at the Garrick Playhouse too. They will also allow each student to learn, develop, gain confidence, and select the disciplines they wish to focus on.

Our emphasis is primarily on enjoying ourselves, but we are also prepared to put in the hard work it takes to achieve great performances. It's also great to see our students gain confidence through the classes we run, and from the skills they learn, and then watch them take them into their future lives.

If students want to pursue a career in the Performing Arts our trained, qualified staff can provide them with a solid foundation that they can build on in their theatrical future; if students want to have fun and meet their friends then GAPA is also the perfect place to come, too!

It's **Great!** It's **Active!**
It's **Positive!** It's **Amazing!**

Don't just sit there and watch what we do, come on down and participate, too.
Drama or Performing Arts, GAPA is where the fun really starts!
Join us now by booking your place with our Box Office, or email us at
academy@altrinchamgarrick.co.uk

Welcome

I'm delighted to welcome you to the Studio Theatre at Altrincham Garrick Playhouse, and tonight's performance of The Garrick Academy of Performing Art's production of *The History Girl*.



For many years now, GAPA has been a hugely important part of everything that we do here at the Garrick. The aim has always been about inclusion, and I know that some of the students come down each week because they enjoy the feel of the place and the company of like-minded individuals. Others may come down because they have aspirations of becoming actors, and there are also those standing somewhere in between the two viewpoints. One thing that everyone does do, however, is work together and contribute enormously in creating fabulous productions, and I sincerely hope that they get as much enjoyment out of performing for you as you will do in watching and supporting them.

As someone who first appeared on the Garrick's stage as a youngster (in *The History Boys*, 2009), before going on to Drama School and learning my craft, I know how hard it can be to carve out a successful career in the theatrical world. We hope to have provided the young people appearing today with a solid grounding in theatre that will not only encourage them to keep performing, but also to remember that there will always be a warm welcome for them back at the Garrick, where they could well become integral parts of our future success.

Thankyou for coming, enjoy the production, and have a safe journey home afterwards. We hope to see you back here for some of the great productions coming to the Garrick in the next few months - pick up a brochure today, or visit our website for further details.

Joe Meighan

Joseph Meighan Artistic Director, Altrincham Garrick Playhouse

Introduction

This play began life in those heady days of 2018 BC (before Covid!).



Since then, because of changes in personnel and venue (it was originally written to be performed on the main stage), there have been three complete rewrites of the show. Its birth has been a very difficult affair!

Written specifically for 15-18 year old students, it covers adult teen themes, for which I apologise if I offend. The play covers the theme that, if we don't learn from history, then we are doomed to repeat it. The experiences of Kitty Marion in the 1900s is a clear reflection of what was happening when I started to write this piece; namely, the "Me Too" movement, where people began to stand up against sexual exploitation of what is known in the Entertainment industry as "talent". In the play, Becky comes to realise that history can teach us a thing or two about today!

Once again, it has been an absolute pleasure to work alongside **Elaine McCann** and **Miranda Watkin** in creating this production, and once again I cannot thank **Grace Garside** enough for her unyielding commitment and expertise. After two years in the relative Covid-19 induced wilderness, it's wonderful to be back working again with such a talented company of young people, and seeing them give life to this production. I am also indebted to the amazing technical and backstage teams at the Garrick, without whom it would be impossible to get anything off the ground.

Thankyou for coming to support us, and enjoy the show!

Dean Sumner

Dean Sumner Writer and Director, *The History Girl*, GAPA.

This production of *The History Girl* is sponsored by:

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The Team



Dean Sumner Writer & Director

Dean trained at Middlesex on a Performing Arts Course, then joined the famous Eccles Youth Theatre group as musician and composer before going on to create his own Theatre In Education company. He then spent the next ten years working with numerous theatre groups around the country, working on cruise ships, touring and recoring with a rock band, and even did a stint as an entertainer at a holiday camp! Having gained all these different experiences, Dean subsequently moved into teaching, running a number of Performing Arts Departments in various schools.

Several years ago Dean completed a revival of the Wilmslow Mystery Plays, bringing together five different theatre groups based around Wilmslow to present a cycle of Medieval Mystery Plays specially written for them.



Grace Garside Choreographer

Grace joined the GAPA team in 2015, having previously been a member of the Academy herself whilst at school. She graduated from the University of Manchester in 2016 with a BA in Classical Studies, followed by an MA in Arts Management in 2017. Grace also holds a Teaching Diploma in Speech and Drama from the University of West London and currently

teaches LAMDA classes at the Garrick and in local schools.

'The History Girl' is the first original production I have assisted with, and it's been a great experience working with brand new material and seeing the script brought to life. I'd like to say a big thank you to the cast for their energy and enthusiasm, break a leg!



Elaine McCann Writer

Elaine's done most jobs in local theatre productions over the years but, in recent times, has concentrated on directing & writing for a variety of settings including theatres, community events, street theatre, schools, fringes, festivals - and during lockdown, online productions. *The History Girl* is her fifth collaboration with Dean.

Set Paul Simpson
Lighting Annabel Burns
..... Geoff Scullard
Properties David Ades
Scenic Artist Mandy Cooke
Workshop Steve Cox
Special Thanks Sarah Reilly
..... The Garrick's Box Office Staff
..... and our Front-of-House Staff

Scenes & Songs

Act 1:

Scene 1: A rally organised by the WSPU – segue into the Lecture Theatre

Deeds, Not Words Cast
The History of You Laura
Becky, Whatcha Gonna Do? Friends

Scene 2: Becky and Friends' house

Scene 3: "The Dive", a nightclub – segue into Becky's room

I Hope You Find Your Heaven Connor/Cast
Maybe Tomorrow Becky

Scene 4: The Lecture Theatre – segue into Connor's office

Women Throughout History
..... Laura/Connor/Cast

Scene 5: The Lecture Theatre

Give A Little Bit Of What They Want Kitty
Maybe Tomorrow (reprise) Kitty/Becky

Act 2:

Scene 1: A protest, both inside and outside Parliament – segue between Lecture Theatre, Music Hall & Protest

What Do We Want? Cast
Lovely Lady Dreck/Agent
Together We Stand Tall Maud/Kitty

Scene 2: The Library

Words Only Words The Nerds
Light Bulb Abi/Friends

Scene 3: In The Exam Hall

Words Only Words (reprise) Cast
Wake Up & Smell The Coffee Connor/Becky

Scene 4: Becky and Friends' house

If You Can't Be With Me Friends/Becky

Scene 5: The Lecture Theatre

Force Feeding Prisoners In The Clink Cast
Alone I Stand (reprise) Cast
Finale Cast

The Plot

Becky isn't sure that the course she has chosen at University is right for her. An Undergraduate course in History seemed really exciting when she was at school, but the reality of studying History in an innovative way is causing Becky problems. Her Course Leader, Laura, who explores historical events through play-acting, persuades her to postpone her decision until the end of term.

Meanwhile, Connor, a PhD student who is helping Laura with her course as part of his research, takes a shine to Becky and they soon embark on a relationship.

While studying the Women's Suffrage Movement, Becky stumbles across Kitty Marion, a Music Hall act who becomes a militant member of the Women's Suffrage Movement. Kitty and her friend, Maud, campaign against the appalling conditions show girls are exposed to, with the sexual advances of agents, who see women as creatures for their pleasure. If you want to get on in the theatre, you have to comply. And the Music Halls threw up some very unusual characters, as you will see (via a little poetic licence!)

The play passes from the present to the past, with the students becoming increasingly aware of the struggles of Suffragettes over a century ago.

As with all students, Becky relies heavily upon her friends for support and companionship – and Becky's friends are always on hand to cheer her up or take her out to forget her worries. With exams looming, will Becky stay to finish her course?

The Cast

Principals:

<i>Becky</i>	.....	Lucy Ashley
<i>Kitty</i>	.....	Esme Nevitt
<i>Laura</i>	.....	Erin Clements
<i>Connor</i>	.....	Freddie Tickle
<i>Dreck</i>	.....	Harvey Richardson
<i>Dolly</i>	.....	Ben Robinson
<i>Maud</i>	.....	Ila Kamila Tajfar

Friends:

<i>Lexi</i>	.....	Evelyn Brown
<i>Abi</i>	.....	Meliá Finnegan
<i>Jules</i>	.....	Jessica May Roberts
<i>Lou</i>	.....	Hope Hutchinson
<i>Ash</i>	.....	Madeleine McCrink

Nerds:

<i>Bo</i>	.....	Katie Huang
<i>Dodd</i>	.....	Leila Vigerstaff
<i>Larry</i>	.....	Ewan Thomas Holt
<i>Kaz</i>	.....	Grace Booth

The History Students:

<i>Hannah</i>	.....	Lola Waldron-Draba
<i>Jo</i>	.....	Ellen Welby
<i>Fran</i>	.....	Mary Legg
<i>Keira</i>	.....	Anna Wykes

Kitty Marion

Kitty Marion was born in Germany in 1871. Her mother then her stepmother both died when Kitty was young. Her father was an abusive tyrant, so her uncle contrived to smuggle her out of Germany and she moved to England, where she lived with her Aunt.

She began in the Music Halls in the early 1900s, recording many successful performances, especially in Panto as the "Lead Boy".

Kitty became involved in the Suffrage Movement following her public fight against the unfair treatment of female performers. She soon became a serious activist, some would say terrorist! She vandalised and burnt down several buildings. She was imprisoned, force fed, released, returned etc.

Following the outbreak of the Great War, she moved to America, because of anti-German sentiment, where her performing career never took off. In the USA, she began campaigning for women's rights to access to birth control.

Kitty Marion returned to England to witness the unveiling of a statue to Emeline Pankhurst. On her return she started working with children to speak English. She wrote an unpublished autobiography and died in Sanger Nursing Home in New York on 9th October 1944.



The Company

The **Garrick**
ACADEMY
of Performing Arts



Lucy Ashley



Esme Nevitt



Erin Clements



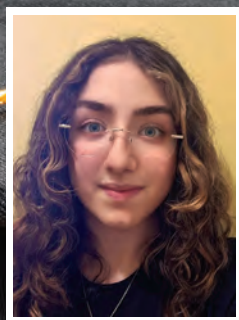
Freddie Tickle



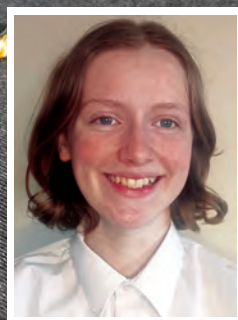
Harvey Richardson



Ben Robinson



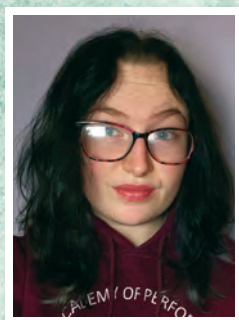
Ila Kamila Tajfar



Evelyn Brown



Meliá Finnegan



Jessica May Roberts

THE HISTORY + GIRL



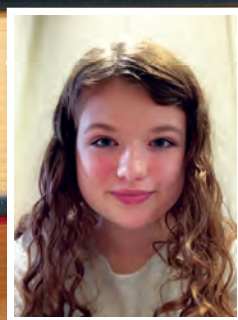
Hope Hutchinson



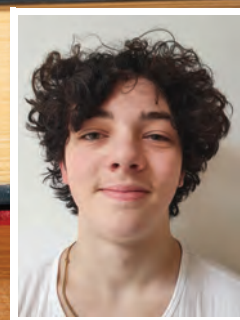
Madeleine McCrink



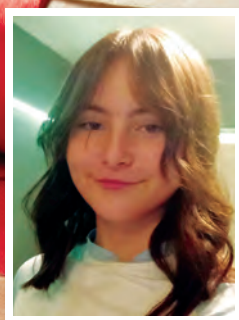
Katie Huang



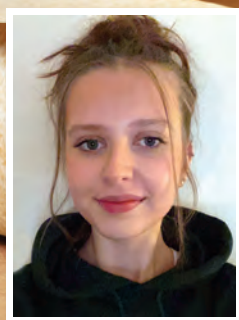
Leila Vigerstaff



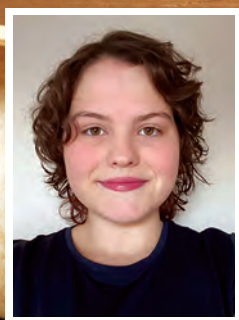
Ewan Thomas Holt



Grace Booth



Lola Waldron-Draba



Ellen Welby



Mary Legg



Anna Wykes



Just announced!
An unmissable
screening
at the
Garrick

Altrincham Garrick
PICTUREHOUSE



Thursday 28 April
at 7:30pm

Directed by Academy Award® winner **Steven Spielberg**, from a screenplay by Pulitzer Prize and Tony Award® winner **Tony Kushner**, *West Side Story* tells the classic tale of fierce rivalries and young love in 1957 New York City. Love at first sight strikes when young Tony spots Maria at a dance. Their burgeoning romance helps to fuel the fire between the warring Jets and Sharks – two rival gangs vying for control of the street.

This reimagining of the beloved musical stars **Ansel Elgort** (Tony); **Rachel Zegler** (Maria); BAFTA Award-Winner **Ariana De-Bose** (Anita); **David Alvarez** (Bernardo); **Mike Faist** (Riff); **Josh Andrés Rivera** (Chino); **Ana Isabelle** (Rosalia); **Corey Stoll** (Lieutenant Schrank); Broadway legend **Brian d'Arcy James** (Officer Krupke); and **Rita Moreno** (as Valentina, widow of 'Doc' – and the original Anita from the classic 1961 Movie). Moreno – one of only three artists to be honoured with Academy®, Emmy®, GRAMMY®, Tony® and Peabody Awards – is also one of the film's executive producers.

Rating - 12A **BOOK NOW!**

Something
 Coming
 Soon:

THE LAURISTON **Tues 17 - Sun 22 May 2022**

ROSS AND RACHEL
 by **James Fritz** Directed by **Carole Carr**


Nobody told them life was gonna be this way...

Ross & Rachel. You know the ones. Will they? Won't they? On. Off. On again. Off again. On a break. Vegas. Emma. "I got off the plane"...

Ross & Rachel tells the mind-bending, heart-breaking story of what happens when a couple that was always meant to be together, gets together. James Fritz's play isn't about Ross Geller and Rachel Green, the ultimate Friends-turned-lovers. But it's not - not about them.

A dark and uncompromising play that explores romance, expectation and mortality, and the idea of happy-ever-after' – sold to us by rom-coms and sitcoms, whether it's Ross and Rachel or Romeo and Juliet – and how this affects our real-life relationships.

Suitability: 14+. Contains strong language and scenes that some may find disturbing.



A STAR IS BORN:
YOU!



You might not have a burning desire to appear on one of our stages.
 You may not be passionate about helping out in a crucial role backstage.
 But there is still a way that you can **share your love of theatre**, and **benefit at the same time!**

We'd love you
 to become
 one of our

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- ◆ £30 Annual Fee
- ◆ Can purchase unlimited discounted priced tickets



Silver Friends

- ◆ £20 Annual Fee
- ◆ Can purchase 2 discounted priced tickets per production



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- ◆ For 16 to 25 year olds, a **FREE** membership scheme with one discounted ticket available for multiple performances of Garrick productions only.



Gold and Silver discounts apply to all Garrick productions, and to some visiting shows

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David Wood's brilliantly entertaining adaptation of the classic story by Roald Dahl



GEORGE'S MARVELLOUS MEDICINE

It's the half term holiday and George Kranky is looking forward to a break from school when a letter from Grandma arrives announcing that she is coming to stay - that very day!

Soon she is making George's life miserable with spiteful comments and demands for doses of medicine! But one day, when his parents leave him alone with the grizzly old grunion, George takes his chance and sets about creating a brand new medicine to cure her of her cruelty. Little does he know that his perilous potion will be the start of a rather marvellous adventure...

IT'LL BE EASTER HALF-TERM MAYHEM AT THE GARRICK PLAYHOUSE!

This hugely enjoyable stage adaptation of Roald Dahl's much loved children's book is bursting with growing grannies, feathery farm animals and bags of frothbuggling family fun! (Recommended Age 5+)

7th - 24th April 2022 at 1:30pm, 5:30pm or 7:30pm

Don't miss out! Contact the Box Office or visit us online for full details of performance times and ticket prices.