

# Pageant and Pioneers

Saturday 7 May 2011 6.30 pm  
Middleton Hall, University of Hull



Department of English

Souvenir Programme

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## Acknowledgements

University of Hull, i-Hull, The University Art Collection, Hull College, Royal Scottish Academy of Music and Drama, AHRC, The National Trust, British Library, Cottingham Lawn Tennis Club, East Coast Bicycles at [www.eastcoastbicycles.co.uk](http://www.eastcoastbicycles.co.uk)

Thanks especially to Maria Fletcher, Marianne Lewsley-Stier, Jennie Potts, Tony Court, Keira Walker, Richard Madden, Pippa King, Deborah Sanders, Portia Ellis-Woods, Alexander Ridgers, Agnes Treplin, Claire Christie and London College of Fashion.



# Schedule

## **6.30 pm**

*Suffragette* produced by Hull College

## **7.30-8.45 pm**

A Dinner Party for A Pageant of Great Women: a buffet and drinks reception in the Art Cafe

## **9.00 pm**

*A Pageant of Great Women* by Cicely Hamilton

Produced and directed by Anna Birch, Fragments and Monuments

# Suffragette

An original play devised and written in 2011 by National Diploma Acting and Technical Theatre Students, Hull College.

Directed and produced by Peter Lawton, Kerrie Marsh & Rob Ceeley (Technical).

## Ensemble Cast

Nina Adjei

Alexandra Axon

Danielle Blackburn

Danielle Bryant

Steph Clubley

Jasmine Cook

Nathaniel Cull

Lois De'Moulpied

Sarah Dixon

Ashley Fuller

Luke Gillingham

Helen Harvey

Rosie Hunter

Yasmin Gray

Brucha Howe

Frankie Lewis

Jade Marson

Rebecca McCoid

Steph Norris

Beth Page

Faye Peck

Tarin Puckering

Stacy Rowan

Matthew Spratling

Emily Taylor

Bernadette Unwin

Dianne Ward

# Suffragette

An original play devised and written in 2011 by National Diploma Acting and Technical Theatre Students, Hull College.

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“Suffragette” is a performance based on the historical events from the late nineteenth and early twentieth century fight for woman’s right to vote. The show represents the true birth of female empowerment.

“Suffrage” means having the right to vote in political elections. Today women take for granted their freedom of speech and right to vote but it wasn’t always so. During the mid 19th century woman wanted/needed to be heard more and groups were founded in order to make themselves be heard and not treated as second class citizens.

This powerful drama, featuring Lady Constance Lytton, Emily Wilding Davison and Edith Craig, depicts the intolerance and hardship that the women had to combat in order to make themselves heard in a prejudiced society.

The piece forms part of the Performance Workshop unit of the National Diploma in Acting and requires students to conduct their own research and from this suggest and form workable ideas that can be placed and performed successfully on stage. This transforms the students from actors into creative artists in their own right, with guidance and direction from their tutors.

The students are pleased to revive and perform their play, which was first performed in Hull College theatre. What is shown on stage is just a small part of the knowledge gained by the students through their research on women’s suffrage. Both actors and audience have gained a deep respect for the brave determined actions of all the women of the suffrage movement and present this play as a tribute.

# Interval & A Dinner Party for A Pageant of Great Women in the Art Cafe

## **1 Great Women of Today**

Inspired by Judy Chicago's 1974-9 installation, *The Dinner Party*, the buffet reception invites you to consider 'great women' of the past and present. What place have women had in history? How have women's achievements and lives been narrated or become silenced? How is 'greatness' defined?

Why not record your own nomination for a 'great woman' by adding to the collection of plates?

## **2 Hessian and Paint: Edith Craig's Stage Designs**

David Brind, Stockport College, has worked with his students to reconstruct some of Edith Craig's theatre designs. Edith Craig was a prolific director of plays for the professional and amateur stage. She was a central figure in the inter-war Little Theatre movement and became art director of the Leeds Art Theatre in the 1920s. She directed many plays at the Barn Theatre, Kent where costumes and backdrops were made with the minimal ingredients and a tiny budget.

## **3 The University Art Collection**

# Cicely Hamilton's A Pageant of Great Women produced and directed by Anna Birch, Fragments & Monuments



## Cast list

Justice	Tracy Bickely
Prejudice	Rosana Cade
Woman	Marie Sennyey

Director / Producer	Anna Birch
Film maker	Lucia King
Film assistant	Vanessa Askew
Choreographer	Sarah Rubidge
Production manager	Esther Armstrong
Lighting consultant	Alexander Ridgers
Sound consultant	Di Sherlock

Costume design and make, Nadia Farrington, Ksenia Vashchenko, Giulia Chini, Emily Ni Bhroin, Nefeli Sidiropoulou and Sandra Arroniz.

(Cast list for the great women in today's performance is enclosed)

# Great Women in Hull

(added in 2011)

## Heroic Women:

**Amy Johnson** (1903-41) record-breaking aviator, born in Hull, flew across the Atlantic and from England to Australia. She was awarded a CBE in 1930.

## Learned Women:

**Winifred Holtby** (1898-1935) author of *South Riding* and other novels, Holtby was also a journalist and campaigner for social reform and women's rights.

**Mary Murdoch** (1864-1916) first female doctor in Hull; active suffragist and later a suffragette, she campaigned for social reform and women's rights.

**Mary Wollstonecraft** (1759-97) author of the revolutionary book, *The Vindication of the Rights of Woman* (1792), lived for a time in Beverley.

Her daughter, **Mary Shelley** (1797-1851) is particularly known for her novel, *Frankenstein* (1818), although she wrote many others, including *The Last Man* (1826).



# Biographical Notes

(as used in 1909)

## Learned Women

**Hypatia** – Born at Alexandria about 370 A.D. Neoplatonist philosopher. Lectured in her native city, thereby incurring the enmity of the Christians, who feared her great influence. Murdered by a mob of her enemies 415 A.D.

**St Teresa** – 1515-1582. Spanish saint, writer and reformer. The only woman upon whom the title of Doctor of the Church has ever been conferred.

**Lady Jane Grey** – 1537- 1554. A Pupil of Roger Ascham. “Versed in the Greek, Latin, Italian, and French languages and had some acquaintance with Hebrew and Arabic”. Nominal queen of England for ten days; deposed and executed at the age of seventeen.

**Anna Louisa de Stael-Holstein** – 1766-1817. Author and politician. Principal works: “Corinne,” “De l’Allemagne,” “Considerations sur la Revolution Française”

**Manon Roland** – 1756-93. One of the leading intellects of the French Revolution. Shared the fall of the Girondists and died on the scaffold.

**Madalene de Scudery** – 1607-1701. Author of “The Grand Cyrus” and other romances. The first person to receive the “Prix d’Eloquence” from the Academie Française.

**Jane Austen** – 1775- 1817. Author of “Sense and Sensibility,” “Pride and

Prejudice.” “Emma,” “Mansfield Park,” “Northanger Abbey” and “Persuasion”.

**George Sand** – (Amantine Aurore Dudevant) – 1804 -76. Author of “Consuelo,” “La Comtesse de Rudolstadt,” “Mauprat,” “Horace,” and numerous other novels; also plays.

**Caroline Herschell** – 1750-1848. Astronomer. Discovered five new comets.

**Marie Curie** (born Sklodowska) – One of the foremost of living scientists. The discoverer of radium and polonium. Born 1867.

## Artists

**Sappho** – Born in Lesbos about 630 B.C; died about 570 B.C. Poet; styled by Plato “the tenth muse.”

**Vittoria Colonna** – 1490-1547. Poet and friend of Michael Angelo.

**Maria Angelica Kauffmann** – 1742-1807. Painter and engraver. One of the original members of the Royal Academy.

**Marie Louise Elizabeth Vigèe Lebrun** – 1755-1842. Portrait painter and litterateur.

**Rosa Bonheur** – 1822-99. The famous painter of animals.

**Margaret Van Eyck** – Flemish painter. Flourished about 1430.

**Marie Anne Cuppi Camargo** – 1710-70. A famous opera dancer.

**Nance Oldfield** – 1683-1730. One of the earliest and most celebrated of English actresses. Played at Drury Lane and the Haymarket theatres.

## Saints

**St Hilda** – 614-80. Founder of Whitby Abbey and Abbess of Hartlepool and Whitby.

**Elizabeth Fry** – 1780-1845. Philanthropist. Founder of the Association for the Improvement of the Female Prisoners in Newgate. Effected great reforms in prison conditions. A member of the Society of Friends.

**St Elizabeth of Hungary** – 1207-31. Daughter of the King of Hungary, wife of the landgrave of Thuringia. Renowned for her piety and wonderful charity.

**St Catherine of Siena** – 1347-80. Saint and politician. Sent by the Tuscan people on an embassy to the Pope to procure removal of ban of excommunication. Helped to bring about the return of the Pope from Avignon to Rome.

## Heroines

**Charlotte Corday** (Marie Anne Charlotte de Corday d'Armand) – 1768-93. The self-appointed executioner of Marat. Died on the scaffold.

**Flora Macdonald** – 1720-90. The guide and saviour of Prince Charles Edward after his defeat at Culloden.

**Kate Barlass** – The name given to Catherine Douglas, who thrust her arm into the staples of a bolt in a vain endeavour to save James I of Scotland from his murderers (1437).

**Grace Darling** – 1815-42. Was instrumental in saving the crew of the "Forfarshire," wrecked on the Farne Islands in 1838.

## Queens

**Elizabeth** – 1553-1603. Queen of England, 1558.

**Victoria** – 1819-1901. Queen of Great Britain, 1837.

**Zenobia** – Queen of Palmyra from 267 A.D to 273 A.D. A courageous and accomplished woman; defeated by the Emperor Aurelian, she was carried captive to Rome.

**Philippa of Hainault** – 1314-69. Wife of Edward III of England. Froissart gives her credit for organising the army which defeated the Scots at Nevile's Cross during her husband's absence from England. Remembered for her intercession in favour of the burghers of Calais.

**Deborah** – "The children of Israel came up to her for judgement."

**Isabella of Spain** – 1450-1504. Queen of Castile in her own right, joint ruler of Spain with her husband; one of the wisest of Spanish sovereigns. The patron of Columbus.

**Maria Theresa** – 1717-80. Queen of Hungary in her own right; Empress of Austria by marriage. One of the foremost rulers of the 18th century.

**Catherine II**, called the Great – 1729-96. Empress of Russia in her own right – the right of the strongest – 1762

**Tsze-his-an** – Empress of China, born 1834. Her extraordinary force of character obtained for her the position of actual ruler of China. She died in 1908.

## **Warriors**

**Joan of Arc** – 1410-31. The deliverer of France from the English. Burnt at Rouen.

**Boadicea** – Queen of the Iceni. Led the British forces against the Romans under Suetonius Paulinus and took poison rather than survive defeat (A.D 61).

**Black Agnes** – 1312-69. Countess of March. Defended the castle of Dunbar against the English, 1338.

**Maid of Saragossa** – The name bestowed upon Agostina, a young girl who distinguished herself at Saragossa when the town was besieged by the French, 1808-9.

**Emilia Plater** – 1806-31. A Polish heroine who took a prominent part in the struggle of her country to throw off the yoke of Russia.

**Ranee of Jhansi** – 1838-58. Killed fighting against the British in the Indian mutiny. Said to have been “the best man on the other side.”

**Christian Davies** – 1667-1739. Enlisted as Christopher Welsh. Fought at Blenheim, wounded at Ramillies, pensioned 1712.

**Hannah Snell** – 1723-92. Served both in the army and navy; wounded at Pondicherry; out-pensioner of Chelsea Hospital, 1750.

**Mary Ann Talbot** – 1778-1804. Served in Flanders as a drummer boy, 1793; wounded and pensioned.

**Florence Nightingale** – Born 1820. The organiser of hospital nursing in the Crimea; the first woman to be decorated with the Order of Merit.

## 'pioneer'

'1.a (military)

A member of an infantry group going with or ahead of an army or regiment to dig trenches, repair roads, and clear terrain in readiness for the main body of troops. Also: a soldier specializing in digging mines during a siege; an underminer (obs.). Cf. sapper.

3. A person who goes before others to prepare or open up the way; one who begins, or takes part in beginning, some enterprise, course of action, etc.; an original worker in a particular field or department of knowledge; a founder (of some activity, industry, movement, etc.); an innovator, a forerunner.'

(Oxford English Dictionary).

The Pioneer Players theatre society was founded in May 1911 by Edith Craig (1869-1947). It was part of the free theatre movement, committed to the promotion of new drama and a stage free from censorship and often associated with the works of dramatists such as Henrik Ibsen and George Bernard Shaw.

From 1911 to 1915 the Pioneer Players was supportive of women's suffrage and produced plays written by women such as Hrotsvit (the tenth-century nun, said to be the first female dramatist), Susan Glaspell, Cicely Hamilton and Christopher St John. The Pioneer Players is also London's forgotten Art theatre. From 1915 onwards it developed an international outlook and produced the latest experimental drama by Anton Chekhov, Paul Claudel, Nikolai Evereinov, Torahiko Kori, Saint Georges de Bouhelier, Gerolamo Rovetta, Pierre Louys, Edmond Rostand, Herman Heijermans and Jose Echegeyay.

Daughter of the actress Ellen Terry (1847-1928) and sister of Edward Gordon Craig (1872-1966), Edith Craig was a prolific director of plays on the professional and amateur stage in Britain. She was active in women's suffrage, working for the Actresses' Franchise League and as a freelance before forming the Pioneer Players. She was a central figure in the inter-war Little Theatre movement and became art director of the Leeds Art Theatre in the 1920s. Her circle of friends included Radclyffe Hall, Una Troubridge, Cicely Hamilton, Ethel Smyth, Vera Holme, Laurence Housman and Gabrielle Enthoven. Edith Craig lived with Christopher St John (Christabel Marshall) the writer and the artist Tony (Clare) Atwood. Edith Craig has a significant place in lesbian history. In 2010 she was chosen by Equity, the Actors' Union, as their figure for LGBT History Month.

The Pioneer Players developed from Edith Craig's work in directing women's suffrage plays. Edith Craig directed many plays to campaign for women's enfranchisement. One of the most effective of these was A Pageant of Great Women.



**Dr Katharine Cockin**, University of Hull is Reader in English at the University of Hull. She is author of *Edith Craig (1869-947): Dramatic Lives* (Cassell 1998) and *Women and Theatre in the Age of Suffrage: The Pioneer Players 1911-25* (Palgrave 2001) and editor of two volumes of women's suffrage literature in the History of Feminist series (Routledge 2006). Having read Julie Holledge's book *Innocent Flowers: Women in the Edwardian Theatre* (1981), she began research on Edith Craig and the Pioneer Players in 1989. In 2006 she was awarded £85,720 by AHRC for a two-year project to complete the online database catalogue of the National Trust's Ellen Terry and Edith Craig archive. This is one of the UK's most significant theatre archives, consisting of over 20,000 documents. This new electronic resource was launched online in October 2008. See <http://www.ellenterryarchive.hull.ac.uk> The British Library now holds most of the archive. Most recently Katharine has edited *The Collected Letters of Ellen Terry* (Vols 1 and 2; vols 3-8 forthcoming, Pickering & Chatto) and *Ellen Terry, Spheres of Influence* (Pickering & Chatto, 2011).

In 2009 Katharine gave a paper on Edith Craig and *A Pageant of Great Women* at the International Federation of Theatre Research conference in Portugal. Dr Anna Birch was in the audience. This is where the idea for today's production of *A Pageant of Great Women* began.



**Dr Anna Birch**, is Lecturer, Research at Royal Scottish Academy of Music and Drama in Glasgow. She is Artistic Director and founder member of Fragments & Monuments performance and film company, based in Hackney, East London, UK. She is delighted to be invited to direct this early twentieth century play, *A Pageant of Great Women* (by Cicely Hamilton, originally directed by Edith Craig) for The Pioneer Players: Politics and the Art of Theatre international conference (convened by Dr Katharine Cockin, Hull University, UK) and to produce a film of the performance. The DVD will be a reference and record to celebrate the anniversary of the original performance 100 years ago. Fragments & Monuments' most recent DVD and art book *The Wollstonecraft Live Experience!* is now available. Fragments & Monuments' exhibition, *The Wollstonecraft Live Experience!* specially curated for Hackney Museum in East London, UK, opened in February 2010 and *Time Out* gave it critics choice.

A dialogue between theory and practice can be found through Dr Anna Birch's research outputs expressed in publications, websites and ongoing performance practice. Writing includes: a new collection, *Performing Site-specific Theatre: Politics, Place, Practice*, (forthcoming Palgrave) and a special edition of *Contemporary Theatre Review* both edited by Anna Birch and Joanne Tompkins. Birch, A. 'Sighting/Citing History through Performance: The Wollstonecraft Live Experience!' in *Modes of Spectating*, edited by Alison Oddey and Christine White, 2006. Bristol: Intellect: 231-242; Birch, A. 'Staging and Citing Gendered Meanings: A practice-based study of representational strategies in live and mediated performance' in Birgit Haas (Hg.): *Der postfeministische Diskurs*. Würzburg: Königshausen & Neumann: 79-100; DVD submission in Allegue, L, Jones, S, Kershaw, B and Piccini, A (eds). 2009. *Practice-as-Research: In Performance and Screen*. London: Palgrave Macmillan:193; reviews for journals such as *Total Theatre*.

Please see the following websites for more information on Fragments and Monuments:

[www.youtube.com](http://www.youtube.com) (Fragments and Monuments)

[www.theperformancekit.com](http://www.theperformancekit.com)

[www.wollstonecraftlive.com](http://www.wollstonecraftlive.com)

[www.fragmentsandmonuments.com](http://www.fragmentsandmonuments.com)

[www.totaltheatre.org.uk/explores/reflections/Wollstonecraft](http://www.totaltheatre.org.uk/explores/reflections/Wollstonecraft)

[www.totaltheatre.org.uk/explores/voices/voices](http://www.totaltheatre.org.uk/explores/voices/voices)

Fragments and Monuments groundbreaking film and performance company presents

## **A PAGEANT OF GREAT WOMEN**

**by CICELY HAMILTON**

Directed by Anna Birch

### **'POP UP'**

#### **Suffragette**

premiere Hull Saturday 7 May 2011 at 9 pm

planned national and international tour

*A Pageant of Great Women, originally directed by Edith Craig, fits between Judy Chicago's The Dinner Party, Caryl Churchill's Top Girls, Eve Ensler 's Vagina Monologues and Nic Green's Trilogy. Come and celebrate this wonderful historic moment and the achievements of women in a theatrical and entertaining 'pageant'. Women from history provide the evidence in a 'court case' to demonstrate the energy and commitment required to survive as a woman in today's world.*

*Fragments & Monuments re-make this great play for an international and local audience to celebrate 100 years of The Pioneers Players.*

*Participate in the procession of Great Women and become a part of the film.*

Send a photograph of your favourite great woman to  
director@fragmentsandmonuments.com photographs will be displayed at  
[www.flickr.com/photos/fragmentsandmonuments/](http://www.flickr.com/photos/fragmentsandmonuments/)  
[www.flickr.com/photos/fragmentsandmonuments/](http://www.flickr.com/photos/fragmentsandmonuments/)



# Believe it!

## Every woman can be great!

### **Advertisement for A Pageant of Great Women in 1910:**

'You believe that women have been great, that they are great. Come to the Public Hall, Beckenham, on Saturday, September 24th and realise your beliefs! As learned women and saintly women, artists, heroines, rulers, and warriors pass before you, as you hear of the work they have accomplished, give rein to your enthusiasm, let your hands proclaim your pride in Womanhood; as these illustrious ones of all nations appear, let every woman present thank God that she belongs to the sex that, in spite of fearful odds, has left such a splendid record upon the annals of history' (*Vote* 10 Sept. 1910: 231).

### **Theatre is one of the most ephemeral of art forms.**

'It is the fate of actors to leave only picture postcards behind them. Every night when the curtain goes down the beautiful coloured canvas is rubbed out. What remains is at best only a wavering, insubstantial phantom—a verbal life on the lips of the living'

(Virginia Woolf, 'Ellen Terry', *New Statesman*, 1941).





