



COMMUNITY THEATRE 4ALL

About Community Theatre 4All

Community Theatre 4All was formed in September 2015 and draws its membership primarily from the villages of Talaton and Whimble. The company gave its first performance, "Godspell", in St Mary's church Whimble in March 2016. Since this time the group has been highly active producing a wide range of work and performing in many different venues. "Godspell" was followed by an original piece called "In Remembrance of a Lost Generation". This play told the stories of the men whose lives are commemorated on the Talaton, Whimble and Escot war memorials. The play performed in both Talaton and Whimble. Further work has included, amongst other productions, an open-air presentation of "A Midsummer Night's Dream", a tour of local village halls with an evening of comic Victorian Melodramas and lastly "Joseph and the Amazing Technicolour Dreamcoat", which performed in St Mary's Church in March 2020 (just before the first 'lockdown').

About "Talaton - A War-Time Refuge"

The play tells the story of six out of twenty-three Polish Jewish children who were evacuated from Poland, on the Kindertransport, just before the out-break of World War Two and were 'homed' in Talaton. The play, written by Tom Samson the company's director, is based upon extensive research, family archives and first-hand interviews with some of those whose stories are retold in the play.

The play is obviously set against the backdrop of war-torn Europe but shows how, in a small Devon community, young lives could be transformed through understanding, care and ultimately love. In the words of one of the children homed in Talaton and recently interviewed for this production, "Poor country folk, who had little money for themselves, threw open their doors and gave us care, love and hope for the future".

This is the story of the Kindertransport children as it happened in Talaton. This story, in various ways, was to repeat itself throughout the country. It is a story where the 'first-hand experience' has almost been forgotten, leaving us with the dry historical details of those events. Through the words and writings of the survivors, the contributions of their families and the projection of archive photographs and documents during the performance, this ultimately up-lifting story is brought back to life and once again made known. It is also a story that speaks to us today, as once again, as a country, we have to confront the issues concerned with vast numbers of refugees seeking sanctuary away from the horrors of their own homes.

