



TheatreSquared presents

# **The HISTORY Show**

BY MORGAN HICKS, JORDAN HAYNES

ARKANSAS  
STATEWIDE TOUR

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## ABOUT THEATRESQUARED

*"We believe that theatre, done well and with passion, can transform lives and communities."* – from the T2 Vision Statement

TheatreSquared (T2), founded in 2004, is a regional professional company dedicated to creating exceptional works of theatre. Merging a strong artistic vision with innovative educational programs, TheatreSquared develops new audiences through creative partnerships, and fosters economic and artistic growth in Northwest Arkansas.

T2's annual season of plays includes four productions and the Arkansas New Play Festival of emerging works. Productions are presented in the 130-seat Studio Theatre at Nadine Baum Studios, a Walton Arts Center venue, in downtown Fayetteville, Arkansas.

In addition to its season of theatrical works, T2 creates innovative educational programming including student and teacher workshops, professional training academies, and immersive student matinees and discussions.

## PRODUCTION WHO'S WHO

### **Morgan Hicks**

**co-author, director**

holds a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Acting from Arkansas State University, and studied political theatre at the University of Ulster in Northern Ireland. She received her Master of Arts in Performance Studies from Missouri State University and a Master of Fine Arts in Directing from the University of Arkansas. Morgan has worked in Arkansas, Missouri and Illinois as a director, teaching artist and arts administrator, notably serving as Company Manager of BareStage and General Manager of Writer's Theatre in Chicago. She is one of the co-founders of TheatreSquared where she currently serves as Director of Education and Program Development, and recently directed *The Poa Show*, *Noises Off*, *Boeing Boeing*, *The Complete Works of William Shakespeare (abridged)*, *The Mystery of Irma Vep* and *Fully Committed*. Morgan teaches at Arkansas Governor's School and the University of Arkansas where she recently directed *The Exonerated* and *Vinegar Tom*.

### **Jordan Haynes**

**co-author**

is currently a resident of Chicago, Illinois, where he attends the conservatory training at Second City. He holds a B.A. degree from the Drama program at the University of Arkansas, where he was involved in numerous shows including leading roles as a part of the ensemble cast of *All in the Timing*, Vince in *Tape*, and John Barrymore in *I Hate Hamlet*, as well as major roles in the Not-A-Penny Productions of *Plan 9 from Outer Space the Musical* and *Form*. He was also seen onstage in TheatreSquared's productions of *The Complete Works of William Shakespeare (abridged)* and *Every Christmas Story Ever Told*.

## CAST



### **Asa Tims**

is a graduating senior at the University of Arkansas, majoring in theatre with an emphasis in acting. He has appeared in numerous productions during his time at the UofA including *Othello*, *Urinetown*, *The Learned Ladies* and *A Christmas Carol*. He was also seen in *Bombs, Babes, and Bingo* with the Artist's Laboratory Theatre. This is his first production with TheatreSquared!



### **Quinn Gasaway**

is delighted to return to the TheatreSquared family, having previously appeared in the world premiere production of *Sundown Town* and last season's *Tigers Be Still*. Quinn is a graduate of Oklahoma City University and has appeared in numerous productions in Oklahoma City and Chicago. His thanks go out to his parents back in Little Rock, his mentors and teachers and his amazing friends who keep him somewhat sane.



### **Sarah Jane Robinson**

is a graduating senior at the University of Arkansas with an emphasis in Acting, where some of her acting credits include: Little Sally in *Urinetown*, Bianca in *Othello* and Marcy in *I Love You Because*. She performed in *I think you Think I Love You* as Branwin in Alassio, Italy directed by Kieara Pipino. Most recently she appeared in TheatreSquared's production of *Nosies Off* in the role of Poppy.



### **Erika Wilhite**

returns to Theatre Squared as "Erika" in *The History Show*. Her regional credits include Audrey in *As You Like It* and Martha in *The Secret Garden* (Orlando Shakespeare Theatre). In Fayetteville, she has been seen in *Bombs, Babes, and Bingo* and *Show and Tell: A Sheet Fort Experience* at The Artist's Laboratory Theatre, as Ariel in *The Tempest* presented by Trike Theatre, and most recently as "Berthe" in *Boeing Boeing* and as "Dotty" in *Noises Off* at Theatre Squared.

# SUMMARY OF THE PLAY

## EARLY US HISTORY!



1000 A.D. - Leif Ericson, a Viking seaman, explores the east coast of North America and sights Newfoundland, establishing a short-lived settlement there.

1492 Columbus makes the first of four voyages to the New World, funded by the Spanish Crown, seeking a western sea route to Asia.

1620 The Pilgrims sail from England to Cape Cod on the Mayflower.

1692 Witchcraft trials held in Salem, Massachusetts.

1765 The Stamp Act forces colonies to pay taxes on printed matter. The Sons of Liberty are formed, in opposition to taxation without representation.

1766 British Parliament repeals the Stamp Act.

1773 The Boston Tea Party

1774 The First Continental Congress meets in Philadelphia to protest and petition George III.

1775 Britain declares war on the colonies.

1776 Tom Paine publishes COMMON SENSE.

1776 The Declaration of Independence is adopted in Philadelphia.

1781 The French fleet and American troops defeat the British at Yorktown. The war is over.

1781 Congress adopts its first constitution, the Articles of Confederation.

1783 Britain recognizes American independence.

1787 The Constitutional Convention adopts a new Constitution.

1789 George Washington is elected the first president of the United States.

1789 The French Revolution begins.

1790 James Madison writes the first ten amendments to the Constitution, the Bill of Rights.

1792 Eli Whitney invents the cotton gin.

1797 The first copper pennies are minted in England.

Three actors (Asa, Quinn and Sarah Jane) have been invited by your school to make a presentation for the student body. The goal of the presentation is to cover the entire timeline of US History. They need to cover all of the facts. They need to get through all of the important dates and names and places from the year 1000 through this year's presidential election. It seems like a lot...but they are completely up to the challenge.

The play begins with a speed round that covers the discovery of America through Colonial times. Columbus sails the ocean blue, The Boston Tea Party and the Signing of the Declaration of Independence. Everything is going very fast, though, and the actors begin to worry that they may not be helping the students understand history by moving so quickly through important events. Maybe it would be better to slow things down and pick a few key events to focus in on...to dig a little bit deeper?

Unfortunately, the theater company cannot agree on this shift in approach. Erika, the Stage Manager, is very sure that they need to stay on script and cover the timeline like they had originally planned. Quinn wants to explore controversies. Sarah Jane is interested in the role of women throughout history. And Asa has a few dream roles that he is not quite willing to give up.

As the show begins to spin out of control and Erika is unable to get the actors back on track, things get even more complicated. Inner conflicts and misunderstandings threaten the balance of the entire operation.

Will the actors manage to find a compromise so they can get back on track and finish the show? How can they be expected to get through 3010 years of US history in 50 minutes? Will Erika ever get the actors back in the van and on the road to the next show?

Find out by joining us for "THE HISTORY SHOW". It's going to be HISTORICAL!

- 1803 The Louisiana Purchase is made.
- 1804-6 Lewis and Clark expedition takes place.
- 1820 The Missouri Compromise is put into effect – banning slavery in Northern States, but allowing it in Southern States.
- 1829 The Indian Removal Act clears the way for sending Native Americans west of the Mississippi.
- 1838 Cherokees walk the Trail of Tears westward.
- 1844 The first telegraph message is sent in Morse code.
- 1846-48 The Mexican-American War.
- 1848 The Seneca Falls Women’s Rights Declaration is written.
- 1849 The California gold rush begins.
- 1850 The Fugitive Slave Law forbids helping runaways.
- 1851 Women’s rights reformers Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Susan B. Anthony meet.
- 1803 The Louisiana Purchase is made.
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- 1844 The first telegraph message is sent in Morse code.
- 1846-48 The Mexican-American War.
- 1847 Frederick Douglass begins publishing the abolitionist newspaper, THE NORTH STAR.
- 1848 The Seneca Falls Women’s Rights Declaration is written.
- 1849 The California gold rush begins.
- 1850 The Fugitive Slave Law forbids helping runaways.
- 1851 Women’s rights reformers Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Susan B. Anthony meet.
- 1857 The Dred Scott decision is rendered, stating that Negroes cannot be citizens of the United States.
- 1860 South Carolina secedes from the Union.
- 1861 The provisional government of the Confederate States of America is established.
- 1861 Abraham Lincoln is inaugurated president of the United States. The Civil War begins.
- 1863 Abraham Lincoln issues the Emancipation Proclamation declaring slavery illegal in the Confederate states.
- 1863 The Confederates are defeated at the battle of Gettysburg, Pennsylvania. It is the turning point of the war.
- 1865 Abraham Lincoln is assassinated by John Wilkes Booth.
- 1865 States Ratify the Thirteenth Amendment abolishing slavery.
- 1866 The Civil Rights Act is passed by Congress.
- 1869 The women of Wyoming territory become the first to receive the vote in the U.S. and its territories.
- 1876 The Battle of Little Bighorn takes place in Montana --it becomes Custer’s Last Stand.
- 1876 Alexander Graham Bell patents the telephone.
- 1879 The first skyscraper, the Leitner building, with sixteen stories, is erected in Chicago.
- 1885 The Statue of Liberty, a gift from the French, arrives in New York City.
- 1886 The Apache leader Geronimo surrenders to U.S. troops in Arizona.
- 1890 Sioux Indians are massacred at Wounded Knee, South Dakota.
- 1895 The country’s first professional football game is played by two Pennsylvania teams.
- 1896 In Plessy v. Ferguson the Supreme Court rules that segregation by race is constitutional.
- 1898 The Spanish-American War is fought.

# PRE SHOW ACTIVITIES

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## MY HISTORICAL CONTEXT

Create a timeline demonstrating events in your life and simultaneous events in American history. Then, draw connections between these different personal and historic events. How do these events affect how you live your life? Is it true to say that we are a product of our time and place?

## OUR STORY THROUGH OUR SONGS

What can we learn about a time period from the music of that era? In every era of history, musicians were creating a living archive of their times. You can often learn about more than just the musical style preferences when you listen to songs from other times.

Investigate a Civil War era song like "The Battle Hymn of the Republic" in order to understand the impact that the political climate of the times had on the music of the period. What do you perceive about their perspective? How would this song have made you feel about the country and the conflict that it was engaged in? How are the ideas communicated? What imagery do they use? What is the tone of the song?

Now listen to a protest song from the 1960s. What is this artist's point of view about war? Now listen to Creedence Clearwater Revival's song "Fortunate Son"...what does this song communicate to its listeners?

What will the songs of our current era tell later generations about us?



## LIFE BEFORE FACEBOOK AND TWITTER

How has technology changed over the 19th and 20th centuries? We didn't always have ways to instantly communicate information to one another. There was a time when none of our friends would know every minute detail of our lives through our public posts on social media. Which leads to the question...what impact did technology have on the way that our country advanced?

Research inventions of the 1800s and present your findings to the class. Some important advancements during this time include the refrigerator, the telegraph, the telephone, the phonograph, the trolley, the washing machine, neon lighting, sliced bread and the television! Many of these inventions seem ordinary now, but why did they seem special at the time? How did they change the world of the people who would come to rely on them?

Explore the use of telegrams. Why did people send telegrams? What were the alternative ways to communicate? What were the pros and cons of each method? Can you imagine using a telegram to send important information to someone today? What if you had to go a week without using a telephone, a cell phone, the internet or a computer? How would you communicate? How would the quantity and quality of your communication be affected? How would it affect the time it would take to share your thoughts? What advantages would there be?

How is social media used today during important times such as elections or natural disasters? Has it replaced more traditional news reporting?

## **THE 1900s and 2000s**

1903 Wilbur and Orville Wright make the first successful airplane flight at Kitty Hawk N.C.

1905 Albert Einstein formulates his Theory of Relativity.

1908 The Ford Motor Company makes the "Model T" for mass sale.

1914 World War I breaks out in Europe.

1915 The Lusitania is sunk by Germany, killing 128 Americans.

1917 The U.S. enters W.W.I.

1918 Armistice Day, the war is over; Germany accepts Wilson's Fourteen Points as the basis for peace.

1920 The 19th Amendment is passed, giving women the right to vote for the first time.

1925 A high-school teacher, John Scopes, is tried and convicted in Tennessee for teaching evolution.

1927 Charles A. Lindbergh flies the "Spirit of St. Louis" across the Atlantic Ocean in 33.5 hours.

1928 Walt Disney's Mickey Mouse makes his first appearance in Steamboat Willie.

1929 The stock market crashes.

1933 Hitler becomes Chancellor of Germany.

1933-37 New Deal legislation is created and put into effect.

1941 Japan makes a surprise attack on Pearl Harbor. America declares war on Japan, enters WW2.

1942-45 The Nazis begin systematic murder of Jews, gypsies and homosexuals in concentration camps.

1944 D-Day: Allied invasion of Normandy beaches in France.

1945 Germany surrenders; VE Day, May 8th.

1945 The Atom bomb is dropped on the Japanese cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Japan surrenders; VJ Day.

1950 Senator Joseph McCarthy advises President Truman that the State Department is filled with Communists and Communist sympathizers.

1950 The government of North Korea attacks South Korea. American-led United Nations forces enter the Korean War.

1953 The Korean War ends; Korea remains divided in two parts.

1954 The Supreme Court rules in Brown v. Board of Education that "separate but equal" is unconstitutional in schools.

1955 Rosa Parks is arrested in Montgomery, Alabama for violating segregation laws on a city bus.

1957 Rioting whites keep the Little Rock Nine out of Central High School in Little Rock, Arkansas. President Dwight D. Eisenhower sends in U.S. Army forces to enforce the school's integration.

1962 President Kennedy confronts the Soviet Union about its nuclear missile bases in Cuba. For six long days during the Cuban Missile Crisis the world hovers on the brink of nuclear war.

1963 The March on Washington takes place. Over 250,000 demonstrators, both black and white, make the biggest protest assembly in U.S. history. Martin Luther King, Jr. delivers his "I Have A Dream" speech.

1963 John F. Kennedy is assassinated in Dallas, Texas.

1965 Congress approves the Gulf of Tonkin Resolution, allowing the U.S. to use military force in Vietnam.

1967 Protests against the war in Vietnam start to spread across the nation..

1974 President Richard Nixon's connection to the Watergate affair is proven. He resigns from office.

1990 Iraq invades Kuwait.

1991 Led by the U.S., an international military force launches Operation Desert Storm. Iraqi forces are removed from Kuwait.

2001 - September 11th terrorist attacks; 19 terrorists hijack four planes and crash them into the World Trade Center, the Pentagon. The United States launches the invasion of Afghanistan starting Operation Enduring Freedom.

2001 - Patriot Act, increasing law enforcement agencies' ability to conduct searches in cases of suspected terrorism.

2003 - In Iraq, deposed Iraqi president Saddam Hussein is captured by U.S. special forces.

2005 - Hurricane Katrina devastates the Louisiana, Mississippi, and Alabama coastlines.\

2008 - Global financial crisis in September 2008 begins as the stock market crashes.

2009 - U.S. President Barack Obama obtains Congressional approval for the \$787 billion stimulus package, the largest since President Dwight D. Eisenhower.

2011 - Osama bin Laden, leader of al-Qaeda and mastermind of the September 11 attacks, is killed.

### Hysteria in History

One of the strangest and most interesting eras of US History was the time of the Salem Witch Trials. It's fascinating to explore how susceptible the citizens of our country were to the superstitions and hysteria created by the suggestion that their neighbors were practicing witchcraft. Later in the timeline of US History, a very similar type of hysteria would re-emerge in the form of the Red Scare when Senator Joseph McCarthy would lead congress into a hunt for Communist sympathizers that would destroy careers and lives of politicians, businessmen and artists.

Examine original documents from the era and explore the causes that led to the Salem Witch Trials. What can you infer from these documents? How was evidence treated differently than it is in our current judicial system?

Choose one case and assign roles amongst your classmates to produce a mock trial. You will need a Prosecutor, a Defense, Defendants (those accused of being witches), witnesses, character witnesses, a jury, a bailiff and a judge. Each character should have a name and a backstory. What role do they play in the village? How have the events of the trial affected their lives.

Your class can find many primary resources such as letters, reviews, and literature online or in the library!

### Our Own History Show!

In theatre, many artists are involved in collaboration to make a play-  
The playwright writes the script.

A director transfers it from the page to the stage,  
leading a group of actors in the staging of the play.

A scenic designer comes up with physical setting of the play (based  
on the directors concept).

The costume designer creates the wardrobe for all the characters.

The sound and lighting designers create the mood of the play by  
creating "looks" on stage with lighting and by underscoring the play  
with music and sound effects. Each artist is essential to making a play,  
and each element can tell the story in its own way.



In small groups, choose a historical event to adapt into scripted dialogue. In each group there should be a playwright who adapts the story (or a scene from the story), scenic designers who imagine and illustrate the scenery and poster, a costume designer to imagine and illustrate the clothing of the characters (costumes tell stories too!), and assign the lighting and sound designers to choose the perfect look and musical mood of the play. Encourage the students to get creative with the project and to work together first in a production meeting. Everyone needs to be on the same page before working individually.

What kind of music and sound effects will be used to underscore their play (have a boom box ready for their presentations)? What time period will be reflected in the costume designers clothing choices? What is the director's vision for the play? Each artist will illustrate their concepts with drawings or explain through writing. After the designers and directors give their presentations, have the groups read the play aloud.

Want to go further? Create your scenery, props and costumes from materials that you can find around the house, rehearse and present the play for another class.

Want to go further? Write your own recap rap!

**Study Guide**  
materials created by  
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& **Erika Wilhite**  
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**TheatreSquared**  
northwest arkansas' professional theatre company



## **ONLINE RESOURCES**

<http://www.pbs.org/wnet/historyofus/tools/index.html>  
(Interactive US History Timeline)

<http://www.pbs.org/wnet/historyofus/teachers/video.html>  
(Workshop Videos)

<http://www.history.com/topics/american-history>  
(American History with links to videos)

<http://www.law.umkc.edu/faculty/projects/ftrials/salem/salem.htm>  
<http://etext.virginia.edu/salem.witchcraft>  
(Original documents for witchtrial project)

## **VIDEO**

[http://www.pbs.org/wnet/secrets/previous\\_seasons/case\\_salem/index.html](http://www.pbs.org/wnet/secrets/previous_seasons/case_salem/index.html)

<http://www.pbs.org/wnet/secrets/episodes/slave-ship-mutiny-watch-the-full-episode/756/>

<http://www.pbs.org/wnet/secrets/episodes/churchills-deadly-decision-watch-the-full-episode/620/>

## **AUDIO**

[http://www.songfacts.com/category-songs\\_about\\_war.php](http://www.songfacts.com/category-songs_about_war.php)