



Who we are

HIDden Theatre is the offspring of the Mystery Plays- we came out of the 2010 Lords of Misrule production and spun off on our own. We aren't limited to medieval drama, although that has been most of our repertoire up to this point. Our interest is in historic/historical drama- plays from and about the past, for what it can tell us about the past, and its ability to get people enthused about history and theatre.

This is summed up in our mission statement:

HIDden Theatre aims to enrich the lives of audience members and creative participants through stories from and about the past.

HIDden's name is a reference to "historically informed drama" (H I D). This highlights our goal, to present plays which have a significant historical component. "Historically informed drama" means that any production we create has been very thoroughly researched and considered with respect to the time and issues being referenced. Our name is also a nod to the fact that many plays of earlier eras are not performed frequently, and may be less familiar to audiences. It is also a reference to the early music revival movement called HIP (historically informed performance).

We're a small team of theatre freelancers, and we do hope you'll be interested in joining us as we form up "The Guild of Waifs & Strays"- a Mystery Plays home for people who aren't otherwise affiliated.

The current HIDden team started working together during the 2014 plays; we're proof that much fun, and deeply enduring friendships, come along with these productions!

Some of our previous work includes:

The Baptism, 2014 **(York Mystery Plays)**



Photo: The Rice Family

Noah & the Flood, 2012 **(co-production with York Festival Trust)**



Photo: Laura-Elizabeth Rice

Mankind, 2016



Photo: Jon Murphy

If you would like to be involved, we'd love to hear from you!

Please get in touch using any of the following:



hiddentheatre.com



auditions@hiddentheatre.com



facebook.com/hiddentheatre



[@hiddentheatre.bsky.social](https://bsky.app/@hiddentheatre.bsky.social)



instagram.com/hiddentheatre



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HIDden Theatre is bringing together anyone who wants to be involved in *The York Mystery Plays* who has not found a home with any other group, to form “The Guild of Waifs & Strays” to bring forth *The War in Heaven* (traditionally known as *The Fall of the Angels*) for the 2026 Festival. Our Artistic Director, Laura-Elizabeth Rice, will be taking the creative helm.

It’s the first play in the cycle, so we’ll be leading the parade! It’s quite an exciting play, depicting both Heaven and Hell, and sets up the struggle between good and evil.

Our director says: "The thing I love best about theatre is the collaboration. I believe that you have skills and ideas and talents, and my job is to give you a safe and welcoming situation in which to deploy them, so that your ideas can weave in with mine to create something that none of us could create on our own. My job is to make it all coherent, but to give you room to be part of the process. We’re still very much developing our ideas for *The War in Heaven*, so we have room to use whatever talents you bring, whether it’s acting, design, building, or enthusiastically helping to push a waggon around York! Welcome!"

**The Plays return to the city streets on Sunday 28th June and Sunday 5th July 2026.
There will be two twilight performances in the Market on Tuesday 30th June and
Wednesday 1st July 2026.**

**If you would like to be involved, we’d love to hear from you!
Please get in touch using any of the following:**

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We need YOU!

Here's a little bit about roles we hope you might be interested in.

Actors. Our play has a God, Lucifer, Angels, and Demons (former angels). There's room for both speaking and non-speaking parts. And we need singers/musicians, if that's one of your skills! We'll start proper rehearsals in May, but we'll tailor our schedule around your availability as much as possible. You will need to be there for performances, of course.

Waggon Master. The person in charge of making sure our waggon travels safely around York, and that our waggon crew is well organised. Mostly needed around production time.

Stage Management. You know the old joke- "How many stage managers does it take to change a- It's already done." People organised, good at details and anticipating problems so they get avoided. If you have interest in this, please get in touch ASAP! We can use your talents anytime from now until everything is packed away after the final performance!

Waggon Crew. The folks who make the waggon move! This one requires some physical fitness- waggons are heavy and awkward. We need at least 8-10 people. If you have limited dates, this is a great way to get involved, because we'll need you for a couple days before but mostly for performance dates.

Set construction & scenic art. If you have skills with building, painting, and generally crafting at a large scale, we can use your expertise. (If you've an eye for design, we're also open to input!) This won't require time until summer, but you won't have to commit to performance dates.

Costumes & props. Do you sew? Draft patterns? Great at finding things at charity shops? This is for you! This will also be revving up in May, once our cast is in place, but you won't have to commit to performance dates.

Assistant director/designer. Are you looking for a more artistic opportunity? If so, our director would welcome support throughout the creative and rehearsal process.

Production Assistants. There is organising and admin to help with now, and there will be lots of odd jobs along the way for which we will need extra hands. If none of the above appeal to you, but you still want to find a way to be involved, we would love to have you along for the ride. This role could be as time intensive as you wish and could start now, just join us near the performances, or any time in between.

If you are interested in getting involved in more than one way, many of these roles can double up; equally we are happy for roles to be shared between multiple people. It's really up to you, your schedule, and your interests. Please feel free to get in touch even if you are not sure what role is for you - we would be happy to have a chat with anyone who has an interest and there is no commitment required at this stage.

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