Extravagant History: Staging “Henry VIII”


Call for Papers:

In the June of 1520, Henry VIII offered (and received) a show of splendour in negotiations with Francis I at the Field of the Cloth of Gold, which earned its name from the glittering materials on display.

With that mixture of pomp and power in mind, join us for a one day symposium which will explore the performance history of Fletcher and Shakespeare's rarely performed, but famously lavish, Henry VIII or All is True. Accompanied by a performance of selections from the play by Creation Theatre, we will consider the extravagance of Henry VIII's stage directions, alongside the extravagance of its claim to historical truth.

We are delighted to announce Professor Emma Smith as keynote speaker.

We invite 20 minute papers on a variety topics connected to the performance of Henry VIII (or related history plays), including but not limited to:

Henry VIII's materiality; Henry VIII's stage history (up to the present day); the representation of Henry VIII in early modern literature; Shakespeare and Fletcher's stage directions; the pageantry of early modern history plays; and, more broadly, the costs and excesses associated with early modern playmaking.

Please submit proposals of 200 words to laura.wright@univ.ox.ac.uk by March 16th.