

Collaborative Partners for CHM

Triangle Theatre and Belgrade

Belgrade Theatre



The Centre for the History of Medicine and the Coventry-based Triangle theatre company worked together on Triangle's new production, 'The Last Women', inspired by the histories of Mary Ball, hanged in Coventry in 1849, and Ruth Ellis, the last woman hanged in Britain in 1955. The Last Women brought together historical research with improvisational enquiry in a series of formal and informal events and interactions between a company of seven actors, experts, young people, and other members of the public.

This project utilised Triangle's innovative 'Immersive Museum Theatre' technique, which entails participants' use of museum collections – archives and artefacts – and historic locations as springboards for the development of character, and in the creation of an environment in which to become 'immersed' in the material. Action is devised by participants engaging with the material, and also drawing from their own experience, by playing out and maintaining roles in group dynamics. This devising process is further enhanced by the input of specialists supplying information – specialists who become participants in the process. While projects usually focus on historical moments to provide themes, they also provide scope for the exploration of contemporary issues.

The Centre for the History of Medicine played a key role in developing a medical history dimension for 'The Last Women'. [Dr Norwood Andrews](#), a previous Research Assistant in the Centre, undertook (and will publish) historical research on the theme of medicine and public execution; contributed to 'The Last Women' as a specialist-participant, was directly involved in all seven modules; and drew on this experience in evaluating the interaction between historical research and Immersive Museum Theatre as a route for public engagement within the history of medicine.

http://www2.warwick.ac.uk/fac/arts/history/chm/research_teaching/lastwomen

<http://www.triangletheatre.co.uk/>

<http://www.belgrade.co.uk/>