

“The Singer of Shanghai” Inspires High School Students



Broughton High School pupils performing



Professor Ostoyich addresses audience

“I never knew that 20,000 Jewish lives were saved in Shanghai, China.” This was just one of dozens of positive comments received from the ten Youth Theatre actors at Broughton High School who performed the Scottish premiere of “The Singer of Shanghai”.

The play documents the verbatim testimony of Harry J Abraham of Cleveland, Ohio whose family were Jewish refugees in Shanghai. The students and their director Siobhan Wyman rehearsed for several weeks and then performed a staged reading for nearly 100 persons on 31 January 2023.

One of the original creators travelled from Munich, Germany to attend the premiere. Professor Kevin Ostoyich is a world-renowned Holocaust historian and he said that “The student actors did a brilliant job bringing these characters to life. They have now become storytellers too as they will always remember and tell others about the Shanghai Jews.”

Edinburgh City Councillor and former teacher Vicky Nicolson said “These young people will never forget this experience. By learning about this dark chapter in history they will now seek ways to prevent future atrocities.”

Professor Joe Goldblatt is Chair of the Edinburgh Interfaith Association and is a vice chair of the Shanghai Jewish Refugees Museum. To learn more about the museum visit https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Shanghai_Jewish_Refugees_Museum.

The play was presented as a collaboration between the Edinburgh Jewish Cultural Centre and the Edinburgh Interfaith Association. For more information about these organisations visit www.jcc.scot or www.edinburghinterfaith.com.

To learn how you may support the Shanghai Jewish Refugees Centre please contact joe@joegoldblatt.scot.