Written on the Heart

One might not expect a play about the composition of the King James Bible to be dramatic fare, but, according to Ian Farthing, director of Pacific Theatre’s staged reading of *Written on the Heart* by David Edgar, they would be wrong.

“Political machinations, smuggling illicit documents, power struggles between Church and State,” says Farthing, “The creation of a Bible for the common man, written in English, was a radical step forward for believers in the 16th century, with ramifications that can still be felt today.”

*Written on the Heart* spans almost 100 years, from William Tyndale’s 1536 attempts to smuggle his biblical translations out of prison to Bishop Lancelot Andrewes’ final revisions of the official King James Bible in 1610. Over that time, translating the Bible went from a dangerously radical act of rebellion to a politically beneficial establishment of traditional values.

“Playwright David Edgar is best known to North American audiences for his multi-Tony Award-winning production of *Nicholas Nickelby*, but he has a long history of writing and adapting stories for the stage,” says Farthing on the playwright.

The play may be presented as a staged reading, with the actors reading off scripts, but don’t expect it to feel like a small event. “We have some of the finest actors in Vancouver, who will bring the story vividly to life,” says Farthing.

Pacific Theatre also has a history of staged readings that are among the company’s most exciting events, including an electric reading of *The Last Days of Judas Iscariot* by Stephen Adley Guirgis, and *Wittenberg* by David Davalos – a play about Martin Luther’s time at Wittenberg University.

Originally commissioned by the Royal Shakespeare Company to celebrate the 400th anniversary of the publication of the King James Bible, the play ran for over a year in the West End to rave reviews. Now it will celebrate Reformation Sunday in a partnership between Pacific Theatre, Vancouver’s only faith-based professional theatre company, and Holy Trinity Anglican Church.

This one-time performance will take place 2:00 pm, October 29, 2017 at Holy Trinity Vancouver, 1440 West 12th Avenue. Tickets $20 – order online www.pacifictheatre.org or phone 604-731-5518.

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