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978-1-107-04188-2 - A Jacobean Company and its Playhouse: The Queen's Servants at the Red Bull Theatre (c. 1605–1619)

Eva Griffith

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A JACOBEOAN COMPANY AND ITS PLAYHOUSE

Eva Griffith's book fills a major gap concerning the world of Shakespearean drama. It tells the previously untold story of the Servants of Queen Anna of Denmark – a group of players parallel to Shakespeare's King's Men – and their playhouse, the Red Bull. Built in vibrant Clerkenwell, the Red Bull lay within the northern suburbs of Jacobean London, with prostitution to the west and the Revels Office to the east. Griffith sets the playhouse in the historical context of the Seckford and Bedingfeld families and their connections to the site. Utilising a wealth of primary evidence including maps, plans and archival texts, she analyses the court patronage of figures such as Sir Robert Sidney, Queen Anna's Chamberlain, alongside the company's members, function and repertoire. Plays performed included those by Webster, Dekker and Heywood – entertainments characterised by spectacle, battle sequences and court-room drama, alongside London humour and song.

EVA GRIFFITH is a theatre historian working on early seventeenth-century entertainment, spectacle and drama. She began acting at the age of seven, performing in many film, television and theatre productions. Owing her entire existence to the performance of Shakespeare (her parents met during an Old Vic touring production of *A Midsummer Night's Dream*), she was encouraged in an interest in literature and history through united family concerns. As an academic she has researched internationally with the help of fellowships, for example, at the Huntington Library and the Harry Ransom Center in America, gaining funding, prizes and bursaries from the British Academy, the Malone Society and the Society for Theatre Research. She has published on Red Bull-related topics in *Huntington Library Quarterly* and in Richard Dutton's award-winning *Oxford Handbook of Early Modern Theatre*. She is currently working on a book concerning the poet, playwright and masque-writer, James Shirley, having written about him for *The Times Literary Supplement* and Four Courts Press. She acted as Research Associate on *The Complete Works of James Shirley* at Durham University and is editing a play for this large-scale edition – *Changes or Love in a Maze*.

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For my mother, Doria Marguerite Jamieson Griffith

I know a bank where the wild thyme blows
Where oxlips and the nodding violet grows ...
There sleeps Titania ...

Oberon, in William Shakespeare,
A Midsummer Night's Dream, Act II, scene I

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For transcriptions from original texts, italics are used to expand contracted words; carets (^) appear in order to show where inserted words and phrases begin and end; and for deletions, 'strike-through' is employed for deleted parts. Primary source transcriptions have been given for documentary evidence, yet secondary sources are also referred to for those who wish to consult these works. For early modern printed texts, with a lack of modern editions of Red Bull plays, original quartos have mainly been used and transcriptions from these have been conservatively biased. Signature numbers or 'sigs' (appearing as 'A2v' or 'E4') have been employed as the only page references available in these books.

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TNA	The National Archives, Kew
LMA	London Metropolitan Archives
LPL	Lambeth Palace Library
SROI	Suffolk Record Office, Ipswich
ES	E. K. Chambers, <i>The Elizabethan Stage</i> , 4 vols. (Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1923)
JCS	Gerald Eades Bentley, <i>The Jacobean and Caroline Stage</i> , 7 vols. (Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1941–68)
EPT	Glynne Wickham, Herbert Berry and William Ingram, eds., <i>English Professional Theatre, 1530–1660</i> (Cambridge University Press, 2000)
MCR	John Cordy Jeaffreson, <i>Middlesex County Records</i> (Old Series), 4 vols. (Greater London Council, 1972 [1886–92])
MSR	William le Hardy, ed., <i>Middlesex Sessions Records</i> (New Series), 4 vols. (London: Guildhall, 1935–41)
MSC	Malone Society Collections
St JPR	Robert Hovenden, ed., <i>A True Register of All the Christeninges, Mariages, and Burialles in the Parische of St James, Clerkenwell, from the Yeare of Our Lorde God 1551</i> , 6 vols. (London: Harleian Society, 1884–94)
Int.	Interrogatory (a question put to witnesses in a court case)
sig.	signature (page reference in early modern books)