

The Passion: The perfect play?

Video transcript: From stage to screen narrated by Bill Turnbull

Mired in controversy and banned by the Pope and Elizabeth I, it wasn't until the 19th Century that interest in Passion plays was rekindled.

From the 1850s amateur theatre was booming. People looking for great ideas to dramatise, picked up on the story of the Passion and reinvented it for a whole new audience.

It led to a wealth of new Passion Plays and the resurrection of long forgotten scripts.

As technology updated so too did the drama of the Passion. Silent films were made, musicals, Hollywood blockbusters.

Today Passion plays are performed across the UK and the rest of the world and the story is being told in a whole host of new ways.

Whether that's in bus shelters in Preston or shipping containers on the Tyne it continues to reinvent itself.

And in doing so it spreads its message, and one of humanity's great stories, to a whole new audience.