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A Breath of the Past into the Breathing Present

Regia Anglorum is a society founded to accurately re-create the life and times of the folk of these islands in the Anglo-Saxon period. We consider that the portrayal of everyday life is more important than the more graphic but necessarily brief military encounters. Whilst the Vikings might be the attention grabber, many folk who lived through those turbulent centuries would have lived out their lives without ever meeting a sea-pirate across the shield's rim! Our specialist period starts with the Fall of Rome in 410AD and runs up to the First Crusade.

If you have never worked with a re-enactment society before, you might quite reasonably be wary of employing a bunch of volunteer amateurs who SOUND great but will they actually deliver? I can supply you with a contact list of happy customers going back over twelve years. Financially well founded and with a rising membership in the mid five hundreds, we are perfectly capable of performing all the functions you will find in these next few pages. Indeed, many of our employers offer us repeat work year after year after year. A Media CV accompanies this document.



I'd like to take you on a brief tour of what we do. At the end you will know a lot more about us. I am the full-time National Organiser for Regia Anglorum and am available to attend production meetings and location recces during normal business hours by prior arrangement.



Props and Set Dressing

Much of our work is based around public shows and educational demonstrations. As such, we consider that authenticity is of the highest importance and are extremely cautious regarding the interpretation of styles depicted in manuscript sources. Our research is meticulous and can be relied upon to stand up to the most robust academic scrutiny – whilst bringing life to ancient things and creating images of the dead past without apparent effort.



The Society has a very large quantity of what might loosely be referred to as “props”. Constructed to the highest standards - and from the correct materials - they include large-scale tents, cooking equipment, pole lathes, wall and braid looms, coin-striking equipment, smithy and a wide range of other museum-quality artefacts too numerous to mention. Given enough lead time, we can build working kilns, charcoal clamps and smelters on location.

Erecting period tent replicas and set dressing them as real-time living spaces is a well-honed activity. Most sets on location can be erected in a working day and struck in about the same length of time. Some forty structures are currently available and most productions can be adequately propped and equipped in house. Properties and costume that are the property of the Society or its members are always transported, erected and struck by members of Regia Anglorum.

Costumed personnel are readily available and are people to whom their kit is not costume but just another form of everyday dress. So they are not self-conscious - nor are the costumes new!

Maritime activities

As we are attempting to re-create the past of an island community, we feel that it would be quite inappropriate if we could not demonstrate something of the maritime life of our ancestors. To this end, the Society owns and operates several period ship replicas.



In the last few years, our vessels have seen service in the English Channel, the Irish Sea and the Bristol Channel and various lakes and rivers throughout England. They have appeared in various films and TV series, "*A History of Britain*", "*Erik the Viking*", "*Great Warriors*", "*The Earliest Ships*", "*Great Ships*" (shown last year on the History Channel) and the BBC's '97 flagship series, "*Ivanhoe!*"

They have been exhibited at The Matthew Centre in Bristol, the National Waterways Museum in

Gloucester, the Chatham Historic Dockyard, the Yorkshire Museum of Farming, the Kendal Museum and other similar establishments.



Our largest wooden vessel is a good replica of the Krampmakken boat and this thirty-two foot replica has been used on the Ouse near York, the Humber estuary, the North Sea off Northumbria and the Firth of Forth. It is currently out of commission and undergoing remedial work.

We even commissioned our own vessel, a replica of the Gokstad faering. It is nearly ten years old now and has a good, well used look for camera! At nineteen feet long, it is the smallest of our ship replicas and can readily be towed behind a four wheel drive vehicle or a big car..

The remaining vessels are forty-seven foot GRP ships based upon the Skuldelev Wreck Three find from Roskilde Fjord. They are externally convincing 'clinker built', double-skinned flotation hulls and were built in the Isle of Man. We keep one in commission and are well used to transporting it from place to place by road.

The Society also has the occasional use of two further small boats, both of timber construction. These



are both in the order of eighteen feet long and are replicas of Viking hulls from the archaeological record. Therefore, we can offer a total of seven ship and boat replicas, probably the largest fleet of vessels of this kind in private hands in a thousand years!

Location

We recommend Rutland Water, about thirty miles due east of Leicester. It is an excellent workable location with an uncluttered angle that gives the impression of being at sea and various creeks and inlets where a raiding party might come ashore. From a practical

point of view, the lake has its own power boats and safety crews, an excellent café well used to damp, cold people and ample parking for the largest vehicles.

Hand to hand combat

Regia also specialises in combat re-enactment and frequently organises battles that closely follow real action with cutting edge weapons. We understand the difference between a general master shot of a battle and the many cutaways and close ups that are required to edit together the few moments of screen time that will be both memorable and definitive. Our experienced fighters can arrange routines and fight sequences that are repeatable for continuity and POV changes whilst not causing a professional fight director to turn their face away in horror! We



think safety is important and in the many, many productions with which we've been involved, I cannot remember more than a sprained ankle from running too enthusiastically down the face of a sand dune. **Damaged personnel make for expensive retakes.**

Wychurst – our permanent site

Alone of all re-enactment societies, Regia Anglorum owns a permanent site. Situated about sixty miles from central London and in a patch of secluded woodland near Canterbury in Kent, We are constructing a fortified manor house from the Late Anglo-Saxon period.



We have used our site as a filming location on several occasions. Current features are a mediaeval-style cottage and a Grubenhau (a Sunken Feature Building) that are well established and the latter has just been completely refurbished as of Summer 2003. Currently under construction is a 20 x 10 x 10 metre Longhall, a completed and established ditch-and-bank with gatehouse, gates and two rough bridges across the ditch. A track through the woods that might be an old Roman road and extensive deciduous open woodland are also available. Full 360° angles are available at the site with no modern intrusions.

Up to date pictures can be found at:-

<http://community.webshots.com/user/kimsiddorn/1> - look for "Regia's Wychurst Project" albums.

Within 200 metres, there is a scout hall that offers an excellent base for professional catering and generally somewhere to sit down out of the weather. There is single-phase mains electricity and mains water supply here, but not at the Site itself.

Generally speaking, our clients find it a very good, workable location. Although within a few miles of Canterbury and Herne Bay, traffic noise is limited to the occasional emergency vehicle siren, which (it must be said) tends to set the Wolf pack off in the wildlife park next door. Noise from air traffic rarely exceeds the occasional light aircraft or helicopter.

Above all, we are the land owners and – within the bounds of common sense and the Health and Safety at work Act - can do what we please there.



Research and Scripting

Researching costume, artefacts or events in our specialist period of interest could not be easier. There is no reason for you to start from scratch or to employ expensive free-lancers: we are soaked in this subject and the small doings of lesser folk and the deeds of the mighty are well known to us. We answer letters, return phone calls and turn in research on time – and if we cannot do something, we will say so!

Because we do a lot of public events, we are used to thinking on our feet and dramatic presentation is no stranger to us. We can even help with scripting and dialogue if required.

Equine input



Many of our people can ride, trained by Janet Rogers of Film Horses and TV from whom we hire horses on a regular basis. Additionally, we normally have at least one fully equipped warrior on horseback immediately available in-house. All tack and equipment is re-created to the same high standards as all our other artefacts, including a period saddle. We can present horse from post-Roman cavalryman to the Norman knight at the time of Richard the Lionheart and we even have a Saracen horse archer!

Other animals

By prior arrangement we can provide geese, dogs and chickens.

Archery

Many members of the Society can shoot and own their own bows. We can arrange specialist trick shooting or SFX fire arrows that will stay alight in flight. This comes from our extensive event experience where it is customary for us to use fire arrows to fire ship burnings in circumstances where pyro back up is not feasible.

We have performed evening features of this kind in York for sixteen years for the Jorvik Viking Centre. Additionally, we have

executed them at the Gateshead Garden Festival, off the coasts of Wales, Scotland and Eire.

Sub-contractors

There are, of course, areas of expertise which we cannot cover and we have built up a series of reliable people whose high standards of presentation fit in well with our own. These include falconry, street performers, musicians, jesters and fire-breathers. We also have sound and developing contacts with Rare Breeds Societies.

Internal discipline

There is nothing worse than having to hound a harassed 3AD to pursue unwilling Extras to get to Make Up on time or to allow the technical crew to eat first at lunch. We arrange this kind of discipline from the inside, supplying people who know each other already and are committed to ensuring the best interests of the Production are forwarded. Being late to make up and/or on set is not something we expect of our people.

It cuts both ways and, being professionals, we expect to be treated as such. We have an expectation of three meals a day to standard, reasonable overnight accommodation, fair expenses and a negotiable fee. But we understand that working at remote locations can make life difficult and we are always prepared to rough it to the same degree as the technical crew....



Transport.

The Society regularly arranges a wide range of events throughout the UK and in Scandinavia, Poland, Germany and Eire. We are fully capable of organising and arranging vehicle hire, props acquisition and transport, ferry tickets and similar logistics. Under normal circumstances, people will share vehicles to travel to accommodation and are perfectly prepared to get themselves to location under their own steam. This relieves the demands on unit drivers and is one less thing for the Production Manager to worry about.

Fees & expenses

Under all normal circumstances, the Society will charge a one-time Administration Fee for its services as facilitators. This fee is assessed upon how much logistical effort will be involved in working on a particular production.

Payment of fees to our members is dealt with internally. The Society will make a per capita charge and subsequently reimburse the people involved from its own resources.



This rate will INCLUDE basic costume for the task in hand from lowly peasant to a fully equipped warrior. We make no charge for costume changes and our people are used to being pig herds in the morning and ship-borne fighters after lunch. This does away with any possible difficulties accruing from dealing with individuals on a day-to-day basis. Regia Anglorum will issue clear and detailed invoices in relation to work performed within a few days or so of the completion of that

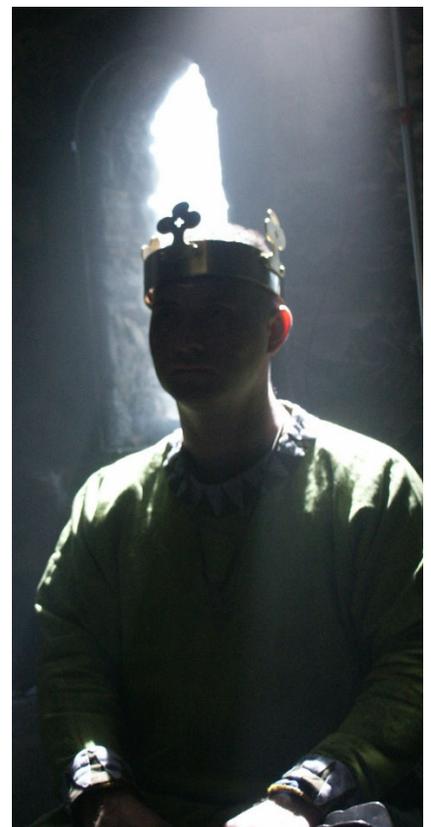
work. For your interest, we regularly manage single event budgets of between £250 and £28,000 and production budgets of over £50,000. We are registered for VAT and our number is 570 091 556. Any quotation is EXCLUSIVE of that tax.

Some large props – such as the ship replicas – have their own sliding scale of charges dependent on use, location and the length of hire. Other smaller props can be dealt with from within a single props budget that will be agreed in advance of the work. This budget will then be dealt with internally to pay the various owners of the props for the use of their equipment.

All properties that are owned by the Society or its members will always be transported, erected and struck by members of Regia Anglorum acting upon the reasonable instructions of the production staff.

Copyright

The copyright of the performances of its members involved in film work is usually vested in the Society. As such, Regia Anglorum will



issue a single Copyright Performance Agreement in respect of all the appearances by its members, which meets - and often exceeds - the needs of the most stringent legal departments. Copyright is then vested in the Production Company as 'producers of the first fixation' upon completion of payment.

Insurance

The Society has its own Public Liability cover, but we would not expect this insurance to be On Risk during any work that we are doing for a production company. We would expect to be covered by the unit insurance, as is common practice.

The Visual Media

We have been involved in the industry for the better part of twenty years and have a very wide range of contacts throughout the visual media, including the BBC - we were featured in "Genius of the Vikings", "Monarchs", "The story of English", "A History of Britain", "Casualty", "Out of This World", "Ivanhoe", "The Matthew Project", "See You, See Me", "Timelines" to name but a few - click here for an up-to-date [Media CV](#). Work might involve a one day shoot for two in a town or for fifty in Eire at several different locations. All are equally within our stride.

We understand the frequently conflicting needs of production companies and have an enviable and closely guarded reputation for being easy and amiable folk to work with.

Previous clients

A full list of previous clients would take up a great deal of space to little purpose, however a brief selection might be of some interest.



The Jorvik Viking Centre, for whom we have worked annually for eighteen years. The Vikings! Centre in Largs, (*whose drama documentary video production almost exclusively features our members, their costume, props and equipment*), the Peel Viking Centre in the Isle of Man, English Heritage (*who have said very kind things about our Living History!*) The National Trust, The Royal Armouries, Durham, Worcester, Bristol, Stafford, Rochester and other City and Borough Councils throughout the UK.

We have supplied replica artefacts for - amongst others - the new National Museum of Scotland, Liverpool Metropolitan Museum for the Silver Saga exhibition, The Museum of European History in Taiwan, Doncaster Museum and the Peel Viking Interpretation Centre in the Isle of Man. These are now open and we were heavily involved with the making of the drama documentaries shown at these centres. Having completed a £6,000 contract to re-costume the Jorvik Viking Centre's interpretation personnel, we feel quite capable of producing any weapons - or, indeed, a fine-toothed antler louse comb to a full sized ship replica!

In closing

Well, that's about it. If you've come with me through this - I hope! - interesting little article, you will have a pretty good idea of our ability to organize, arrange and perform. My principal function is to find paid work for the society and would be very interested in discussing our possible input for YOUR production.

J. Kim Siddorn. - SEO, Regia Anglorum.

