

Sample Q&A — with Dr. Barbara

(for Press & Media Use)

Q: Dr. Barbara, what does your work offer that typical historical research doesn't?

A: I work at the intersection of history, emotion and performance. My job is to make forgotten evidence usable for the actor — fast, precise and thorough.

Q: Why do actors struggle with historical roles?

A: Because they're often expected to »figure it out« alone. They find themselves panic Googling late at night. Someone hands them an outdated book, or they receive a flood of unstructured PDFs. None of that builds emotional footing. My work replaces guesswork with structure and evidence.

Q: Why does your work need to start early in a project?

A: Because I don't come in at the »oh no, we forgot research« stage. I don't patch holes in productions already underway, and I'm not the last-minute fact-checker before a premiere. My work belongs at the idea stage — in early creative conception, during character development, and at the point when a project needs its first clear direction, not its final panic fix.

Q: How do you handle sensitive material like queer history, war or trauma?

A: With clarity and care. Preparation must protect both the actor and the life portrayed. I provide emotional routes into the past and safe routes back out.

Q: What makes your method different?

A: I build historical and biographical characters from the ground up, using real fragments — diaries, letters, objects, domestic records, what their typical day looked like, and whenever possible, the person's own words. That depth can't be invented. It must be excavated.

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High-resolution portraits, book cover, sample Q&A and full press sheet are available in the press kit.