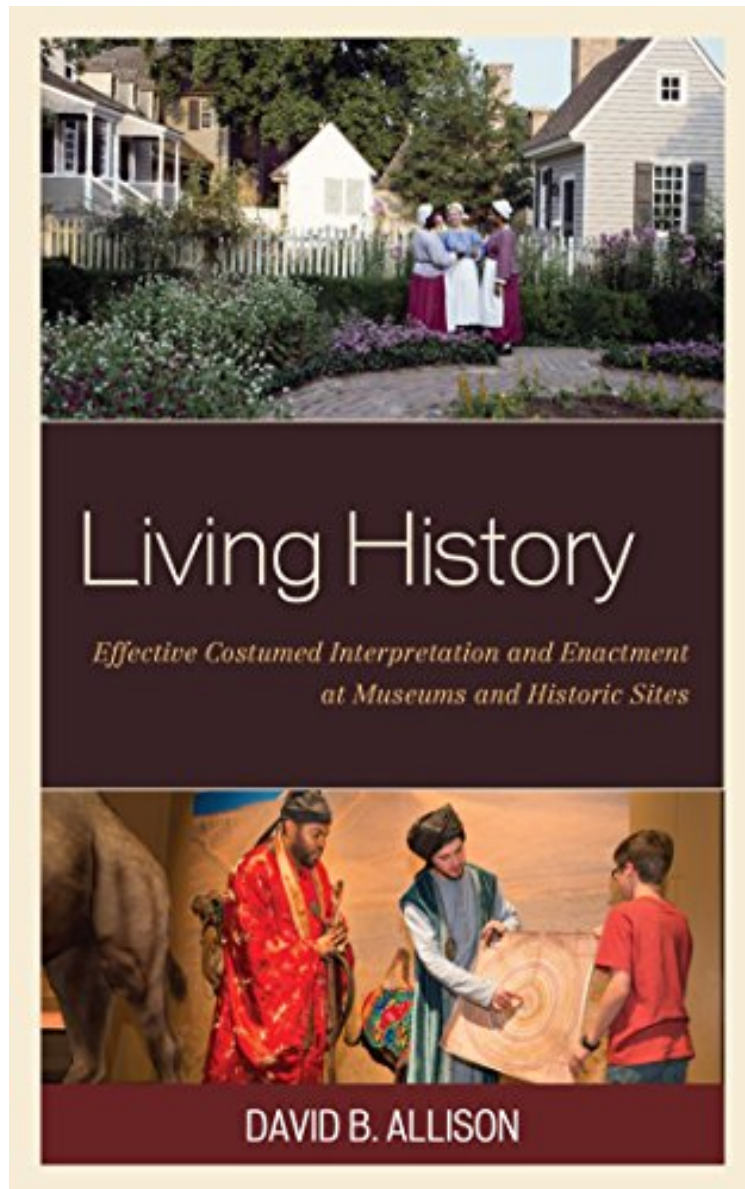


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Living History: Effective Costumed Interpretation and Enactment at Museums and Historic Sites (American Association for State and Local History)

David B. Allison

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David B. Allison : Living History: Effective Costumed Interpretation and Enactment at Museums and Historic Sites (American Association for State and Local History) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Living History: Effective Costumed Interpretation and Enactment at

Museums and Historic Sites (American Association for State and Local History):

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Engaging read - especially if you care about meaningfully connecting with museum audiences. By Kenneth. Wherever I've encountered David's writing (in this book, online, publications), I've found him lucid and insightful, plus witty too. This book is no exception. The book is packed with insights from a wide range of cultural institutions and has implications far beyond history museums. The clarity of writing paired with thoughtful analysis and keen insight makes this a book worth engaging. And he shows obvious respect for the reader: I found his introduction to be very audience-focused: suggesting different, non-linear paths for considering the insights in the book. A book that adds both information and (valuable) provocation to the field. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. A Must Read For Museum Professionals. By Customer. Reading Dave Allison's *Living History* is a delight. Dave pulls you in with the history and fascinating anecdotes (for example did you know that Walt Disney used Greenfield Village at The Henry Ford as inspiration for Disneyland?). He goes on to give fantastic examples of best practices in enactment now and to offer a road map for the future of person-dash;tondash;person interpretation at museums. More than that though, Dave uses the lens of living history and enactment to challenge those of us in the Museum field to "enter the fray." And I quote "Museums that have distinguished themselves, find inspiration anyway and listen to their audience everywhere, all the time." Dave's book is more a significant contribution to the field. I highly recommend it. Nancy Walsh, Vice President of Partnerships and Programs, Denver Museum of Nature Science. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Engaging and informative! By Taylor. I would highly recommend this book not only to those working in living history environments, but to all museum professionals. Dave brings a fresh approach to audience engagement by advocating that museums embrace entertainment strategies to further their educational goals. He also convincingly argues that living history remains a relevant and effective tool for building empathetic and personal connections with our past. Overall, this book is thoroughly researched, well written, insightful, and even humorous (I laughed out loud reading the chapter on living history in popular culture).

Engaging audiences through costumed staff at museums and historic sites is one of the most effective ways to interpret the past for a public used to multimedia presentations on their TVs and computers. Here, David Allison, who has worked at several museums known for effective enactments, provides the fascinating stories of three large living history museums as they adapt to changing audience expectations. a solid overview of the types of interpretation that living history museums use. best practices (and practices for you to avoid) from the reams of data and studies compiled by evaluators over the past 10 years. an exploration of the the intersection of public history, individual agency, and business imperatives at museums and historic sites. *Living History: Effective Costumed Interpretation and Enactment at Museums and Historic Sites* looks at the history of these compelling techniques, provides best practices and strategies for implementing them today, and provides a roadmap for the future of costumed interpretation.

Whatever you think of living history, this book offers a much-needed fresh look at the interpretive method and cautions that it must adapt to remain effective. Allison's voice of experience guides the reader through recent changes and his mixture of interviews, scholarship and personal anecdotes makes it an easy read. (Tim Grove, author of "A Grizzly in the Mail and Other Adventures in American History" and co-editor of "The Museum Educator's Manual") About the Author David Allison is Manager of Onsite Programs at the Denver Museum of Nature and Science. He helps to create and sustain high-quality shows and facilitated experiences for visitors of all ages. His most recent projects at the museum include writing and developing a new multimodal show on the science of flight. In addition, he works with a team of enactors who portray composite historical characters in the gallery halls and for temporary exhibits at the museum.