

AN ADVENTURE IN TIME - CHARACTERS

MATA HARI



“Life is nothing. Death is nothing. Everything is an illusion.”



“I was not content at home. . . I wanted to live like a colorful butterfly in the sun.”

Mata Hari was one of the most fascinating and infamous character in history. Born in the Netherlands, at age 18 she went to live with her husband in Java. Escaping her abusive marriage she fled to Paris and re-invented herself as an exotic dancer.

She quickly became one of the most famous and notorious figures of her age. In 1917 she was wrongly accused of spying for the Germans and was executed by the French military.



In our film, Emily, and the Professor are introduced to Mata Hari by T.E. Lawrence. They watch one of her passionate dance performances at the legendary Folies Bergère where she re-enacts the life and death of Cleopatra, and in doing so, foreshadows her own tragic betrayal and death.



"The dance is a poem of which every movement is a word."
Mata Hari

Mata Hari is intended to also feature as a major character in the sequel - 'An Adventure in Time - FuturePast' which is currently being written.

AN ADVENTURE IN TIME AN ORIGINAL FEATURE FILM



MATA HARI SCENES

Emily and Professor Wells have travelled back in time to 1914, where T.E. Lawrence (Ned) has arranged a meeting with Mata Hari

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INT. FOLIES BERGÈRE - EVE (1914)

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Emily, the Professor and Ned sit at a table near the stage. The AUDIENCE consists of revellers in various states of intoxication. There is a sense of luxurious decadence and an atmosphere of excited expectation.

The stage is decked out in the style of Ancient Egypt and is dominated by a gold-painted, ten-foot-tall pyramid.

The Professor sips at his drink and grins.

PROFESSOR

I've always wanted to try Absinthe.
Wow! It's got quite a kick.

EMILY

It's hard to believe there is a war
on.

NED

Different people have different
ways of coping with too much
reality.

The COMPERE takes the stage. He bows and there is a hush and a sense of excited anticipation.

COMPERE

Madames et Messieurs, Ladies and
Gentlemen, beyond our doors the
world rages and the wild winds
blow, but here tonight, at the
wonderful Folies Bergère, we offer
you a chance to escape the madness
and the tragedy.

Tonight, we will take you back in
time to another world - a world of
pagan magic and strange delight, a
world ruled by the greatest woman
of the ancient era - lover of
emperors, Queen of the Nile, ruler
of Egypt - the mighty Cleopatra!

The stage begins to be filled with swirling mist. The Audience applaud and cheer.

COMPERE (CONT'D)

And tonight Cleopatra's dance will
be performed by the greatest woman
of our era, the divine, the
extraordinary, the spectacular -
Mata Hari!

As the Compere makes his exit, the Orchestra builds to a crescendo as the pyramid is illuminated and slowly opens to reveal MATA HARI dressed as Cleopatra reclining upon a divan, while a coterie of scantily clad SLAVEGIRLS fan her with palm leaves.

Mata Hari rises from her divan and her SlaveGirls raise a semi-translucent screen in front of her and she begins to slowly undress.

The Audience are going wild.

Two SlaveGirls approach with a thin piece of elaborately decorated carpet in which they enfold Mata Hari/Cleopatra. A man dressed as JULIUS CAESAR walks onto the stage. He sits on the divan. Two of the Slavegirls approach carrying the carpet which they unfold at his feet, revealing Mata Hari/Cleopatra who then proceeds to dance for Caesar. He finds himself unable to resist her seduction.

Caesar kisses Mata Hari/Cleopatra and exits. She sits upon the divan and then MARC ANTHONY enters the stage. They dance an incongruous Tango.

EMILY

(whispers)

Alex would have loved this.

Marc Anthony exits the stage and Mata Hari/Cleopatra returns to the divan. A SlaveGirl enters carrying a basket. Mata Hari/Cleopatra opens the basket and removes a snake. She holds the snake to her breast and enacts a dance of death, finally dying upon the divan as the lights dim.

She is given a standing ovation as the stage is engulfed in swirling mist.

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INT. DRESSING ROOM, FOLIES BERGÈRE - EVE (1914)

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Mata Hari cleans off her make-up in the mirror. There is a discreet knock at the door.

MATA HARI

Entrer.

Ned, the Professor and Emily enter. Upon seeing Ned, Mata Hari leaps to her feet and embraces him.

MATA HARI (CONT'D)

My darling Ned, how delightful you look in your uniform. Almost like a fallen angel.

NED

So, good to meet you again. These are my friends, Emily and Professor Wells.

The Professor takes Mata Hari's hand and kisses it.

PROFESSOR

Your performance was truly outstanding - tragic and beautiful.

MATA HARI

Yes, but, is it not amazing how in history if a woman has power her life must be tragic - Cleopatra, Boadicea, Jean D'Arc, Marie Antoinette.

I am fortunate that I am not so powerful that anyone would ever desire to dispose of me.

The Professor looks momentarily pained.

MATA HARI (CONT.) (CONT'D)

Come, let us drink the finest Champagne and make plans for your grand adventure? A pinch of opium perhaps?

Mata Hari pours them each a glass of Champagne and they make themselves comfortable while she continues to remove her make-up.

PROFESSOR

I will have to politely decline the opium, I'm afraid. So, Ned has informed you of our proposed... adventure?

MATA HARI

Yes, it all sounds rather intriguing. I admire your wish to jump into the fire. I believe that if life is not an adventure then it is not worth living.

(MORE)

MATA HARI (CONT'D)
(pauses dramatically) I too have
travelled beyond enemy lines.

EMILY
Weren't you afraid of being
captured by the Germans?

MATA HARI
I love France and I love Germany.
If I can do something to make peace
between them, then I must try.

NED
Mata is intimately acquainted with
the military leaders on both sides
which makes her an extremely
valuable asset.

PROFESSOR
I would advise you to be very
cautious. These are dangerous and
treacherous times.

MATA HARI
I will not live in fear. Life is
nothing. Death is nothing. All is
illusion. Once you truly understand
that you can never be afraid again.

NED
An admirable philosophy.

MATA HARI
But now, to more practical matters.
It is not permitted for non-
military persons to travel within
France. The French police are
convinced that everyone is a German
spy.

PROFESSOR
Aren't you worried that you may be
accused of spying for the Germans?

Mata Hari laughs.

MATA HARI
How do you know I'm not a spy for
the French? Paris has given me
everything I ever desired. I would
never betray her.

PROFESSOR

Nonetheless, I would advise you to
be cautious.

MATA HARI

Caution be damned!

She opens a jewellery case and pulls out an envelope.

MATA HARI (CONT'D)

These are your new identities. Your
ambulance will be waiting for you
outside.

EMILY

Ambulance?

MATA HARI

Your disguise will be as a Doctor
and Nurse with the Red Cross. And
now I must bid you farewell - I
have a rendezvous with a certain
Colonel. Bon chance!