Fall 10-10-1994

Our Country's Good

Department of Theatre, Florida International University

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Our Country's Good
by
Timberlake Wertenbaker

based upon the novel The Playmaker by Thomas Keneally

Directed by Therald Todd

Costume Design ...Marilyn Skow  Scenic Design ...M.P. Amico
Lighting Design... Nicholas Scott  Stage Manager...Damaris Palma
Vocal Director ... Lesley-Ann Timlick

A Play in Two Acts

The Characters

Captain Arthur Phillip, RN ..................................... Michael Walters
Major Robbie Ross, RN ........................................ Paul J. Lobeck, Jr.
Captain David Collins, RM ................................... Boris Kievsky
Captain Watkin Tench, RM .................................... Rey Dabalsa
Captain Jemmy Campbell, RM ................................ Jose A. Lopez
Reverend Johnson .............................................. Lilly Bernal
Lieutenant George Johnston, RM .............................. Dawn Plummer
Lieutenant Will Dawes, RM .................................... Jennifer Smith
2nd Lieutenant Ralph Clark, RM .............................. Danny G. Pino
2nd Lieutenant William Faddy, RM .......................... Justine Chichester
Midshipman Harry Brewer, RN ................................ Jose A. Lopez
Aboriginal Australian ............................................ Mark Branche
John Arscott ...................................................... Rey Dabalsa
Dabby Bryant ..................................................... Justine Chichester
Black Caesar ....................................................... Mark Branche
Ketch Freeman .................................................... Paul J. Lobeck, Jr.
Liz Morden ......................................................... Jennifer Smith
Duckling Smith .................................................... Dawn Plummer
John Wisehammer ................................................. Michael Walters
Mary Brenham ..................................................... Lilly Bernal
Meg Long ............................................................. Jenny Kelchner
Robert Sideway .................................................... Boris Kievsky

Time: 1788/89
Place: Sidney, Australia
There will be one intermission

Our Country's Good is produced by special arrangement with Dramatic Publishing Company of Woodstock, Illinois.

This production is funded in part by FIU Student Government Association.

Florida International University
Department of Theatre and Dance Faculty

Dr. Therald Todd, Chair

Lee Brooke, Dance
Yyyone Daniel, Dance
Gary Lund, Dance
Wayne Robinson, Acting
Andrea Seidel, Dance
Lesley-Ann Timlick, Voice

Production Staff

Technical Director  E. Marcus Smith
Costumer  Vivienne Turkington
Scenic Artist  Nicholas Scott
Stage Manager  Damaris Palma
Assistant Stage Manager  Jennifer King
Assistant to the Lighting Designer  Emily Rose Olives
Lighting Board Operator  Shawnda Thomas
Lighting Crew  Technical Theatre Lab
Sound Operator  Amy Berson
Scenery/ Construction Properties  Technical Theatre Lab
Wardrobe Mistress  Gracie de Arellano, Aliya Killion
Costume Construction Assistants  Tara Paragian
Wardrobe Crew  Louise Petrine, David Eisenmann
Secretarial Staff  Jenny Kelchner, Thelma Gutierrez, Pascal Mayer
Costume Class and Construction Lab  Cystal Aleman
House Manager  P.R./ Management Lab
House Ushers  Theatre Appreciation
Technical Theatre Lab  Jennifer Fabre, Clint Hooper

Special Thanks to:
Bill Maguire, Lee Ann Hebert, and the FIU Publications Bureau.
The Background

In 1787, 11 vessels sailed from Portsmouth, England for Australia to establish a colony. Of the nearly 1,500 people on board, half were convicted criminals (564 men and 192 women.) The remainder included sailors and Royal marines to guard the convicts. The government authorities planning the venture knew little about the destination. Their only knowledge was from a short visit (paid 17 years before) by Captain Cook, the famed English explorer.

The journey was completed without loss of ship and with only 48 deaths (a very low figure, considering the miserable conditions). Cook's glowing reports about the place proved far from accurate. Colonists were forced to live on the limited and poor quality supplies brought from England. They faced continual hunger, miserable dwellings, a hostile environment and complete isolation from home.

On June 4, 1789, to enrich this bleak life, convict actors presented a play, the Restoration comedy The Recruiting Officer, under the direction of young Marine Lieutenant Ralph Clark. This surprising event served as the basis for Thomas Keneally's novel The Playmaker, which in turn inspired the author of Our Country's Good. Today we find parallels between this living history of 18th Century convicts and many of today's concerns, such as crime and criminals, the redemption of human beings, and hope.

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Eleemosynary..............................November 10 through 13
   by Lee Blessing
FIU Dance Ensemble..........................December 1 through 4
Bonjour, La Bonjour........................February 16 through 26
   by Michael Tremblay
The Taming of the Shrew........................April 20 through 30
   by William Shakespeare