

THE CRYPT SCHOOL
'A' LEVEL
DRAMA & THEATRE STUDIES



FOR JOHN WISEHAMMER
GLOUCESTER MAN

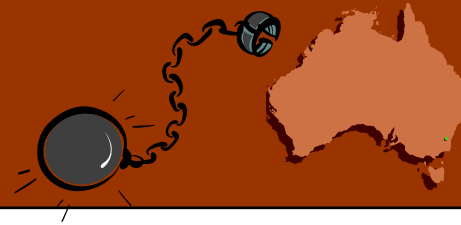
By Timberlake Wertenbaker

OUR COUNTRY'S GOOD



Thursday 2nd May 2013
6.00pm
The Drama Studio

Our Country's Good



Between 1787 and 1868 Britain exiled 160,000 convicts to Australia, mostly never to return.

The characters of the play are representative of the 'First Fleet' which arrived at Botany Bay after eight months at sea in January, 1788. the fleet of eleven vessels carried 1030 people including 548 male and 188 female convicts, under the command of Captain Arthur Phillip in the flagship Sirius.

The convicts were relatively young, average age twenty-seven, and mostly guilty of petty theft. You could be hanged in England for stealing anything worth more than two pounds.

Transportation was the answer to an extreme problem. The English prisons were full. Loss of the American colonies meant that convicts could no longer be sent to work on the plantations. Transportation allowed England to dump it's criminal class on the other side of the world, there to be forgotten, with the added advantage that returning ships could carry raw material home to equip the navy.

All the characters in the play can be found on the convict lists and naval records. The diaries of the officers confirm that 'The Recruiting Officer' was indeed the first play performed on Australian soil to celebrate the King's birthday in 1789.

CAPTAIN ARTHUR PHILLIPS
JOHN WISEHAMMER

Izabelle Butler

MAJOR ROBBIE ROSS
JAMES 'KETCH' FREEMAN

Nicole Riddick

CAPTAIN DAVID COLLINS
DABBY BRYANT

Natasha Smith

CAPTAIN WATKIN TENCH
LUCY 'DUCKLING' SMITH

Lucy Miners

CAPTAIN JEMMY CAMPBELL
ROBERT SIDEWAY / MEG LONG

Heather Nield

REVEREND JOHNSON
LIZ MORDEN

Racheal Hobbs

LIEUTENANT GEORGE JOHNSTON
MARY BRENHAM

Katie Overs

LIEUTENANT RALPH CLARKE

Sam Gaffney

MIDSHIPMAN HARRY BREWER
JOHN ARSCOTT

Daniel Lewis

The cast each play two roles one of captor, the other of convict. Ralph Clarke the catalyst for the play remains himself throughout. Emphasis is placed on overt theatricality throughout.

