About ChorIton Players...

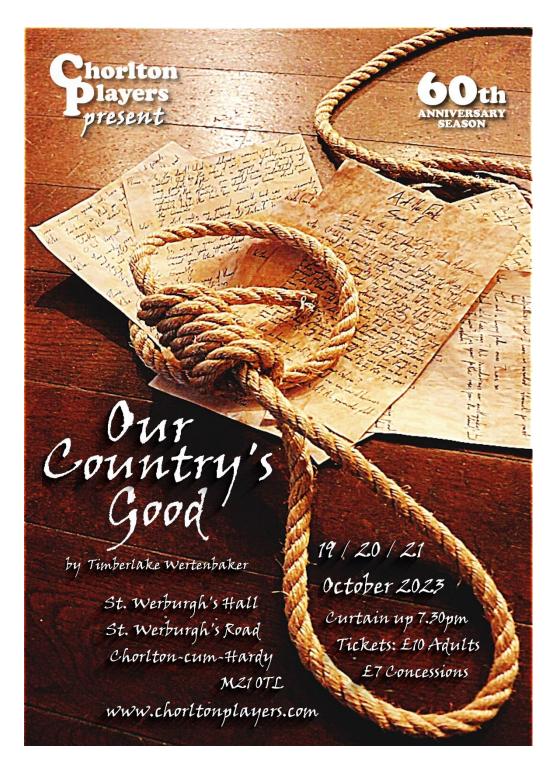
We are a community theatre group established in 1963. We put on five productions a season, including our pantomime in the New Year and a comedy revue. Our low-ticket prices reflect the fact that we are a not for profit group. We meet and rehearse at The Spread Eagle every Monday and Wednesday evening and we always welcome new members. You don't need any experience and it is not all about the acting. We are always in need of all the other talents it takes to put on productions: backstage, costumes, front of house, set building, audio-visuals, make-up, advertising etc.

WOULD YOU LIKE TO JOIN US? If you are interested in joining Chorlton Players just go to our website: www.chorltonplayers.com and email our membership secretary for further information at enquiries@chorltonplayers.com, come along to one of our rehearsals, or come and chat to us after this performance.

Keep in touch with us via our e-Newsletter...

To subscribe, just go to www.chorltonplayers.com and add your details to the Subscription Section at the bottom of the page. You can unsubscribe instantly any time. We promise to send you our newsletter packed with info worth announcing (no spam here!) and we promise to keep your details confidential... and keep up with us on Facebook and @chorltonplayers on Twitter and Instagram too!





I first encountered this play during my A-Level Theatre Studies course and two things immediately struck me. Firstly, the period of history in which it is set was unusual to me at the time, as it is an area often left unexplored and underexposed in media. The themes of the play that arise from the colonial setting bare great educational value and highlight how unjust Britain was as an Empire and the opportunity to depict historical figures on stage would be an interesting challenge for the actors.

Secondly, the sheer potential to stage this play in whatever imaginative way you could was a particularly magnetizing prospect. The playwrights, Timberlake Wertenbaker and Max Stafford-Clark took this play into prisons where they workshopped it with actual convicts; this lent greatly into the overarching theme of theatre as a redeeming force. I have sought to put this particular theme front and center by having the tyburn (gallows) as a stage upon which the convicts act and a variety of other set pieces throughout the show. This remains a persistent reminder of what the characters in the play are trying to find redemption from, and it becomes a much sweeter moment when the convicts finally perform the play they've worked hard to create in defiance of the consequences hanging literally over their heads.

Much like the convicts in the play, the cast and crew of this show have worked immensely hard to make this vision a reality. The effort they've made into sourcing and creating props for themselves, committing time to further research into their real-life characters and designing our complex, minimalist set have pulled together what I hope to be a truly wonderful show. Having each actor portray more than one character was another challenge; exploring each character was very important and the vivid differences in character that are presented on stage goes to show the full talent and range of the cast.

I'm immensely proud of all involved for the chance to put on a play I've always wanted to direct.

Cameron Steen, Director

CAST

2nd Lieutenant Ralph Clark Charlie de Santis Governor-in-Chief Arthur Phillip / John Wisehammer Tom Gilbert Mary Brenham / Reverend Johnson Hannah Crowe Major Robbie Ross / Ketch Freeman Rob Hall Captain David Collins / Robert Sideway Valiant Endeavour Captain Watkin Tench / John Arscott Charlie McCoy Liz Morden / Lieutenant Will Dawes Shara Blanchard Duckling Smith / Lieutenant George Johnston Alice Meadows Dabby Bryant / 2nd Lieutenant William Faddy Emma Evans Midshipman Harry Brewer / Captain Jemmy Campbell Rohan Shenov "Shitty" Meg Long Jean Hall The Aboriginal Australian (Voice Over) **Eunice Kamuanga**

CREW

Director Cameron Steen
Producer Stephen Lewyckyj
Technical Manager Annie Wallace
Technical Operator Tom Baker

Stage Manager/Stage Crew Louise Derby & Tom Patchett

Props Manager Jane Cheshire

Costume & Make Up Manager Alice Meadows

Publicity Stephen Lewyckyj

Photography Annie Wallace

Front of House Amy Williams & helpers

Thank you to Zoe Prax for providing the original aboriginal backdrops for the show. The backdrops were inspired by the imagery and styles found in aboriginal artworks, they are not intended to be artworks in their own right, and the creator has not benefitted financially from them. They were created only to give context and ambience to the scenes within the play.

Thank you to Chad's Theatre for all their help supplying our period costumes. For costume hire, contact: costumehire@chads.co.uk

Thank you to Valiant Endeavour for designing our Poster.

Finally, a big thank you to all the members and friends of Chorlton Players who have helped along the way.