

Our Country's Good – Visual Story

Act 1 Scene 1.

Scene name: The Voyage out. Setting: The Ship

We meet the convicts who are being transported to Australia. We see one, Robert Sideway, being flogged. **There is some extremely strong language early in this scene**



Act 1 Scene 2.

Scene name: A lone Aboriginal Australian describes the arrival of the first convict fleet.

Setting: Above Botany Bay

A lone Aboriginal Australian observes the arrival of the convicts



Act 1 Scene 3.

Scene name: Punishment. Setting: Sydney Cove

Senior Officers discuss the punishment of the convicts. Governor Phillip mentions that he would like the convicts to be offered more education and culture. **Gunshots are heard**



Act 1 Scene 4.

Scene name: The loneliness of man. Setting: Ralph's Tent

Ralph writes in his diary. Harry interrupts him. Ralph learns about Phillip's desire to educate the convicts. Ralph asks Harry to recommend him as the director of the play. Harry is worried about his health. **There is strong language in this scene.**



Act 1 Scene 5.

Scene name: An audition. Setting: A large tent

Mary auditions for the play – *The Recruiting Officer*. Dabby tries to get a part in the play too. Ralph has been asked to cast Liz Morden, a very violent convict. She arrives and takes one of the scripts away.



Act 1 Scene 6.

Scene name: The Authorities discuss the merits of the theatre. Setting: A large tent, near the Officer's Mess

The Governor and the Officers discuss the rights and wrongs of the convicts acting in a play. In the end Captain Collins takes a vote and recommends the play will go ahead. Some of the officers do not agree. **There are raised voices and angry exchanges in this scene**



Act 1 Scene 7.

Harry and Duckling go rowing. Setting: A rowing boat on the sea

Harry and Duckling, Harry's girlfriend, are rowing. Duckling is upset that Harry gives her no freedom and is very jealous. Harry suggests Duckling might be in Ralph's play. Duckling agrees. **Harry is physically aggressive towards Duckling in this scene**



Act 1 Scene 8.

Scene name: The women learn their lines. Setting: A large tent

Mary and Dabby learn their lines. Liz enters and demands that Mary teach her the lines. Dabby notices that Liz cannot read, and they fight. Ketch, the hangman, arrives and learns about the play. The women attack him. **Some mild levels of violence in this scene.**



Act 1 Scene 9.

Scene name: Ralph Clark tries to kiss his dear wife's picture. Setting: Ralph's tent
Ralph is writing in his diary. Ketch interrupts him to ask about being in the play.



Act 1 Scene 10.

Scene name: John Wisehammer and Mary Brenham exchange words. Setting: The edge of the woods

Mary is copying out the play. John Wisehammer talks to her. Mary suggests that, as he can also read and write, he might be in the play.



Act 1 Scene 11.

Scene name: The first rehearsal. Setting: A large tent

Ralph tries to rehearse the company, with mixed results! Major Ross and Capt Campbell arrive. Some of the convicts have used the rehearsal as a cover to escape. They arrest Cassandra, Wisehammer and Liz.



INTERVAL

Act 2 Scene 1.

Scene name: Visiting Hours. Setting: The Prison

Liz Morden has been sentenced to death. She tells Wisehammer her life's story. The others share their desires and frustrations. Sideways, Mary and Duckling arrive to rehearse the play.



Act 2 Scene 2.

Scene name: His Excellency Exhorts Ralph. Setting: The Governors tent

Phillip and Ralph discuss the play and its importance as a project for the new society in Australia. Ralph agrees to continue rehearsing.



Act 2 Scene 3.

Scene name: Harry Brewer sees the dead. Setting: Harry's tent

Harry Brewer's health has deteriorated, and he is hallucinating people he has hanged. Duckling hears his screams and tries to comfort him. **Harry is very distressed throughout this scene.**



Act 2 Scene 4.

Scene name: The Aborigine muses over the nature of dreams. Setting: Above Botany Bay
The Aboriginal is trying to understand these strange new people



Act 2 Scene 5.

Scene name: The Second Rehearsal. Setting: A large tent

Major Ross and Capt Campbell bring back the prisoners to rehearse. Ross will not leave. He mocks the play and humiliates some of the prisoners. **Scene contains aspects of humiliation**



Act 2 Scene 6.

Scene name: The Science of Hanging. Setting: The Prison

Ketch measures Liz before the hanging. Harry continues to hear voices. He has a fit and collapses.



The Aborigine appeals for answers to send the visitors away

Act 2 Scene 7.

Scene name: The Meaning of the Play. Setting: A large tent

The cast rehearse the play, with very mixed results. Wisehammer tries to convince Mary to be with him and not Ralph. Everyone is frustrated by the lack of progress. Mary will not rehearse with Ketch.



Act 2 Scene 8.

Scene name: Duckling makes a vow. Setting: Harry's Tent

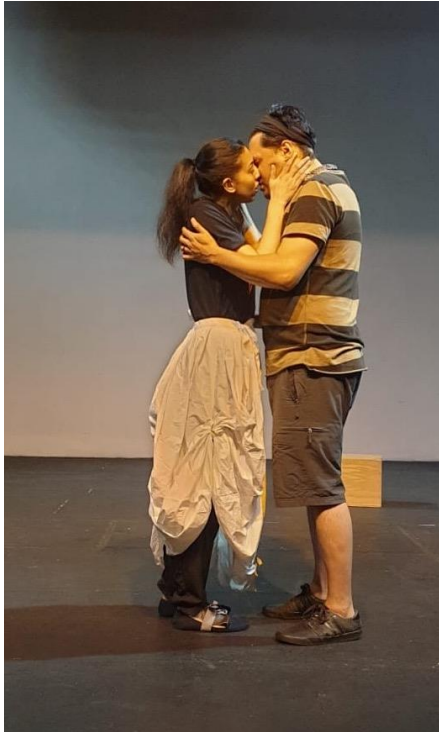
Harry is very ill. Duckling makes promises to him if he lives. Harry dies.



Act 2 Scene 9.

Scene Name: A Love Scene. Setting: The Beach

Mary is practising her lines. Ralph arrives. They discuss how Mary can act like a man in the play. Ralph confesses his love for her, and they begin to undress.



Act 2. Scene 10.

Scene name: The Question of Liz. Setting: The Governors tent

The officers discuss Liz Morden's sentence. She will not speak, but they are keen to ensure the sentence is just. Liz agrees to speak, and Phillip accepts her story. Phillip wishes for the play to go ahead With Liz involved.



Act 2 Scene 11.

Scene Name: Backstage. Setting: Backstage at the make-shift theatre

The Aborigine has become ill with smallpox and is dying.

The actors get ready to perform the play. Mary and Ralph are now together. At the end of the scene Arscott goes on stage to begin the play of *The Recruiting Officer*.



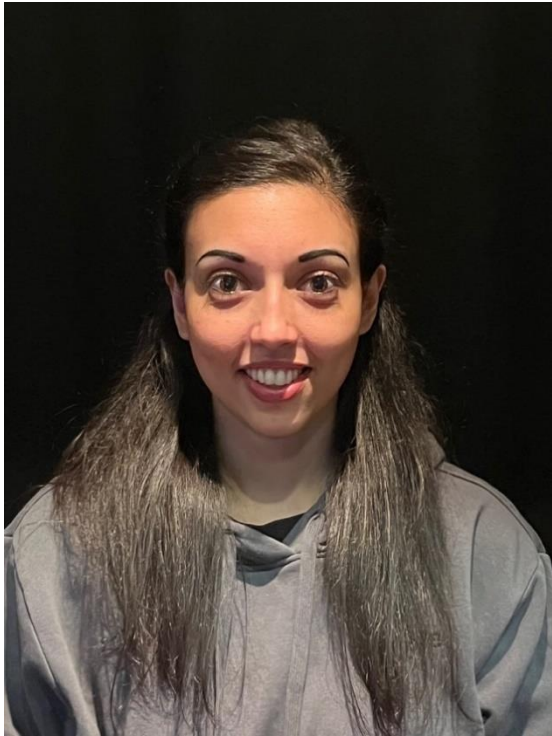
Characters



Duckling – One of the convict women. In a relationship with Harry Brewer

Meg Long – Known as *Shitty Meg*, an old and very smelly convict

Reverend Johnson – The Chaplain of the Colony



Mary Brenham – one of the convicts, she will play the main part (Sylvia) in the play the convicts put on. She falls in love with Ralph.



Harry Brewer – The Governor's right-hand man. Obsessed with the convict Duckling and wracked with guilt about the men he has hanged

Captain Jemmy Campbell – one of the officers initially opposed to the play. He seems drunk most of the time

John Arscott – An aggressive and loud convict he loves acting in the play



Second Lieutenant Ralph Clark – a young, ambitious, married officer who takes on the task of directing the play. He falls in love with Mary.



James 'Ketch' Freeman – the colony hangman, from Ireland.
Major Robbie Ross – The officer most strongly opposed to the play and most cruel in his treatment of the convicts



Liz Morden – the most difficult and violent women in the colony. Liz is cast in one of the lead roles in the convicts play at the request of the Governor

Lieutenant William Dawes – an officer fascinated with mapping the stars of the southern Hemisphere



Dabby Bryant – Mary's best friend. She is desperate to escape the convict and get back home to her beloved Devon



An Aboriginal Australian who talks to the audience and tries to understand these new visitors.

Cassandra – a Madagascan convict who uses the play as an alibi after a failed escape but eventually wants to be involved

Captain Watkin Tench – One of the most intelligent and respected officers who disagrees with the convicts putting on a play



Captain Arthur Phillip (Governor in Chief) – The man responsible for the colony. Phillip is keen to help the convicts to be rehabilitated not simply punished.

John Wisehammer – a Jewish convict who also falls in love with Mary. He also loves language and wants to be a writer.



Robert Sideway – an expert pickpocket and very, very keen actor who is desperate to be in the convicts play

Captain David Collins – the Colony's chief judge, a man in favour of the convicts putting on the play.