

Playstage  
Junior

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## Wish Me Luck



A World War II play with songs and images



Written by  
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## WISH ME LUCK

### Cast list

Riley

Eve

Grace

Narrators x 8

Douglas

Dorothy

Jimmy

Adult

Billeting officer

Aunty

Sally

Lady

Maid

Woman

Farmer

George

Local children x 3

Policeman

Mother

*(28 speaking parts plus Chicken Puppeteers and 2 Cows, plus non-speaking cast who could join in the songs)*

*Running time approximately 35 – 40 minutes.*

## Sounds and images

The play makes much use of sounds and images – all of which are easily obtainable. Below we give you internet links to resources that can help you put this show together.

### Examples of Images:

[http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/primaryhistory/world\\_war2/evacuation/](http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/primaryhistory/world_war2/evacuation/)

London blitz –

<https://www.bing.com/videos/search?q=ww2+blitz&&view=detail&mid=EA8C7ED8D96B8C926A6DEA8C7ED8D96B8C926A6D&FORM=VRDGAR>

“the great adventure” -

<https://www.bing.com/videos/search?q=ww2+evacuation&&view=detail&mid=4C7DAA109CDF3F4A21524C7DAA109CDF3F4A2152&FORM=VRDGAR>

### POSTER images:

<http://www.iwm.org.uk/collections/item/object/32468>

<http://www.iwm.org.uk/collections/item/object/32472>

### SOUNDS:

Steam train leaving, including whistle -

<http://freesound.org/people/keithpeter/sounds/125211/>

### SONGS:

We'll meet again -

<https://www.bing.com/search?q=song+we'll+meet+again&FORM=EDGNNT>

Run Rabbit - [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SXmk8dbFv\\_o](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SXmk8dbFv_o)

Lambeth Walk -

<https://www.bing.com/videos/search?q=song+lambeth+walk&view=detail&mid=5201B4537D9BD121B82E5201B4537D9BD121B82E&FORM=VIRE>

Wish me luck as you wave me goodbye -

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3QG24xNIFtc&feature=player\\_embedded](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3QG24xNIFtc&feature=player_embedded)

## WISH ME LUCK

### OPENING SCENE

*The set is a bare stage with (if possible) a large screen at the back of the stage where pictures are displayed. (If this is not possible then see our PRODUCTION NOTES for alternatives) These include photographs from World War 2 such as scenes of UK cities bombed. Film footage is also available through YouTube, Getty Images and BBC. NARRATORS are sat in a semi-circle at the back of the stage, on either side of the screen. "Wish me luck" in type is projected onto the screen on top of an original IMAGE from WW2.*

*SONG "We'll Meet again" while the audience are taking their seats.*

*(EVE, RILEY and GRACE are children from modern times. RILEY enters. Signalling to the others with his hand. They should not be there and are creeping along on the look-out in case they are caught.)*

RILEY (*whispering*)

Come on you two, look what I've found

EVE (*following. whispering*)

I don't know if we should, Riley. We've never been up here before. Don't you think we ought to ask first?

RILEY

No way! What if they say we have to go back downstairs again and have to sit and be bored waiting for all the adults to talk to each other?

GRACE (*catching up*)

What is it Riley? What have you found?

RILEY

It's a doorway. I wonder where it leads?

GRACE

Go on then, I dare you. Open it.

RILEY *(looking at the others)*

Whatcha think, Grace? Shall I?

EVE

I still think you ought to ask first.

RILEY

You go back downstairs then, Eve. I'm going in!

GRACE

Come on, Eve! Don't be a scaredy cat!

EVE *(reluctantly)*

Go on then.

RILEY

Looks like it hasn't been opened for a long time.

*(RILEY mimes struggling to open a small door. Eventually it gives in and all three children, who are standing very close together, fall through the door and onto the floor on the other side.)*

RILEY

Woah, steady!

*(The children pick themselves off and dust themselves down)*

GRACE

It's so dusty. Looks like no one's been in here for ages.

EVE

Perhaps *we* shouldn't be in here, Grace. *(pause. Looking around)* It's scary!

GRACE

There's certainly a lot of dust and cobwebs.

RILEY

It must have been standing empty for decades.

GRACE

Maybe we'll find some treasure?

EVE

Why would anyone want to keep this room all locked up?

RILEY

Maybe there's something to hide in here. Some hidden secret!

GRACE

Maybe it *is* treasure!

EVE

Do you think?

GRACE

Let's see what's in this box.

*(She moves towards a box on the floor and reluctantly pulls out a large paper label)*

GRACE

Look, it's a label or something. It's got writing on it ... it's a bit faded but I think I can just make out what it says ... *(reading)* "Dorothy Bland, Rosemount Primary School, London."

EVE

Curious .... I wonder who Dorothy Bland is?

GRACE *(pulling out a photo from the box)*

Or was. Maybe this is her? *(she shows the others the photo)*

EVE

Looks like it was taken a long time ago, the photo has faded.

RILEY

And it's *really* small!

GRACE

She's just a little girl. And she's holding something in her hand. Looks like a box.

RILEY

I wonder if it's this?

*(He pulls out a smaller box and opens it. It contains a gas mask. He holds it up to show the girls)*

EVE

What on earth is that, Riley? It looks like something from another planet!

RILEY

Or another time, more like. I think it's a gas mask.

EVE

A gas mask? What's that for?

RILEY

It's not something we have these days, I think it came from the war.

GRACE

Which war? There were two...

RILEY

The second world war, I think.

EVE

So, do you think we've opened a box of stuff from the war time then?

RILEY

Maybe

EVE

And these things belonged to someone called Dorothy Bland?

GRACE

If she was a child in the war, I wonder where she is now ....

*(The three children gather round and look down at the photo. As they do, the AIR RAID SIREN comes on with SOUND FX of bombing and aircraft. The screen shows either moving scenes or still photos of the destruction of war on UK cities such as*

*London. The children exit. NARRATOR 1 enters and stands at the side of the stage.)*

NARRATOR 1

World War Two broke out in 1939. Big cities were bombed by enemy aircraft, destroying buildings and starting fires.

*(As Sound FX continue, DOROTHY, DOUGLAS and JIMMY come on stage. They are children from WW2, dressed in clothes typical of the time, hats, coats and boxes around their necks which contain gas masks. DONALD is holding a torch.)*

DOUGLAS

Come on, Dorothy, this way! Quick! Mind yourself. I'll get you home soon.

*(The children move from one side of the stage to the other. DOUGLAS scanning the area with his torch)*

DOROTHY *(confused, she stops centre stage)*

Hang on a minute, I'm not sure we're heading in the right direction.

JIMMY

Where are we?

DOUGLAS

I thought we were home

JIMMY *(looking around)*

But there's nothing here but a pile of rubble

*(Sound of bomb. Children duck)*

ADULT *(entering)*

Oi! You kids, whatcha doing here? It's not safe, go home!



DOUGLAS

But we thought this *was* home. We must have got lost.

ADULT

Acacia Drive?

DOUGLAS

Yes.

ADULT

It's been destroyed. You'd better get yourselves to safety. And quick!

*(The children look at each other, scared. They FREEZE in position then move off as NARRATOR 2 enters and speaks.)*

*(PHOTO on screen is of a bombed city)*

NARRATOR 2

Many homes were bombed. There were signs of war all around.

NARRATOR 1

In September 1939, operation Pied Piper became the largest evacuation of people ever attempted. Most of these were children who were sent away from the cities to the safety of the countryside.

*(POSTERS projected onto screen - "Children are safer in the country, leave them there". Then, "Mothers, lets them go" and "Leave Hitler to me Sonny, You ought to be out of London".)*

*(As NARRATOR 1 speaks, children come on the stage, dressed in their coats. They have large labels round their necks with their name and school name on it and they all carry a box containing a gas mask. The CHILDREN include DOROTHY, DOUGLAS, JIMMY as well as other CAST members dressed ready for a journey.)*

NARRATOR 2

Two million children were evacuated in the first few weeks of the war.

NARRATOR 1

Most of these were taken by train and did not know where they were going.

NARRATOR 2

Many of these children had never been out of the city before.

NARRATOR 1

Nor been away from home.

*(NARRATORS exit).*

SCENE 2 - Railway station.

*(SOUND of steam train whistle, hissing and moving away. The children gather in a straggly line across the stage)*

BILLETING OFFICER *(enters and blows a whistle. Addressing the children)*

Come along now, get yourselves in line. Look smart!

*(The children try and sort themselves into a line. ADULTS come on. There's general chaos and business. SOUNDS of trains)*

AUNTY

Poor little blighters.

WOMAN 1

I don't want a boy, girls are much easier.

FARMER 1

No use to me in the fields. I want a strong lad and put him to work.

AUNTY

I'll take as many as I can fit in, poor little things. *(DOUGLAS & JIMMY are passed over to her by the BILLETING OFFICER)*

LADY

I'd rather not have any of them.

BILLETING OFFICER

You have to take a child, by law, madam.

LADY *(pointing at DOROTHY)*

Then I'll take that one ....

*(A look of horror on the faces of DOROTHY, DOUGLAS & JIMMY as the BILLETING OFFICER passes DOROTHY to LADY. FREEZE positions.)*

NARRATOR 3 (*entering*)

And, so, a new life in the country began.

*(Unfreeze, ALL exit, DOROTHY being led off one way by LADY and the BOYS with AUNTY, the other way.)*

NARRATOR 4 (*entering*)

Some children, from the slums of the big cities, would be transformed by living in the countryside and would come back, as adults, to work on the land.

NARRATOR 3

Other children would have unpleasant experiences or they would be so homesick that no amount of kindness would make up for the experience of being away from their familiar homes.

*(The two NARRATORS exit.)*

SCENE 3– AUNTY's house.

*STAGE HANDS bring on a table and position it on one side of the stage. They also bring on a bed and place it in a corner. (SEE PRODUCTION NOTES) GEORGE (in his pyjamas) comes in, lays down and rolls himself under the bed.*

*DOUGLAS & JIMMY (in their pyjamas) come in and sit at the table. SALLY, who is part of AUNTY'S family, comes in and lays the table the table. AUNTY comes in.*

AUNTY

Come along, boys, eat up

*(JIMMY stares at his plate but doesn't actually eat.)*

AUNTY *(to DOUGLAS)*

What's wrong with him? Why isn't he eating?

DOUGLAS

He's never seen an egg before, Miss. We only have powdered egg in our house.

AUNTY

Oh, I see! Well, these eggs have come directly from Harriett and Blossom.

JIMMY

Harriet and Blossom?

SALLY

Our chickens!

AUNTY

We have fresh eggs from our girls every day. They keep us well supplied. Eat up before they get cold

JIMMY

Thank you, miss *(he starts to eat)*

AUNTY

You can call me Aunty.

JIMMY

Thank you ... Aunty.

AUNTY

After tea we'll get you to bed. You must be very tired after such a long trip.

JIMMY & DOUGLAS

Yes, miss.

*(AUNTY pretends to be cross)*

AUNTY

What did I say you were to call me?

JIMMY & DOUGLAS

Sorry, Aunty.

AUNTY

That's better. You're at home now, boys. My own boys are away at war (*she takes a photo out of her apron pocket and looks lovingly at it. Then she shows it to JIMMY & DOUGLAS*). Look, there they are. So smart in their uniforms. Won't be long before they're home on leave. (*She sighs*) Righto, up to bed you two! Then you can get up early in the morning and help Sally feed the chickens.

SALLY

And the cows.

DOUGLAS

Cows?

SALLY

Yes, cows. We are on a farm you know!

*(DOUGLAS looks down, embarrassed)*

AUNTY

Don't worry, Douglas, you'll soon get the hang of it. Come on then, in bed now.

*(she takes a lamp from the table and walks to where there is a bed made up.*

*JIMMY & DOUGLAS follow her. AUNTY puts the lamp down on the side of the bed)*

AUNTY

You can come out George. *(Pause)*. George. I said, you can come out.

*(GEORGE rolls out from under the bed)*

AUNTY

I've told you before, you don't need to sleep under the bed anymore, George.

GEORGE

But it's what I'm used to miss .... Aunty.

AUNTY *(turning to JIMMY & DOUGLAS)*

George has also come to stay with us from the city. He's used to sleeping under the bed for safety.

GEORGE

In case there's any bombs, see?

AUNTY

Well, we don't get bombs here, George. You can sleep well, and *in* the bed, not under it.

*(GEORGE gets into bed)*

AUNTY

I'll leave you boys to it. Get some sleep, we get us nice and early here on the farm.

Good night. Come along Sally. *(AUNTY and SALLY leave)*.

DOUGLAS (*putting out his hand to GEORGE to shake*)

Hello, my name's Doug and he's Jimmy.

GEORGE (*shaking hands*)

Hello, I'm George.

*(End of sample)*