

“HOME FRONT WEDDING”

PERFORMANCE DATES SEPTEMBER 21ST AND 22ND SEPTEMBER 2025 19.30

WITH A TEA PARTY ON SUNDAY 23RD AT 2.30PM

- **May 8th 1945:** German Colonel General Alfred Jodl signed Germany's surrender in Reims, France. **VE Day**
- **August 15th 1945:** The Japanese surrendered
- **September 2nd 1945:** Japanese officials signed the Instrument of Surrender aboard the USS Missouri in Tokyo Bay, Japan. This day is known as Victory over Japan Day **VJ Day.**

“Home Front Wedding” commemorates and celebrates all those who lifted morale at home whilst the servicemen were posted abroad, in some cases for the duration.

- **Working in factories:** Women and children took on jobs that were usually done by men, making things needed for the war.
- **There is a scene for factory girls with dialogue and singing**
- **Rationing:** The government implemented rationing. Housewives had the job of making do with what they had. If there was a special event looming rations would be saved so a treat could be served if it was a big event such as a wedding neighbours would chip in. Queueing was the order of the day at the shops and many hours were spent just simply standing in a queue, oft times not even knowing what was on sale because the queues were so long!
- **There is a baking demonstration in which a ration fruit cake is made. All the ladies can be part of this. Limited script**
- **Air raid shelters:** Many families had their own air raid shelters but some used the public ones provided by the government. There neighbours would meet neighbours and chat about what was happening and inevitably someone would start singing and soon there would be a singalong. The Black Out: The government implemented the Black Out all houses had to put up black out curtains in their homes and if any light should be shining from their houses the ARP wardens who patrolled the streets could be heard shouting, ‘PUT THAT LIGHT OUT’.
- **The show opens with the famous words PUT THAT LIGHT OUT. THE CAST GO INTO THE AIR RAID SHELTER. DIALOGUE AND SONGS**
- **Gas masks:** The government provided gas masks and it was illegal not to carry one. Children and babies had their own.
- **Evacuation:** The government implemented evacuation plans and many children were sent to the country. For most of them it was the first time they had been separated from their families and it was a painful experience. Some brothers and sisters were unable to be kept together because hosts did not have enough room.
- **Evacuation scene with children**

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- **Morale boosting:** The government closed cinemas temporarily when war was first declared but soon realised that films were morale boosting. Every week in Britain, between 25 and 30 million cinema tickets were sold. The epic American film “Gone With The Wind” was the smash hit of the war.
- **The very famous final scene of the film will be played. Scarlet O’Hara and Rhett Butler portrayed**
- Most people had a wireless set and would sit around it listening to the latest war news, but also enjoying the comedy and music programmes. *ITMA* (Its That Man Again, referring to Hitler) was an important contributor to British morale during the World War 2 with its cheerful take on the day-to-day preoccupations of the British public. Naturally one of the most popular programmes of the day was Vera Lynn hosting her own BBC program called Sincerely Yours.
There will be scene from ITMA and maybe a song or 2 from Vera Lynn on the “radio”
- Naturally people still married during the war particularly when servicemen were leaving for foreign parts, but also many weddings would be planned for when they came home again. Clothes had to be made over and wedding cakes had to be made. With the help of friends and neighbours these memorable events were managed admirably and one thing is sure people had not forgotten how to laugh or sing.

There is a play running through the show involving the family of the bride. Mother father children. There is an “entertainment evening” within the show where the cast are playing the local people entertaining each other in the local village hall with songs and recitations. Everyone will take part in this scene as audience and those singing or reciting.

The show’s finale is the wedding with lots of fun and singing.

The show will be run in conjunction with the British Legion and we shall have buckets out for the audience to donate towards the cause. I am hoping that we shall have 4 servicemen or women each night as our guests.

This is a show that I hope will be lots of fun, nostalgic for some and new for others

There are several speaking parts and all ages are welcome. Naturally there is quite a lot of singing and the audience are invited to singalong with the cast. There will be no formal auditions, but we may have a read through just to hear voices for some roles. We need a

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chorus to sing and do some acting. The whole idea is that it should be good fun whilst celebrating the lives of our parents, grandparents and great grandparents to whom we all owe so much.

As far as rehearsals are concerned, it will not be necessary to have everyone there for every rehearsal. Quite a lot of the learning can be done at home because some of the performances will be solos of music hall acts of the time. The chorus singing obviously will need rehearsing but once a week should be fine. The sketches and acting roles will require rehearsing but again we shall attempt to keep them to a minimum. The hard work will come when we put the show together but it is not a very long piece. We shall try to start rehearsals in July before the school holidays. Woodford Players do not have set nights for rehearsing.

On the Sunday afternoon it would be lovely if those who had been involved with the production came to the Tea Party to help with serving. Of course we shall be having another singalong!

If you feel you would like to be part of “Home Front Wedding”, and we hope you will, please contact Barbara Harris at ritchie.barbara3@gmail.com or text/whatsapp 0785457006.

Please indicate whether you would like to be considered for a speaking role or to be in the chorus. It would also be useful to know who is happy to sing solos. If you are new to Woodford Players please indicate the sort of stage work you have done before or indeed if you are new to theatre.

Looking forward to hearing from you. BH