



Waipukurau Little Theatre presents

Female Transport

By Steve Gooch



Directed by Josephine Carpenter

15th - 24th April 2004

Content may offend

THE MEN:

SARGE

Don Donner

TOMMY

Eddie Spargo

CAPTAIN

Lindsey Bishop

SURGEON

Owen Potter



The play is set on the ship 'Sydney Cove'.

The time is 1790. The time the play covers is the 6 months of the voyage from London to Botany Bay, Sydney Australia.

DIRECTORS NOTES

Between 1788 -1853 a total of 162,119 people, 25,256 of them women, were transported as convicts by the British Government to Australia and Norfolk Island.

This solution to over-crowded jails in England was the result of a series of social and political events.

At the time this play is set - 1790, the reigning monarch was George III (depicted in the film 'The madness of King George').



In 1783, 130,000 men returned from fighting in the American civil war, which put many women out of work. In 1785, Prime Minister Pitt taxed female maid servants over the age of 15yrs which had the effect of putting them out of work. It was estimated that in 1786 there were 50,000 'common women' in London alone.

The justice system at the time had a different code of punishment for women than for men — ‘transportation beyond the seas’ for women felons was the only sentence available apart from death.



However the government of the time was also anxious to populate its large new colony. There were few volunteers among the ‘free men’ to emigrate, so the convicts had another use.

In 1787 ‘Governor Philips of Australia sent a message back to England to ask for basic needs,’ “more food, more skilled men and more females,” in that order... “without sufficient women it is impossible to preserve the colony from grave irregularities”.

This play is firmly based on the actual voyage of the “Lady Juliana” which sailed from London with a load of convict women in 1790.



The characters of Charlotte, Nance, Pitty and Sarah are based on real women who sailed on this ship. Several of the events in the play such as the punishments, are historically accurate.

Both the play and this interpretation of it endeavour to capture the realism of life aboard ship with its cramped, unhealthy and harsh conditions.

CREW.

DIRECTOR

Josephine Carpenter

Stage Manager

Rosemary Carpenter

Lighting /Sound

Michael Nairn

Kathryn Bird

Robin Barker

Music (composition and arrangement)

Peter Charlton Jones

Set Design

Tim Carpenter

Set Builders

Bruce Poole

Lindsey Bishop

Derek Prior

Owen Potter

Max Chatfield

Set Painters

Hazel Knight (scenery)

Gill Mullins

Don Donner

Rae Walker

Tom Munden

Caroline von Dadelszen

Properties

Tom Munden(props master)

Caroline von Dadelszen

Dan von Dadelszen

Wardrobe Design

Elizabeth Carpenter

Wardrobe

Caroline von Dadelszen

Sue Marshall

Marg Hewitt

Elizabeth Carpenter

Kathryn Gunson

Prompt

Michelle Monk

Backstage/Make-up

Elizabeth Carpenter

Poster Design

Tess McSherry

Publicity

Marg Hewitt

Programme

Lindsey Bishop

Joan Chatfield

Tickets

Joan Chatfield

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- **Central Hawkes Bay College.**
- **B-Line Rigging**
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