

We'll Meet Again

Junior Script

by

Keith Dawson & Gawen
Robinson

Ideal Cast Size 70

Speaking Roles 48

Minimum Cast Size 36

Duration (minutes) 60

ISBN: 978 1 84237 121 3

Published by

Musicline Publications

P.O. Box 15632

Tamworth

Staffordshire

B78 2DP

01827 281 431

www.musiclinedirect.com

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PRODUCTION NOTES

The show has moments of joy and sadness, hilarity and pathos as so many emotions were fired with the situation that the parents and children faced daily during the blitz. Researching the topic will enable the children to understand these emotions and enhance their performance.

Costume

Obviously, the show is set in 1939 and all costume should be relevant to that time. Watch out for children wearing socks with designer labels showing. Fancy hair-bands and scrunchies didn't exist! Ribbon did. The City Kids' clothes should be suitably distressed to look well-worn except for the evacuation scene when some will have been turned out in their Sunday best. In Scene One, at the start, if you are going for live cameo appearances then a selection of Army and Sailor uniforms are required along with basic items such as kitbags or rucksacks of the period.

Setting

No two schools are the same, so you need to adapt the setting of the show to suit your circumstances and resources.

Scene One: A Classroom Somewhere In London

The opening scene which sets the feeling at the start of the war can be done using Pathé Newsreel clips from the time or could be done using cameo settings around the stage or even the auditorium, thus engaging the audience in the action. The main scene is set in the classroom. There is no particular time frame set for this scene; it just sets the mood.

Scene Two: Evacuation

This scene starts with the PM's speech declaring war and could be a recording of the actual speech or an actor speaking from behind the scenes or even set to one side of the stage. The speech, as well as being fundamental to the story, sets the date for this scene and the start of the story, and allows Scene Two to be set at the same time. When the Government Minister begins his speech, it could be done from in front of the main tabs and to one side while the gathered family sit on the opposite side of the stage (again in front of the main tabs) listening intently to the broadcast on the radio. Two focussed spots (one on each scene) are all that is needed to focus attention. At the end of the Minister's speech the lights come up on the (now set) scene at the station. It could depict a few buses lined up outside a station or could be the platform of a large railway station. The Children could depart from this scene through the auditorium at the end of the scene allowing crew to set the next scene.

Scene Three: The Arrival

The scene is set in a village hall, with a small stage area for the selection to take place on. It is a basic village or church hall, similar to that seen in 'Dad's Army' but with the addition of the stage area if possible. By elevating the Evacuees in this way it enhances the humiliation that the Children felt when subjected to this degrading scrutiny and 'cattle market' scenario. So as not to get too heavy on this, Track 11 – I'll Take That One, is a light-hearted, glimpse.

Scene Four: Schooldays

This scene has an impression of the exterior of the school building on the backcloth. The children are in the playground. Track 12 is light-hearted and indicates the fact that the children have already forgotten about the blitz and settled into their prolonged holiday away from home. It is the early days of the evacuation. Track 13 should not leave a dry eye in the house! The first verse is pure bravado as Margaret doesn't know what to write. As she thinks about her circumstances, we see the change in her mood (verse 2) and the true emotion manifests itself overwhelmingly in the last verse – milk it!!

Scene Five: Back Home

The tabs should open to reveal the inside of an Anderson shelter. If resources don't allow for a full scene here, perhaps a few props about could indicate the setting.

Scene Six: Somewhere In Wales

The scene is set in South Wales in a typical war time village. The 'Bathnight Blues' song should have routine in it with a zinc bath being brought on and jugs (of water), scrubbing brush etc. to highlight the comedy of the song.

Scene Seven: Armistice

This scene closes the show with the Armistice in 1945. Set in a church hall or in the middle of a road, it is the setting for a large street party. It must contrast the previous scenes by the amount of decoration that has been put up and the relief felt now that the war is over. Despite the lack of provisions and the austerity felt, it must be strongly up-beat. The last song (reprise of the opening song) should be a big number and could include the audience by providing a song sheet with the lyrics.