



RISING SUN

A Musical by Tim J Spencer

SCRIPT

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CHARACTERS

Theresa - Age 45

Nell - Age 52

Sarah - Age 26

Abby - Age 32

Connie - An Orphan, aged 14

Dottie - Age 35

Meg - Age 42

Sian - Sister of Sarah, age 29

Mary - Daughter of Nell, age 15

Cathy - Age 37

Edna - Age 31

Rachel - Age 27



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A MUSICAL BY TIM J. SPENCER

This version of Rising Sun was first performed at
The Talisman Theatre, Kenilworth, UK from
12th-16th July 1997

NELL	Adele Buckley
THERESA	Sarah Meacham
ABBY	Felicity Devlin
MEG	Charlotte Murphy
RACHEL	JoAnn Bradley
SIAN	Kym Bradley
SARAH	Caroline Poynter
EDNA	Sarah Wilson
DOTTIE	Sally Hancock
CATHY	Becky Sweeney
MARY	Naomi Said
CONNIE	Hannah Poynter

WARNING

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SONGLIST

- | | |
|----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1. Hell | All (except Edna) |
| 2. Fairy Story | Edna |
| 3. A Day in Your Life | Theresa/Meg/Nell/Cathy/Mary |
| 4. I Remember | All |
| 5. The Traitor Within | Theresa |
| 6. He's a Man | Abby |
| 7. Fight to Live | Rachel/Nell/All |
| 8. Traitor in Disguise | Cathy/Dottie/Edna |
| 9. Hymn | Nell/Mary |
| 10. That Night on the Sand | Sarah/Sian |
| 11. The Life we had | Meg/Theresa |
| 12. Back Home | Abby |
| 13. Maybe we were wrong | All (except Abby) |
| 14. One of Us | All (except Abby) |
| 15. Pie Jesu | Mary |
| 16. Somewhere | Nell/All (except Abby) |
| 17. This is the Moment | All (Except Abby) |
| 18. Finale (Somewhere) | All (Except Abby) |

RISING SUN

August 1945

The war in Japan has been raging for four years since the Japanese bombing of Pearl Harbor. This story takes place in a Women's Prisoner of War Camp in Burma with the culmination being two weeks after the Japanese had surrendered. Our story covers the final five days of the women's internment. Therefore none of these events would have happened if communications were as they are today. Most of the World knew the war was over before our first word is spoken. Most of the twelve characters here have been imprisoned for at least a year, some as long as three. The twelfth character, Edna, arrives at the camp during the first scene. Her husband has just been executed as she has been transferred here from the multi sex prison further north to the all women's camp here.

SCENE ONE – The dormitory and outside, the Tenko

[6am. The girls, in their wooden shack of a dormitory, wake and prepare for the morning roll call, The Tenko, a scene which can result in the death of anyone for the smallest 'crime']

Song 1 – Hell

All :

[Gradually waking and preparing themselves for the day]

***Heat, sun, burning through your soul
Life, love, forgotten through it all
Take your body, let it fall
Lucifer holds your fear***

***Death, war, burns into your mind
Sweat, tears, living of a kind
No way out for all of time
Satan is all too near***

***This is
Hell, Hell, Hell, Hell
This is Hell***

*Endless time, lost the will to live
Mindless fight, lost your soul to give
No sign, your heart is always hidden
In a searing wall of dust*

*Sand, death, lives you'd always planned
Tears, blood, scared to make a stand
Lost here, far from any land
No-one left to trust*

*This is
Hell, Hell, Hell, Hell
This is Hell*

Nell : Roll Call.

Meg : Make yourselves tidy girls

Abby : Six o'clock every morning, can't they give us one for a lie in?

Mary : At least we get to see the dawn.

Abby : Great! It looks the same every day. The sun's big and bright. It's always there. What happened to the night?

Nell : You're supposed to sleep through the dark?

Theresa : When did you last do that Nell?

Meg : Come on girls. Today!!

Nell : They'll dock the privileges.

Abby : The privileges, yeah wonderful. The honour to piss in the corner and to eat rice, rice and more rice.

Nell : Abby!

Abby : Well, what do you expect? Always keep in tow, do as you're told. Be here! Do this!

Meg : Oh Abby, cut the whinging and move.

All : *Roll Call, Quiet form a line
Stand straight, anything's a crime.
Sun's heat, stuck in Summertime
Each person holds their own.*

[The girls form two lines at the front of the stage looking directly out to the audience, for the roll call or Tenko, from where the voice of the Governor emanates. He is heard over the loudspeaker as if standing at the back of the auditorium. The girls are attentive and scared as this person could end any of their lives if he chooses]

[The Governor is in charge of the camp. He is authoritarian and military. These women, who surrendered, are the scum of the Earth. It is dishonourable to surrender to the enemy. He spouts propaganda at the ladies, who are all very obviously terrified of him]

Governor: The glorious Japanese army has been victorious again. The battles in the North have seen the Allied scum pushed back. They have had many casualties. Reports say the war will soon be over with the glorious Japanese Army the victors. Face facts ladies. Soon you will be the property of the Japanese Government. Then life may not be so kind.

Abby: *(Aside)* Like it's rosy at the moment.

[Nell passes a quick glance, but she is too late]

Governor: *(Angered)* Silence! We treat you well here but I am not adverse to ending your lives, each and every one of you. You ladies will never realise what we think of you. It is better to die with honour rather than humiliate yourselves with surrender. You mean nothing. It would give me great pleasure to kill you all. But there are rules in war and until we are told otherwise we are not permitted to shoot you unless you commit a crime. So today ladies your future looks unsettled should we say.

Roll Call. Six this evening. That is all.

[The girls disperse hurriedly to their work. As they do another lady, Edna arrives into the scene]

SCENE TWO – Outside the dormitory

[Edna arrives from another camp. In the past week she has seen her husband killed at the camp, further north, which is multi-sex camp. She has now been moved to this all female one. She has only been in captivity a matter of days so is noticeably cleaner than the other girls. Instantly Connie and Mary, the two youngsters, head for her. She is a newcomer and this is of great interest to them. This is close to excitement as the two young teenagers ever get, a new face]

[Like a nursery rhyme chant this is obviously something they subject all newcomers to upon their first meeting]

Mary : She's new.

Connie : Indeed.

Mary : One of us?

Connie : Agreed

Mary : What's your story?

Connie : What's your story?

Both : We demand to know your story.

[Edna is surprised and weary but talks to the youngsters]

Edna : Who are you?

Connie : I'm Connie and this is my friend, Mary.

Mary : Pleased to meet you. What's your name?

Edna : Edna. *(then slightly concerned)* Shouldn't you be busy?

Connie : We have a break this morning. 'Youngers' don't have to work until later.

[The girls are a little too excited for Edna's liking]

Edna : You two had better calm down a bit. Or we'll all be in trouble.

Connie : Only if you tell us your story.

Edna : What story's that then?

Mary : *(more sarcastically than aggressively)* Your story stupid! Your life – Why you're here.

Connie : *(now urging Edna rather than pressuring her)* And not back home where you came from.

Edna : Oh that story *(realising and also not really wanting to talk about what's happened in the last few weeks to her)* It's not very interesting, you've probably heard it all before.

Connie : *(obviously not interested in taking No for an answer)* You're new, you must have a different story.

Mary : Newcomers do.

Edna : Alright, calm down for a moment, and I'll tell you.

[Abby is watching the scene play out with curiosity. Edna is unsure what to say so makes it sound like a ‘Fairy Story’]

Song 2 – Fairy Story

Edna : *I grew up in a fairy story
Houses like Palaces were my kings
Clothes I chose on an April morning
Colours I loved when the Winter ends*

*Then one day I met my Prince Charming
A child like me who had grown to a man
Took my hand on a Summer evening
Promised me gold and a foreign land*

*Sailed away on a ship through sunsets
Far from lands eyes of mine had seen
Took my first look at Ivory towers
Told myself that I was his queen.*

*Spent three years in a foreign castle
Paradise mine and a charming man
Lived on love in those Ivory towers
Forests of green and a desert’s sand.*

*Messenger came and called Prince Charming
Dragons to fight, need to be a man
He rode off on that Summer evening
All I then knew was he would not return.*

*I grew up in a fairy story
Promised me gold and a foreign land.*

[The girls look in awe as she finishes her song. They leave, delighted in their new ‘friend’. Abby, who has been listening to the song, is none to impressed by the new arrival. She approaches Edna]

Abby : Pretty enchanted life so far. It’s a shame your luck’s changed.

Edna : Well what was I meant to tell them – that my family was killed last week. Good story that. Just what a couple of kids need to here round here I’m sure.

Abby : Ah they’re used to it. You shouldn’t colour it Princess, they’ll work out the truth.

- Edna : They seemed happy enough with it.
- Abby : Yeah well, that's kids. Always trying to make 'grown-ups' feel better when all the time we think we're doing the same for them.
- Where are you from?
- Edna : Singapore.
- Abby : How long have you been held?
- Edna : A few days, I can't tell. Days and nights have all kind of blurred into one since then.
- Abby : Oh you get used to that.
- Edna : (*snaps*) I don't want to get used to it.
- Abby : Fine Princess, don't. But we could be here for a long time (*long pause*) or they could just kill us.
- Edna : They'd have done that by now. And drop the Princess bit, my name's Edna.
- Abby : (*Breaks off, seeing a guard in the distance*) Our dorm's there (*indicates*) there's a spare bed. Why don't you join us? I'll see you later.....Princess.

[Edna glares, annoyed, whilst Abby leaves for her workplace, the wireless hut. Edna moves towards the dorm as we switch across stage to where five of the girls are working.]

Song 3 – A Day in your life

Theresa/Meg :

***Slave of the war, no trust in laws
Laws that can change in a whim
Work on the land, nothing in the sand
Slaving away for your sins***

Mary/Nell/Cathy :

***Created by a war, countries where the score
Only counts in less live are lost
Innocents like us sworn to make no fuss
Soul that left your body count your cost***

All : *A day in your life sold so you eat
A day in your life told in the heat*

*A day in your life sold so you eat
A day in your life told in the heat*

[Meg finds a stone on the ground. It is wrapped with paper – it is news from the resistance forces working in Burma]

Theresa : The Stone. Read it Meg.

Meg : Well keep guard then, for pity's sake.

Theresa : Mary, watch the hut, I'll cover the patrol.

[Meg unwraps the paper that has been wrapped around the stone. The girls gather within earshot to hear what Meg is saying]

Cathy : Well, is that bastard of a Governor lying or not this time?

Meg : Lying.

Cathy : Surprise, surprise. What's going on?

Meg : It's not too bad. The fight in the north is serious but we're not losing.
We've gained half a mile.

Cathy : At least we get some real news now and then. I think I'd go mad if I actually thought he was right all the time.

[Meg buries the note]

Theresa : Here's to the resistant. If it weren't for them, we'd have all given up by now.

Mary : Do we tell Abby?

Meg : Not yet. We'll see her at noon.

Cathy : At least it'll give the girls something to smile about. We need it round here.

Mary : It may be a 'Tipperary' day after all.

Meg : I don't think so Mary. We might just stick to the 'Washing' for the time being.

Cathy : She's got to be careful Meg. One of these days they're going to suspect that wireless.

Theresa : *(quite confidently)* Oh they don't suspect a thing. We play the seven songs all the time. They don't know it's a morale code.

Meg : As long as she doesn't play 'Tipperary'.

Cathy : Yes, but can we trust her?

Meg : It was her idea. She made the rules. She'll only play 'Tipperary' when we've won the war.

Theresa : And when that day comes it won't matter.

Meg : *(noticing movement offstage)* Come on girls, patrol's out. Back to work.

SCENE THREE – The Dormitory

[It is lunchtime in the dormitory. In the background we can hear 'We're going to hang out the washing on the Siegfried Line'. Theresa dishes out the food, which is a meagre cupful of rather distasteful looking rice]

Cathy : Oh this stuff. I'd give anything to be somewhere, just once, with decent food.

Meg : One day Cathy

Theresa : At least the stone was helpful.

Meg : Isn't it always.

Edna : The stone?

Meg : Our friends in the resistance keep us informed of the real story, not the propaganda the Governor dishes out. They scroll notes, wrap them round a stone, and throw them into the place we work overnight.

Mary : So we get them while we're working.

Nell : *(motheringly)* Mary. Hush. *(Mary passes a perturbed glance)*

Meg : *(continuing)* And the wireless plays certain songs depending on the mood of the letter – Abby's idea. It's to keep the girls' morale up. We have eight records but only ever play seven of them.

Mary : 'Tipperary' is saved for when we win the war.

Cathy : If we win the war.

- Nell : We just hope they don't get suspicious. I'm not sure that they don't already know. We just have to hope that Abby doesn't get too loud or obvious.
- Edna : You trust her?
- Meg : The wireless was her idea. She persuaded the Governor that it was harmless and might make the girls less angry if they hear music they were familiar with. She knows what she's doing.
- Edna : Aren't there risks?
- Mary : Everything's a risk here, but, as Abby would say (*imitates Abby*) 'I wasn't jeered off the stage in my career and I'm not gonna let the Nips do it either.' (*the rest of the girls find the impression most amusing*) She was a singer you know (*obviously impressed*) in America.
- Edna : Really? So how did she end up here?
- Nell : Well she decided to sing her way around the world....
- Cathy : (*butting in*) And sleep her way round it too from all accounts.
- Nell : (*trying to ignore the comment*) And like us ended up in the wrong place at the wrong time.
- Mary : She thinks that music gives us hope.
- Edna : Well we all need something in here.

[A Bell sounds]

Nell : Here we go again.

Meg ; See you at dusk.

[The girls begin to file out of the dorm]

[Short blackout for time lapse]

SCENE FOUR– The Dormitory

[Later that evening as the girls prepare for bed each of them reminisces about the lives they used to know long before the war began]

Song Four – I Remember

Theresa : *I remember there were golden yellow summers
I remember there was love upon the way
I remember looking through the door at sunrise
I remember one November through the embers*

Nell : *In the children you could hear the sound of laughter
In a world so far removed from where we are
In a playground far away the light is brighter
I remember, I remember*

Meg : *Fields of green, countryside and meadows all around
Autumn oak and winter pine
Sunsets in my time, restaurants and wine
Singing Auld Lang Syne*

Abby : *Jazz Club days, smoky bars with moonlit haze
Songs of love, songs we sung to eyes so glazed
Even in the memories we can see the light*

Theresa : *Sometimes we fall
Can't take it all
But then we see the light*

Rachel : *In some suave Manhattan bar
Men who took you by the arm
See the light*

Nell : *See the light*

Meg : *See the light*

Theresa : *See the light*

Rachel : *See the light*

Abby : *See the light*

All : *Shining its way when all is gone*

Nell : *In the playground and the school fields children's laughter
In the meadows childish fun that's far from here*

Chorus : *I remember
I remember*

Abby : *Yellow summers*

Rachel : *Footsteps in the park*

Theresa : *There was love upon the way*

Rachel : *Living til the dark*

Meg : *Singing Auld Lang Syne*

Nell : *Now you take each day at a time
And I wonder what is mine*

All others :
Each day at a time

All : *I remember*

Nell : *The way it used to be*

All (Counterpoint)
Way it used to be

Nell : *I remember*

Chorus : *(member)*

[The girls are left to sleep as we blackout from the scene, Theresa must exit, so must Abby during the blackout]

SCENE FIVE– The Dormitory

[Mid morning in the dormitory with the girls going about their business when Theresa rushes in obviously very flustered]

Sian : Theresa! Calm down. What's the panic for.

Theresa : You...you won't believe.....what I just saw....

Song Five – The Traitor Within

[The instant reaction of the girls to what Theresa tells them is that it's a joke, but as the song continues they begin to realise that Theresa is telling them the truth of what she has seen. This is a song which has to feel a little confused as the girls come to realise what is going on]

Theresa : ***I just heard a rumour
Well it isn't quite a rumour
It's got to be the truth coz I saw it with my own two eyes

Abby in the back sand
I saw her with a man
Lying in the dirt with a man between her thighs***

[The girls react – laughter at first as there are no men in the camp. Then they realise there are male guards. She is talking about Abby being with one of the Japs]

***I shouldn't have to tell you
But what I saw was true
Sleeping with a bastard in the middle of the morning sun

I thought we had a trust here
We had so it appeared
But a friend of ours has gone and turned the gun***

[The anger is now apparent amongst the girls, who are amazed, shocked and a little taken aback when they realise that Theresa is not lying]

***I thought I was hallucinating
So I looked away then I glanced again
Sure enough my eyes did not deceive me
Sure enough, it was her and him***

***I couldn't quite believe it
I wish I hadn't seen it
A friend a moment, yes, but there's more behind her eyes***

***I really had to tell you
The rights she has abused
But the truth is real and a traitor within us lies***

[Abby enters. There is a dead silence as she walks into the dorm towards her bed. Cathy stops her by walking directly into her path]

Cathy : Hey, Little Red Riding Hood, what do you think you're doing?

Edna : Need a lie down after a hard day's lying down?

- Sian : What they hell were you thinking?
- Dottie : We all need it Abby, but that?
- Abby : You wouldn't understand.
- Cathy : Bullshit Abby! What is there to understand? He's one of them, a Nip for God's sake. You just swan in here as if nothing's happened and you've been doing it with the bloody enemy.
- Abby : That's my business.
- Edna : *[can't control the temper any longer]* They killed my husband, her family *(indicating Dottie)*, our friends. And you expect us to understand?
- Abby : Like I said Princess, that's my call *(pause)*. It's hot, time to rest a while.

[Cathy stands in the way of Abby's sleeping area and won't move. Dottie and Sian also block her path. After a few moments she turns and looks around the room but no sympathy is to be found. She shrugs and makes her way towards the door. Edna stands in her way, but after a moment, decides to let her past. In the pause before Abby moves Edna spits on the ground in front of her. Abby looks at the floor, then Edna, nods her head as a smug 'thank-you' and walks slowly from the dormitory.]

SCENE SIX – The 'Back-Sand'

[Abby walks to the 'Back Sand', an area outside the dorm, which is quiet. Mary follows, inconspicuously, behind. Abby stares into the sky as the music begins for the next song.]

Song 6 – He's a Man

- Abby : ***In his eyes he still has dreams of thunder
Behind his skin he's the same as them or me
But this war now divides us
And our dreams have passed behind us
And the souls we once knew long to breathe***
- He's a man like any other man he's a memory
Of a time, a life we left behind
In a world we used to share
And though here the rules have boundaries
My feelings can't subside
He's here and he's the only one who's ever known my life.***

*When I came he was there to hold me
In a life which was far from what I knew
And the nights I still remember
Watching sunsets through the haze
Distant music playing softly through the breeze.*

*He's a man like any other man he's a memory
Of a time, a life we left behind
In a world we used to share
And though here the rules have boundaries
My feelings can't subside
He's here and he's the only one who's ever known my life.*

*It's my life I make the rules here and I break them
Here in a world with no hope of ever seeing dawn in June
After all they've no idea of my history
Why are they first, first to condemn
Not knowing me, and not knowing him*

*He's a man like any other man he's a memory
Of a time, a life we left behind
In a world we used to share
And though here the rules have boundaries
My feelings can't subside
Let them scorn, hate my soul
I can't play another role for someone
He's here and he's the only one who's ever known my life
My life.*

[Mary approaches slowly after the song]

Mary : I understand.

Abby : *(Shocked that Mary has followed her)* You? You understand? Yeah right kid.
What do you know about life?

Mary : *(Annoyed at once again being taken for a child)* I'm a kid? You think I don't
know about life? I know we're here. I know we're not getting out. I know
they hate us. I also know what they've done to everyone else. I'm not
stupid.

Abby : *(now curious)* Fiery aren't we little one.

Mary : No more than you. Why didn't you tell them the truth?

Abby : What would they care. They wouldn't listen. He's a Nip. That's all they care about. He's one of them.

Mary : Well you don't seem to think so.

Abby : No, I don't. Listen kid, when I first came to Singapore I knew nothing. Nothing about the way of life, not a thing. He took care of me when I needed a friend. I didn't have anyone else, and to be honest, I didn't need anyone else.

Mary : But now he's a Nip.

Abby : Yep a Nip national. Sure. But ten years ago he was the only thing I had.

Mary : Well tell them then.

Abby : What? And have them feeling sorry for me? No thanks. I'll take the shit anytime over that. They've made up their minds anyway. No second chances, just like this place.

Mary : *(defiantly)* Then I'll tell them.

Abby : *(rounds on her)* You tell anyone and I'll see to it that you don't tell anyone anything for a few days kid. You claim you're not a child. Don't start acting like one now.

[Pause]

Mary : Fine Abby! *(imitating Abby)* It's your problem anyway, not mine.

[She turns to leave and takes a couple of steps]

Abby : Hey little one. You're right. Don't let anyone treat you like a kid. What's your name?

Mary : Mary.

Abby : Mary, right. Well you'd best get back to the dorm. You don't want to worry your mother. Remember. Not a word.

[Mary nods her head and goes on her way]

SCENE SEVEN – The Dormitory

[Back in the dormitory again the girls are talking about what's just happened with Abby. They are not impressed. Theresa is not present.]

Cathy : I can't believe her. Christ. What with her and the Governor life just doesn't get any easier does it? I mean, why doesn't he just leave it instead of trying to break us with all the propaganda. He must know we can find out the truth. Surely he can't be that dumb.

Nell : Orders from above. But I hope he is that dumb or we could be in big trouble.

Edna : But what about if we win the war?

Sarah : *(confidently)* When we do.

Cathy : Oh I don't know. I don't trust them. But don't think about it too long or you'll scare yourself.

Dottie : What do you mean?

Nell : *(cutting in)* Leave it.

Cathy : *(to Nell)* Ah...you've thought about it too then Nell? Yeah, not pleasant is it? *(to the rest of the girls)* If the war ends the rules change. And he won't be obliged to keep us.

Meg : You're not thinking what I think you're thinking are you?

Cathy : Well he keeps going on about the rules of war. But if there's no war, there's no rules. And we know he hates us.

Dottie : *(realising what Cathy means)* They couldn't?

Cathy : Couldn't they?

Meg : Well we've got to do something.

Nell : Agreed, but what?

Rachel : They all think we'd be history.

Meg : And they're probably right.

[Theresa comes in, again looking rather perturbed]

Cathy : Oh God. What the hell's happened now?

Theresa : Listen I've just been past the office. I heard them talking. I think we're in real trouble this time.

Sian : Like things could get any worse.

Connie : Does the Governor know about Abby?

Theresa : No, not as far as I know. But apparently we're close to winning the war.

Meg : Oh thank God.

Theresa : I wouldn't thank him just yet. I heard them talking about what will happen to us. And I don't fancy our chances.

Cathy : What did I tell you?

Meg : Why?

Theresa : Roll call, if it happens. An extra curricular one. Our last.

Dottie : *(hopefully)* And then...free?

Cathy : Oh Dottie wake up and smell the coffee.

Theresa : They may just line the rifles up and shoot.

Dottie : *(horrified)* In cold blood?

Nell : What would it matter to them? We surrendered. We're already the scum of the Earth in their eyes.

Theresa : They didn't say when but it could be soon.

Cathy : I am really going off today.

Meg : So now what?

Rachel : It's simple. Die or fight.

Meg : *(Shocked)* Fight? With what?

Rachel : Sticks, stones, anything. It's all we've got.

Sian : Against machine guns? We've got no chance.

Rachel : Well we've got a lot more chance than just standing there and waiting for it.

Nell : Rachel's right. We may not be a match for all of them but it's got to be better than facing those rifles with nothing.

Song Seven – Fight to Live

Rachel : *We must give all we can give
We must fight so we can live
We'll play their rules they don't forgive
Fight to live*

Nell : *Though our army numbers few
We have faith to guide us through
It's blood V blood, it's them or you
Fight to live*

Both : *We'll fight to save the sisters' army
Forget their power, forget their glory
Side by side hand in hand
Sow the seeds*

Nell : *(encouraging the girls with, as such a 'call to arms' speech)* We need to be prepared. The war could end at any day. If they sound that bell we have to be ready. Even if only one of us survives it has got to be worth it. Think about it. Are you with us?

[The girls vehemently get the message]

All : *We'll fight to save the sisters' army
Through their power, we'll see our glory
Side by side, hand in hand
Stand with me*

*By your side I'd give my life
From the darkness into light
We will stand and we will fight
Fight to live, fight to live, fight to live*

[The girls stand united]

SCENE EIGHT – Later in the Dormitory

[A little while later the girls are sat around again. It is around 5 in the evening, just coming up to roll call. The background music is "We'll meet again"]

Sian : That bloody wireless. Can't she shut it off for an hour. The same record all day gets so damn annoying.

Meg : It's meant to help us relax.

- Edna : Yeah? Well at the moment it's the last thing we need to hear. That Judas on the radio.
- Dottie : She's so up herself.
- Edna : Or any man she can get her hands on (*Cathy, Dottie and Sian find this most amusing*)
- Meg : (*more tired than annoyed*) Oh Edna give it a rest. Forget about it will you?
- Cathy : Oh why should we? Why shouldn't we hate her. We're all meant to be together but you know as well as I do what she's done. The woman's a bitch, first class.

Song Eight – The Traitor in Disguise

- Cathy : *She waddles in her prime
A cowgirl riding time
She doesn't give a toss who she can hurt
A vixen or a shrew
She'll holler for a screw
That woman we should crush into the dirt*
- A female with a noose
She hasn't an excuse
That lady makes Macbeth's missus seem clean
A tramp could make us fall
Endangers one and all
Our precious little singing figurine*
- Edna : *Bit between her teeth
Rampant underneath
Does whatever harm she feels
Tramp above the law
After what she saw, evil bitch*

[Instrumental mocking dance – Abby enter during it and the girls direct the rest of the song at her, from mocking and having fun suddenly the atmosphere gets much darker as the girls round on Abby]

Cathy : *She wears a new perfume
She'll wear it to her tomb
Deserter who betrayed the female fight
The friendship we had earnt
The torch she now has burnt
The woman who's the traitor in disguise*

Edna : *Smell the scent of dust
Creeping from her bust
Taking what she can from who she likes
Friendship in a day
She has wiped away
Traitor in disguise*

Dottie : *Some whore
I hope she's keeping score
For all the pain tonight
If she were me
I'd find some cyanide
And terminate the traitor in disguise*

All three : *Terminate the traitor in disguise
Woman who's the traitor in disguise*

[As the music comes towards it's conclusion Cathy yells]

Cathy : The Berry !!!!!

[This is obviously something the girls have planned. Sian, Dottie, Edna and Sarah grab Abby. During the struggle that ensues Cathy gets a red berry from the corner of the room. They hold Abby down and proceed to ram the berry into the centre of Abby's forehead. The red berry is to give the mark of the 'Rising Sun', the emblem of Japan, signifying her allegiance with the enemy. This is a very violent scene]

[As the music builds Nell and Mary, who were not in the dorm, return and are shocked. Nell, trying to protect both her daughter from the scene, and Abby from the violence screams to break the girls up]

Nell : Stop!!!!!!!!!!

[The girls, slightly shocked at the usually calm Nell's reaction, cease what they're doing to Abby]

Nell : Out!!!!

[Gradually the girls let Abby go, Meg gives Nell a guilty look as she leaves, as she didn't have the strength to stop the scene happening. Nell just shakes her head in disgust. All the girls involved leave the dorm, leaving Abby alone, on the floor with Nell and Mary]

Nell : I'm so sorry.

Mary : They don't understand. Why won't you tell them?

[Abby, although very shaken by the event, sadly shakes her head with an 'I couldn't do that' sort of look]

Song Nine – Hymn

Nell : ***When you see no friends at all
When your world is feeling small
There is one who smiles on you
Gives respect whate'er you do***

Mary : ***If your actions make you fall
We will hear you if you call
A friend if you need am I to you
One whose friendship still is true***

Nell : ***Our father, look down on she who is in need
Her moves are made by what she feels
And though the time is wrong
Make her heart inside still strong***

Both : ***Stand beside me feel no ill
Those who mock are scared of your will
Always be to your heart true
We stand in line to fight with you***

[Abby passes a smile at them both, a nod of thanks, and then leaves]

Mary : She knew the guard mum, before the war.

[Nell takes this in but says nothing]

Mary : They were lovers when she first came to Singapore. Then the war came.

Nell : Sounds like Romeo and Juliet. Both stranded on two uncompromising sides.

Mary : But they shouldn't do that mum. The girls I mean. They knew each other but Abby won't tell them....and she won't let me tell them either.

Nell : That's her way Mary. Her rules. Remember?

Mary : But the others?

Nell : It's how she wants it.

Mary : *(Resigned)* Can we look out for her though?

Nell : Of course. We won't let any more things like today happen. That was the only time.

SCENE NINE – The Dormitory

[Back in the dorm the girls are laughing and quite impressed with the lesson they taught Abby, not all are so impressed though]

Sian : Oh she'll get over it.

Dottie : Probably before we get over her.

Meg : At the end of the day girls we're all on the same side.

Sian : Well does someone want to tell the bitch that?

Sarah : Yeah right Sian. Family is all you can trust – and the Japs are the enemy. It's black and white.

Rachel : But we've got to work together for the fight.

Dottie : Someone ought to remind Abby.

Meg : She'll be there beside us when she needs to be. She's still one of us.

Sian : Whatever you say Meg. Just don't stand her next to me.

Sarah : You're by me sister, the same as always.

Song 10 – That night on the Sand

Sian : Do you remember?

***That night on the sand before the Japs arrived
The sunset, the beach, shimmering on the water***

Sarah : ***As the waves lapped in beside us
The wine was cool and sweet
As we toasted life together how it changed***

Sian : ***You and I***

Both : ***The day the world lost its life***

[As the music ends there is silence. Theresa, who has been sat quietly in the corner of the dorm, suddenly speaks]

Theresa : It's my fault.....Abby.....If I hadn't said.....

Sian : If you hadn't said we'd still have found out. She'd only have tried it again.

Theresa : Yes but if I hadn't said....

Meg : Theresa what's done is done. We can't change the past – if we could none of us would be here would we? As Sian says we have to remember the good times.

Song 11 – The Life we had

Meg : ***She sat by my side, played and joked and cried
The sister who was with me long ago.
Then we moved away grew apart someday
I'd give all the memories for tomorrow to be there***

Meg : ***Memories, childhood, running through my mind***

Theresa : ***I recall in a world so bright with endless life***

Meg : ***Green fields, playful, far from present times***

Theresa : ***Summer spring and Autumn, in a valley***

Meg : ***Lost time, was mine, remnants of the past***

Theresa : ***Full of love and laughter remnants of the past***

Both : ***Will we ever see the life we had***

Theresa : *Walking by the Seine, Paris in the rain
Spring beside an open fire at night
He would catch my eye make me warm inside
I could die tomorrow if today I could be there*

Meg : *Memories, childhood, running through my mind*

Theresa : *I recall in a world so bright with endless life*

Meg : *Green fields, playful, far from present times*

Theresa : *Summer spring and Autumn, in a valley*

Meg : *Lost time, was mine, remnants of the past*

Theresa : *Full of love and laughter remnants of the past*

Both : *Will we ever see the life we had*

Both : *Time goes by, hope just dies
Burning for a life we left behind
Maybe life has passed me by
And when the nights are cold
Memories survive*

Meg : *Memories, childhood, running through my mind*

Theresa : *I recall in a world so bright with endless life*

Meg : *Green fields, playful, far from present times*

Theresa : *Summer spring and Autumn, in a valley*

Meg : *Lost time, was mine, remnants of the past*

Theresa : *Full of love and laughter remnants of the past*

Both : *Will we ever see
Will we ever see
Will we ever see the life we had*

[Blackout]

SCENE TEN – The ‘Back-Sand’

[Back in the back sand, Abby’s soul place]

Mary : When you used to sing Abby what were you like?

Abby : Like nothing you’ve ever seen Mary. Up on that stage life was different. You could be anyone, not just you. And the smiles, the smiles on the people’s faces. You should have seen me.

Mary : Maybe one day I will.

Abby : You keep thinking like that babe and we’re all going to get out of here.

Mary : We’re going to.

Abby : Whatever you say babe, whatever you say. The time you come and see me on the stage I’ll be happy.

Mary : *(Changing the subject and mood slightly)* Do you ever think of home Abby?

Abby : All the time, all the time. Don’t you?

Mary : Yes.

Abby : All those people we haven’t seen for years. One day though babe, one day we’ll see them all again.

Song 12 – Back Home

Abby : *Back home in the bars of Carolina
I used to sing how I dreamed of seeing the world
Back home the setting sun in Carolina
Well I wonder if they ever think of me back home*

*Those days I would sing til the morning sunrise
The band would play, the people listened far and near
I left my home back in sleepy Carolina
I saw the world, then one day I ended here*

*Don’t get me wrong, I wouldn’t change the way life wandered
I saw the world, saw my dreams, I’ve got no regrets
But now I’m here and I dream of Carolina
And I wonder if I ever should have left*

*But when I get back to my home in Carolina
I'll see those friends who I left so long ago
That setting sun back in dreamy Carolina
Well I wonder if they ever think of me
One day I will return and we will see
I wonder if they ever think of me
Back home.*

SCENE ELEVEN – Roll Call

[Roll Call – 6pm – noticeably without Connie and Mary. The Governor is unimpressed]

Governor : Where are young Dixon and Lynch. They have two minutes before a search of the compound will begin. The News for today. The war is still being fought but the Japanese army is taking more and more land. Your plight is looking futile ladies, *(slight pause)* as is your work on the land. Do you have any defence Dixon?

Nell : Er... *(obviously she is more concerned about the whereabouts of her daughter and Connie rather than the question)* The land is not fertile. We can't get blood from a stone.

Governor : Nonsense. There is nothing wrong with the land. It is you women who are lazy and useless. You will try harder, or the privileges will disappear.

Abby : That's easy for him to say.

Governor : Quiet. Guards find young Dixon and Lynch now. The rest of you are dismissed. I suggest you find them Mrs. Dixon before we do. I hope they are found on our camp – otherwise they will be shot.

[The girls look at each other and then start looking for the two teenagers. Abby eventually takes up the cause. She still likes to keep her image but yet is also worried for the girls' safety. We see Abby go back to her usual haunt, knowing full well where the girls are likely to be hiding. Sure enough in the 'Back-Sand', in a small dugout, she finds Connie and Mary]

Abby : Out you two, quietly. What the hell are you doing here? You missed roll call and now all the guards are looking for you.

Connie : The working party goes in the morning and we were going to join them and make a run for it.

Abby : *(To Mary)* I thought you weren't a kid? You're crazy. They'd shoot you if you got outside the camp.

Mary : Oh we're not scared of the Japs.

Abby : *(quite seriously all of a sudden)* Well you should be. You mother's worried sick little one. Come on. This game's over. Quickly, move. The guards are swarming round everywhere and we could all be in major shit because of you two.

[Mary and Connie are a little excited at causing so much trouble]

Shut it you two! Do you actually want to wake up in the morning? This place isn't a playground you know.

[Finally the girls realise that the game isn't quite as fun as they had imagined. Slowly they walk behind Abby back towards the Dormitory]

SCENE TWELVE – The Dormitory

[Back in the dorm, the girls, especially Nell, are beginning to panic]

Meg : It'll be alright Nell. They probably just forgot the time.

Cathy : *(without thinking)* Or tried to escape.

Meg : Cathy!

Cathy : *(realising)* Sorry, it was a joke. I'm sure they'll be fine Nell.

Nell : Then where in heaven are they? They know not to miss roll call. They've been here too long to forget that.

[Abby and, rather sheepishly, the girls walk into the dorm.]

[Nell instantly embraces Mary, then Connie, then breaks away]

Nell : Where the hell.....

Abby : *(light-heartedly)* They just got a fancy idea about joining the working party. Then making a run for it from there.

Cathy : *(amazed)* You stupid little blighters!

Edna : Have you any idea how many guards are on working party duty?

[The teenagers are now finding this far less than fun]

Nell : *(turns to Abby who has quietly taken a back seat)* Thank-you Abby.

- Abby : Er....for what?
- Nell : For looking. We didn't know where else to search. I really thought they'd got out of the camp.
- Abby : *(trying to brush the gratitude off)* No chance. Let's just say I know where your daughter liked to hide away.
- Meg : *(to Connie and Mary)* You two had better get some sleep. Tomorrow's going to be a hard day for you now.
- Nell : I'll go and explain to the governor. You two had better come with me first. You might have some apologising to do.
- Meg : The rest of you, let's keep it down tonight, hey? We don't need any more trouble in here tonight.

[Blackout]

SCENE THIRTEEN – The Dormitory

[The lights come up and it is mid-evening in the dorms, just after roll call. There is an arm-wrestling competition going on. It is a light hearted scene and can be full of banter. Edna is the 'champion'. Egged on by the girls she keeps taking on and defeating each of the girls in turn. Sian and Sarah both have goes, then Teresa is forced to have a go to. No surprise when she doesn't last two seconds, in fact she hardly puts her arm down. Mary is insistent that she should have a go but the girls keep her out of the 'queue'. Abby sees that Mary is getting rather upset by this.]

- Abby : *(to Edna)* Hey. Give the kid a go.
- Edna : After the day she's had? All that extra work in the fields? She's too tired.
- Cathy : And what's the point? If we can't beat her *(indicating Edna)* then she isn't going to. Anyway she's still recovering.
- Abby : So it won't take long. Give her a chance Princess.
- Edna : OK. After this one. *(to Mary)* I'll be with you in a second.

[Edna makes quick work of Meg and Mary is highly delighted to be the next to enter the fray. She smiles at Abby, as a thank you, who nods approvingly back.]

- Cathy : This won't take long Dottie. You're up next.
- Abby : Go on kid, she them how tough you are.

[Edna starts the 'bout' easier into it, trying to make the contest last a little longer. Abby comes up behind Edna and runs her finger down Edna's back. Edna is distracted and Mary wrenches her arm down to win. Mary celebrates whilst Edna faces up to Abby, who is laughter, as are the rest of the girls. Cathy and Sian are not amused though.]

Nell : That's it girls. Lights out.

Abby : *(Triumphantly)* Reigning champion of the dorm is.....Mary Dixon.

[The rest of the girls applaud whilst Mary celebrates. They all begin to settle down to bed.]

Mary : *(just a little miffed)* I would have won that without your help.

Abby : *(playing along)* I know kid. I was just making sure.

[They exchange smiles]

[Blackout]

SCENE FOURTEEN – The Dormitory

[The next morning before work. The room is set up so that they can practice for the fight. What follows is a choreographed routine of practice.]

Rachel : You know the routine girls. Keep it quiet. Connie, Mary keep guard will you? Time to practice.

Nell : Get your weapons girls.

Mary : Can't I practice as well?

Cathy : It your turn to keep guard while Abby plays the records shrimp.

[Mary gives Cathy an evil stare then goes to the door. As the girls practice the two youngsters keep watch. As the practice develops the noise level rises a little and the two girls become more interested forgetting they are on guard. Suddenly there is a bellowing from the loudspeakers in the Auditorium from the governor, as the girls get too carried away]

Governor : Dixon, my office. NOW!!!!

[The girls are stopped in their tracks]

Cathy : Shit Mary! Weren't you keeping guard!

[Mary looks sheepishly back at Cathy]

Nell : I'd better go.

Meg : Take care Nell.

Nell : See you later.

[Nell leaves]

Meg : She's had it.

Cathy : We've all had it. If they haven't worked it out by now they're fools.

Meg : We've got God on our side.

Sian : Oh don't you start, please. We get enough of that off her (*indicates Mary*) mother.

[Abby and Nell re-enter]

Rachel : Well?

Nell : That was close. If it weren't for Abby we'd all be for it.

Abby : (*Trying to brush it off*) They believed me that's all.

Cathy : What happened?

Nell : I went in and Abby was outside, she'd heard the screaming, like everyone else. I tried to come up with some reason for the practice but they weren't having any of it. Abby heard the conversation, knocked and somehow was allowed in.

Sian : Friends in low places no doubt, or is it high, I never can remember.

[Sian and Abby exchange looks]

Abby : (*defensively*) I did have a reason.

Nell : Well. She fed them some story about it raising morale to practice self defence with sticks.

Sian : You mean you told them the truth.

Nell : Yes, but then she said (*imitating Abby*) "What chance do a bunch or women with sticks have against the glorious Japanese Army and their machine guns. They're no threat it just gives them something to do in the hours off. It's not exactly the most enthralling place here."

Abby : (*Mildly amused as Nell's impersonation leaves a lot to be desired*) I couldn't have said it better myself.

Meg : And they went for it?

Abby : Sure, they have no reason to think that we have any chance against them.
 They don't know that we know what they've got planned.

[The girls look approvingly]

Anyway the wireless is unmanned. I'd better get back there.

*[She passes the group a smile and departs.
Each of the girls look like they have forgiven her]*

Song 13 – Maybe we were wrong

Edna : *She plays a different game to us*

Sian : *She lost our patience lost our trust*

Both : *But deep inside her she is the same as us all*

Cathy : *After all the things we've done*

She is still like us, everyone

All three : *Her rules are different, she has her own kind of laws*

All : *So where did we go wrong*

Fighting her so long

The enemy within prevented us from fighting

The enemy we see

Where did we go wrong

Letting this go on

And now we find the truth that read between the lines

And so the fault must lie within

Everything we thought of only to be taught

That maybe we were wrong

Rachel : *Maybe if we start again*

Wipe the slate clean, that story ends

Dottie : *She's still our Ally*

Both : *A friend who's hidden by a shawl*

All : *So where did we go wrong*

Fighting her so long

The enemy within prevented us from fighting

The enemy we see

Where did we go wrong

Letting this go on

And now we find the truth that read between the lines

And so the fault must lie within

Everything we thought of only to be taught

That maybe we were wrong

SCENE FIFTEEN – The Dormitory

[Lunchtime back at the dormitory. The end of “Washing” leads to a change of song – “It’s a long way to Tiperrary”. The girls gradually realise what’s being played]

- Meg : She’s playing “Tiperrary” on the wireless.
- Cathy : What’s she doing? Does she know something we don’t?
- Nell : They’re bound to suspect her.
- Cathy : She’s off her trolley.
- Rachel : The fight. It’s got to be soon. Is everyone ready?
- Sian : We’re ready if they give the extra roll call.
- Cathy : We’ll be fine.
- Dottie : *(totally melodramatic)* Together we’ll be invincible! *(then realises)* Well we’ll certainly give them a surprise.
- Rachel : Don’t get carried away Dottie, just be prepared.....

[GUNSHOT]

Song 14 –One of Us

[This is a ‘Quasi’ Round style. Chrs 1 sings their verse then repeats as chrs 2 sing theirs, when chrs 3 enters chrs 1 & 2 repeat theirs again until all 4 groups sing at the same time before the Unison section designated by ‘All’]

[This is a moment of confusion and concern until when all sing together they realise that it’s Abby who has been shot]

Chrs 1 : ***Gunshot tells me that something’s wrong
Sound of proud soldiers sound of gongs
Some poor soul has been lost to war
Somebody say what the fighting’s for***

Chrs 2 : ***Oh God take me away
Tell me not one today
Please God don’t let this be
Why God wasn’t it me***

Chrs 3 : ***Someone lost which one is gone from us
Who’s here now
Who is safe, who’s missing
Where’s the child tell me not***

Chrs 4 : *Hell hears no pleas
Which one is to leave
Life in this way
Tell me not*

All : *Abby, tell me not Abby
Someone where's Abby
Say she's alright
Abby, tell me not Abby
Say it's not true*

Mary : *(Screamed)* No ! No !! No !!!!

<p>SCENE SIXTEEN – The ‘Back-Sand’</p>

*[The girls have made a cross for Abby.
They are having a small memorial service. Nell speaks.]*

Nell : May her soul rest in peace. She died, one of us, defending us all. She is a symbol of our despair but also our hope. She was a friend and will be sorely missed. The radio system is gone but Abby's memory will live. Our deepest respects go with her, wherever she may be.

Song 14 –Pie Jesu

Mary : *Pie jesu domine
Dona eis requiem
Qui tollis peccata mundi
Dona eis sempiternam
Requiem, requiem*

*The Lord's my shepherd I'll not want
He leads me down to lie
In pastures green he leadeth me
The quiet waters by
Requiem, requiem*

*Pie jesu domine
Dona eis requiem
Qui tollis peccata mundi
Dona eis sempiternam
Requiem, requiem, requiem*

[The girls' ceremony ends. It has been tearful and the girls are obviously drained]

- Meg : It's so damn hot.
- Cathy : Too hot. Did Abby know something we don't?
- Nell : I don't know.
- Theresa : They'll be deciding what to do with us if it's the end of the war. We have to be ready.
- Rachel : We're as ready as we can be.
- Nell : Now all we can do is pray.
- Cathy : Pray for a bloody miracle.
- Rachel : Cathy come on. This time we have to stick together.
- Cathy : We are together. You know that. Especially after today.
- Edna : Nell, how are we going to get through this?
- Nell : Faith in the lord. He'll take care of us.
- Edna : How can we believe that when he lets things like this happen to everyone?
- Nell : I know he works in mysterious ways, but he does care. The lord always cares.
- Mary : I wish I could believe that, but after what happened to Abby I can't. I don't think I ever will.

Song 16 - Somewhere

- Nell : ***Sometimes the world can feel like home
And sometimes you feel you're on your own
But when you find the world's too close
Remember those you love the most
And maybe there's a God after all***
- Somewhere the sun is shining
Somewhere the air is still
Somewhere there is no dying
And somebody feels no ill
Somewhere the skies are golden
And somewhere the wells are filled
There's someone to turn to
Cause somebody trusts
And somewhere there's a heaven still***

*Living this life you start again
And only your kin you will defend
Not trusting those you have to trust
Or blaming those for all you've lost
And hoping that someday this will end*

*Somewhere the sun is shining
Somewhere the air is still
Somewhere there is no dying
And somebody feels no ill
Somewhere the skies are golden
And somewhere the wells are filled
There's someone to turn to
Cause somebody trusts
And somewhere there's a heaven still*

Chorus : *Somewhere, somewhere, somewhere*

Nell : *Somewhere the sun is shining
Somewhere the air is still
Somewhere there is no dying
And somebody feels no ill
Somewhere the skies are golden
And somewhere the wells are filled
There's someone to turn to
Cause somebody trusts
And somewhere there's a heaven still*

[The silence is broken by a bell sounding. The extra-curricular roll call]

Meg : Not now.

Nell : It's time.

Rachel : Is everyone ready?

Cathy : Ready as we'll ever be. We've got the reason to fight now. We have to for Abby's sake.

Mary : She wouldn't have wanted us to lay down.

Rachel : This is what we've been waiting for. Are the stones and sticks ready?

Sian : Yes.

Meg : Good luck, each of you. Fight as we learnt and nothing will be able to stop us.

Mary : For Abby! They'll hear your name in Carolina.

Cathy : You tell them kid.

Rachel : Hold your fire until you see Nell's signal. When it comes.

Cathy : See you out there or in hell, whichever comes sooner.

[During this song the girls leave their dormitory and come out to face the final Tenko. All are expecting to be shot.]

Song 17 – This is the Moment

All : *This is the moment we've been waiting for
This is the moment we hoped would never come
But the moment's here and the time is now
Stand by me and be strong
Though today may hear our last song*

*See in your future a brighter day to come
One when the evil may lose it's way from home
If you believe in life and the soul burns fierce*

Nell : *Take your place, trust the lord
If you need his hand he'll provide the sword*

All : *This is the moment we must fight
Fight for the chance to see tonight
This day the moments seem so long
This is the moment we must face
Fight with your heart and keep your place
Knuckle to weapon eye to eye
We won't die if we fight*

*Join with our hand and we'll fight as one
Bond of the sisters weapons stone
In a line we will stand
And another land will be there for us if we fall*

*This is the moment we must fight
Fight for the chance to see tonight
This day the moments seem so long
This is the moment we must face
Fight with your heart and keep your place
Knuckle to weapon eye to eye
We won't die if we fight*

SCENE SEVENTEEN – The Roll Call

[The girls by now are lined up for the roll call. The governor speaks to them]

Governor : As you are aware this is not a normal roll call. You are all the prisoners of the Japanese government.

Cathy : Like we didn't know that

Governor : The Allied and Great Japanese armies have fought well for each settlement. And as you know the Allies had been pushed back. But today the war is over.

Two weeks ago the Allies performed a most abhorrent act on the Japanese city of Hiroshima. An enormous bomb was dropped. Many thousands of people were killed. The city was shattered by one enormous atrocity. Then, three days later, another bomb was dropped this time on the city of Nagasaki. Just as devastating and killed many more citizens of Japan. Today the Japanese government has surrendered. The war has ended. The Allies are victorious.

[The girls are awaiting Nell's signal]

And now... *(small pause)* You will be taken to your dormitories. At sixteen hundred hours today you will be transported to the nearest Allied base where you will be freed unconditionally. The war is over, You will be freed unconditionally

[This last sentence echoes around the auditorium as the girls can't quite grasp what's happening. Nell is first to react, dropping her weapon. Gradually as the song progresses the girls realise what's happened and then jubilation breaks out amongst them.]

Song 18 Finale – (next page)

Song 18- Finale (Somewhere)

- Nell : *Somewhere the sun is shining
Somewhere the air is still
Somewhere there is no dying
And somebody feels no ill
Somewhere the skies are golden
And somewhere the wells are filled
There's someone to turn to
Cause somebody trusts
And somewhere there's a heaven still*
- Theresa : *I remember there were golden yellow summers
All at once you see the memories clear
I remember looking through the door at sunrise
I remember*
- Meg : *Just sometimes life sees you through
When all is weary
And maybe I'll see you one day and somewhere*
- Rachel : *When all is weary
I know life treats you kind
When you least expect it*
- Mary : *Back home in the bars of Carolina
I used to sing how I dreamed of seeing the world*
- Edna/Dot : *Pie Jesu Domine*
- Nell : *Sometimes you feel that all is lost
He finds a way*
- All : *Somewhere, somewhere, somewhere*

All : *Somewhere the sun is shining*
 Somewhere the air is still
 Somewhere there is no dying
 And somebody feels no ill
 Somewhere the skies are golden
 And somewhere the wells are filled
 There's someone to turn to
 Cause somebody trusts
 And somewhere there's a heaven still

Theresa/Meg : *Sometimes we cry*
 And then the light shines on you
 And then the sun comes shining through
 So when you're found
 Just look around
 Cause somebody trusts
 And somewhere there's a heaven still

Mary : *Back home, back home*
 Back home, back home

Mary : *Will they ever think of her somewhere*

[The Girls are ecstatic as the final blackout goes, marred only by the fact that Abby dies a day before the surrender of the Japanese was known to the camp (but four days after Japan had actually surrendered – Abby died 3 days after war was ceased)]

THE END

RISING SUN

Character Breakdown

Most of the characters ages can be played with, they are only guidelines. The only ones who are specifically needed to be of a certain age are as follows ; Mary and Connie are 14 and 15 so early teenagers. Nell is Mary's mother so needs to be round the 40s mark at earliest. Meg is also a senior member of the group. Although not entirely necessary it is more likely that Abby, Cathy, Dottie and Edna would be around the same age somewhere around the late twenties-thirties mark. Sarah and Sian are sisters so probably would be only a few years apart although again this is not essential.

Abby Age 32

Abby is the main protagonist of the piece. Originally a Cabaret singer from Carolina Abby has wandered the world singing and leading a very different and frivolous life in comparison to the rest of the girls in the camp. Around mid-to-late twenties she, although loud, is very private and keeps her 'front' so the girls cannot see her true feelings.

Nell Age 52

Nell is the mother of Mary. She comes from a religious background and was a teacher before the war took place therefore casts a mothering influence over the group. She is also more willing to accept the situation than most and therefore is willingly the spokeswoman of the group. The only time she is flustered and flounders is when her daughter, Mary, goes missing in camp. Probably aged around the late 40s/50s mark.

Mary Age 15

Mary is 15 and, although a schoolgirl, also very aware of the situation the group finds itself in. She, and her mother Nell, have been here for over two years so she has grown up knowing this situation. In Abby she finds a friend and someone who she believes is worth fighting for. Mary is the lynchpin of the show to give the link between Abby's true side and the rest of the girls.

Meg Age 42

Meg is the other senior party of the group. Her family moved out to the East years ago and she has spent most of her life in this part of the world.

Cathy Age 37

Cathy is the 'tough nut' of the group. Far more aggressive than the others Cathy grew up in a more streetwise environment. She is the ringleader in the 'Berry' sequence with Abby.

Edna Age 31

Edna is the newest member of the group who arrives during the first scene. She has lost her husband during recent months, killed by the Japanese. She is still rather shell-shocked by what has happened but is again fairly street-wise.

Dottie Age 35

Ditsy and naive. Dottie is always looking on the bright side but is also easily led, hence her involvement in the 'Berry' sequence. She is a follower as well as naively optimistic.

Connie Age 14

Connie is an orphan who is the best friend of Mary. She has been in the camp for some time. Mary has always been her closest friend and, in doing so, Nell has almost become her adopted mother.

Theresa Age 45

Theresa is always on edge. She always tends to be flustered and maybe the frailest member of the group. She is looked after by the girls rather than a leader. When she sees the incidents of Abby sleeping with the guard, and overhears the Governor's plans for the girls, she instantly dashes to tell the girls rather than think of the consequences of her actions, it is as it is almost too much for her. She is used to Paris, travelling and more refined ways of life.

Rachel Age 27

Rachel has travelled the world, spent time in many luxurious places and has finally ended up here. She is a 'hands-on' person, therefore making the suggestion of fighting rather than dying. She takes all in her stride and is another leader in the group. Again this can be given through the seniority of the role.

Sarah Age 26

Sian's sister she believes that the only people who look out for you are your family. Hence her and her sister keep very close together in situations, can both be involved or not involved with the 'Berry' sequence but should be 'in' things if her sister is.

Sian Age 29

As with Sarah the two sisters act together, as a whole and are quite close during the piece. They do not have to be together all the time during the piece but it should be very much like sisters.

Director's Notes

Rising Sun is a one-set stage. The set consists of The Dormitory, a front stage area where the Tenko takes place, and a 'backsand' area that is Abby's hideaway.

The Dormitory can be as symbolic or realistic as necessary, The photo shows just one way the dorm can be staged.

The first number '*Overture/Hell*' should open with the girls asleep on stage (*as in the photo*) although this could obviously be problematic if there is no curtain, it just helps enhance the mood, and can work very effectively if there is no curtain.

Costumes for this musical are very simple. There are no costume changes as all the girls would be wearing what they were arrested in. Obviously hair styles and make up would be needing to reflect the fact that the girls have not seen a bath or shower for the period of time they have been in the camp.



Lighting needs to be bright and 'hot' to reflect the atmosphere the camp is in. The overall feeling of heat and oppressiveness is one that must come over.

The 'Berry' sequence is something devised by the girls as a punishment for Abby for her escapades with her former love. The 'idea' is that they hold her down and emblaze a red berry into her head that would therefore symbolise her links with the Japanese. It is to give the imprint of the Rising Sun into her head. Therefore it needs to be a circularesque symbol that is engrained. Also this has to be a very violent scene with Abby being violated to do this, i.e. Held down and the mark put on her head against her will.

The Roll Call (Tenko) is also paramount to the production. The girls are lined at the front of the stage, in two rows, military style facing to the audience. The governor's voice which is recorded is projected, as such, from behind the audience thus the audience are able to see the reactions of the girls to everything that is said by the Governor.

