

MINISTRY OF
ENTERTAINMENT
PRESENTS

KEEP SMILING THROUGH



Written by Joe Hobbs & Kate McNab
Musical Director Kit Morgan
Performed by Kate McNab & Ross Harvey

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Mrs Gerrish prepares herself for a morning of queuing. She goes through her checklist: Ration book? *Check*. Identity card? *Check*. Gas Mask? *Check*. “Is your journey really necessary?” *Yes it bloomin’ well is!* Clothing coupons? *Check*. That smoke-damaged dress in the window of Grafton’s Ladies Outfitters on Castle Street was going to be hers at any cost. No ‘make-do-and-mend’ today.



Meanwhile next door...

Mr Hobbs, just in from a night of fire-watching, prepares to do a shift of ‘private’ business before starting work at Bristol Aeroplane C... oops! Careless talk costs lives! He goes through his checklist: Stockings? *Check*. Petrol coupons? *Check*. Shock-proof watches? *Ooh, look here, one of ‘em is working*. What a shock! And they have the cheek to call him a spiv!

This is their story: two people, neighbours, helping each other out through Britain’s darkest hour. The tales they have to tell are true, gathered from wartime housewives, Home Guards, factory workers, ARP Wardens, GIs and those who saw a city at war through children’s eyes. All set to music of the era, creating a wonderful period feel from memories both happy and sad.

Ross Harvey was born in Bristol and trained as an actor at the Bristol Old Vic Theatre School. Work includes seasons with The Royal Shakespeare Company, The Haymarket, Basingstoke and many productions for the Bristol Old Vic. He has toured nationally in *Joseph and His Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*. As well as several radio drama productions for the BBC, Ross has voiced many an ad for commercial radio and corporate videos. He has appeared in television productions including *Down To Earth* and *Magic Grandad* for the BBC, *The Gibley Boys* for ITV and *A Taste of Your Own Medicine* for Channel Four. Ross will soon be seen in *Patrick’s Planet* for the BBC as the Dirty Den of fictional Dragglesham, Frank Peabody.

Kate McNab began her career as a jazz singer with Sweet Substitute. Tours – apart from international jazz festivals all over the world – include *Hooray For Hollywood*, *Stardust Road* (with Georgie Fame), *Fabulous Fats Waller*, *Basin Street To Broadway* and Tony Staveacre’s one-woman show *The Very Thought of You*. For Bristol Old Vic she played Gwen in *Up The Feeder Down The Mouth* (Spot in the dockside version), Mrs Fezziwig in *A Christmas Carol* and Lily in *Myrtle*. For Crisp Theatre she played Bet in Godber’s *April In Paris* and, for Show of Strength, Avril in Peter Nichols’ own production of *Nicholodeon*. The Independent described Kate’s voice as having ‘outstanding power.’

Both Kate and Ross will continue to tour with *Keep Smiling Through*, *Doodlebugs and Bogeymen* and *Yes, We Have NO BANANAS* which form MoE’s charming and light-hearted WW2 trilogy.