

PROPS

- SCENE 1** **THE EVACUATION FROM PADDINGTON STATION:** a 'PADDINGTON STATION' sign and some platform signs.
Evacuees: a gas mask each, luggage and large brown labels on string attached to their collars.
Miss Albright: a clipboard and pen.
Mrs Dawson: a hanky.
- SCENE 2** **KEEP CALM AND CARRY ON:** wartime information posters such as 'DIG FOR VICTORY' / 'LOOSE LIPS SINK SHIPS' / 'MAKE DO AND MEND' etc.
HM Grogg: a 'KEEP CALM AND CARRY ON' poster.
Etta: a chart with rules on to read from.
- SCENE 3** **THE LETTER HOME**
The Dawson children: a piece of paper and a pencil.
Mums: letters to read.
- SCENE 4** **TREACHERY AT TRAITORS' QUAY**
Lizzie: a telegram.
Josie and Rosie: a large sack of waste paper.
Duggie and Billy: a pile of newspaper each, tied with string.
- SCENE 5** **WE SHALL NEVER SURRENDER!:** a seascape painted on sheeting.
Air-raid wardens/Home Guard: signs saying 'KEEP OFF THE BEACH'; ropes, barricades etc.
- SCENE 6** **ALL IS REVEALED!:** a large pile of boxes must be present at the back.
Duggie, Billy and Rosie: a small case and a notebook; some brown facepaint to look muddy.
Parker: a notebook.
PC Lovham: handcuffs.

A NOTE ON STAGE DIRECTIONS

Suggestions for stage directions are provided throughout the script, but please note that these are meant as guidelines only. We suggest that all scenes could be set against a simple backdrop of panelled walls, to which can be added station signs for Scene 1 and wartime information posters for the rest of the scenes, which can be covered over by a seascape painted on sheeting for the beach scene, Scene 5; Scene 4 could take place on a separate stage block. A large pile of boxes needs to be present for Scene 6 and could be there from the beginning at the back of the set. The SFX tracks (CD Tracks 16-19) will help to create the right atmosphere for various scenes and strategic lighting would help to provide focus within the set.

CAST SIZE

There are 43 speaking parts in total. To reduce the number of speaking parts to 34, have just two village evacuees, two Mums and two air-raid wardens and split the lines accordingly. With alteration of the script you could reduce the speaking parts further by having fewer land girls and just one Eggin-Drake daughter. The cast size can easily be increased by adding more non-speaking evacuees, Mums, air-raid wardens and Home Guard.