

= From Here to Eternity the Musical =

From Here to Eternity the Musical is a musical with music and lyrics by Stuart Brayson and Tim Rice and a book by Bill Oakes . Based on the novel of the same name , written by James Jones , the musical made its West End and world premiere in 2013 , at the Shaftesbury Theatre , London .

Jones 's novel From Here to Eternity was a best @-@ seller and well known for its successful movie adaptation . Jones 's manuscript was heavily censored by his publisher to remove profanity and references to gay prostitution ; the unexpurgated version was not published until 2011 . Once it was , composer Stuart Brayson thought it might be adapted as a musical , and proposed the project to Tim Rice , who acquired the stage rights and wrote the lyrics .

The musical was announced in May 2011 and opened on 23 October 2013 , a year later than originally planned . The West End production stars Darius Campbell as Warden , Robert Lonsdale as Private Prewitt , and Ryan Sampson as Maggio . The work received mixed reviews , though Brayson was praised for an imaginative score . The production closed on 29 March 2014 , after a run of six and a half months .

= = Synopsis = =

The musical is set in 1941 , at the Schofield Barracks in Hawaii , in the months leading up to the Attack on Pearl Harbor . The story tells the tale of G Company , in particular First Sergeant Milt Warden , who begins an affair with his captain 's wife Karen , insubordinate soldier and male hustler Maggio and Private Robert E. Lee Prewitt , an infantryman from Kentucky and self @-@ described " thirty @-@ year man " (a career soldier) , who falls in love with prostitute Lorene . Because he blinded a fellow soldier while boxing , the stubborn Prewitt refuses to box for his company 's outfit led by Captain Dana " Dynamite " Holmes and then resists the " Treatment , " a daily hazing ritual in which the non @-@ commissioned officers of his company run him into the ground .

= = Background = =

The basis of the musical is the 1951 novel From Here to Eternity by James Jones . In 1941 , Jones was serving with the US Army in Hawaii , at the time of Pearl Harbor , and the novel was loosely based on his experiences in the 27th Infantry Regiment . It focuses on the lives of a group of soldiers in the months leading up to the attack , in particular Private Prewitt , a boxer who no longer wants to fight having blinded an opponent , and Sergeant Milt Warden , who has an affair with the wife of his commanding officer .

James 's story was censored by its publisher , Scribner as it would not allow profanity and gay prostitution. to remain in the text . Jones fought the censorship but had to back down ; despite this it won the National Book Award for Fiction in 1952 and is recognised as one of the twentieth century 's best American novels . The title of From Here to Eternity is inspired by Rudyard Kipling 's poem Gentlemen @-@ Rankers , in particular the line " damned from here to Eternity " . Two years later in 1953 , it was adapted into a film starring Burt Lancaster and Deborah Kerr , which achieved success at the box office and won eight Academy Awards , including Best Picture . The movie was also initially deemed controversial because of the source text 's critical views on the Army , with minor changes being made to the script to gain the military 's co @-@ operation . The uncensored version of the novel was released in May 2011 , initially as an e @-@ book .

The idea for the musical came from Stuart Brayson , who had been sending cassette tapes with music ideas to Tim Rice since they had first met in the 1980s , when Brayson was a member of the band Pop . In 2002 , Brayson sent Rice a tape of music and lyrics to form the basis of a stage version of From Here to Eternity . Rice liked the idea but only intended to produce the show , however after Bill Oakes had been hired to write the book gaps appeared where new songs were needed and some no longer fitted within the context of the show . Rice agreed to write around six new songs , but ultimately ended up writing around 90 % of the show 's lyrics inspired by Brayson 's original lyrics . On the subject Rice said : " Stuart 's were very good , but they weren 't theatrical and

there is a difference . I often wish I could write great rock lyrics , but I can 't , however , I can do reasonable lyrics within the context of a show . There are people who can write good tunes , but few who can do theatrical lyrics . "

In May 2011 , Tim Rice and Lee Menzie announced that an adaption was being planned . Rice acquired the stage rights at an initial cost of around US \$ 40 @, @ 000 , with the intention of opening the show in London the following year . Although the show did not ultimately open until 2013 , a workshop of the show took place in 2012 .

As the show is based on the uncensored novel released in 2011 , rather than the 1953 film adaptation , it contains references to prostitution and gay sex , as well as the Army 's investigation into them , that the film did not feature . The right to create the musical adaptation came with the condition that it had to be based on the original book . James Jones 's daughter Kaylie and son Jamie were in the audience for the show 's opening night in London . During its preview period some people walked out of the performance , having been unprepared for the nudity and swearing in the production . Darius Campbell who played First Sergeant Milt Warden , said that the " James Jones novel really portrayed homosexuality and prostitution in the way that it existed in those days and we 've dived in head first . Maybe some of the nudity , swearing and explicitness have been too much for them , but a younger audience and an audience who have loved the film ? and wanted to see more ? have been giving us standing ovations and for that we are all grateful . " Kaylie admitted they had doubts about the idea of the show when it first came up , but added that " I 'm thrilled ? it 's so sophisticated and moving . " She also noted that she " was so delighted they put in the gay bar scenes , because my dad said this is just the way it was back then " and that " my father would have been amazed " .

= = = Themes = = =

The show contains many adult themes , including , gay men in the United States military , prostitution , bullying and the effects of war . As a result of these themes , the show is recommended for children aged 13 onwards .

= = Production history = =

= = = West End (2013) = = =

On 26 October 2012 , producers announced that the show would play the Shaftesbury Theatre from September 2013 , with tickets going on sale in April . The show has a book by Bill Oakes and is directed by Tamara Harvey , with choreography by Javier De Frutos , orchestrations by David White , set and costume design by Soutra Gilmour , lighting design by Bruno Poet and sound design by Mick Potter . The musical features an original score , with music by Stuart Brayson and lyrics by Tim Rice . The musical adaption marked Rice 's first entirely new show since Aida and Brayson 's first West End musical . Former US Marine Ray Elliott , also head of the James Jones literary society , was hired to ensure an accurate picture of military life for the era . Elliott read the script to ensure it was realistic , ran military drills , taught the cast how to salute all ranks and how to hold rifles correctly . The show received its first public outing as part of West End Live in June 2013 , with star Robert Lonsdale singing " Fight the Fight " .

On 1 July 2013 , full casting was announced with Darius Campbell playing Warden , Robert Lonsdale playing Private Prewitt , Ryan Sampson playing Maggio , Siubhan Harrison playing Lorene and Rebecca Thornhill playing Karen . From Here to Eternity began previews on 30 September 2013 , at the Shaftesbury Theatre , London , and held its official opening gala night on 23 October . In all the London production features a cast of thirty three and a fifteen @-@ member band . A typical London performance runs two hours and 50 minutes , including one interval of 15 mins .

On 29 November 2013 , it was announced the production would close on 26 April 2014 , after a 7 1 ? 2 @-@ month run , with the possibility of reopening at another theatre . The closure was later

brought forward a month to 29 March . To mark the 72nd anniversary of Pearl Harbor on 7 December 2013 , the cast joined with The Military Wives choir for a special post curtain rendition of the song " The Boys of ' 41 " .

= = Music = =

Brayson 's music features a mix of blues , swing , big band , and rock ' n ' roll numbers . The musical uses a fifteen @-@ member orchestra consisting of keyboard , cello , ukulele , flute , saxophone , clarinet , flugelhorn , trumpet , bugle , trombone , tuba , French horn , guitar , bass , drums , percussion and harmonica . On the show 's music Alexander Gilmour , writing for Financial Times said that the show : " has half a dozen numbers that bring the house down " , and that " it feels grown @-@ up . It has a certain grit . It 's moving . You might just cry , fall in love , hum yourself to sleep to the tune of ' Thirty Year Man ' , wake up and join the army . "

= = = Musical numbers = = =

= = = Recordings = = =

The song " Fight the Fight " from the show was recorded and released by Michael Ball as part of his Both Sides Now album in February 2013 . The same track was later released as a digital download in December 2013 , sung by Robert Lonsdale . In July 2013 , Rice allowed Clare Teal to record another song from the show , " Another Language " , for release on her album And So It Goes . In February 2014 , Rice announced that a cast album would be recorded , prior to the show 's West End closure . The original London cast recording was released as a digital download on 3 July 2014 , with the physical release following on 4 August .

= = = = Cast album = = = =

= = Principal roles and cast members = =

= = Critical reception = =

Michael Billington of The Guardian noted that the original novel had helped offset overly heroic images of the American soldier , but in the wake of Abu Gharib , the view of the military was already mixed , " why now , and what does music add to the story ? " Quentin Letts of the Daily Mail deemed the show " harmless nonsense " but acknowledged an outside chance it could become a camp classic . Simon Edge of the Daily Express deemed the show " a commendably ambitious work that makes a refreshing addition to the West End menu . " Paul Taylor of The Independent suggested , " For all the show 's many defects , though , you come away impressed by its seriousness of purpose " .

Taylor praised the music : " Brayson 's catchy score , which moves deftly through swing , blues , jazz and early rock 'n'roll can rise to good old showbiz brassiness when needed " . Henry Hitchings of the Evening Standard gave a mixed view of the music , " There are seductive melodies and a couple of genuinely catchy songs . But it never settles into a single confident idiom , and between the big numbers there are lulls , especially in the overlong first half . " Letts praised Campbell for his vocal talents , stating that he " does some worthy old @-@ fashioned crooning ? in a pleasant song called ' Marking Time ' there are moments when he actually sounds like Nat King Cole . "

Taylor predicted on 24 October 2013 , " Wags have quipped that it should be called From Here to November . But I reckon it 's going to survive quite a bit longer than that . "

= = Awards and nominations = =

On 6 December 2013 , it was announced the production had received four Whats on Stage awards nominations , including Best New Musical . Ultimately the production did not win in any of the four categories . Although eligible , the musical did not receive any nominations for the 2014 Laurence Olivier Awards .