

Terra Nova



by Ted Tally

Act I - 1 hour

There will be an interval of 15 mins

Act II - 1 hour

About the Production

Today, in a time when the remotest corner of the world is instantly visible on the screen of your smart phone, when webcams stream live footage from the South Pole, and when our lives are ordered and constrained by warning signs and high-vis everything, the undertaking of Captain Scott and his party is inconceivable.

In a land that was largely unknown and was constantly trying to kill you they walked 800 miles through the harshest environment on Earth, dragging everything they needed for survival – and a few things they didn't – only to find they had been beaten. By a foreigner.

Ted Tally's play focuses on Scott's race to the South Pole with the Norwegian, Amundsen, and wonderfully captures the duality of Scott's nature. At the same time he was both a bold adventurer, archetypical of the muscular Christian beloved in Victorian England, and a shy, insular man, better suited to a literary rather than a military career.

That the story of his journey has stood the test of time and still has the power to compel is largely due to his ability to compose heart-rending messages to his wife, his son, his many friends and the friends and family of his comrades under the most extreme of circumstances.

This play tells a version of the journey – there are many – but, more importantly, gives a real insight into the character of the men Scott took with him on his last journey. Probably the most well known, if only for one breathless phrase, was "Titus" Oates, a plain speaking soldier for whom duty was all. Less well known but equally admirable, Tally gives us an opportunity to examine the character of men such as "Birdie" Bowers, "Uncle Bill" Wilson and the dutiful "Taff" Evans.

I make no apologies in reaching for a cliché but they really don't make 'em like this any more. This is a tale for the ages. A story of man's inexhaustible desire to find out what is over the next hill and the price sometimes exacted for that desire. The last words, as always, are those of Robert Falcon Scott.

"Had we lived, I should have had a tale to tell of the hardihood, endurance, and courage of my companions which would have stirred the heart of every Englishman. These rough notes and our dead bodies must tell the tale..."



ROGER GIMBLETT - Robert Scott Roger's previous roles include, Soames in *The Forsyte Saga*, Higgins in *Pygmalion*, Malvolio in *Twelfth Night*, Roy in *Cosi*, Toad in *Wind in the Willows* and Siegfried Sassoon in the Sydney, Canberra and Christchurch seasons of Stephen MacDonald's acclaimed WWI drama *Not About Heroes*. He also portrayed Alfred Deakin in the recent play about the early PM at the Richard Wherrett Studio, Sydney Theatre. Roger has directed ten productions for the Genesian Theatre and recently completed the Director's Short Course at RADA. He considers it well past time he put his acting career on ice...

TOM MASSEY - Roald Amundsen Tom has acted, directed, stage managed, worked on sound and lighting design & operation, designed and built sets, worked as publicist, graphic designer, website & email admin, acting tutor, FoH manager. Tom trained at AADA in the mid 90's. In 2006 Tom appeared as Bridey in the Australian premiere of Parsley's adaptation of Waugh's *Brideshead Revisted* for RGP. Notable roles include Vladimir in *Godot* for SUDS, Caliban in Shakespeare's *Tempest* and Mole in *Wind in the Willows* for the Genesian. His most recent appearance was as Trotter in *Journey's End*. For the Genesian he has directed *Noises Off*, *Dead White Males*, and *The 39 Steps*.



FLORA MILNE - Kathleen Scott Flora is fresh off the boat from the UK. It has been a while since she trod the boards as she was diverted by the world of advertising for several years. Yearning for a more wholesome calling and a more captive audience she turned to science teaching. Previous stage credits include the *Oxford Revue* at Edinburgh Festival 2002, Caryl Churchill's *Cloud Nine*, Nick Gill's *Narcolepsy* and *Return to the Forbidden Planet*.

JAMES MOIR - Edward Wilson This is James Moir's second appearance with The Genesian Theatre. The first, being the Great War drama *Journey's End* by R.C.Sherriff, where he played Mason the cook.





SAM RYAN - Henry Bowers A hip injury squashed Sam's dreams of captaining Liverpool FC to a FA Cup win. At a bit of a loss for direction, Sam turned to the military serving four years in the Army as a Paratrooper. Sam went on to explore the world and his artistic side. In between surfing, singing in a band, traveling and studying acting, Sam somehow found time to complete a science degree. As soon as this was finished, Sam moved to Sydney to pursue a career as an actor. Some of Sam's stage credits include *Don's Party* "Don Henderson", *The Crucible* "Reverend John Hale" with LPAE, *Les Miserables* "Jean Prouvaire", *Cats* "Quaxo" with MMS.

MICHAEL SYDES - Edgar Evans Michael Sydes is an actor & screenwriter. He is a graduate of Macquarie, and Sydney Theatre School. Michael has studied Theatresports™ with Lyn Pierse. Michael recently studied at l'École Philippe Gaulier. His stage credits include: Orsino in *Twelfth Night*, Randle McMurphy in *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest*, Detective Parkes in Michael Pigotts *A Kingdom in a Suitcase*, Mark in *Found Me* and Edmund in *King Lear*. Michael has recently wrapped on two short films, *Resplendence* and *The Sense of Syntax*. Michael is the principle facilitator of Clownin' with Confidence, an organisation that develops resilience & confidence for school students.



JACK WIECZOREK - Lawrence Oates Jack studied Economics at Macquarie. During his last semester, he swapped the stuffy confines of the Economics fraternity with a crash-course in the rich traditions of Polish cinema at the Jagiellonian University, Poland, as part of a student exchange. He has since completed acting courses at ACA and NIDA. Jack has appeared in a number of short films and has recently co-produced a short film entry for Tropfest. He made his theatre debut in Oscar Wilde's *Lady Windermere's Fan* in 2011. He hopes the somewhat superficial knowledge of the Antarctic gained from preparing for this play will lend itself well when attempting his first trek in Nepal in 2012.

PRODUCTION

Director

Mark Langham

Technical & Set Design

Owen Gimblett

Costume Design

Susan Carveth

Lighting & Sound Design

Michael Schell

Set Construction

**Members of
the Company,**

Paul Gilbert

Costume Assistant

Lissa Knight

Catering

Wendy Gimblett

Photography

Craig O'Regan

Graphic Design

Tom Massey

Norwegian Accent Coach

Astri Forsyth

Transport

Debbie Smith

Acknowledgements

Sydney University

CREW

Stage Manager

Mark Banks

Assistant Stage Manager

Victoria Hoffman

Katherine Lee

Lighting & Sound Operator

Lauren Churm

CAST

Captain Robert Falcon "Con" Scott, RN

Roger Gimblett

Roald Amundsen

Tom Massey

Kathleen Scott

Flora Milne

Dr Edward "Uncle Bill" Wilson

James Moir

Lieutenant Henry "Birdie" Bowers, RIM

Sam Ryan

Petty Officer 1st Cl. Edgar "Taff" Evans, RN

Michael Sydes

Captain Lawrence "Titus" Oates, Army

Jack Wieczorek

About the Genesian Theatre

The Genesian Theatre Company is a non-professional group operating from an historic church in Kent Street, in the heart of the Sydney CBD. We boast among our alumni numerous household names in Australian theatre and film such as Bryan Brown, Baz Luhrmann, Judi Farr, and John Bell. We are, however, just as proud of the hundreds of talented amateur actors, directors, designers, lighting and sound specialists who have contributed to Sydney's unique little theatre over the years.

Over the years the company has developed into a theatre providing a training ground for young actors and a place where those who love the theatre can meet, share and extend their knowledge of the performing arts. The Genesian Theatre is one of Sydney's most active theatre companies. In addition to six main stage productions each year we run classes, workshops and many other activities.

The building which houses The Genesian Theatre Company was originally St John's Church, and dates from 1868. It has served as both a church and a poor school until 1932 when it became the Kursaal Theatre, housing the Sydney Repertory Company. In 1938 it became the first Matthew Talbot Hostel. Since 1954 it has been the home of The Genesian Theatre Company which was formed in 1944.

Membership

If your interest is in acting, directing, stage management, sound, lights, publicity, admin, etc, or if you just want to experience being a member of the group, we would welcome you as a member. You don't need to be experienced, we can provide training and can cater to different levels of involvement. Please see our web site for further information.

Coming next to the Genesian Theatre...



*The Merchant
of Venice*

Subscriptions are available
www.genesiantheatre.com.au