

Director's Note

The story of *Two Weeks with the Queen* is as richly complex and unpredictable as real life itself, combining humour with tragedy and finding hope where it's least expected.

Mary Morris's stage adaptation of Morris Gleitzman's original novel gives plenty of opportunity for a director to bring the very best out of an already talented cast. Although the play was written for only 6 actors, this production's larger cast brings a depth to the characters that such a touching human story deserves. The tricky casting process was actually a lot of fun, sitting with pen and paper, matching actors to roles, while making sure they were never scripted to be on stage with themselves!

There are some wonderful fun and quirky characters for audiences to enjoy, especially Colin's English relatives, in particular his dandruff-prone whiney cousin Alistair, who brings a real sense of comic relief to an otherwise serious story. As a director I was blessed with the talents of Bernie, Trent and Matthew who have each brought the boys' characters to life with youth, enthusiasm and credibility.

I have had a wonderful time directing this play and attribute its artistic success to its versatile and talented cast, Clare Singline, the set and lighting designer, Lloyd and Robyn Williams, who work slavishly in the bio box every night to make the dozens of sound and lighting cues possible, John O'Brien Hall, whose patience and 'no worries' attitude brought order to chaos, and especially Joyce Birch, my associate, whose wealth of experience was invaluable and whose support and friendship has been my rock.

Thank you for coming to see
Two Weeks with the Queen.

Loretta Tolnai

Visit the Genesian website for all the latest news and information:

<http://www.genesiantheatre.com.au>

Special Thanks

In addition to all those talented members of Genesian who made this production possible I would like to thank Timothy Bennett for understudying Uncle Bob at a moment's notice, Gary Dooley for his wonderful handling of a lens, Steve Andrews for his spectacular wig grooming and his facial hair expertise, Sandra Bass for her skillful pearl and plain, Susan Carveth for her skills in transforming acrylic fur, Tricia Paddison for her 'bloody scab' labour, Grant Fraser for knowing how to drive a truck, Paul Gilbert for working wonders with a powerdrill, Glen Harman for his chocolate confectionary connections, and Cameron Bates, for doing without his impressive teddy bear doona cover and teddy sheet collection.

our next production....

Shakespeare's *King Lear*

Designed and Directed by Gary Dooley
Assisted by Jane Kempler

Opens March 8th 2003

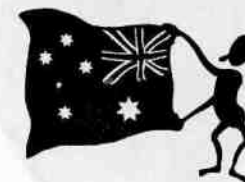
For Bookings call MCA ticketing
(02) 9645 1611
online www.mca-tix.com

GENESIAN THEATRE Inc
420 Kent St Sydney



Two Weeks

with the Queen



Adapted from the Morris Gleitzman novel
By Mary Morris

Directed by Loretta Tolnai

10th January to 22nd February, 2003

Friday, Saturday 8.00pm,
Sunday 4.30pm

Bookings 9645 1611



Cast in order of Appearance

<i>Colin Mudford</i>	<i>Bernie Buikstra</i>
<i>Luke</i>	<i>Matthew McWilliams-</i>
<i>Mum</i>	<i>Karen O'Brien-Hall</i>
<i>Dad</i>	<i>Tony Giuffre</i>
<i>Nurse</i>	<i>Emily Hoare</i>
<i>(Sunday performance) Elizabeth O'Conner-</i>	
<i>Flight Att / Dr Graham</i>	<i>Emily Twemlow</i>
<i>Auntie Iris</i>	<i>Shane Bates</i>
<i>Uncle Bob</i>	<i>Keith McLroy</i>
<i>(understudied by Timothy Bennett)</i>	
<i>Alistair</i>	<i>Trent Gardiner</i>
<i>Ted</i>	<i>Anthony Burns</i>
<i>Griff</i>	<i>Robert Dennys</i>

Directed by
Loretta Tolnai
Production Associate
Joyce Birch



Crew

Set and Lighting Design: Clare Singline

Original Score:	Henri Gomez
Costumes:	Jane Kempler
Postcard /Poster:	Cathy Frank
Sound Operator:	Robyn Williams
Lighting Operator:	Lloyd Williams
Sound Design:	John O'Brien Hall
Stage Manager:	John O'Brien Hall
Assistants to the Stage Manager:	Melissa Pavihi Emily Hoare

Program/Photos



Set Construction: Clare Singline, Paul Gilbert, and company members

Publicity: Chantal Kershaw, Richard Sherwood, Shane Bates, Timothy Bennett.

The Story

Two Weeks with the Queen is an inspiring story about Colin Mudford, a 12 year old boy who is driven by the irrepressible optimism of youth.

Colin's brother Luke is dying of cancer, and Colin is out to find the best cancer doctor in the world to save his brother's life. But hope comes from where he least expects it.

As part of the Genesian 2002/2003 Season, *What is Love? Two Weeks with the Queen* reaffirms the special bond which exists between siblings and the depth of a child's unconditional love.

Two Weeks with the Queen is set in Rural Australia and the outskirts of London in the present day.

There will be one 15 min interval