



The style of the play is similar to 'Oh What a Lovely War' and is interspersed with scenes and vignettes with songs and poems from the time. It starts with the shooting of Franz Ferdinand, we then see the Kaiser deciding to support the Austro-Hungarians and we move on to the British Cabinet and their decision to support Belgium. From there we meet two Tommies going to war and two German soldiers in their trench. The play ends at the Christmas truce, where it is said that English and Germans played a football match.

**The songs we use are:**

Keep the Home Fires Burning  
 Belgium put the kibosh on the Kaiser  
 We are Fred Karno's army  
 The Bells of Hell going a ling a ling  
 Oh we don't want to lose you, but we think you ought to go (or Your King and Country Want You)  
 Sister Susie Sewing Shirts for Soldiers  
 Bombed Last Night, and Bombed the Night Before  
 Pack up Your Troubles in Your Old Kit Bag  
 It's a Long Way to Tipperary  
 When this Lousy War is Over

We use this transcript from Churchill's diary about the declaration of war:

**"It was eleven o'clock at night – twelve by German time – when the ultimatum expired. The windows of the Admiralty were thrown wide open in the warm night air. Along the Mall from the direction of the Palace the sound of an immense concourse singing 'God save the King' flouted in. As Big Ben boomed out, the war telegram was flashed to the ships all over the world. I walked across the Horse Guards Parade to the Cabinet room and reported to the Prime Minister that the deed was done."**

**We use this song from the time sung to the 'Sing a song of Sixpence' tune:**

Sing a song of sausages  
 Sauerkraut and rye,  
 Hordes of little Belgians,  
 Hiding in a pie:

When the pie was opened,  
The guns began to sting  
Wasn't that an artful way  
To catch the Sausage King!

**The poems we use are;**

All the Hills and Vales Along - by Charles Sorley - excerpts

The Kiss - by Seigfried Sassoon

Prayer before battle - by Alfred Lichenstein

The Day's March - by Robert Nichols - excerpts

Exposure - by Wilfred Owen

Prayer after the Slaughter – by Kurt Tucholsky, translated by Peter Appelbaum - excerpts

The scenes in German trenches were taken from 'All Quiet on the Western Front' and the scenes with the British Tommies were inspired by events and transcripts of memoirs of soldiers from the time. There was a German bombing of Hartlepool in WW1 where many civilians were killed and which outraged the British people.