

ACT TWO

"WORKING WOMEN"

MAY *We rise with the sun
Our morning work has already begun
Every day we wait for them to call a truce,
And we're out here, finding new recruits.*

*We're working women in a working man's boots
We're working women in a working man's boots
Working women in a working man's boots
Making our path, making our-*

Ada and Elsie enter

MAY Morning ladies.

ELSIE/ADA (disgruntled) Morning.

MAY What's wrong with you two?

ADA What do you think is wrong with us?

MAY Pardon?

ADA I had no audience last night!

ELSIE *We had no audience last night. This lot really don't like us May.*

MAY Well, how can we expect them to like us unless they've see us?
Look - we've done it before, we can do it again! Follow me.

Some SOLDIERS walk through.

ADA Gentlemen! How do you do? Fancy a treat with us tonight-?

MAY Shakespeare's sonnets, songs of home?

MAN 1 No thanks.

MAY You sir?

MAN 2 I'm alright.

ELSIE Bit of culture to warm the cockles. How about a poem or two?

MAN 2 I'm afraid we're not allowed to Miss. And besides, we've got a lot of work to do.

SOLDIERS exit.

MAY Ada. Do you ask every soldier if they "fancy a treat"?

ADA No. Maybe. Sometimes - May, recruiting is no mean feat.

ELSIE What do you think that soldier meant by "we're not allowed"?

MAY I don't know, but I'm going to find out.

MAY *Working women in a working man's boots*

+**ADA** *Working women in a working man's boots*

+**ELSIE** *Working women in a working man's boots*
Making our path, making our way

MAY Good morning Officer.

OFFICER Can I help you Miss?

MAY My name is May Kirklees and I am in charge of the concert parties held here. We invited your soldiers to attend last night but have since been told that they're not allowed to come. May I ask why?

OFFICER I hear the War Office has not given their approval for these 'concerts'. Tell me, what right do you have to be here exhibiting yourselves?

MAY We're here for the men's wellbeing.

OFFICER God and God alone shall see to that. My regiment will not be exposed to your lewd performances; we do not need sirens here to tempt the men. Good Day miss and may god be with you.

ADA Well?

MAY He thinks we're lewd.

ADA Lewd! The cheek!

MAY Ada please.

ELSIE How can they say that - May, these officers, they don't speak for their men. Not really.

MAY Well, audience numbers suggest otherwise. But chin up ladies. I'll sort this. It's time to improvise.

MAY exits. ELIZA comes in.

ELIZA Girls! I've thought of a new song we could do tonight.

ADA I'm sorry Eliza - I'm not sure if there will even be a concert tonight.

ELIZA What? Why?

ADA The regiment officers have banned the soldiers from coming.

ELSIE They think we're silly showgirls here for shallow amusement.

ELIZA What? That's ridiculous! Surely you won't let that stop you? If anyone can change the minds of some stuffy officers - trust me. It's you.

ELIZA *verse*

*You came without fear
The diff'rence you've made is undoubtedly clear
You make these men happy, help them breathe, give them light
You're not girls who give up, you're the ones who put up a
fight*

*You're working women in a working man's boots
Working women in a working man's boots
Working women in a working man's boots
You're making your path - you're here to stay*

MAY Ladies - it's done. I have been personally guaranteed a full house for tonight's concert.

ADA Oh May - that's wonderful. You're so clever.

ELIZA That's brilliant!

ELSIE So resilient.

ADA But how did you do it? What tricks have you got up your sleeve?

MAY Let's just say it's amazing what a little imagination can achieve.

BRIDGE

May, Elsie, Ada and Eliza

MAY *We're working women in a working man's boots*

MAY & ELIZA *Working women in a working man's boots*

ALL *Working women in a working man's boots
Making our path, making our way*

*They said we couldn't do it
But we're proving them wrong
We may not have the vote but we're running the nation
So get yourselves set for the emancipation.*

*Working women in a working man's boots
Working women in a working man's boots
Working women in a working man's boots
Making our path, making our way, we're here to stay
performing!*

MAY Psalms! Tonight we'll be performing psalms.