



DID OH WHAT A LOVELY WAR SHAPE OUR VIEW OF WW1?

Video transcript - Introduction

The musical *Oh What a Lovely War* opened here in March, 1963. It was produced by The Theatre Workshop, an acting group led by radical director Joan Littlewood.

Under the guise of musical entertainment, *Oh What a Lovely War* took a satirical look at the conflict of 1914-1918.

The play was staged as a seaside concert party with the cast performing in traditional white Pierrot outfits in place of realistic costumes.

In a series of sketches and songs the show unashamedly favoured the ordinary, working class men who found themselves in the trenches.

Generals were portrayed as buffoons - convinced of their own authority and too stubborn to concede mistakes.

In the show the men at the front suffered continual betrayals.

With images from Tara Wolff, PA, Lebrecht Music and Arts, Roman Cagnoni and David Sim courtesy of Theatre Royal Stratford East Archive