

The Tram to Bondi Beach

Adapted by Libby Hathorn & J. Andrew Johnstone

from the book
by Libby Hathorn



Currency Press
the performing arts publisher

Characters

KEIRAN O'GRADY, boy

SAXON FRANCIS, older paperboy

ISABELLE O'GRADY, Keiran's little sister

MR FRANCIS, Saxon's father

KENNY O'GRADY, Keiran's father

ILSA O'GRADY, Keiran's mother

BONDI BEACH CHORUS

GROCER

MR CHAMBERS

MRS PATTERSON

LITTLE PATTERSON

MR BRAYSON

LIFESAVER 1

LIFESAVER 2

LIFESAVER 3

SWIMMER

SURFER 1

SURFER 2

PILLOW FIGHTER 1

PILLOW FIGHTER 2

WORKER 1

WORKER 2

'Try a Little Tenderness', © Campbell Connelly & Co. Ltd. International
Copyright secured. All rights reserved.

Reprinted with kind permission of Campbell Connelly (Australia) Pty Ltd.

A Note on the Play

The Tram to Bondi Beach is written to be performed by children, children and adults, or entirely by adults. As a class or whole school play there is scope for large numbers in the Bondi Beach Chorus, as alternating cast members, and in the production of the play.

There are six core characters. The Bondi Beach Chorus can comprise as many or as few performers as required. The Bondi Beach Chorus can also be performed in unison or broken into groups with each performing one section so it is easier for younger performers to learn. There is great scope for colourful and imaginative period costuming with the Bondi Beach Chorus, or costuming along the themes of beach life. This can add a sense of carnival to a performance.

Staging can be supported by projection technology to recreate the Great Depression of the 1930s, and show images like: Bondi Beach; a Bondi tram; The Icebergs (baths); Campbell Parade; Bondi Pavilion; Ben Buckler; Mermaid; North Bondi; Bondi Surf Club; Bondi Beach Public School; Bondi Hotel; and other Bondi icons.

To view period photos of Bondi online you can visit the State Library of NSW photo files (search under Bondi):
www.sl.nsw.gov.au/picman/about.cfm

The Waverley Library has photos that can be viewed at the library: www.waverley.nsw.gov.au/library/

The Sydney Tramway Museum has an actual Bondi tram and many others like it: www.sydneytramwaymuseum.com.au

Scene 1. Hot potato

The stage is black. Scuffling, running feet can be heard.

Lights up.

KEIRAN O'GRADY enters, panting, holding a potato. It is 1932.

KEIRAN: Yikes! Reckon he saw me? Oops. What've I done?

He smiles at the potato.

KEIRAN: Gee, you look good. So ready! So tasty! It's like we were made for each other. Me being so hungry, and you, well... so potato!

He puckers his lips to kiss it, shutting his eyes.

GROCER: [offstage] Stop! Thief! Thief! I saw you! Thief!

KEIRAN dives behind a rubbish bin.

The GROCER enters, with a broom.

GROCER: You! I saw you! Wherever y'are! I saw your ugly mug! [Shaking his fist] I'll tell your parents! You'll get yours, sonny boy! I'll teach you to steal from me! Then we'll see who's laughing!

The GROCER exits.

KEIRAN steps out. He holds up the potato and sniffs it loudly.

KEIRAN: Yum! Then we'll see who's laughing!

He drops to his knees, pulls kindling from his pocket and lights a small fire. He blows on the flame and cooks the potato.

KEIRAN: One potato, two potato, three potato, four... five potato, six potato, seven potato, more...

He lifts it from the fire.

KEIRAN: Bloody good tucker!

KEIRAN *burns his mouth.*

KEIRAN: Argh!

*He juggles it from hand to hand, hopping, blowing frantically.
Then he tears it open and wolfs it down.*

The GROCER enters.

GROCER: Hey you!

KEIRAN *taunts him, mouth full.*

KEIRAN: A lamington to finish, Jeeves, old man. [*He clicks his fingers.*] Make it snappy!

GROCER: Ah-ha! Keiran O'Grady, is it? And your mother such a fine woman!

KEIRAN *runs. The GROCER grapples at him.*

GROCER: [*ranting*] You filthy little good for nothing! Thieving beggar!

KEIRAN *breaks loose and exits in a panic.*

GROCER: Your mother'll hear of this when she brings her scones! You'll get yours, sonny boy! I'll have you in the lock-up!

The GROCER exits.

Lights down.

Scene 2. Dawn wakens Bondi Beach

Lights up.

BONDI BEACH CHORUS *enter, one by one. They wear sand-stripped 1930s costumes. Each holds a blue square of card covering their lower*

bodies from the waist down. The card is painted with sea and foam to emulate the ocean lapping Bondi Beach. They hold up representations of 1930s buildings on Bondi's Campbell Parade—the Bondi Hotel with Clock Tower, the North Bondi and Bondi Surf Clubs, and the Bondi Pavilion's arched façade which could be held by a few kids. Another group holds the South Bondi Icebergs Pool (complete with lanes and lappers) and a formation of rocks and cliff-top apartments emulating North Bondi headland.

They move across the stage to form the crescent shape of Bondi Beach whilst chanting the following, together or in turns.

BONDI BEACH CHORUS:

Mullumbimby, Moree, Buddabadah and Coober Pedy
Broken Hill, Alice Springs, Broke, Yass, Wollondilly
Wangaratta, Oodnadatta, Maroubra Bay and Parramatta
Bunglegumbie, Dickygundi, Urawilkie and Kalgoorlie
Bronte, Clo'e', Euabalong, Tamarama, Cooranbong
Coffin Bay, Yarralumla, Wangaratta, Coolangatta
Jumbuk, Eucla, La Perouse, Come By Chance and Mallacoota
Coogee... Yuna... Tooraweenah... Freeman's Reach... and...
Flamin' perfect... Bondi Beach...
Where the tram shoots through...
To take you to...
Flamin' perfect Bondi Beach!

The following dialogue can be performed in unison or individually, line by line.

Hands are stretched out to the audience. They rise like the sun rising in the east.

First light's daily treat...