

OUR COUNTRY'S GOOD

Timberlake Wertenbaker

BASED ON THE NOVEL *THE PLAYMAKER*
BY THOMAS KENEALLY

SCENE IX

A Love Scene

The beach. Night. MARY, then RALPH.

MARY: (*To herself.*) 'Captain Plume, I despise your listing-money; if I do serve, 'tis purely for love—of that wench I mean. For you must know,' etc—

'So you only want an opportunity for accomplishing your designs upon her?' 5

'Well, Sir, I'm satisfied as to the point in debate; but now let me beg you to lay aside your recruiting airs, put on the man of honour, and tell me plainly what usage I must expect when I'm under your command.'

(*She tries that again, with a stronger and lower voice. RALPH comes on, sees her. She sees him, but continues.*)

'And something tells me, that if you do discharge me 'twill 10
be the greatest punishment you can inflict; for were we this moment to go upon the greatest dangers in your profession, they would be less terrible to me than to stay behind you. And now your hand—this lists me—and now you are my Captain.' 15

RALPH: (*As PLUME.*) 'Your friend.' (*Kisses her.*) "Sdeath! There's something in this fellow that charms me.'

MARY: 'One favour I must beg—this affair will make some noise—'

20 RALPH: Silvia—

(He kisses her again.)

MARY: 'I must therefore take care to be impressed by the Act of Parliament—'

RALPH: 'What you please as to that. Will you lodge at my quarters in the meantime? You shall have part of my bed.'

25 Silvia. Mary.

MARY: Am I doing it well? It's difficult to play a man. It's not the walk, it's the way you hold your head. A man doesn't bow his head so much and never at an angle. I must face you without lowering my head. Let's try it again.

30 RALPH: 'What you please as to that.—Will you lodge at my quarters in the meantime? You shall have part of my bed.'
Mary!

(She holds her head straight. Pause.)

Will you?

(Pause.)

MARY: Yes.

(They kiss.)

35 RALPH: Don't lower your head. Silvia wouldn't.

(She begins to undress, from the top.)

I've never looked at the body of a woman before.

MARY: Your wife?

RALPH: It wasn't right to look at her.

Let me see you.

40 MARY: Yes.

Let me see you.

RALPH: Yes.

(He begins to undress himself.)

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