



Foreigners In Oztralia

By Jacquelin Melilli

Foreigners In Oztralia
Written by Jacquelin Melilli © 2002

Inquiries regarding performing rights and sales should be addressed to:

Jacquelin Melilli
Email: drama@jacquelinmelilli.com
Website: www.jacquelinmelilli.com

Copyright: This play is fully protected by copyright and is sold subject to the condition that it shall not by way of trade or otherwise, be lent, re-sold, hired out or otherwise circulated without the Authors prior consent in any form of binding or cover than that in which it is published.

Subject to the conditions prescribed under the Copyright Act, no part of this publication may lawfully be reproduced in any form or by any means – photocopying, typescript, electronic, recording (including video/digital recording) manuscript, mechanical or otherwise or be stored in a retrieval system or transmitted without prior written permission.

Inquires should be addressed to the above address. Permission to perform any play must be obtained from the author or the author's agent. Royalties must be paid for each and every performance.

Photocopying of any part of the play script contained herein is expressly forbidden without payment of photocopying licence.

The National Library of Australia Cataloguing-in-Publication data:

Melilli, Jacquelin,
Foreigners In Oztralia.

For primary/secondary students
ISBN 0-9756800-2-1

I. Title.

A822.4

Front cover illustration by Judith Kirwood.

Foreigners In Oztralia

An Australian Farce

Written by Jacquelin Melilli © 2002

Cast

Anita Higginbotham.....nervy, high maintenance
Frederick Higginbotham.....Anita's hen-pecked husband
Bazza.....good natured and easy going
Shazza.....Bazza's pregnant wife and mother of six
Gazza.....oldest son of Bazza and Shazza
Sheila.....oldest daughter of Bazza and Shazza
Gecko.....Sibling. Can be male or female
Freckles.....Sibling. Can be male or female
Bony.....Sibling. Can be male or female
Squirt.....Sibling. Can be male or female

Suggested Costumes:

Anita: Tailored skirt and jacket with matching coloured handbag and high heels, white blouse, pearl necklace, bracelet and matching earrings, wristwatch, wedding ring, long painted fingernails, hair neatly brushed in a bun, Crocodile Dundee type hat with crocs teeth, dainty white laced fan, mobile phone.

Frederick: Tailored pants and jacket, white shirt, colourful bowtie, braces for pants, wristwatch, wedding ring, shoes, Crocodile Dundee type hat with sales tag still attached, two matching suitcases, camera, binoculars.

Bazza: Dirty torn jeans, singlet, work shirt with sleeves rolled up and buttons undone, work boots scuffed with mud, old worn hat.

Shazza: Old work clothes, boots, pregnant belly, work hat.

Kids: Old clothes, boots and hats.

Suggested Props:

Sling shot, stuffed koala, dunny shed (can be made from large fridge cardboard box), makeshift bath, shower curtain, rubber snake, small bucket.

Foreigners In Oztralia

An Australian farce set in the outback with Anita and Frederick Higginbotham, an upper crust couple from England, visiting the outback for a taste of the real Australia (as portrayed in the travel brochure). Bazza and Shazza, the layback, kind hearted couple are their hosts living out in the sticks. Having first touched down in Sydney amidst the duty free shops, Anita & Frederick are in for a real shock when the reality of outback living is introduced to them. Bazza and Shazza's six kids educate Anita and Frederick about Australia's native animals with some hilarious results.

Stage curtain closed. SFX: Light airplane landing. Anita and Frederick enter stage from audience. They look horrified. SFX: Light airplane taking off. Frederick is carrying two suitcases and has a camera and a pair of binoculars hanging around his neck.

ANITA:

Oh, Frederick, this place is just awful!

FREDERICK:

You're quite right Anita, it's simply ghastly.

ANITA:

The brochure said, 'Country Homestead nestled in the real Australian bush where native animals are considered pets.'

FREDERICK:

This is far from a country homestead. It looks more like a barn.

ANITA:

A poorly built one at that. How do the poor animals stand it?

FREDERICK:

Oh look, here comes one of the servants.

Enter Bazza, center stage right. Frederick takes a photo of Bazza as he approaches.

BAZZA:

G'day folks. Welcome to 'Back Of Beyond Homestead'. Weeze been expecting you's.

Anita fans herself nervously with her white laced fan. Bazza holds his hand out to Frederick and gives him a hearty hand shake. Frederick's whole body wobbles from head to toe, knocking his hat off in the process.

BAZZA:

Sorry there, matey. Here, let me get that.

Bazza bends down to pick up Frederick's hat. He notices the sales ticket still attached to it. He reads out loud.

BAZZA:

Yoshihara's Duty Free shop. *(his mouth drops open in horror)* Blimey, this can't be right, \$99.95 for a hat? Did ya outfit come with it?

FREDERICK:

Certainly not! (*snatches hat from Bazza*) It's a pure wool hat with real crocodile teeth just like in Crocodile Dundee.

Bazza bursts out laughing. He sounds like a kookaburra. Holding his aching belly, he wipes the tears of laughter from his face using his shirt sleeve.

FREDERICK:

What on earth is so funny?

BAZZA:

Ya paid \$99.95 for a hat?

He looks over at Anita's hat. Anita recoils at his closeness.

BAZZA:

You too? Struth! Talk about blowing ya dough. I feel sorry for you folks already.

ANITA:

I beg your pardon? Are you speaking English?

BAZZA:

(chuckling) Too right! You guys 'ave been sucked in good and proper. Two hundred bucks on hats! Wadya expect from the Big Smoke, hey? That place is an armpit. See this hat? *(takes his hat off still chuckling)* Take a look at that. \$9.95 at Big W, they sell for less ya know.

FREDERICK:

Yes, well yours doesn't have the crocodile teeth on it.

ANITA:

Look, I'm glad our hats have given you cause for amusement but we'd like to be driven to the homestead now to meet the owners and freshen up.

BAZZA:

There's no need to drive, mam, the homestead's just ere! *(he points behind him using his thumb)*

ANITA:

But we have luggage, you can't possibly expect us to carry it all that way!

BAZZA:

Struth! Ain't ya the ants pants. Ya'll be asking for the red carpet next. Never mind, being paying guests and all. I'll get mi missus to lend a hand with those.

Bazza puts his fingers to his mouth and lets out a loud whistle. SFX: Whistle. Shazza enters, center stage right. She is heavily pregnant. She stops next to Bazza and scratches her protruding belly.

SHAZZA:

G'day, how are ya's?

BAZZA:

So, I'm Bazza and this is mi Missus, Shazza. We'll be looking after ya.

Frederick and Anita look at each other in disbelief.

FREDERICK:

Oh, right-o then. Are the owners away?

BAZZA:

Ya got wax in ya ears or somethin? We are the owners. Come on then, grab 'em bags there Shazza and chuck 'em inside will ya, luv.

Shazza nods and reaches for the luggage.

FREDERICK:

(outraged) I'm not going to let a woman carry our bags, it's unheard of, especially in her condition!

BAZZA:

Ya having me on aren't ya? Ain't ya heard of woman's rights? They've been busting their butts to do men's work for years. Ya must come from one of those backward countries!

ANITA:

How dare you be so insulting!

BAZZA:

What d'ya mean insulting? She's got a right to carry them bags if she wants.

ANITA:

Oh, never mind, I wish to get out of this sweltering heat and have a bath. Frederick can carry the luggage.

FREDERICK:

Oh, yes of course, dear. I just hope my back doesn't give out.

BAZZA:

Yer back giving ya trouble then is it?

FREDERICK:

Yes, slipped disk I'm afraid. Frightfully painful. Would you mind taking one of these? *(holds out a suitcase)*

BAZZA:

Yeah, I knows the feeling. It's a bugger when old age starts to creep up on ya. I got a problem with me hearing. I go stone deaf at times.

FREDERICK:

Oh, I see.

BAZZA:

Ay? *(cups his hand over his ear)*

FREDERICK:

(shouting) I said, I see!

BAZZA:

Just as well, it's bad enough having a crook back without being blind as well! Anyhow mate, don't worry about a thing, a week's work on the farm will straighten ya out! I assume ya bought ya stubbies?

FREDERICK:

Stubbies? *(thinks a while before recollecting the word)* Well no, we're not beer drinkers really.

ANITA:

Tea is more to our liking.

Bazza and Shazza let out a hearty laugh. They sound like kookaburras.

SHAZZA:

Stubbies are work clothes, ya know, like overalls.

ANITA:

But we're not here to work. The brochure said, 'Enjoy horse riding, bush walking and swimming in the natural lakes. Get a taste for the real Australia' it said.

BAZZA:

Yeah, that's right, the horse riding comes in when we round up the sheep, we walk through the bush when we hunt down the kangaroo's and rabbits that are eating us out of our land and we go swimming to catch the eels Shazza cooks up on the Barbie.

ANITA:

Oh, my Lord! *(fans herself furiously)* Are we in hell?

Shazza and Bazza look at each other not knowing whether to be offended or not.

SHAZZA:

We'll if ya not up to anything strenuous, you can always help me with the cooking and the kids.

ANITA:

Oh, I don't think I could bear cooking eels and baby goats. Is there anything else on the menu? Frederick and I are vegetarians.

Shazza and Bazza burst out laughing again.

SHAZZA:

I didn't mean baby goats. We call children kids over 'ere.

ANITA:

Oh, and why is that? Don't you have enough animals on your farm that you must refer to your children as baby goats?

SHAZZA:

My, you're a touchy one. Don't ya have any kids? I mean children.

ANITA:

We have indeed, one male and one female.

SHAZZA:

Didn't they come with ya then?

ANITA:

Certainly not. They are at boarding school where they belong. Frederick and I believe education is of the utmost importance.

SHAZZA:

Yeah, us to. Our kids get schooled through the radio.

ANITA:

I beg your pardon?

SHAZZA:

Well, being so far from town and all, we home school the kids. The teacher talks to 'em through the CB radio.

ANITA:

Oh, really? How many children do you have?

SHAZZA:

Twelve.

Frederick and Anita are taken aback. They jerk backward in shock.

ANITA:

Oh my, and your about to have another one, how do you cope?

SHAZZA:

Well actually, I'm superstitious. I didn't like the thought of having thirteen kids, being an unlucky number and all, so I decided to have twins.

Frederick and Anita look at each other with a look of confusion and half disbelief.

ANITA:

How on earth did you manage that?

SHAZZA:

I can't tell ya all me secrets now can I?

Anita and Frederick look at each other wondering whether Shazza is mad.

SHAZZA:

(laughing) You folks are as dry as a bone. I was just kidding ya. Weeze really got six kids and this is mi lucky seven. *(pats her tummy)*

FREDERICK:

Well, we're really here to relax and explore the wildlife. We don't believe in hunting animals. My wife wants to cuddle a koala like she saw in the brochure.

BAZZA:

No probs, mate! Just give mi a jiffy.

Bazza pulls a slingshot from his pocket, bends down to pick up a rock, turns center stage left, aims it up high and flings the rock. A second later, a stuffed koala hurls through the air. Bazza catches it and hands it over to Anita who looks at it in horror.

BAZZA:

There ya go, cuddle away!

ANITA:

You've killed him!

BAZZA:

Nuh, he's just dazed, he'll be right as rain by this arvie.

Anita wrinkles her nose up in disgust.

ANITA:

It's a rather smelly beast isn't it?

BAZZA:

Well it's not like he can wipe his bum now is it?

Disgusted, Anita quickly holds the koala away from her clothes. Wondering what to do with it, she tries to hand it to Frederick who moves away shaking his head. She puts the koala down on the ground and nudges it away with her foot.

ANITA:

Shoo, shoo.

BAZZA:

Come on then, I'll show ya to ya quarters. (He moves center stage towards the barn)

FREDERICK:

You mean this is the main house? **THIS** is the HOMESTEAD? (*he looks displeased*)

BAZZA:

Yeah, but don't worry, we weren't expecting ya to share it with six kids and all, so we built the bed and brekkie part in the barn over 'ere.

Bazza stops in front of the barn door, upper stage right.

BAZZA:

Now this ere will be ya personal palace for the next week!

Bazza opens the barn door and motions for Anita and Frederick to look. Anita and Frederick look shocked.

SHAZZA:

Oh, and don't mind the sheets. We do our washing in bore water, which tends to turn everything brown. They ain't been pooped on or nuthin. Also, best check ya shoes for spiders, that's a

favourite spot for 'em, except if ya feet stink. (*Bazza and Shazza laugh*) I told the kids to keep their pet snakes in the other barn when visitors are around so ya won't need to worry about those.

BAZZA:

And don't sweat if ya hear some thumping up above at night. We got a brush-tailed possum living in the roof.

SHAZZA:

If it looks like raining, there's some buckets in the corner to catch the drips.

ANITA:

(*horrified*) You can't be serious? I demand an upgrade immediately.

Bazza and Shazza look at each other puzzled.

SHAZZA:

Huh? What's that?

ANITA:

Oh, never mind. Frederick, aren't you going to say something?

FREDERICK:

I can't see a lavatory anywhere.

BAZZA:

Ay?

SHAZZA:

The Lav dear.

BAZZA:

Ah, ya mean the dunny? It's out the back mate where it's suppose to be. Ya don't wanna be stinkin the place out now do ya? Come on, I'll show ya.

Bazza motions for them to follow. He walks over to the dunny shed, upper stage left and opens the door.

ANITA:

(*shrieks*) FREDRICK!

Bazza pays no attention to their reaction, closes the door and moves over to the cow trough, upper stage center. There is a steel frame around it with a shower curtain hanging off it.

BAZZA:

This 'ere's ya bath.

FREDERICK:

It looks like a cow trough.

BAZZA:

Not any more! We turned it into a bath with curtain and all if ya want some privacy. Pretty smart, hey?

ANITA:

(covering her face with her hands) Oh, my God. I must be dreaming!

BAZZA:

Glad ya like it. The missus picked the curtain.

SFX: A cow's moo is heard from the guest's barn, upper stage right.

ANITA:

(shocked) What was that?

Anita and Frederick look horrified. Anita is fanning herself furiously. They run back over to the barn, upper stage right and peer in.

FREDERICK:

There's a cow in the barn for pity's sake!

BAZZA:

Yeah, she won't mind ya's. She's birthing. Probably be gone by morning.

ANITA:

You can't be serious!

BAZZA:

Ay?

ANITA:

Listen here. You have to get Bertha or whatever you called her out of there! I did not pay to share lodgings with a cow, or any animal for that matter. *(looks at Frederick)* Frederick, do something!

SFX: Kids laughing and shouting.

SHAZZA:

Here comes the tribe back from their scorpion hunt.

Anita looks around nervously.

ANITA:

You mean there are natives coming?

THE BEST IS YET TO COME!

DO YOURSELF A FAVOUR AND BUY THE SCRIPT! SAVE YOURSELF HOURS OF WRITING OR SEARCHING!