

**Libro di ricordi che ogni attore ha lasciato a Lara lammioni**



This book is sent to Lara –

with love from the actors

who took part in the play,

Massacre at Civitella.

*September 2002*

## **Massacre at Civitella**

A play by David Waters, based on the true account by Lara Lucarelli, about the events on and around 29 June 1944 in Civitella, Arezzo, Italy.

The play was directed by Danny Waters for Masquerade Creative Theatre Company, and presented in September 2002 at The Mick Jagger Centre, Dartford, Kent England.

David Waters  
Writer / Producer

My Dear Lara

You will see from these messages that your story has touched the hearts of all of our actors – and in doing so, the hearts of all their friends and families – as well as our audiences. Many, many thanks for giving the play your blessing, and for being such an inspiration to us all.

Much love,

David

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Much love,

David



Danny Waters  
Director of the play  
Caloni  
a German officer

Bringing your story to life and putting it on stage has been an extremely rewarding experience for myself and all those involved. Meeting you and visiting Civitella early in the year gave me the drive and determination to put the piece together and made me realise how important it was to tell your tragic story. In my 'summing up' speech at the dress rehearsal I told the cast that your story was like shining a torch into the darkest corners of humanity – that the audience would be taken on a tragic, emotional journey, but would eventually emerge into light. I told them that surely the point of your story is that in time, nothing is unbearable and that in time, maybe nothing is. And if we can all acknowledge that fact, then it offers humanity a glimmer, if not a firework display, of hope.

Thank you for allowing us to tell your story and for letting us, in our own way, pay tribute to all the lost souls of Civitella.

Best wishes to you and all your family.

Take care – Danny

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Best wishes to you and all your family.

take care – Danny.  
(Director).

Nobody understood such exhibitionism; waving his arms about against the background of the bonfire flames, he seemed almost to foretell a disaster. What he could never have anticipated, was his own death.

Danny Waters as 'Caloni' – the man who seemed to have a premonition of the tragedy





Jill Waters  
*Projections*

I was involved in making things to dress the set. Most were fairly simple to make, except for the huge size of everything on our small dining table. I was particularly proud of the German banners. We did laugh about the look of our aprons and masks for the German soldiers, but once they were dyed black and worn over the uniforms they became very sinister. I found working on the play extremely moving. Even in rehearsal it brought many tears. I think we all felt that it had brought us very close to you, even those who have not met you. We had two people from the audience get out of their seats at the end of the play, and walk up to the candles, bow their heads and say a prayer for all those who died. The rest of us did the same, although perhaps not so openly.

My job on the night was to operate the computer for the projected graphics. Some were very powerful moving images which, when played with the music became even more so. Hoping to visit you again at Malfiano before too long. We really enjoyed our stay earlier this year. Much love,

Jill (David's wife)

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Much love

Jill (Dave's wife!)

Helen Draper  
*Livia Magina*

Dear Lara,  
The story of your past touched the hearts of  
all those that were involved in our play, and  
those who came to see it.  
I only had a small part in the play, but my  
involvement was made even more special having  
met you and your family – and thank you once  
again for your wonderful hospitality.  
There is no doubt that your story was hard to  
tell, but David's writing and the dedication,  
compassion and emotion from the actors are  
aspects of the production I'm sure you would  
have been proud of.

With lots of love from

Helen

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with lots of love from

Helen  
xxx



**Theresa Waters**  
*Lighting*

**Dear Lara**

Thank you for sharing your story with us - it was a pleasure to watch the story and the show unfold and come together.

Danny and Dad (David!) created a show that was a pleasure and an experience to watch. The set design, music, lighting, props and special effects were all stunning to watch and brought warmth, atmosphere and emotion to what was otherwise a cold empty theatre!

As the lighting operator for the show I was one of only two club members who actually witnessed the end product and I am sure, had you been there to watch, you would have been very proud. I cannot describe how it felt each night to watch the audience (after the play had finished) as they sat in silence, motionless - it was truly remarkable!

Your story has touched our hearts and the audiences and it reduced many of them (including me (several times!)) to tears. You have taught us a very valuable message in life; that is, no matter how bad we think life is, there is, and can always be, hope.

Thanks again, also, for your hospitality earlier this year!

I hope you are well.

**With much love**

Theresa Waters  
— xxx —



**That violence. Those tears.  
That inadequacy.  
The innocents of Civitella.  
I am awake. I am here.**

Gemma Arterton as Lara Lammioni  
in the opening scene of the play



Gemma Arterton  
Lara

To Lara,

Playing you has certainly been the most challenging role I have faced as an actress! I felt that I needed to do you justice and I hope that I did!

Reading your story moved me incredibly and I hope that you are pleased that at least four hundred more people, now know your story; it has certainly not been forgotten and will live on, in all that now know it's minds forever.

After the first performance, when my mother and sister came to see the play, they both said, simultaneously: "You are just like how you played Lara,

in real life!". I presume they meant the passionate, dramatic side, with a goal in life. I don't think that my character would ever be as brilliant as yours!

Thank you for compelling David Waters to write such an excellent play,

it has given me the chance to work with some amazing people, and more

importantly, to play Lara Lammioni, a true heroine!

With much love, and best wishes,

Gemma Arterton

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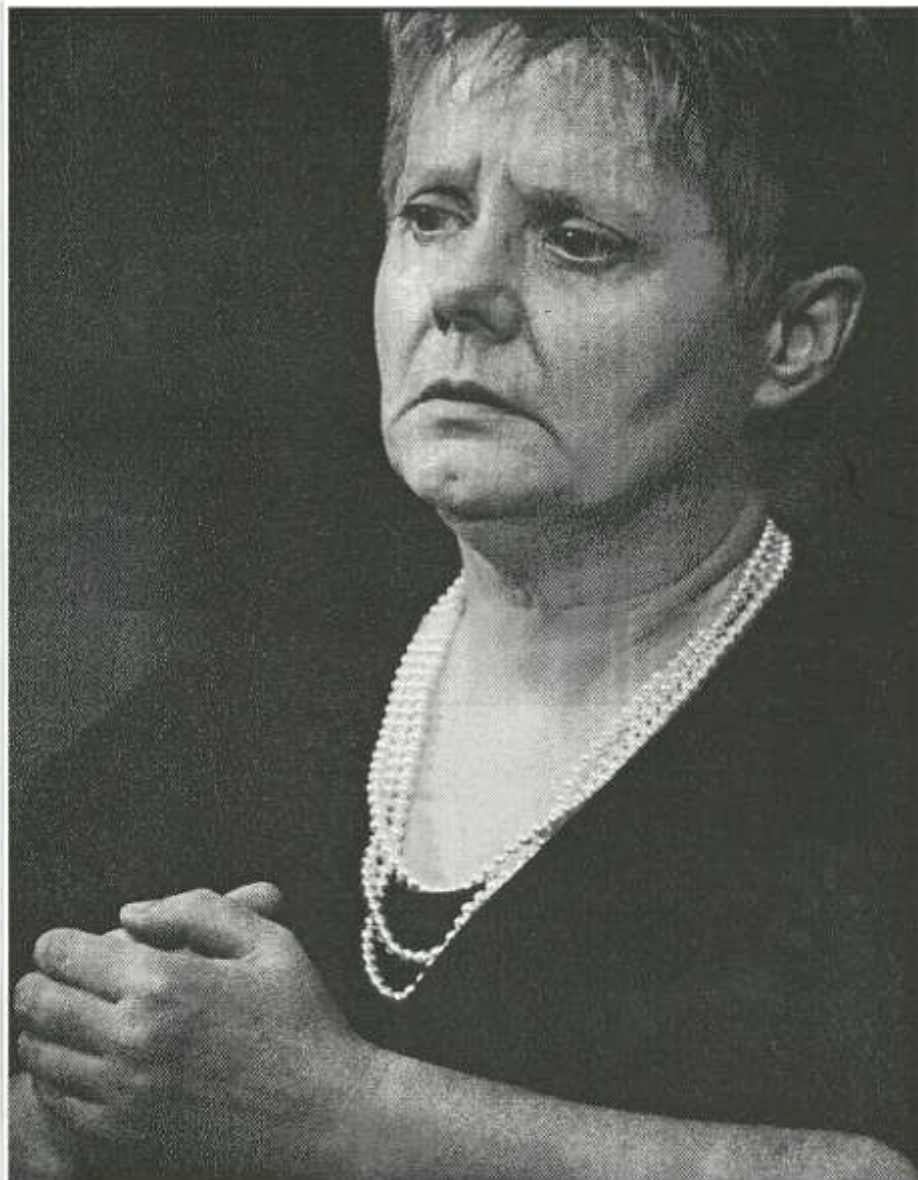
Gemma Arterton (actress who played Lara Lammioni).

x



My world was to be broken  
and trampled over in such  
a cruel way – not ruining  
my memories, but the  
opposite; increasing the  
delights and longings which  
I had in childhood.

Susan Cheverton as Lara Lucarelli,  
the narrator of the story





Susan Cheverton  
Old Lara

Lara,

My name is Susan and I was chosen to narrate your story. I hope that I can convey to the audience some of the courage and compassion that you have. I cannot fully appreciate what you, your family and friends went through. You have left me with such deep emotional feelings that I will never forget you and your story and will make sure that it will never be forgotten – although I have never met you personally, it has been a great honour to be the one that gave voice to your words. You will always have a very special place in my heart.

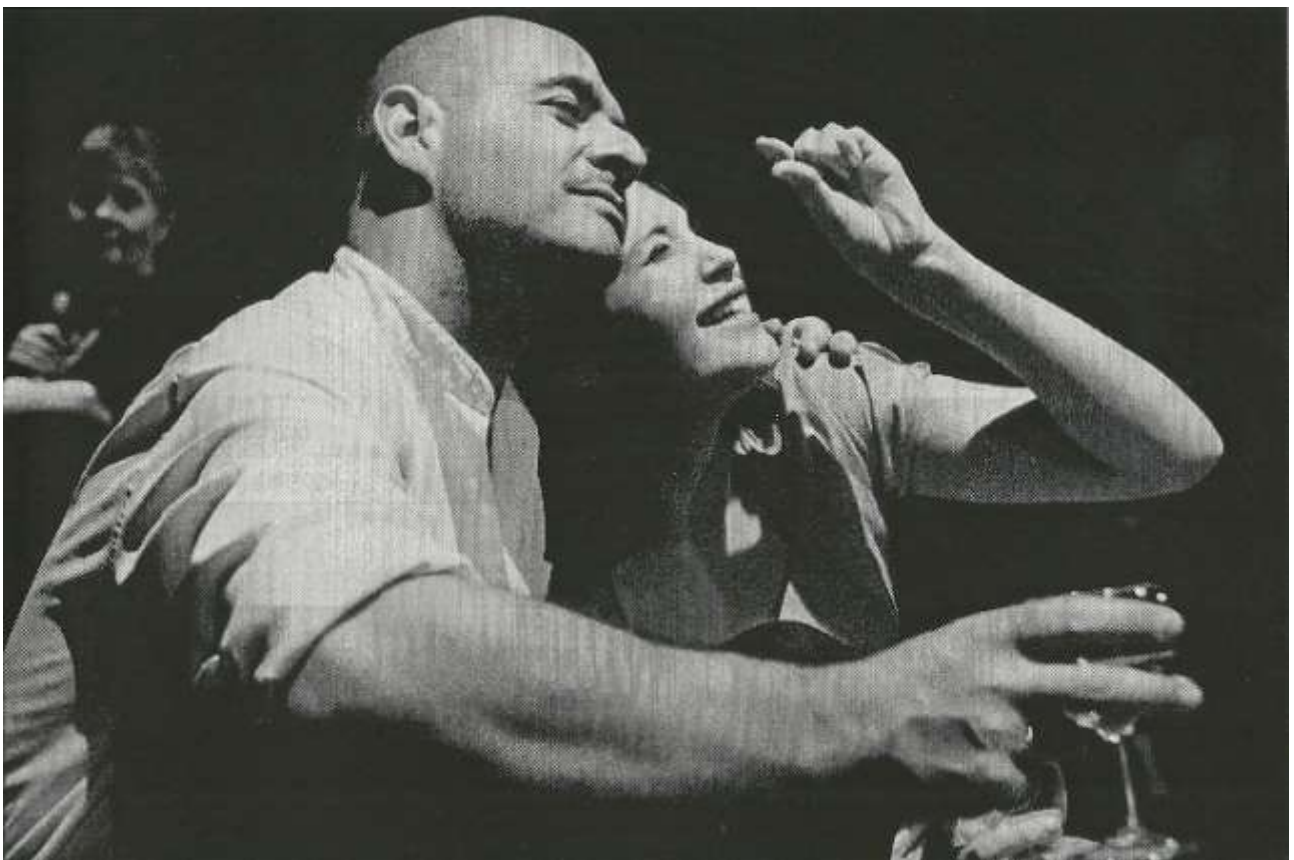
Lara,  
My name is Susan & I was  
chosen to narrate your story.  
I hope that I can convey to  
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Courage & Compassion that  
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special place in my heart.

Susan Cheverton

My Papa used to show  
me the moon. He showed  
me how it would grow  
and grow – until it filled  
the little window. You see  
Dante, for some things  
you just have to wait.

Alan Clark as Dante with Gemma Arterton as Lara  
in a scene showing their special relationship



**Alan Clark**

**Dante**

Lara,

*I am so glad that David found your story so compelling that he felt that it needed to be told. It could have been so easily forgotten. You are a brave and intelligent lady. A survivor whom I'm sure your father would have been proud. I have had great pleasure in bringing your father "back to life" if only for a short time. I hope that I have done his character some justice.*

*Take care.*

*Best wishes*



*Alan (Dante)*



Dawn Wood  
Armida

Dear Lara,

As I write this, we have now performed *Massacre at Civitella* to a live audience, and I can tell you that from their reactions, and comments and questions, they have truly lived through a little of what you went through. "A roller-coaster ride of emotion" – one person described the journey we took them on. People were crying in the audience and looked exhausted at the end, as we were we all, although a beautiful tribute was paid to you and your family in the final scene.

You are an incredibly brave lady and I hope that by bringing your tragedy to life we may have brought a little peace to you.

I have had the honour of playing the part of Armida, your Mother, and I feel I know you already. It has been a very difficult thing to do, for we have all felt that this must be performed with sincerity, to truly tell your story.

I hope I have lived up to that.

God bless you and your family.

Dawn Wood

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Dawn Wood

**David Banfield**

*Luigi*

Lara

I have been involved in the theatre for over twenty years and found playing the part of Luigi the most difficult, to both rehearse and perform. The fact that it is a true, harrowing story meant that for most rehearsals, I struggled to keep from getting depressed.

During the week of production, it took several hours after the performance to bring myself back up mentally.

It wasn't until the last few nights that I came realise that this was not just a story of the horror of the events, but it was one of hope – you have lived through and after this dreadful experience. This is a lesson to us all.

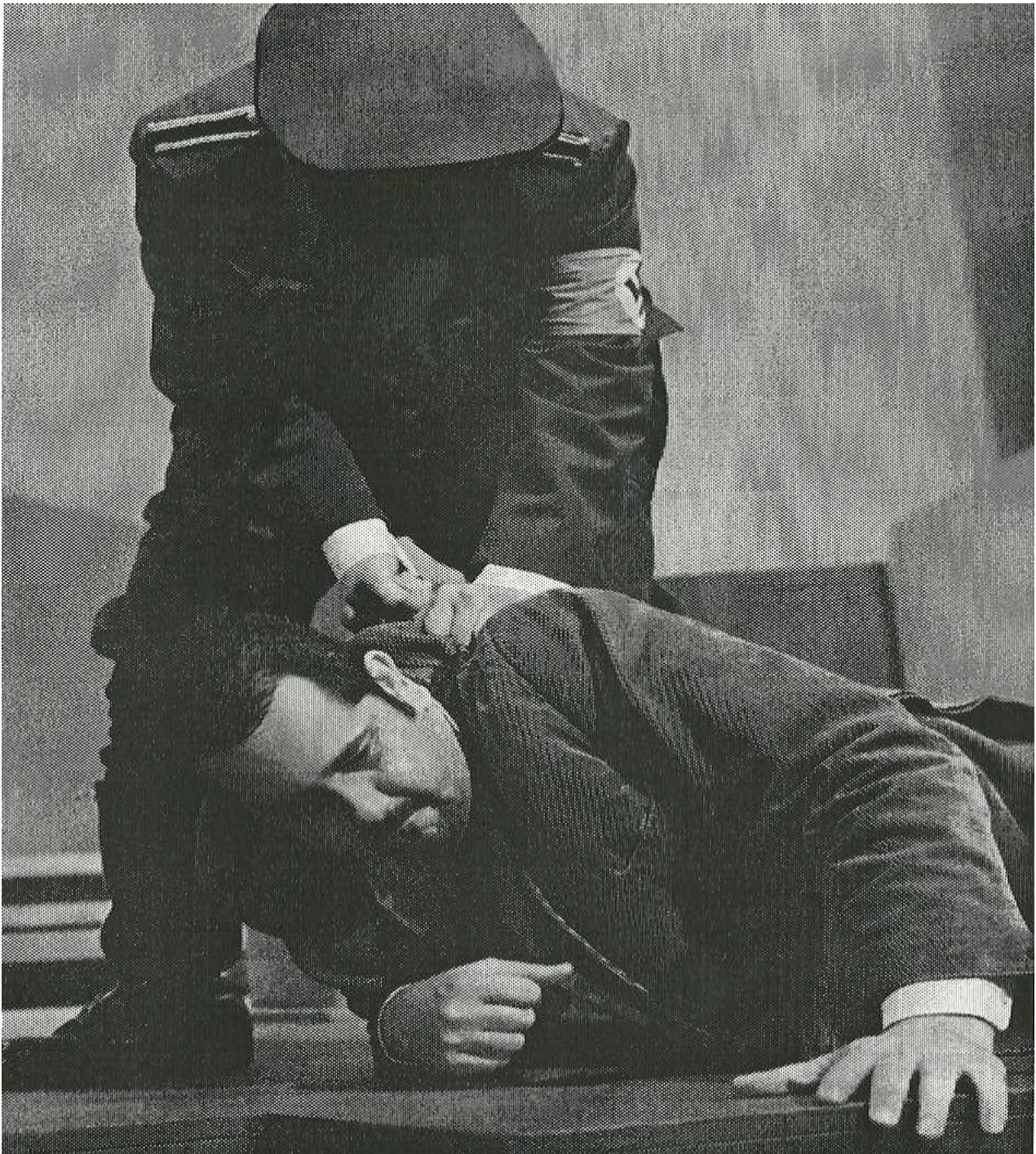
Kindest regards,

David Banfield



I cannot tell you what  
I don't know. Shoot me  
if you must, it'll make no  
difference – nobody in  
Civitella knows the man.  
Keiner weiss es!

David Banfield as Luigi, being questioned  
a German soldier, played by Martin Cable,  
about the shootings at the club





Gerry Willson  
Assunta

My dear dear Lara,  
I have never had the pleasure of meeting you,  
but I feel I know you. Taking part in this play David  
has written, based on your experiences as a young  
girl has caused me to be forever grateful for the  
people I have around me – my husband, my three  
children, extended family and good friends.  
You are an inspiration Lara, and you and your  
family will be forever in my thoughts.  
Yours,

Gerry

Sept 6<sup>th</sup> 2002

Gerry Willson - Assunta

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You are an inspiration Lara and  
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Yours, Gerry xx

Martin Cable  
*A German officer*

Lara

When Dave first shared your story with us, I was not sure if we would be able to do it justice. But as we read it and re-read it, and came to know you, and Civitella, better over the last six months, we wanted to try anyway. We could never re-create the full horror of what you and your family suffered, but from the reaction of the audiences, I think we've given them an idea of it, and none of them will ever forget the tragedy of Civitella, or the strength of those of you who survived. Thankyou for letting us share your story. With love and best wishes,

Martin Cable

Lara,

Quando Dave in primo luogo ha ripartito la vostra storia con noi, non ero sicuro che potremmo farla giustizia. Ma come la leggiamo e rileggiamo e familiarizziamo con voi e Civitella migliori in questi ultimi sei mesi, abbiamo desiderato provare comunque. Potremmo non ricreare mai l'orrore completo di che cosa voi e la vostra famiglia avete sofferto, ma della reazione dei pubblici che li perso hanno dato loro un'idea di esso e nessun di loro dimenticheranno mai la tragedia di Civitella o della resistenza di quelli di voi che sono sopravvissuto.

Grazie per lasciarci ripartire la vostra storia.

Con amore e gli auguri.

Martin Cable



Jill White  
Marietta

Lara

Although we are strangers to you, I feel that you are in no way a stranger to us.

Your inspirational words have helped us to attempt to understand your life-changing experience, and your courage shines through. You have shown us that, no matter how we feel about problems we may have in our own lives, your endurance is living proof that we can overcome them.

My best wishes to you, your family, your friends, and Civitella.

Jill White

7 September 2002

Lara

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Jill White  
x

I wanted to know what  
had happened. Wanted  
to see their dead bodies.  
See how they died.  
What they looked like.

Martin Cable, Stuart Harrington, Danny Waters  
and Mark Carleton, the start of the trouble at the  
Village Club





Len Wooding  
Alberto  
Garrett

To experience such terror, heartache and  
physical and mental pain, and still remain sane,  
is a remarkable testimony to your faith and  
strength of character.

You are an example to us all, and one we should  
all strive to follow.

Len

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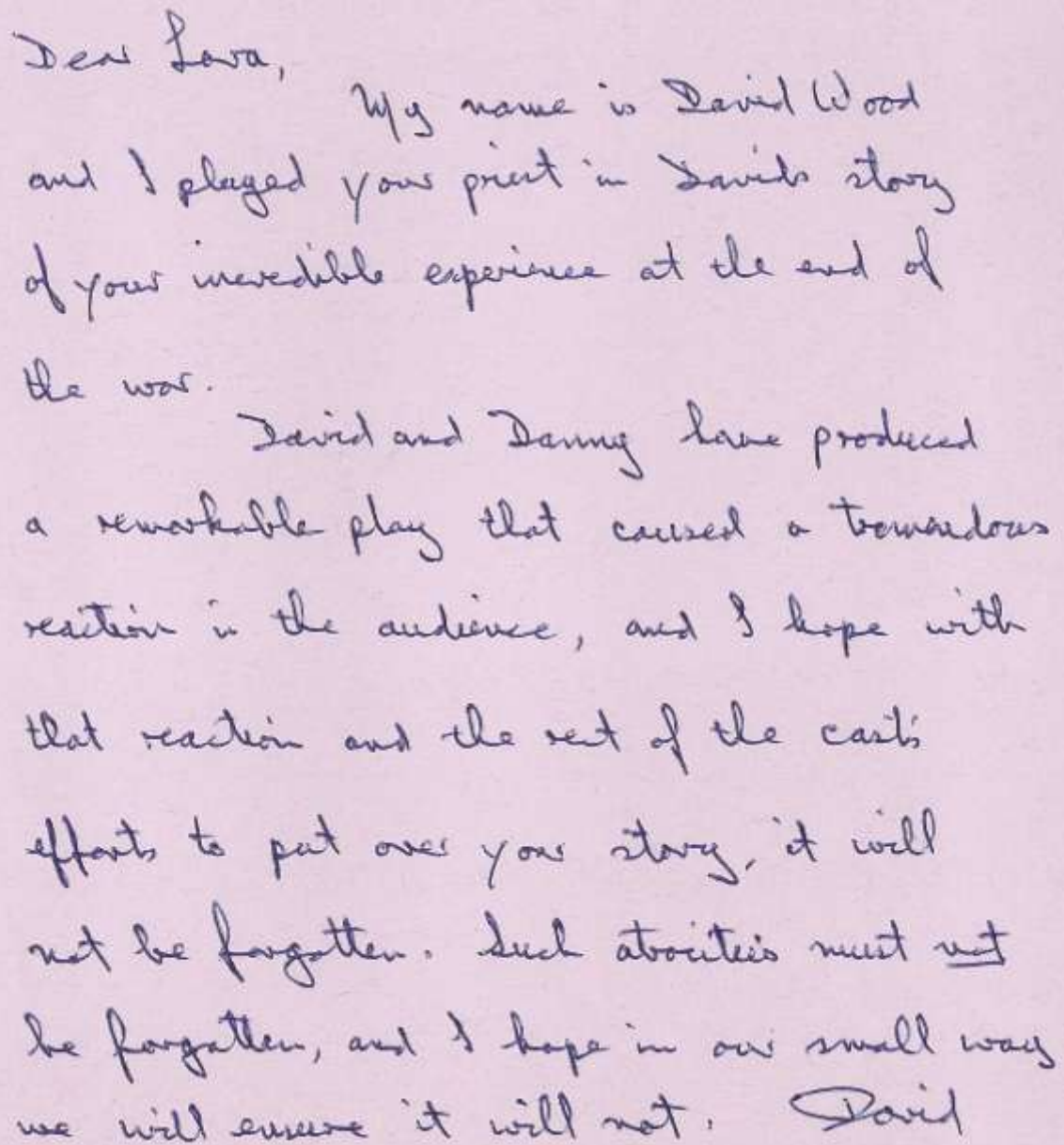
David Wood  
*Don Alcide Lazerri*

Dear Lara,

My name is David Wood and I played your Priest in David's story of your incredible experience at the end of the war.

David and Danny have produced a remarkable play that caused a tremendous reaction in the audience, and I hope with that reaction – and the rest of the cast's efforts to put over your story – it will not be forgotten. Such atrocities must not be forgotten, and I hope in our small way we will ensure it will not.

David



A photograph of a handwritten letter on a light pink background. The handwriting is in dark ink and is cursive. The letter is addressed to 'Dear Lara,' and the writer identifies himself as David Wood, who played the Priest in a play about Lara's experience at the end of the war. He mentions that David and Danny produced a remarkable play that caused a tremendous reaction in the audience, and he hopes that with the rest of the cast's efforts, the story will not be forgotten. He concludes by saying that such atrocities must not be forgotten and that he hopes in their small way they will ensure it will not. The letter is signed 'David'.

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He made me understand  
that I should keep my watch  
hidden from the others.  
Such a small humane gesture  
was some comfort to me.  
This junior officer helped  
me in a more dramatic way  
later on.

Gemma Arterton as Lara and Pat Murphy as the  
German Officer who showed some kindness



Dark eyed Eliza. Like a  
frightened rabbit. I can  
hear what you're thinking.  
What am I doing here?  
In your country.

Gemma Arterton as Lara and Mark Carleton  
as 'Tommy' an English soldier

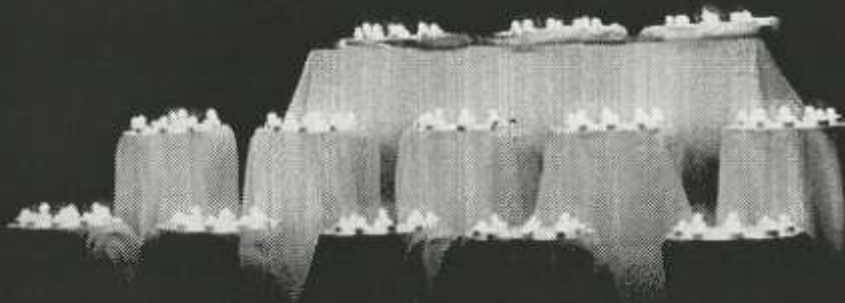




And then one day, it snowed, and snowed again – covering all that was black and burnt and dead. I went outside and stood in the village, in the centre, by the fountain – and all I could see was white. All white – surrounded, protected, sheltered by white. White and clean. I stood quite alone, desperately still, at peace. And finally I imagined what silence looked like. I am awake. More awake than I've ever been, or ever will be.

the long shadow of those  
horrors has often darkened  
my happiness, and conditioned  
the whole of my existence

*lara lucarelli*



## The production team

### back row left to right:

Helen Draper	<i>Livia Magina</i>
Gerry Willson	<i>Assunta Lammioni</i>
Susan Cheverton	<i>Lara Lucarelli</i>
Dawn Wood	<i>Armida Lammioni</i>
Jan Martin	<i>Elena Caccialupi</i>
Gemma Arterton	<i>Lara Lammioni</i>
Stuart Harrington	<i>Sgt Clewlow/German</i>
Mark Carleton	<i>Tommy/German</i>
Nick Reeves	<i>Stage Crew/Sound</i>

### middle row left to right:

Jill White	<i>Marietta</i>
Danny Waters	<i>Caloni/German Officer</i>
Pat Murphy	<i>Bista/German Officer</i>
Martin Cable	<i>German Officer</i>
Tom Packman	<i>Sandro/Ron</i>
Dave Draper	<i>Stage Crew</i>
David Banfield	<i>Luigi Lammioni</i>

### front row left to right:

David Wood	<i>Don Alcide Lazerri</i>
Len Wooding	<i>Alberto/Garrett</i>
Theresa Waters	<i>Stage Crew/Lighting</i>
David Waters	<i>Author/Producer</i>
Jill Waters	<i>Set dressing/Projections</i>
Alan Clark	<i>Dante Lammioni</i>
Simon Parker	<i>Stage Crew</i>

## Massacre at Civitella

September 2002

## Masquerade

David Waters

Dale Villa

Dale Road

Southfleet

Kent DA13 9NX

England

