

John Hobbs

A Man with a Mission

(A story of adventure and love)

Music: Gary Daverne ONZM
www.garydaverne.gen.nz

Words: Dorothy Tomlinson

The story is set in the Hokianga and Bay of Islands regions in the North Island of New Zealand from 1821, leading up to the Treaty of Waitangi in 1840. John Hobbs, is a young Englishman from Thanet, who is compelled to join the Wesleyan Mission in the Hokianga, after hearing the story of the 1809 incident known as “The Burning of the Boyd”, where a young Maori Chief was beaten and flogged by the crew of an English sailing ship. His Maori warriors waited until nightfall, then taking their revenge.

An elder John Hobbs narrates the story. He tells of the establishing of the Mission in the region, portraying the relationships, frustrations, conflicts and troubled times with the early settlers, the native Maori people and their Chiefs, especially, Patuone and Tamati Waka Nene. Also the very colourful life of the Rev. William White.

There is Hobb’s special love for his devoted wife, Jane, their learning, teaching and preaching, their unjustified exile to Tonga, then his reinstatement two years later to the Wesleyan Mission in the Hokianga, culminating in the signing of the Treaty of Waitangi at Horeke, in the Hokianga, where Hobbs and Patuone resolve to “GO FORWARD TOGETHER AS BROTHERS”

Actual quotations from the diaries of John Hobbs are used in the script.
There is limited dialogue, all recitative (music underscored),.

The cast:

Five main male leads:

John Hobbs (the older John Hobbs as the narrator)
Rev. John Hobbs
Rev. William White
Rev. Nathaniel Turner
Chief Patuone (Maori Chief)

Three main female leads:

Jane (John Hobbs’ wife)
Anne Turner (Nathaniel’s wife)
Slinky Sadie (Prostitute)

Mixed Chorus (towns people, warriors, dancers, with a few minor lead roles)

The musical is in two acts, with several scene changes.

The music is written in a modern, popular style, with 19 musical numbers (solos, duets and chorus production numbers),

Pre-recorded backing tracks are available.

The popular, *New Zealand Song*, comes from this show.

Duration is around 100 mins.

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