

The Tour

by Graeme Lay

A novel based on the theatrical tour of Australia and New Zealand by London's Old Vic Company, from January to October, 1948, ostensibly to thank the people "Down Under" for their support for Britain during the war, but also to make money.

The tour was headed by the two most famous actors in the world, Sir Laurence Olivier and his wife, Vivien Leigh. No one who saw the performances of *Richard III*, *The School for Scandal* and *The Skin of Our Teeth* in 1948 would ever forget them.

Behind the scenes their marriage was in serious trouble. The rest of the cast and the behind stage crew of the Old Vic Company were witness to the Oliviers' strife, but the public had no idea of what was really happening.

The story is told through the eyes of 28-year-old Jed Winscombe, an assistant stage manager, who becomes a close friend of Sir Laurence and Lady Olivier during the tour. For Jed and many others of the Old Vic Company, the tour meant that their lives would never be the same again.



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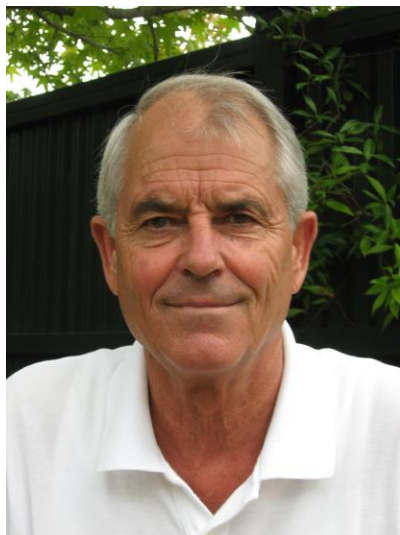
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ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Graeme Lay is a full-time writer and the author of over forty books, over half of which are fiction. Several of his historical novels, notably a trilogy based on the life of Captain James Cook, have found a ready international readership, and have featured on the lists of best-selling historical fiction. He is an experienced public speaker appearing regularly at literary festivals.