

Come Gather (Top of Act 1)

Lyrics by Caryl Churchill, Music by Michael Rasbury

ALL:

Come gather, sons of England, come gather in your pride,
Now meet the world united, now face it side by side:
Ye who the earth's wide corners from veldt to prairie roam
From bush and jungle muster all
Who call old England "home".

Then gather round for England.
Rally to the flag.
From North and South and East and West
Come one and all for England!

CLIVE:

This is my family, though far from home
We serve the queen wherever we may roam,
I am a father to the natives here.
And father to my family so dear,

My wife is all I dreamt a wife should be,
And everything she is she owes to me,

BETTY (SHE IS PLAYED BY A MAN)

I live for Clive, the whole aim of my life
Is to be what he looks for in a wife,
And what men want is what I want to be.

CLIVE:

My boy's a jewel, really has the knack.

You'd hardly notice that the fellow's black.

JOSHUA (PLAYED BY A WHITE)

My skin is black but oh my soul is white.
I hate my tribe. My master is my light.
I only live for him. As you can see,
What white men want is what I want to be.

CLIVE:

My son is young, I'm doing all I can
To teach him to grow up to be a man.

EDWARD (PLAYED BY A WOMAN)

What father wants I'd dearly like to be,
I find it rather hard as you can see,

CLIVE:

No need for any speeches by the rest,
My daughter, mother-in-law, and governess.

ALL:

Then gather round for England,
Rally to the flag,
From North and South and East and West
Come one and all for England!