



*Darius Campbell (Warden) and Rebecca Thornhill (Karen) in
From Here To Eternity.*

We always manage to fit in at least one West End production whilst in London, and this trip we've chosen the recent musical adaptation of *From Here To Eternity*, known to most from the successful 1953 film by Fred Zinnemann, from the novel by James Jones. The musical has music and lyrics by Stuart Brayson & Tim Rice and book by Bill Oakes.

A musical of *From Here To Eternity*? you might well ask. Well, yes, and as it turns out it works as such pretty well. To answer the question of Why?, just read this paragraph from the Wikipedia page:

Jones's novel *From Here to Eternity* was a best-seller and well known for its [successful movie adaptation](#). Jones's manuscript was heavily censored by his publisher to remove profanity and references to gay prostitution; the unexpurgated version was not published until 2011. Once it was, composer Stuart Brayson thought it might be adapted as a musical, and proposed the project to [Tim Rice](#), who acquired the stage rights and wrote the lyrics. And there you have it; a sub-plot of gay/straight relations, and the tension therefrom, take a significant role in this telling of the tale.



A scene in the barracks.

A mid-afternoon visit to the Leicester Square TKTS booth yielded three in stalls (7th row

center) for X, A and I. A hasn't been to a West End show in years, so appreciated the treat. Also appreciated was the American-style "Proper" burgers at Byron before show. (note to Byron, American pickle spears are dill, not sweet, and while our malts may be made in the steel cup, they are not served in it).

The show was a joy to watch, quite beautiful and great story telling. The sets, costumes and lights were all one expects, the usual high West End standard. Choreography was quite good, especially near the end of the piece (not giving anything away, as this will likely transfer stateside).



The Boxing match.

No stand out performances from this cast, although I quite liked Ryan Sampson's portrayal of Private Angelo Maggio and Siubhan Harrison's Lorene. The entire ensemble is strong, however, and acquit themselves well throughout the 2:45 (with interval) performance. All in all, I'd give it 4 stars, and know that X & A loved it, too.