

## New Theatre Publications

### Catalogue of One Act Plays - September 2011

This catalogue also contains details of Youth Plays

Note that all plays require a performance licence before any public performance or rehearsed reading - contact us for details. We can be emailed on [info@plays4theatre.com](mailto:info@plays4theatre.com) or by phone on 0845 331 3516

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Here you can click of one act plays, click for full length plays, or leave blank to get both.

You can select the type (comedy, etc.) If you check more than one, for example comedy and drama, you will only get plays which are described as comedy-drama, not all comedies and all dramas.

You can specify the minimum number of men and women who want parts, together with the maximum, so if you have between 1 and 3 men and between 3 and 6 women, you can insert these figures to get all plays that meet your requirements.

Note that pantomimes, because of their flexible casting, ignore these criteria - all will be shown.

Finally, if you know an author or part of a title, leave all the top details blank and use the search field to find what you want.

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## Monologues

- **All in a Day's Work** by Patrick Nelson - A Comedy (1m) £3

The world of computer-shop owner Jonathan, revolves around dubious practices, shady business deals and child labour. One spring morning, while attempting to get on with the job of building new machines, he is forced to endure a constant stream of interruptions. These range from an individual whose hobby has now reached the very edge of social acceptability, to the elderly but persistent Albert, who needs some help with a screen problem. All provide the audience with a continuing stream of comedy.

- **All Together Now!** by Maxine Smith - Monologues (1m or 1f) £3

**Knicker Watch:** For the last 2 years someone has been stealing Catherine's knickers from the washing line. Exasperated but determined, she keeps a vigil at her kitchen window, hoping to sight the culprit. 12 hours into her vigil, she starts to mull over the history of the knickers she has owned. **Letterbox Face:** Mandy, a 6th form pupil, tries to coax her twin sister Carly out of the bathroom where she has locked herself. Carly has recently suffered terrible lacerations following her face being slashed by a fellow pupil with the blade from a pencil sharpener. Mandy reflects upon these events, Carly's situation and provides her own shocking response. **Suitcase Not Going:** Middle-aged Gareth is a Chef at Bevan's, a Michelin-starred restaurant. His employer, Miss Bevan is a monstrous bully and in planning his escape from her, Gareth has purchased an expensive suitcase and a cheap ticket to Malta. When his flight plans are defeated he has to face his own timidity and cowardice.

- **Conformist, The** by Tony Stowers - A Play (1m) £3

Growing up in Italy in the mid-1920's, lonely and largely ignored by his wealthy parents, 13 year-old Marcello Clerici lives in a fantasy world. After accidentally shooting a chauffeur, Marcello determines to live as "normal" a life as possible by adhering to the demands of Mussolini's Fascism. Twenty years later, as Italy surrenders, he bumps into the chauffeur who hadn't died at all and realises how his entire life was built on a lie. A warning for political zealots and those afraid on non-conformism, the play was adapted from "The Conformist" by Alberto Moravia and performed in 1985. Adapted from the novel by Alberto Moravia.

- **Five Monologues** by Melville Lovatt - Monologues (1m, 1f) £3

Approx playing time 10 minutes each, except 'Bedtime Story' which is 20 minutes. Melville Lovatt's Five Monologues focus on the dispossessed. On love, sex, betrayal, isolation. In 'Access', Marshall, reduced to seeing his children on Sundays only, yearns for forgiveness from the wife he has betrayed. In 'Monologue' a man

confronts his wife's betrayal, discovered only after her death. 'Bedtime Story' has a couple, Sarah and Miles, attempting to escape, through memory or fantasy, their immediate bedtime situation. In 'Three Piece Suite' the suite itself is pivotal to Ron's dispossession, whilst Gem recalls the changing nature of 'The Silence' to her husband, who has just taken his own life. By turns, simple and complex, funny and tragic. These powerful pieces demand to be seen.

● **Five Further Monologues by Melville Lovatt** by Melville Lovatt - Monologues (1m, 1f) £3

Approx playing time 10 minutes each Melville Lovatt's Five Further Short Monologues are equally as memorable as his first acclaimed collection, with sharp focus on love, blame, betrayal and isolation. On people who often seem to be pushed to one side. In 'The Wall', Vera takes her own macabre revenge on a husband who has starved her of affection. In 'Waiting for Tea', Mary, 80 and hospitalised, fights for her pride and independence against seemingly overwhelming odds. A fifty years old memory of an 'Egg and Spoon' race continues to haunt May, whilst Norman, in 'Over by Christmas', and Steve, in 'The Fishing Trip', both reflect on very different pivotal moments which led them to lose the woman they loved. By turns funny, tragic, ironic and bizarre, these further powerful pieces again demand to be seen.

● **Give Me the Money!** by Roger Harvey - A Farce (1f) £3

Money! Money! Money! Wouldn't you like some? Velma would! She's got no morals, she's got no class, but the brassy millionaire-hunter is looking forward to more cash than she has already—and she'll stop at nothing to secure it. Her 'respectable' sister Barbara would also like a million or two; is Velma's sudden widowhood her big chance? With grasping claws all around her, it's lucky that hard-working housekeeper Mrs Todd has a few pounds saved up for a holiday in Spain—if only she can tidy up the flat first. Whether you are rich, poor, or somewhere in between, the hilarious but disturbing Money! Money! Money! Will remind you of the appallingly funny truth about need and greed.

● **Space Jockey** by Tony Stowers - Monologues (1-5m) £3

Based on a true story and real experiences and set in London at the height of Thatcherism and fall of Communism 1989-93, this is unbridled capitalism at its worst and yet most creative: the story of telephone advertising salesman John Sherwood, a man who might or might not have existed, as told by five characters that rubbed shoulders with him. Featuring blistering sound bites from Nirvana, Happy Mondays, Killing Joke, The Stone Roses and EMF. "A fascinating picture of the world of selling" - *Time Out*. "Cleverly reels the audience in" - *The Stage*, "Well-paced,

effective, entertaining" - *The Guardian*.

**One Act Plays - 2 characters**

● **Alby and the Big Fella** by John C Bird - Short Plays (2m) £3

The action takes place in a hospital room where 15-year-old Alby, suffering from cancer, is being visited by his best friend, Matt. The play explores the differing reactions of the two boys to the impending possibility of Alby's death. Despite the sombre scenario, Alby (sporting a Che Guevara beret to hide his loss of hair) retains his sense of humour throughout and provides a droll commentary on his illness, the medical profession and his conception of Heaven and its proprietor, who he always refers to as The Big Fella. The play ends on an upbeat note.

● **All of the Monkeys** by Michael Park - A Play (1m 1f) £3

Approx playing time 35 minutes A run-down zoo has attracted the attention of trainee animal rights activist, Danny, aka 'Tiger'. His aim is to free the monkeys from their cage, but his attention is diverted when he bumps into Carol. Hearing her description of life with an abusive husband leads him to turn his attentions to persuading her to break free of her own personal cage. Whether he succeeds or not is the theme of this play, which handles a number of modern-day issues in a sympathetic and touching way.

● **Carrie Pringle** by Graham Billing - A Play (1m 1f) £3

It is the day of Wagner's death. In Ven...ice for his health, he is challenged by his wife to admit that his latest infidelity is with a young English soprano in his own opera company. Their subsequent row leads to bitter recriminations about their whole life together, including Wagner's womanising and his irrational attitude toward the men in Cosima's life - her father, Liszt. Their delicate son Fidi and the philosopher Nietzsche. Home truths fall like well-aimed punches on both sides until the composer's already weakened heart can stand it no longer.

● **Cathy's War** by Claire Booker - A Drama (1m 1f) Contact us for price

(1m: 20/30s; 1f: 20/30s. One set. 20 minutes) A story of revenge set in Northern Ireland during the Troubles. After Cathy's young husband is shot dead in army cross-fire, she decides to take revenge into her own hands. But is there one rule for women and another for men in the deadly game of vengeance?

● **Cavern, The** by Dilys Gater - A Drama (2f) £3

\*Festival Award Winner\* This is a revised version of Dilys Gater's powerfully dramatic play for two women. After its original production which won two awards, *the Cavern* went on to win many more for different groups - and the actresses who performed it - up and down the UK. In an underground cavern, a modern woman

Anne, finds herself confronting the mysterious figure of Jennet, who claims she died as a witch. But what is the real secret of the Cavern? When Light meets Dark and Good and Evil come face to face, will one woman's faith and courage be enough to save her from another's ancient retribution? There is opportunity for a crowd scene if required.

● **Charlotte And Emily** by Graham Billing - A Play (2f) £3

Emily has had a stroke at the age of twenty-six. Charlotte, a pioneering speech therapist, has helped her to talk normally, but seems unwilling to admit that Emily is now cured. She invites her out to restaurants and even to her holiday cottage. Emily becomes increasingly disturbed by Charlotte's increasing emotional dependence on her. When she proves her independence by holding down a new job and a new relationship, the hard-drinking over-eating Charlotte's distress increases to the point where she too has a stroke. Emily can now enjoy the fact that their roles have been reversed.

● **Death of a Clown** by Paul Beard - A Drama (2m) £3

\*Writing Award Winner\* A powerful drama for two men. As they wait for the death of their father, the ringmaster and head of the family circus, the clown and his estranged brother fight to gain control of the circus and its future. The balance of power moves convincingly in highly visual theatre that will have the audience on the edges of their seats.

● **Difficult Loves - Three Short Plays** by Anthony Moore - Short Plays (1m 1f) Contact us for price

In **Illmet** an angel and a vampire accidentally meet on the last Christmas Eve of the Old Millennium. They discuss the very nature of their existence and of good and evil. **Lost** features two people caught in a love affair, or are they ghosts fated to repeat the same events? Finally in **Deadlock** a serial kidnapper and his victim are caught up in an unresolvable paradox. All three plays feature one man and one woman.

● **Feeding The Ducks** by Michael Park - A Play (1m 1f) £3

Approx playing time 35 minutes \*Festival Award Winner\* Successful businesswoman Clare has a secret romantic assignation in the park, but the only person around when she arrives is a man feeding the ducks. Little does she realise the impact this total stranger is quickly going to have on her life... Simple to stage and combining drama with humour, this is an ideal play for groups with limited resources.

● **Fresh Showers for the Thirsting Flowers** by David Muncaster - A Play (2f) £3

Alice is a retired English teacher who is living a comfortable if rather lonely existence. A chance encounter with her neighbour's daughter re-awakens her passion to teach when she discovers that most unusual of things. A pupil who wants to learn! With a respectful nod to 'Educating Rita' this is a story of how a generation gap is easily bridged through the discovery of a mutual interest. All scenes are set in Alice's living room which has minimal set requirements. The title of this play is taken from the poem 'The Cloud' by Percy Bysshe Shelley. Other quotes in this play are considered 'fair usage' and do not contravene copyright law but a licence is required to use the music specified.

● **Grave, The** by Melville Lovatt - A Play (2m) £3

Approx playing time 30 minutes. Michael is reading a book, sitting on a graveyard bench. Williams appears and persistently tries to engage Michael in conversation. This provokes a reaction out of all keeping with the situation. In the midst of a graveyard, Williams suddenly finds the foundations of his life beginning to shift. How does Michael know his name? Has Michael been waiting for him to arrive? Who, if anyone, does Michael represent? The Grave can be viewed on different levels and is open to several interpretations. By turns, very funny, sometimes violent and bizarre, a menacing, vividly comic two-hander. *Short-listed For The Diana Raffle One Act Play Award.*

● **Have-You-Any-Idea-What-Time-It-Is!** by Michael Law - A Tragi-Comedy (1m 1f) £3

This "tragi-comedy" is partly about barrenness: for what holds Caroline and Chris together except their pets, that all die, and their flowers, that all wither? Partly, too, it is about the rule-based view and the freer, more imaginative view. Chris is the games player - Caroline, his more fanciful partner, whose excursions into a world of her own devising bring about a near-collapse of their relationship in the aftermath to a disastrous New Year's Eve party. And does Caroline leave Chris at the end to go off with her soul-mate Georgie? We are never to know... Though we may suppose she has second thoughts as the new year dawns.

● **Just Us** by Michael Law - A Play (1m + 1f) £3

\*Writing Award Winner\* A middle-aged brother and sister - imprisoned for life in the dingy dusty room of their sacred memories and fears and hopes - try to impose on each other (and on us) their particular and sharply opposed views of reality: drab common-sense as against magic fantasy. Eunice see their world invaded by some hideous THEM, who are threatening their very lives - while Digby will have none

of this. And is their father, whose birthday party they are waiting to celebrate, really dead (as Eunice claims) or only in his normal comatose state from stroke? This is an exploration into the elusive nature of truth.

● **Lamp, The** by Melville Lovatt - A Comedy (1m 1f) £3

Approx playing time 35 minutes. Doreen and Arnold have driven 25 miles to buy a lamp advertised in a magazine. Unfortunately, to their increasing frustration, Doreen, on actually seeing the lamp, is unable to decide whether she really wants to buy it. Their frustration is further greatly increased when they discover they have accidentally been locked in the shop overnight. Doreen and Arnold have been growing apart. Now trapped together with no chance of escape, they are forced to examine their present relationship. Will 'The Lamp' bring them closer or drive them further apart? A funny, sad, tender, richly comic two-hander.

● **Losing It** by Derek Webb - A Comedy (1m 1f) £3

Jack is an actor who's lost for words. Now he's also lost his leading lady - and the way things are going, he's also losing the plot and he feels he might be on the verge of losing his mind too. Things start off well enough until it's clear that Jack's other actor has not turned up. His attempt to keep the play going soon gets too much for one member of the audience who begins remonstrating with him then gets sucked into appearing in the play herself...

● **Luck Be A Lady** by Michael Park - A Play (1m + 1f) £3

Approx playing time 42 minutes A young woman stands looking out over a swift-flowing river in the centre of a large town, seemingly oblivious of the cold autumn wind and the lateness of the hour. Also abroad for no apparent reason is an elderly man, who by rights should be tucked up in his bed in a local old people's home. Both are facing a major crisis in their lives. Humour and drama are combined in a chance meeting which results in the first stroke of good luck either of them has had for years.

● **Madam Munday's Mystical Mirror** by Paul L Hedge - A Comedy (2f) £3

The play takes place at a village fete, inside the marquee of "Madam Munday", alias Ethel Munday, part-time medium, clairvoyant, and landlady of the 'Dog and Firkin' public house. It is late August 1977, one week after the death of Elvis Presley. Pressed by her young assistant Tracy to contact the late Elvis Presley, Madam Munday spends the twenty minutes before the fete opens delving into the spirit world, with disastrous results.

● **Mind Games** by Ian Hornby - A Drama (1m 1f) £3

This short play has one woman as Ann, and a Police Inspector who can be either sex. Ann's lover Andrew has died in mysterious circumstances, and the Police have come to the conclusion he died of fright. In an off the record interview, Ann finally admits she killed him, and that it was his belief that she was able to do it that scared him to death. The Inspector doesn't believe that's possible at first, but is finally convinced. And, in an ironic twist, when he finally believes her, his life becomes just as dispensable as Andrew's had been.

● **Somebody Up There Likes Us** by Tony Stowers - A Play (1m 1f) £3

In a land of much water but little fertile land and the other of abundant crops but limited water, two border guards diligently guard the frontier between them. With no common language, they maintain a fragile peace punctuated by aggressive gestures and threats. Until one day an unidentified aircraft, passing overhead, drops a small wooden box by parachute, inside which is a bottle that contains a very strange liquid... "Somebody Up there" was improvised with the author and a professional French theatre company with the aim of bridging cultural gaps. The improvisations took place between the 10th – 12th September 2001.

● **Space Station** by Tony Stowers - A Play (2m) £3

On a dark and lonely hill outside of town, two strangers meet for very different reasons: one has gone to set up a telescope to try and spot re-entry into the Earth's atmosphere of a decommissioned Russian space station and the other has gone to distract the former for as long as possible while his fellow villain burgles his house. Chance plays a part when the sole surviving bolt from the space station lands nearby...

● **Spider's Web** by Douglas Gallagher - A Play (1m 1f) £3

After 30 years together, two people unravel their secret anxieties and unspoken phantasms in a dangerous exercise where memory can play unwelcome tricks. Reminiscence? Reality? Paranoia? Or just a game? Duration: approximately 30 minutes.

● **Squashed** by Peter Young - A Play (1m + 1f) £3

George, nagged by his wife Shirley, decides to kill her. An avid reader of murder stories, he believes he has the perfect plan. Shirley goes to the cinema every Wednesday and has a fruit drink. George switches her drink for a poisoned one and leaves. Two middle-aged characters.

● **Tied Up At The Office** by Ian Hornby - A Comedy (1m 1f) £3

Julia has been working late at the office with her boss Geoff. Trouble is, the places

has been robbed and ransacked and the villains have departed leaving Geoff and Julia tied up. They have little choice other than to wait for the cleaners to arrive in the morning. Maybe a game of I Spy would pass the time. Or maybe romance is in the air. An especially useful play for actors who never know what to do with their arms!!!

● **Two Purple Gloves** by Michael Park - A Comedy (1m 1f) £3

Approx playing time 48 minutes \*Festival Award Winner\* It's been a busy Christmas week at Tollerbay shopping centre, but peace reigns now that the late-night shoppers have gone home. As midnight approaches, and she does her regular checks, the last thing security guard Connie needs is an old tramp taking up residence on her patch. However, as they talk, he turns out to have had quite a past, and they eventually find they have more in common than either of them would have suspected. This is a warm-hearted look at bridging the generation gap, ideal for the festive season.

● **Two Slices of Bread** by Della Friend - A Play (2m) £3

Steve, the eldest of two brothers, died in a car crash engineered by Ben. Steve is visiting Ben in order to discover why Ben wanted him dead. As the brothers recall childhood incidents, Ben's emotions swing from brotherly love to insane jealousy. Ben finally reveals his hatred of Steve, who he claims was their mother's favourite. Ben intended Steve to be responsible for the fatal crash, so he would live on in their mothers' heart. But the plan backfired. When Steve reveals that it was Ben who their mother loved most, Ben's tentative grip on reality becomes unravelled and he loses his mind. Two Slices of Bread was awarded second place in the Waltham Forest Festival of Drama, Walthamstow, East London, in 2003.

● **Wall To Wall** by Charles Ford - A Play (1m + 1f) £3

The play takes a sympathetic look at the intractable problems which face old people living on their own and unable to care for themselves. At one level the play is a sparring match in which the old lady exposes the Social Services' promises of a fitted shower, a seaside holiday and a top quality high chair etc. as shabby deceptions. On the other level, however, it is very sad. We know that the old lady's situation is impossible - she has no family or friends and is quite unable to take care of herself. Mr Dartington-Kew is right that something has to be done for her and the growing number of people like her. But what? Time was when aged and eccentric aunts were taken in by the extended family. Now there seems to be no room for mothers and fathers. This play is intended to put a spotlight on a highly topical problem whilst retaining a degree of humour.

● **When A Man Knows** by Alan Richardson - A Drama (1m + 1f) £3

Approx playing time 40 minutes. Inside a dark factory, a man sits alone in a chair. His head is covered by a hood. He is handcuffed and his leg is manacled to a length of chain attached to a large concrete block. He thinks he is alone, but he discovers he is being held captive by an unknown woman. Who is she? Why has he been kidnapped? What does she want? The shocking truth is chillingly revealed in a powerful and challenging two-hander described by one theatre director as 'Fantastic, dark, disturbing, imaginative, compelling and intriguing.

**One Act Plays - 3 characters**

● **Arrival of Dead Dick's Box, The** by Maxine Smith - Comedy/Drama (2m 1f) £3

Dick disappeared a year ago without explanation. Friends Lewis, Caroline and Dutch Jan gather to unwrap the curious parcel he has now sent. Can the collection of random objects that emerge - a bar of soap, a small clog, a shuttlecock and a pair of pliers - solve the mystery of missing Dick? Can their friendship survive the banal journey of supposition?

● **Bluey is the Colour** by H Connolly - A Play (1m 2f) £3

A visit by a council official to Mr Penrose's time worn flat reveals much more than anyone expected. We all make mistakes in life... but given a second chance would you do the same again? Mr Penrose is faced with this dilemma when Miss Reynolds calls to investigate a complaint about his landlord, but she is confused by his attitude, and totally shocked by the stick wielding aggression of his neighbour, Mrs Hopgood. As this play unfolds it becomes clear that Bluey the budgie is not the only captive creature on show.

● **Cliff's Edge** by Paul Beard - A Black Comedy (2m 1f) £3

\*Festival Award Winner & Writing Award Winner\* A suicidal failed actor, a maniacally depressed pub landlord and a schizophrenic passer by are the characters in this blackest of comedies. Set on the cliff top at Beachy Head, this carefully researched piece of modern theatre has received critical acclaim since its showcase in Edinburgh and subsequent productions in Chicago, Madrid, Stockholm, Melbourne and Prague. An ideal festival play for amateurs.

● **Dirty Business** by Derek Webb - A Comedy (1m 2f) £3

Cuts are on their way big time at the local County Council as it struggles to find ways to meet Government spending targets. Josie and Angela are cleaning the office of one of the Council's Department Heads one evening when they come across a file which seems to show that their jobs are on the line too. They also discover some

incriminating evidence which seems to show the same Department Head is guilty of marital infidelity. Armed with this, they set out to try and persuade him to change his mind about some of the planned cuts. But not everything goes quite according to plan...

● **Dying to Meet You** by Eve Blizzard - A Play (1m 2f) £3

Cagney, a small-time gunman, is hiding from the police and finds himself on the roof garden of a luxury block of apartments with no way out. Moving round and supporting his injured arm, he wonders why an easel and an armchair are placed in the middle when he hears someone approaching. Painfully he hides behind the door. It is the resident artist, Verbena, preparing to use the early morning light. A few minutes later they are joined by Penny, a cheerful girl wearing a 'Kleenall' overall. Seeing the gun pointing at them she can't help thinking it's just like a favourite 'telly' police drama - apart from 'reality shows' of course! Who would have thought they had so much in common by the end of the day? Timing 50 - 55 minutes.

● **Fox, The** by Tim Kenny - A Comedy (2m or 1m 1f) £3

This beautiful award-winning bitter-sweet play is set on a shoreline at dusk. A young policeman (woman) finds an old man sitting there. He says he is waiting for the foxes. The policeman wants to take the old man back to his residential home but the old man insists on staying. As they wait, they talk and the age gap between them diminishes to be replaced by a warm mutual understanding.

● **Gnawing At The Comfort Zone** by Joanne King - A Play (3f) £3

After one abortive attempt to leave the nest, Aileen (an ex heroin addict) is ready for another shot at independence. An old friend from the past, Lindsey, turns up and attempts to help Aileen move into her new flat. But there are more obstacles to overcome than the simple packing of a suitcase. For one, there's Lydia, Aileen's over protective mother, who's personality is succinctly summed up by her choice of leaving gift - a carbon monoxide detector. But more importantly, there's Aileen's own innate self to surmount: she may have given up shooting herself in the arm, but she's still a crack shot when aiming at her foot! Some addicts are hooked well before they take their first fix, and sometimes long after their last.

● **Groom** by David Wake - A Drama (1m 2f) £3

Approx playing time 40 minutes A disturbing play about Internet grooming that uses images of marriage: a dark love affair from the cyber age. It won the Sir Cedric Hardwicke Trophy for "Best Original Script or Play" in the Birmingham heats of the All England Theatre Festival. Easy to stage lending itself to a stylized production. Excellent scope for powerful acting.

● **Hard Sell** by Derek Bowskill - A Play (2m 1f) £3

Kevin and Karen Wood are the living proof of that suburban vanities still exist. Both are small-minded and self-obsessed. Kevin is captivated by his newly acquired computer game and his will to win; Karen merely wants to beat him at Gin Rummy. While their days of mutual sexual passion are past, Karen still delights in flirtation, and Kevin still believes he is irresistible. With both of them susceptible to flattery, they only too easily fall for the ploys of the smooth-talking salesman, Jeremy Ritter who persuades them to test his miracle device - precipitating an intriguing and fatal denouement.

● **Hypocrite, The** by Angeliki Zaphiropoulou - A Play (3f) £3

Three friends in Athens, Valeria, a student of dramatic art, Ammelia, a student of classical dance and Elina, a student of photography keep secret their love affair with a common friend, an architect. There is no problem up to the moment when the hypocritical architect sends all three a similar bunch of red roses, which causes them to discover the bitter truth. Hurt, they suffer each in their own way. Their pride and friendship are tested. But, their dreams of youth proved stronger than love disappointment. Their friendship continues on a basis which would protect them against the hypocrisy of men.

● **I Dreamt I Dwelt In Marble Halls** by Ken Lucas - A Comedy (1m 2f) £3

Believing utterly in the power of illusion to sell, Jon Shale promotes art from his fantasised studio. One of his string of artists, Patrick Lownes, has had an affair with Miranda, a friend of Jon's. Soon after the artist commits suicide. Obsessed with his own powers of illusion, Jon convinces Miranda, herself a slick sales demonstrator, that though extremely talented, Patrick's paintings were impossible to sell and he knew it. The suicide was a bid for immortality. Later, Jon is forced to judge as worthless some paintings left to his cleaner by Patrick. Jon is devastated by the revelation. Now it is Miranda who forces him to recognise her ability by marshalling her marketing techniques to restore his ego and so create Jon's ultimate illusion.

● **Jack** by Peter Bridges - A Drama (3m) £3

Jack is upset. He needs to come to terms with what's happened in his life. He just wants to be left alone. His only problem is G, who seems to have no respect for the dead. Why is G there? What does he want? As time goes on, Jack finds more questions than answers. An excellent play for festivals. One simple set.

● **Jumpers** by Patrick Cannell - A Comedy (3m) £3

Is it a bird? Is it a plane? No, it's three people falling from an office block but the

events that led each to this unenviable situation are rather different, as the conversation reveals. Jumpers gives the suspension of disbelief a whole new meaning and its first performance, in Hartlepool in 2007, tickled more than a few. Jumpers is absurd and innovative but the humour is easy to get. If you enjoy a real laugh, with one or two surprises, Jumpers is the thing for you. The part of 2nd Jumper can be adapted for a female player.

● **Kiss, The** by Melville Lovatt - A Tragi-Comedy (2m 1f) £3

Approx playing time 30 minutes. After seeing them kissing, Simon is convinced his wife, Sonya, is having an affair with his best friend, Clive. 'The Kiss' triggers in Simon a desire for revenge, bringing into sharp focus the fragile boundaries of friendship. Beneath seemingly inconsequential conversation, a darker narrative begins to unfold which leads to an ironic, unexpected conclusion. A darkly funny, sad, chilling three hander. *Short-listed For The Diana Raffle One Act Play Award.*

● **Last Bus, The** by Charles Ford - A Play (2m + 1f) £3

The play is set in the living room of Albert and Beatrice Lally's house. A bed has been set up there for Albert along with older type of furniture to suit. Albert, an elderly retired bus driver, has been talked into an operation he didn't want. It appears not to have gone at all well and he is confined to bed. He is being cared for by his elderly wife Beattie, a normally mild-mannered, good-natured woman, whose patience is being pushed to the limit by Albert's grumpy behaviour. A visit by Charles Hopcroft, Beattie's old flame and Albert's abrasive ex-working colleague, doesn't improve the situation.

● **Lavender Years** by Paul Beard - A Play (1m + 2f) £3

\*Festival Award Winner & Writing Award Winner\* The emotive subject of caring for elderly relatives and the right to die is the starting point for this touching drama. The terminally ill 'Mum' lives with her son, Michael, and his wife, Joan and longs to be put out of her misery - or does she? Michael and Joan are against euthanasia - or are they? The last page reveals all.

● **Lay Your Shadow Over Me** by Peter Yates - A Play (3f) £3

Approx playing time 25 minutes. As young Megan lies recovering from a coma, Rachel, her mother and Scarlett, her lover, voice their feelings of each other over her. What they share is a love for Megan, then there are many ways of loving. As emotions rise, it becomes easier to accuse the other than to convince them. The bitter truth of what they really think is revealed in personal monologues to the audience. Will their love for Megan be enough for them to resolve their own differences? (This play endeavours to address the claim that there are not many strong parts around for

women.)

● **London Cousins** by Tony Stowers - A Play (1-3m) £3

It is the late 1980's and three young men, migrants to London, all from different parts of the UK - Scotland, North East England and Brighton - are brought together by fate, choice, coincidence and economic reality, their lives brushing almost imperceptibly against each other as they seek to redefine their identities in a rapidly-changing world. Barely conscious of who they are or what they seek, they surrender to the life-altering forces of the sprawling metropolis known as London. "London Cousins", based on real events, started life as an audition speech for the actor Steve Payne in 1988.

● **Man Who Met His Maker, The** by Graham Andrews - A Play (2m + 1f) £3

Dr. Anton Lindenbrook is the living embodiment of H. J. Esenck's 'Decline and Fall of the Freudian Empire'. His professional and private lives are in disarray - to put it mildly. But Lindenbrook snaps out of self-pity when his nurse, Marlene Primm, announces a new and unusually interesting patient. At first glance, Mr. Todd Singleton seems like a typical 'Home Counties' Englishman. He claims, however, to have made the world, plus everything and everybody in it. Did he or didn't he? That is the question. Lindenbrook finally sees the light.

● **Missing** by Marion Watson - A Play (2m + 1f) £3

Based on a true event, James is celebrating his one hundredth birthday. As a young boy his parents disappeared within two days of each other leaving him and his three siblings behind. They were never heard of again. This play tells what might have happened and how they were caught up in secret planning preceding World War I. His parents come to him as he sleeps and reveal the mystery of the secret drawer in his desk. The parts of James's mother and daughter are played by one actress and that of his father and grandson by one actor.

● **Mr Perfect** by Alan Richardson - A Comedy (1m 2f) £3

Approx playing time 30 minutes. Fashion conscious and career driven Liz has everything she wants, except a man. Her lifestyle demands the very best, so why should she settle for less than Mr Perfect? Does he exist or is she chasing fantasy? When Liz accidentally meets old school friend Elizabeth at a hotel lounge bar while awaiting the arrival of her blind date, she finds herself in a rather awkward situation. Mr Perfect is a wickedly irreverent glimpse at the beguiling world of personal ads, introduction agencies and single clubs with strongly contrasting roles for two young women.

● **Night In Front Of The Box, A** by David Titchener - A Comedy (1m 2f) £3

A light comedy set in the living room of Paul's and Samantha's flat. Both are settled for an evening in watching the telly when the unthinkable happens. A power cut. Will Paul ever get to watch the football? Will Samantha ever get to find out 'who did it' in her soap opera? Both look very unlikely, and with the arrival of Mrs McGregor from next door, Samantha learns that she's been missing out on more than just one soap opera.

● **No Tears for Miss Chisholm** by Janette Walkinshaw - Comedy/Drama (2m 1f) £3

Miss Marigold Chisholm, aged 89 has decided to die on her 90th birthday. To this end she tries to give away all her possessions. Her lawyer does his best to stop her, but doesn't know the critical date. Her nephew is thrilled at her approaching birthday and unaware of her intentions. He misses his wife who travels to luxury destinations without him. Miss Chisholm finds it harder than she expects to give things away. She eventually does so, but in delivering her car to her nephew has an accident. She is accused of reckless driving. This infuriates her so much she decides she has to go on living to clear her name. The accident causes her nephew to think about life and what not and flies to join his wife.

● **Now That I've Found You** by John Stuart - A Play (1m 2f) £3

Smithy has booked the same room in an hotel where he stayed with Cathy thirty years ago, in an effort to recapture the happiness of the early years. He remembers Cathy as she was then. When the Cathy of today enters we find her memories of that first night are different. Things do not go as Smithy had planned and eventually his memories become a reality.

● **Nurses' Tale, The** by Michael Law - A Play (1m + 2f) £3

A blend of myth and reality, this play relates how King Tereus raped his wife's sister, the Princess Philomela, and cut out her tongue so she could not tell what he had done - and how his wife, Princess Procne, killed their only son in revenge and served him up as a meal for Tereus. But the tale is told through the mouths of the Bard and the two Nurses to the unfortunate Princesses - the Nurses who have been blinded and penned up between cliff and cliff as punishment for their part in the tragedy. Or is this really the Nether World they are in? And can they ever be brought to recognise their guilt?

● **Off Work Ill** by David Titchener - A Comedy (2m 1f) £3

Both Geoff and Karen are off work ill with a cold at the same time, nerves are short

and day time television isn't going to help the situation. Something has to give, but as always Geoff has a plan.

● **One Across** by Ian Hornby - A Comedy (1m 2f) £3

This play is set in the days leading up to Christmas. David continually annoys wife Emma by suggesting he may be buying her all sorts of unwanted presents - even though her hints have made it plain enough she wants an eternity ring for Christmas. Things are brought to a head when Emma's mother Agnes comes to stay and takes over the cooking. Emma's fury mounts steadily towards the climax of the play at the stroke of midnight on Christmas Eve, when Emma gets her present and David gets a plate of cold baked beans - all over him!

● **Passion and the Revolutionary** by Michael Barry - A Drama (2m 1f) £3

Adapted for the stage from a short story by Thomas Hardy Reduced cast (with doubling) 2m 1f. "Passion and the Revolutionary" is a dramatic adaptation of "A Committee-Man of the Terror", a short story by Thomas Hardy set in Weymouth during the brief peace with France in the very early 1800s. Hardy uses a specific period in history to throw up obstacles to an intense and intimate love affair that seem to be insuperable. Will the passionate lovers overcome these obstacles and find happiness together? Hardy himself is one of the characters, manipulating the other two in his search for the perfect story.

● **Pressure** by Tony Stowers - A Play (2m 1f) £3

Released after ten months for good behaviour on a two-year sentence for drug dealing, "Pressure" is a study of Jake after his release and a look at how pressure from outside forces and from former friends continue to tempt him back to the same path that caused his downfall. Intended as a follow-up to "My Brother Jake", it carries through certain references to the original but stands alone. It relies on an "inner world" of action rather than speech and silences in which outside interruptions create a menacing mood of the unknown. The "pressure" to cope with that is a challenge for the audience. It is designed for teenage audiences or schools exploring drugs issues.

● **Scratched Record \*FREE\*** by Derek Webb - Short Plays (3m) Contact us for price

Approx playing time 10 minutes Dad has been found guilty of spraying graffiti to protest about a new housing development. He has been ordered to move into sheltered housing where he can be looked after. But it seems he is unrepentant. Playing time:10 minutes.

● **Shadows In Red** by Paul Beard - A Musical Drama (3f) £3

written with Keith O'Gorman \*Festival Award Winner\* An atmospheric and highly visual musical drama. A composite setting, strong lighting and sound plot enhance this modern lesbian vampire love story.

● **Table, The** by James Peterson - A Play (2m + 1f) £3

What if objects recorded memories? What if they had stories to tell us? This object; an old table in a prison interview room, whispers it's tale, urging us to listen. The prisoner has been found guilty of the murder of Mr. Wilks, a member of high society and a well-respected public figure. Today the prisoner must pay for his crime. Today is the day of his execution. But, is it his crime or someone else's? Who is he protecting and why?

● **Trouble with Watson, The** by Mike Heine - A Comedy (1m 2f) £3

(with a cheery wave to Conan Doyle) Sherlock Holmes is oblivious to the fact that Dr Watson is an attractive woman! Together, they reminisce about several of their cases, their memories differing in regard to their separate roles. Then Watson resolves that Holmes must at last see and accept her for who she really is. A battle ensues in which Holmes's denial of the reality of love (and perhaps his fear of its obligations) struggles against its forces on him. Can Watson, with Mrs Hudson's mediations, break through Holmes's defensive ploys and obsessions and demonstrate her love for him? At the end she fails, but in so doing Holmes also pays a price, one which (paradoxically) reveals his own, truly romantic, nature.

● **Under The Carpet** by Jean Homer - A Play (2m + 1f) £3

Middle aged brother and sister Sadie and Eric meet after many years apart. They are to spend the night with their father's body in a funeral parlour, dressed as pantomime characters. They are obviously not happy about the arrangement but their father's will states that they must bear this humiliation if they want to inherit his considerable fortune. As the night progresses, they talk about their lives and Eric learns some disconcerting truths about their childhood. Their ordeal is lightened somewhat by the fleeting appearance of an apprentice mortician who has been left to 'mind the shop'.

● **Up The Garden Path** by Paul Beard - A Comedy (2m 1f) £3

\*Festival Award Winner\* A delightful comedy of characters and situation for older actors. Set in the retirement bungalow of Marjorie and Henry in Cornwall, a tale of jealousy and rivalry in the world of home grown vegetables, that turns to suspicion, when their neighbour's wife mysteriously disappears having destroyed her husband's prize marrow. Is there a sinister reason behind Ernest's bonfires? And who was it that

trampled the Petit Pois? All is revealed over a glass of rhubarb '82.

● **Weekend, The** by Melville Lovatt - A Play (2m 1f) £3

Approx playing time 30 minutes. Colin returns, after many years away, to pay a weekend visit to Henry and Clair. On arriving, he announces a 'change of plan', indicating he will be staying much longer. For Colin has returned to win Clair from Henry. Beneath seemingly light conversation, both men become locked in their battle for Clair. But Clair is not a trophy to be fought for and won. She ultimately belongs to herself. 'The Weekend', for all three, brings into sharp focus their past and present isolation from each other.

● **Wench Is Dead, The** by Michael Law - A Play (1m + 2f) £3

\*Writing Award Winner\* A fateful evening in Autumn. When the daughter of an old flame of his unexpectedly visits Don (for whom literature is the most important thing in his life) he is at once smitten - old rogue that he is - partly because of her great likeness to her mother. As she tells her story, however, he is brought to understand why she is here in the first place and learns some very painful truths about life - and about himself, too, when he is confronted with a frighteningly unfamiliar image of himself. Then the real meaning of the Marlowe quotation is brought home to him - "Thou hast committed - Fornication"? "But that was in another country, and besides, the wench is dead."

● **Where The Heart Lies** by Paul Beard - A Drama (1m + 2f) £3

A well-known actress arrives at the door of a remote country cottage taking the occupier by surprise. It isn't every day that a celebrity turns up on your doorstep uninvited. Her car hasn't broken down and she isn't lost either. She is simply looking for her husband. Unbeknown to the occupier her fiancée is one and the same husband as the actress searches for. A tense stand off takes place between the two women as they wait for their man to return and more than a few secrets are revealed. When he returns, his previous affairs are revealed but he maintains that this time it's different. This time it's for good. He's fallen for his wife's lies to get him back once too often and it's going to be impossible for him to believe another of her lies. She claims she is terminally ill and needs him for the first time in their lives. Racked with guilt, he leaves the woman he is in love with but the ending is even more tragic than that!

**One Act Plays - 4 characters**

● **Abracadabra** by Jane Lockyer Willis - A Comedy (2m 2f) £3

Lionel and his wife Rosemary live a quiet island life. One night, while asleep, a portrait of Queen Victoria that has hung on their sitting-room wall for many years,

is stolen by a fellow islander. The thief unexpectedly returns the picture, explaining that his burglary activities serve only as a hobby to stave off boredom. The couple, with some helpful hints from Victoria's ghost, visible only to Lionel, realize it is time to change their quarrelsome ways. To illustrate their good intentions, they decide to replace the portrait with one of their own.

● **Beggar Your Neighbour** by Ron Nicol - A Comedy (4f) £3

Mrs Freebody has copied every detail of Mrs Lightfoot's living room - or has she? Then, Mrs Lightfoot reports the disappearance of her husband and twelve children. Mrs Freebody is responsible - or is she? Police officers Boulter and Cadbury investigate, and are about to make an arrest for kidnapping, body snatching and mass murder when the truth is revealed.

● **Bim and Bub** by Henry Woolf - A Comedy (2m 2f) £3

'Bim and Bub' commemorates a marriage. The action is neither literal nor consecutive, rather it exists in the imaginations of Bim and Bub, the husband and wife, as their life together unfolds. Like all of us Bim and Bub inhabit both the solidly everyday world and at the same time a less tangible but perhaps more vivid dream world. Who was it that wrote: "We are such stuff as dreams are made on and our little life is rounded with a sleep"?

● **Blind Man's Bluff** by Stewart MacInnes - A Play (2m 2f) £3

Irritated by Linda's overeagerness to be helpful, Horace is rude and aggressive towards her. He resents his disability and is forever dreaming back to when he and his wife were a happy couple. His thoughts are seen in, all but one of the flashback scenes. His home and situation are constant reminders of his happy past that serve as a release from his misery. He decides to plant some theatre tickets in Linda's bag and then accuse her of stealing them in front of John. John isn't fooled for one minute. He makes Horace face up to the present and to stop living in the past. Essentially the play is a story of a man's love of his late wife who has difficulty in accepting help from his family and friends.

● **Bo And Joe** by John C Bird - A Play (3m 1f) £3

The play is a fictional evocation of the ill-starred relationship in the early 1880's between Beatrice Potter and Joseph Chamberlain, the leading radical politician of his time. Beatrice later married Sidney Webb and the pair became renowned socialist writers and thinkers and founders of the London School of Economics. Her affair with Chamberlain is seen in flashback after Beatrice's memory is triggered by an entry in her diary. The play opens in September 1939 in the Webb's home and ends with Beatrice listening to Joseph's son, Neville, (the last person she encounters

during the flashback) on the wireless announcing Britain's declaration of war on Germany.

● **Boiled Cabbage** by Anthony Moore - A Play (2m 2f) £3

A pastiche of Absurdism intended to highlight some of the changes in the world that occurred as a result of the Second World War. Thrill to the adventures of John and Janet as they experience everything that War can offer. Sympathise with Mum as she throws off the shackles of patriarchy and learns to think for herself. Watch as Dad withdraws into the mouthing of unthinking clichés in order to protect his own bankrupt world view.

● **Bow-Lox File, The** by Charles Ford - A Comedy (2m 2f) £3

Inept Gordon and his long suffering hapless spouse Lottie, both in their mid-fifties are, not for the first time, at rock-bottom, both barely managing to survive each financial crisis which frequently appear to crop up with alarming regularity at their drab, sorely neglected, long rented Victorian terraced abode, now favourably located in a formerly deprived run-down inner city area but of late, although of little consequence to the present occupants, enjoying an outrageously inflated revival. Hard up but unhappy, ill-mannered scruffy unemployed Gordon, who has somehow managed to secure a part-time school crossing job, appears to sit around most of the time waiting for something to turn up. Lottie, who has little to look forward to but is more all about than her idle partner and prepared to take a chance on anything that looks promising, has managed to drag Gordon along to Sundance Villas, con merchant retirement home specialists, in the hope of picking up a free holiday offer by playing them at their own gam

● **Breaking The Ice** by Raymond Jones - A Play (1m 3f) £3

Arnold in his mid sixties, with some loss of memory, lives alone in a top storey flat. Sandra, his niece, sole beneficiary in his will calls as arranged. Arnold having forgotten the arrangement is not pleased as he has invited his friend Jennifer, single and in her early sixties, from the adjacent flat for tea. What are hesitant Arnold's motives and will they affect a suspicious Sandra's inheritance.

● **Brief Lives** by Andrew Beattie - A Comedy (3m 1f) £3

\*Festival Award Winner\* Brief Lives is a one-act black comedy set in a bleak seaside town, about two boys, Paul and Alex, who find the body of a dead woman in a house. They decide - with hilarious consequences - to try to ensure that the woman's death is dignified, although their efforts are nearly discovered by a young tramp called Dodge. The play won the Scottish Community Drama Association's competition for new writing for youth theatre in 2002 and has been performed by a

number of youth theatre groups. Most recently it received a performance at the East 15 Acting School in Essex directed by the actress Alison Steadman.

● **Canary Cage, The** by Diana Raffle - A Drama (1m 3f) £3

\*Festival Award Winner\* Three women are locked in a cellar. One of them is psychotic. Two are in danger. Only one survives. This play has the power to send shivers down the spines of the audience and keep them guessing until the end.

● **CCTV** by Derek Webb - A Comedy (3m 1f) £3

Approx playing time 40 minutes In the security control room of The Oaks shopping centre, Rich is coming on duty for the night shift, relieving Alex and Jane, two other guards. Alex is decidedly non-PC with a penchant for zooming in the CCTV cameras onto unsuspecting women shoppers. Rich is far more conformist and rather pedantic in his attitudes, but he has obviously learnt to put up with Alex's childish behaviour. Jane has a penchant for shopping with a capital S and is a bright, rather feisty addition to the security team. It is, it seems, an ordinary evening at The Oaks – until the arrival of Keith, a robber of quite breathtaking incompetence, intent on robbing the shopping centre...

● **Celebulite** by Derek Webb - A Play (1m 3f) £3

Approx playing time 45 minutes We live in a celebrity-obsessed society. So, when minor-celebrities measure their success on how many times they have appeared on a reality TV show and how often they are recognised in the street, what must it be like for them to lose their looks overnight? In Celebulite, we meet Victoria Ingram-Brown – who wakes up one morning to discover she has aged 20 years – and Russell, who has put on five stone. Both turn up at their agents, Hobson Associates, to discover that he has moved offices and the cleaner, Katherine, can't (or won't) provide any information. Their frustration and anger builds as they contemplate what their futures will be now that their appearance has so radically changed. For Victoria it is devastating, while Russell is slightly more philosophical. But everything changes again when Margery, Harry Hobson's PA, arrives on the scene. Is something altogether more sinister happening, or is this reality TV gone mad? Celebulite examines the cult of the celebrity in a wi

● **Chapter Seven** by Mike Heine - A Comedy (2m 2f) £3

(with a hat doffed to Pirandello) Ralph, a character in a work of romantic fiction undergoing its final revision, decides it is time to confront its author, Vanessa, to ask for a more prominent place in the story. He is irked that his rival, Fritz, who seems to have all the manly attributes he sees himself lacking, should be a successful suitor to the book's heroine - the faultless, poised, slim, beautiful (etc!) Rebecca. Tactful

negotiations with Vanessa are therefore needed to try to secure an improved storyline. The characters increasingly assume a life of their own, as if Vanessa has lost control, and at the end, Ralph's wish appears to have been met. But is the price he was willing to pay too much?

- **Claude is in the Garden** by Maxine Smith - A Drama (2f + 1m, 1f (voices only)) £3

Camille, first wife of Impressionist artist Claude Monet and his most important model, is terminally ill and in the last months of her life. She is cared for by Alice Hoschede who, in time, will become Monet's second wife. The women participate in a kind, cruel and suspicious early morning conversation, where undercurrents and easiness abound. This play is straightforward to stage and provides an enjoyable challenge for ambitious female performers.

- **Combination** by Maxine Smith - Comedy/Drama (1m 3f) £3

Set 1961, in the backroom of "Jackson's Grocers", Lou and Elsie find themselves in the middle of an armed siege. Volatile Robber 1 attempts to open the shop's safe while acerbic Lou walks a fine line and Elsie strangles her beloved cat who is grievously unwell. Robber 2 is revealed as a girl and pregnant by Bill Jackson (proprietor of Jackson's Grocers). Jackson has also fathered Lou's illegitimate daughter and has been having an affair with Elsie. All three women know two numbers each of the shop's safe but once opened, Robber 1 furiously discovers it has been emptied. Fearful that the shop workers have seen too much, he shoots Lou dead. He then puts the gun to terrified Elsie's head and in the final blackout, two gun shots are heard.

- **Countdown, The** by John Ellis - A Thriller (2m 2f) £3

Sentenced to hang for smuggling drugs into Malaysia Eddie Noakes has only 72 hours remaining before he is executed. His lawyer vanishes and his best friend disappears. His British Barrister becomes incapacitated, hence the arrival of Sir Geoffrey Napier QC who with Junior Barrister Victoria Granville struggle against the odds to save his life. As the countdown begins and the minutes tick away, Eddie's life is balanced on a knife-edge. An explosive last meeting with his stepdaughter increases the tension as Eddie's life is in danger until the final moments of the play. Will he live or die?

- **Countryside** by James MacDonald - A Comedy (1m 3f) £3

Countryside tells the story of a handful of misfits in an abandoned village in the Russian hinterlands, asking vital questions about human worth and collective responsibility. Though its theme is urgent, its tone is mordantly comic, and it would

suit general audiences and both professional and amateur companies.

- **Dispossessed, The** by Barry Hillman - A Play (4f) £3

When pensioner Mabel Maynard gets a Compulsory Purchase Order slapped on her old terrace property - to make way for a new Shopping Centre - the demolition men are all set to move in. But Mabel, a self-styled "awkward old sod", isn't about to go quietly. Town Councillors, social workers and her own daughter are all drafted in to persuade her; and in the ensuing battle a lot of nasty home-truths and scandals tumble out of the woodwork. Mabel remains adamant. She "won't clear out unless she's carried out". How fate conspires to achieve exactly that is the story of Barry L Hillman's festival-winning play, here produced in a full, revised text by NTP, and a cinch for the mature all-female group.

- **Don't Call Fiona** by Don West - A Black Comedy (2m 2f) £3

All is normally perpetual harmony in this blissful menage-a-trois presided over by fiercely protective mother-hen Lindy - but not today. A nerve-wracked George is glued to the dreaded mobile phone, locked in lengthy battle with the unspeakable Fiona, whilst David lures the mysterious Jennifer ("I'm an out of work professional - I don't do it for free!") into the house for a seemingly nasty experiment. 200 miles away Fiona is taking her clothes off to keep the bailiffs amused whilst they pillage George's luxury London house. Lindy erupts, David chickens-out, George implodes, whilst Jennifer and Fiona team up for the rescue operation. Things can only get worse? Yes - Fiona has cancelled her funeral and booked a seat on the six o'clock train from Kings Cross!

- **Don't Let Go, Dad** by H Connolly - A Play (2m 2f) £3

Christopher's daughter has been knocked off her push-bike by a hit-and-run driver and is laid in a hospital bed... We now see how the Harrison family cope with this situation and how a disaster from years earlier has moulded and shaped all their lives.

- **English Country Garden, An - Monologues and Duologues for Men and Women** by Jane Lockyer Willis - Monologues (1 or 2) £3

The author has written an anthology of 13 monologues and 5 duologues for the more mature actor. Each complete in itself, this booklet offers a wide range of choice and content. Both amusing and sad, these pieces vary in length from approximately 3 to 7 minutes. They can be performed singly, for auditions, as practice or party pieces, at festivals or even tailored towards an evening's programme. Just the book to have on your shelf when you need a few minutes entertainment.

- **EuroTime** by Michael Anderson - A Play (3m 1f) £3

EU bureaucrats Gyles, Tarquin and Pandora attend a meeting with Hugh Pugh, head of a think tank, to consider a new idea for the metrication of time. However, Hugh's revelations leave them startled, and his bizarre solution verges on the unreal. Nepotism, the attitudes of the EU towards its own member countries, and its relations with the rest of the world, also come under the spotlight, and this comic story has an unexpected ending.

● **Fat Fred** by Charles Ford - A Black Comedy (2m 2f) £3

Fat Fred is dead. A small group of extraordinary people have arrived for the funeral. They are totally unknown to each other and appear to know little, if anything, about the deceased. Who are they? Why are they there? Is Amy as genteel and timid as she seems? Surely the West Countryman must be someone other than a simple Devon farmer? Not surprisingly one is a police officer on the trail of Fat Fred's murderer... but is it as simple as that? All four characters' ages can be quite flexible ranging from forty to past fifty.

● **Forgive Us Our Trespasses** by H Connolly - A Play (2m 2f) £3

Helen and Nigel have just moved house, and are nervously awaiting the arrival of their first visitors. But there will be no celebrations for this new abode, as old family grievances are reopened every player has a revelation or a confection to reveal. But as the night's shocking events slowly unfold, remarkably it seems to pull this shattered family closer together again.

● **Going to Alaska** by Tim Kenny - A Comedy (2m 2f) £3

Approx playing time 35 minutes. Brian, his womanising and bragging friend Len are planning a secret fishing trip to Alaska. They have told Brian's tired over-worked wife and Len's new girlfriend Sharon that the fishing trip is in Scotland. Sharon and Len arrive for dinner and soon intertwining relationship secrets are revealed. With the boys out of the way driving Sharon's new car, Sharon and Meg plan a change of lifestyle. However, it is not without its surprising consequences!

● **Good in the Kitchen** by David Titchener - A Comedy (2m 2f) £3

This light, romantic comedy follows Maureen and Norman in their attempt for romance. The problem is both still live with their mothers, and both spend far too long living in a dream world. Maybe fate has brought them together, or was it Norman's mother? Either way, they do have to come out of their dream world to notice each other. This short one-act light comedy is suitable for all audiences. *Winner* - Best New Play Shield, Wellington Drama Festival, November 2005. *Winner* - The Hastilow Cup (Best New Play), Tamworth Hastilow Festival, March 2006

● **Gravy** by James Meadows - A Play (3m 1f) £3

"A Post Postmodern Play". Bob Kern is a struggling writer who hates writers who write stories about writers. He much prefers to write abusive plays about police officers and wealthy entrepreneurs being murdered by having CV's forced down their throats. However, Bob goes missing after attending an extremely unorthodox interview himself, where a high flying business man is found with Bob's own CV in his aforementioned respiratory tract. Bob's middle-class friends are appalled that such a tawdry old plot cliché could ever become true... and then a police Inspector arrives with a very large chip on his shoulder.

● **Heaven's Above** by Diana Raffle - A Comedy (2m 2f) £3

Sally is dead. Finding herself at the gates of heaven with a depressive and an aging tennis player, she struggles to first disprove her demise and second to beg for another chance. Eventually, a clerical error made by a very overstretched celestial admin department gives her back the life that she realises she so desperately wants; however it's not without its twist! This is a comedy; easy to cast with a minimum set and great acting parts.

● **Hen and Fox, The** by David Wake - Comedy/Drama (2m 2f) £3

Approx playing time 30 minutes An apparently perfect couple, Jackie and Alex, arrive at the Hen and Fox pub on a date. She is bubbling with excitement about getting married, while he tells jokes to hide what he really wants to say. And it isn't just that his Decree Absolute won't arrive until after the wedding, but it's not that. Advice appears in the form of the barman Andy and Jackie's friend, Tricia. A gentle romantic comedy drama about friendship. Easily staged.

● **Hotel Alhambra** by Anne Graham - A Comedy (2m 2f) £3

Approx playing time 25 minutes. Miguel has a hotel, but no guests, yet just as trade improves, his disillusioned wife leaves him. Help suddenly appears, but Steve has much more in mind than catering to the guests. DI Babcock of the International Drugs Squad, catches up with Steve, but not before Miguel, and his hotel, face ruin. Fortunately, the timely return of his wife, and an unexpected windfall, leave Miguel on a blissful high.

● **I'll Be Here** by Cherry Bennet - A Play (1m 3f) £3

The start of the new millennium and in Emma's view romance isn't just dead but cremated with its ashes well scattered. Emma is a 21st Century girl that wants it all including a man straight out of a Jane Austin novel. There's a well worn saying that 'people find love in the strangest places'. But when Emma meets a man in a cemetery

that ticks all the boxes, she comes to realise that for this relationship it's not a strange place for romance at all - it's their only option.

● **Innocent Eve** by Christopher Kelly - Comedy/Drama (2m + 2f) £3

\*Festival Award Winner & Writing Award Winner\* Rowan is a New Age child in her late teens who lives in a wooden shelter in a small wood owned by Eve and Gerald who are about to split up. Eve stumbles on Rowan's shelter and on hearing how Rowan is largely self-supporting by selling dried flowers and her own printed fabrics, is impressed and softens. Gerald enters, cynical and bitter, demanding that Rowan vacates the dwelling as they are selling the land for property development. When Rowan's traveller boyfriend turns up, Eve and Gerald learn basic truths about their own materialistic lifestyle, their failing marriage and in the end re-evaluate their beliefs.

● **Jayne with a Y** by Ian Hornby - A Play (3f or 1m 2f) £3

Jayne, a young student visitor to a nursing home, meets Emily, an apparently cantankerous old lady and has her preconceptions challenged by a woman who is not the grumpy old person the nursing staff had her believe. She is an intelligent and interesting woman, and the two form a bond that's likely to continue into a hopeful future. Your audience will leave with a smile and an impression that maybe life isn't so bad after all. The part of the nurse can be played by either sex and the age is unimportant.

● **Ladies Please!** by Derek Bowskill - A Play (1m + 3f) £3

Three generations of ladies who 'live to please' ply their trade in the vacant level of a multi-story car-park, where the only signs of comfort are their luxurious sleeping bags, the tools of their trade. Mother, daughter and grandmother play out a game of make-believe pleasure and satisfaction: their mixed bag of male clients come and go, while the strangely sinister figures of Bill and Biker form a macabre background. The alarming outcome of their commerce and copulation offers a harsh comment on contemporary values. There is no overt sex on stage.

● **Last Tea Break, The** by Don West - A Comedy (2m + 2f) £3

An intriguing mix of comedy and pathos, played out on an empty stage. This small run-down museum will finally shut down this afternoon. The axe has fallen. Arthur's 23 years service has been tossed aside at the whim of a committee, his Union has deserted him and he is determined to prove to the Preservation Society demonstrators that he is a force to be reckoned with. He forcibly closes the place down for a lengthy, unauthorised tea break, driving them outside into the rain. Aided by Kate, a recuperating ex-alcoholic 'bag lady' in a wheelchair, Arthur makes his last heroic

stand.

● **Like Lego Bricks** by Colin McBain - A Drama (2m + voice) £3

Neil & Chris meet by chance in an abandoned warehouse. Both are on the run from the police. They went to school together but they haven't seen each other for a few years. As they reminisce about their time at school, it is revealed that although they were friends, they constantly fell out. Neil is outspoken and crass: Chris is sensitive and reserved. When the police close in on them, Neil admits his feelings towards Chris, which he does not reciprocate. Chris eventually decides to turn himself in while Neil continues running. However, Neil changes his mind at the last minute and turns himself in.

● **Man's View** by Derek Webb - A Play (1m + 3f) £3

Approx playing time 45 minutes Three women, Carol, Ann and Judy, are having a reunion in a wine bar one evening. It's the first time they've been together since leaving school. The play opens as they arrive back, the worse for drink, at Carol's flat – a very upmarket warehouse conversion. Carol is keen to impress the others. She is married to a successful publisher. What she fails to disclose is that he is a publisher of porn magazines. Judy is married with a young child and Ann is still single, but happy working in a dress shop. As their talk continues, and more drink is consumed, they begin to disclose more and more about their private lives. And when Carol suggests playing a kind of truth game, secrets they have kept hidden for years emerge with disastrous consequences

● **Mary Hannam** by Marion Watson - A Play (2m + 2f) £3

Based on true facts from Parish Registers and annuls of the Overseers of the Poor of 1811-12 the play tells of a family's struggle with poverty and their attempts to obtain financial support from the parish. Mary Hannam becomes pregnant but will not reveal who is the father of her child. The Overseer is anxious to discover his name. She falls ill and her parents, Elizabeth and Bayley Hannam, beg for money to help her. When she dies they have to ask the parish to pay for her funeral. They then take on the task of bringing up her baby daughter.

● **Next!** by Paul Beard - A Comedy (4f) £3

An all female comedy offering four character roles with ages ranging from 18 to 49. Four struggling and often out-of-work actresses share an eleventh floor flat in London which is owned by a local private Landlord. The location is vital if any of them are to get the big break they all yearn for. Their days and evenings are filled with endless auditions, part-time jobs and in one case a slightly dubious way to earn a crust. They are three months behind with the rent and the Landlord is not prepared

to listen to any more excuses. He is due to call later to collect what is due or to serve them with an eviction notice. He would prefer cash but is prepared to accept another method of payment but his suggestion does not go down too well with his tenants. It is just possible that Mr. Khan has misunderstood the old proverb to mean 'Cash in the hand is better than four birds in a bed!'

● **Perfect Solution, The** by Clifford Wright - A Comedy (2m 2f) £3

Richard Farrow Has a problem: His marriage is on the rocks and his wife won't give him a divorce. He has a brilliant idea and comes up with a 'Master plan' for murder that he has stolen from an old movie, he needs an accomplice and so asks his long time pal George Winwick to help. George reckons that the Plan is doomed to failure. But that's because George has a master plan of his own! However, we have all heard the old saying about 'best laid plans'.

● **Piste Off** by Paul Beard - A Comedy (2m 2f) £3

\*Writing Award Winner\* Piste Off is a comedy of characters and situation set in a cramped ski apartment in the French Alps. Two couples share a hoped-for skiing holiday with no snow! The sniping, the endless gripes and papering over the cracks by the wives, all sum up vividly the horrors of such a holiday in close confines in this comically overwrought situation.

● **Power To See, The** by David Walker - A Play (2m + 2f) £3

Set in the wilderness, the play depicts the final conflict between good and evil, between God and Satan. Satan challenges God to keep his part of an ancient bargain. If evil should ever triumph over good, God had promised to grant Satan the ultimate power of heaven - the power to see. Satan demands that power and God cannot go back on his word. However the power to see is not what Satan imagines it to be. It is something far more basic and, to Satan, destructive.

● **Remember Me** by Ian Hornby - A Drama (2m 2f) £3

On the day of friend Tony's funeral, Calvin is very bitter. He sees his own life with wife Lynn fading away with no meaning. The shallow life of two friends at the funeral only manages to sink him further into the depths, where he examines before our eyes why life is so meaningless. One of them reflects that he wants to be remembered after he dies, and Calvin points out that nobody is remembered for who they are, only what they did. Everyone remembers that Christopher Wren built St Paul's, but nobody knows what colour hair he had, or whether he wore a moustache. When we're young, we look forward to things. When we're older we look back. Calvin realises he's missed the one time in his life when he wasn't looking forward or back, he was actually satisfied, and he missed it. Lynne and Calvin announce to

their friends that their marriage is splitting because of an affair with Tony, the recently deceased. This intrigues their friends, but the revelation that it was Calvin who was having the affair and the knowledge that Tony died from AIDS, quickly breaks the final friendship apart, leading to an inevitable yet tragic conclusion.

● **Sign Of The Times, A** by John C Bird - A Play (3m 1f) £3

The play tackles the theme of wartime xenophobia and its effect on a family living in the East End of London during the early days of the First World War. Leo Hoffmann, the proprietor of a family bakery business and a naturalised subject of German descent, is mistakenly perceived as sympathetic to the enemy and is injured when the business is attacked and vandalised by a street mob. The play explores the differing reactions of Leo and his wife and son to the traumatic episode and the way in which they are able to come to terms with an uncertain future.

● **Smouldering Fires** by Roy Hliffe - A Play (3m + 1f) £3

Chris returns to his digs twelve years after leaving University and is reunited with Tony, now an arrogant financial advisor, and Fiona, who he was obsessed with. Fiona assures Chris that she and Tony are just good friends. She encourages him to relate a fantastic tale about burning down a Stately home, attempts to seduce him then becomes hysterical. Tony rushes in to protect Fiona. They reveal they are lovers and proceed to humiliate Chris. But, at the end of this dream play, through confronting his tyrannical dead father, Chris has begun the long journey towards reconciliation with his past.

● **Snookered** by Tim Kenny - A Comedy (2m 2f) £3

An award-winning comedy set in Wales. Ivor is a shirker and on benefit because of his 'bad back'. He dreams of being a comic and winning the local snooker championship. He and his wife Betty, who is boastful about her promotion at the supermarket, are visiting Ivor's brother and his wife Gwen. As Ivor continues to bore everyone with his jokes and his snooker prowess, it is clear that there is no love lost between the two families. That night the telephone rings and soon a secret must be unearthed!

● **Stockholm** by David Wake - A Drama (3m + 1f) £3

Approx playing time 30 minutes A psychological drama set in a police cell during a hostage crisis. A power struggle between the three main characters (2m, 1f) that illustrates the difference between psychotic and psychopathic. Hard hitting with some appropriate bad language. This play won a number of certificates, the Rose Bowl and Trophy at the Birmingham heat of the All England Theatre Festival. It is essentially a three hander with two others and scope for numerous walk-ons. Easy to stage.

● **Strangeways** by Paul Beard - A Play (2m + 2f) £3

\*Writing Award Winner & Festival Award Winner\* The daily lives of the four characters in this hard hitting modern drama are captured in a realistic snapshot of today's society. Damien, is a young unemployable drifter, Sally, is a drug addicted young street prostitute, Graham is a middle-aged single man who live with his dominating mother and D.S. Collins is an embittered female detective. All have something in common - they are all caught in some kind of trap. When their lives are brought together through circumstances beyond their control, the story unfolds. Gritty, thought-provoking, with moments of pure black comedy, this play would be ideally suited for a drama festival or performance on the fringe.

● **Swingers** by Paul Beard - A Comedy (2m 2f) £3

\*Festival Award Winner\* A situation comedy for two men and two women. Set in an eleventh floor flat on a run down council estate, the occupants try their hands at wife swapping with a couple from Hampstead, who answer their advert. The meeting of middle class morals and working class values makes for a comically overwrought situation as misunderstandings and embarrassment overtake those involved.

● **Tasting Poison** by James Meadows - A Drama (3m + 1f) £3

Simon - a sixth-form swat - is about to go to university. But for one night, he wants to live: he goes to a party, drinks alcohol and allows himself to be seduced into an evening of passion with the most beautiful girl in his school. However, the alcohol does not entirely deaden his inhibitions: he starts seeing remonstrating messages on the bottom of every glass that he drains and then a physical manifestation of the Freudian Super-Ego appears before him. At every opportunity this apparition attempts to sway Simon away from his carnal pursuit by every means possible.

● **That Sinking Feeling** by Michael Anderson - A Comedy (3m 1f) £3

Europe is under threat from rising sea levels caused by global warming. However the boffins at Roundley Bottom have devised an ambitious plan for saving the UK, by relocating it to the Adriatic. Recently promoted head of EU Crisis Management Hugh Pugh, calls a meeting with bureaucrats Gyles, Tarquin and Pandora to consider yet another harebrained scheme, this time involving lasers and surplus marmalade. But maybe amongst the detail, something obvious has been overlooked.

● **Till The Devil Be Up** by Barry Hillman - A Play (2m + 2f) £3

When Jessica Graine buys an old village house to escape from her unfaithful husband she is grateful for the friendship of the maid, Gracie, who meets her at the station. Long neglected, the house is spooky and frightening and the two women soon

become aware that the place is haunted. Alternating between bravado and panic, the new mistress is reduced to a state of shock as the house's history unfolds and Gracie is done to death - till the appearance of the local police sergeant reveals that the house is not so much haunted by spirits as by the maid and her accomplice who have been squatting unlawfully in the building and aim to repel prospective purchasers with their scary tales. Free of the hoaxers Jessica can now live without the threat of ghosts. Or can she? A chilling Victorian ghost story.

● **United in Darkness** by James Peterson - A Play (2m 2f) £3

A blind woman is the prime witness to a murder. It's not what she saw, it's what she heard. The unusual circumstances call for extraordinary measures. Detective Inspector Monroe whisks her away to a secret location, a hotel outside of town, and puts her under twenty-four hour protection. This is Detective Monroe's only chance to catch the murderer, a hit-man who goes by the name of; The Hawk. But all is not as it seems...

● **Waiting For Pierpoint** by Paul Beard - A Drama (2m + 2f) £3

\*Festival Award Winner & Writing Award Winner\* An in-depth psychological study into the fragmented mind of serial killer and self-confessed necrophile John Christie as he waits to be hanged. A combination of fact, fiction, theatre and mime, this award-winning play will have the audience on the edges of their seats, as real and imaginary scenes from Christie's past are played out.

● **Waiting Room, The** by Tony Stowers - A Play (3m 1f) £3

1983 in a deserted railway station waiting room. A stranger waits for something to happen but is it a train or a date with destiny? A bizarre and ramshackle "family" appears with the apparent intention of "saving" the stranger from himself but the family displays such signs of disintegration and lack of cohesion that their mission fails dismally. Only after the voluntary demise of the stranger do their true natures appear.

● **Walking on Water** by Kara May - A Play (2m 2f) £3

Every year Barry and Susan celebrate their marriage at the isolated beach where they first met. This year they invite Jason, a young man with beguiling cool, and the nymph-like Iris to join them. But are Jason and Iris who they say they are? Are Barry and Susan as happily married as they make out? And then there's the gun, and who is the bullet for? A play with psychological twists and turns where things may not be as they seem. Running time: about 45 minutes.

● **White Christmas** by Allen Saddler - A Play (2m 2f) £3

Seasonal comedy for 2 male, 2 female. What happens when a travelling panto can't find an audience. It is Christmas Eve and it is snowing. A show within a show, with panto sketches and songs against a background of anxiety and conflict. Needs some props.

**One Act Plays - 5 characters**

● **Absent Thee From Felicity** by Graham Billing - A Play (1m 4f) £3

Exactly a year ago, sixteen-year-old Felicity went missing. Still without any news about her and unable to account for her disappearance, the other members of her family react to it in different ways. Her eldest sister Christina refuses to let it stop her living her own life, while the middle sister Maria does all she can to keep Felicity's painful memory fresh. Their mother has lost the ability to feel anything and their estranged father loses himself in alcohol-induced sentimentality. A local journalist, hoping for a new angle on the story, has to admit defeat. There are no new answers.

● **After Dougal** by Paul Francis - A Play (2m 3f) £3

In an Edinburgh community centre, on the first day of January, 2002, a group of activists gather for a meeting. Dougal, their leader, is missing. He may be in prison, or on the run, or working as a police informer. The group explore the possibilities, and look for clues. Then Rory arrives. A new recruit, or possibly a spy? In the shadow of 9/11, it's hard to be sure what's real, or who to trust. Can they work together, in the future? Or is the war on terror too big, too black to deal with? Gradually, the group splits up, and only with the final dialogue do we grasp what has been happening, and guess at what's to come.

● **Amazing Grace** by Rena Pope - A Comedy (5f) £3

The play takes place in a convent where the nuns are enthusiastic D.I.Y experts. The Bishop thought the place had been demolished years ago. Grace, a clumsy duster, manages to turn around a religious stature, or did she? The convent is in crisis. Has the Saint herself turned her back on the whole affair? Is it a miracle, but it's unexpected if it is, but then as one nun says, 'aren't they all'. However it happened, the bishop is forced to re-think his attitude and the audience don't know the answer either.

● **Balancing** by Paul Francis - A Drama (3m 2f) £3

The events portrayed in Balancing take place in the present day, somewhere in the UK (preferably local to where the play is being performed). The play is set in Morton and Foster, an accountancy firm in the age of Enron. Tom Morton and Jim Foster are the old guard, who have had to adapt to new ways. Jan and Sadiq are the younger

generation, eager to succeed. When the possibility of a partnership comes up, they both have tough decisions to make. How much do they want this promotion, and what exactly will it cost?

● **Bench, The** by Clifford Wright - A Play (3m 2f) £3

"The Bench" is a silent witness to the daily events of the street. The day is Thursday and this is the day for Gregory's usual visit, an appointment he has kept with "The Bench" every Thursday for ten long years. However, Gregory's visit today is different, for today he has arrived later than usual, a fact that will change his world forever. You see Gregory has a secret, a secret that only he knows. We all have a "skeleton in our cupboard" and Gregory's skeleton is about to jump out and bite him!

● **Bloody Mary** by Peter Bridges - A Drama (1m 4f) £3

A simple slumber party turns into a grisly night to remember for those lucky enough to survive. But What was really behind the tragic events of that night. In a world of science and technology, how much room is there left for legend and myth. Can everything we see be explained away so easily... or is there still a lot more that we don't know about. Note: Unsuitable for younger audiences.

● **Boomerang, The** by Melville Lovatt - A Play (4m 1f) £3

Approx playing time 35 minutes. Ben, aged 12, has been given a boomerang and sets out with his father and grandfather to try it out in the local park. Unfortunately, the boomerang becomes lodged in the branches of a very high tree. No amount of stone throwing by Ben's father, Bob, can dislodge the boomerang from the tree. The image of the boomerang lost in the tree's branches becomes central to the lives of the three. For all three are struggling separately with feelings of loss: Of a boomerang, of a job, of a wife and mother and of life itself. Their emotions and knowledge are concealed from each other for reasons of pride, cowardliness and love.

● **Business is Business** by Mike White - A Comedy (3m 2f) £3

Worried businessman George and wife Valerie meet son Jason and girl-friend Sarah. George is horrified: she's the prostitute he put to bed with a vital client last night. She wins George over with a display of business acumen: "business is business", but Valerie is not persuaded. Sarah exits in tears. Jason protests, "I'd marry her if she was a serial killer." Prostitution is merely to support them both through university. Valerie changes her mind, and they all phone/text Sarah. She saves the day: the client's tied up in a compromising position and can be blackmailed into signing a business-saving deal.

● **Call Girls** by David Muncaster - A Comedy (1m 4f) £3

Call Girls is set in a call centre providing IT assistance to an unspecified company. Three of the women get on well together and 'have a laugh' but for the last six months their happy little group has been spoiled by the presence of Laura, an arrogant and aloof troublemaker whose predilection for short skirts and low cut tops probably has more to do with her getting the job than any particular work skills. Thankfully this is Laura's last week and the others decide not to let her go without letting her know exactly what they think of her. Surprisingly it is Mary, normally the quietist member of the group, who really lets rip but this uncharacteristic outburst could be the biggest mistake of her life.

● **Chance Meeting, A** by Beth Browning - A Drama (3m 1f + male body/dummy) £3

Approx playing time 30 minutes. There's a body for the second time on Mary's and Henry's sitting room floor. Not only do they not have an alibi, but the victim, Tim, is the man who murdered Henry's sister there ten years previously. Their day gets worse when the same officious detective as dealt with the earlier case arrives, making their lives hell once more, as he accuses them of not only killing this man but also Henry's sister long ago! They are saved when Tim's letter is found explaining that happened that fateful day a decade ago as the whole sorry tale unfolds, bringing many surprises.

● **Come the Resolution** by Paul Beard - A Comedy (3m 2f) £3

\*Writing Award Winner\* A fast-paced situation comedy. The action takes place in the suburban home of Roger and Audrey Fuller, the morning after a riotous New Year's Eve party. Not so much a who done it, more a who done who. Resolutions rise and fall as the day progresses whilst the characters try and remember the sleeping arrangements of the previous evening.

● **Comrades In Arms** by Michael Hodges - A Play (3m 2f + boy 11) £3

Treachery and deceit, the careless disregard of the individual by Communism and Democracy are the themes. Set in 1917 - Baku - newly-established Soviet Government - Stepan Shaumian is a Chief Commissar whose position is precarious - at risk from the intrigue of fellow Commissars and the advancing Turkish enemy. Perversely, a deepening sympathy and friendship, despite contradictory ideology, evolves between Shaumian and the British Consul, Julian Sutherland. These circumstances are exploited by the play's "Iago", the unsmiling and ambitious Commissar Anna Anskov, who, manipulatively, discredits and deposes Shaumian, betrays Baku and attempts to ensnare Sutherland and the British while the Bolsheviks creep away.

● **Delivery** by Judith Davis - A Comedy (3m 2f) £3

Dan delivers a sculpture and meets Chloe, waiting for an interview. They are immediately attracted and get on well until Dan admits to being a painter. Erskine storms in, furious with what he sees as Dan's treachery. Eleanor Trafford, Gallery Manager, meanwhile, is enraptured by 'Delivery' and suggests an astonishing selling price. She doesn't realise that the sculpture is a water-damaged case of Plaster of Paris. She is also mistaken about Dan. He is a painter, but only of yellow lines. 'Delivery' was a finalist in the 2006 Drama Association of Wales Playwriting Competition.

● **Doing One's Bit** by Jean Homer - A Drama (5f) £3

A local Women's Institute group, meet every Wednesday afternoon, in a nearby fitness centre, to prepare for an important event. In three days time they are to take part in a countywide fund-raising extravaganza. The five women, with very different personalities, have objectives as diverse as their individual needs.

● **Double The Trouble** by Paul Beard - A Comedy (2m 3f) £3

When air stewardess Joanne arrives home unexpectedly, she finds her boyfriend, Adam, entertaining Russian twins, Yvonne and Yvette. If that isn't bad enough and doesn't cause its own mayhem, it transpires that they are illegal immigrants, smuggled into the UK by the Russian Mafia to be put to work, against their will, in the vice trade. To add to the problems they have hidden in Joanne's flight bag at Moscow airport a consignment of drugs and are now on the run from both the authorities and the Russians' man in England. A fast paced comedy of farcical proportions with an ending that just doubles the trouble.

● **Doubting Thomas** by Paul Beard - A Play (2m 3f) £3

14 year old Kirsty has been missing for three days. Her adoptive parents and grandparents are clearly distraught. Time passes agonisingly slowly as they wait for news and doubts begins to surface when Tom fails to return home following a television appeal arranged by the police. Is it just routine that the police are planning to dig up the newly laid patio or do they have a sense of something more suspicious? How far will this family go to protect itself from the rumours and speculation that is bound to surface as local people and the family members begin to point the finger of blame close to home? When Tom returns home having helped the police with their enquiries even the people closest to him begin to have doubts. When the body is found in local woodland it seems that Tom is in the clear but the story doesn't end there and the family have one more shock to come when the killer is revealed.

● **Downmarket Tragedy, A** by Maxine Smith - A Drama (3m 2f - 1 m may be

*doubled*) £3

Market trader Danny Palmer may have a right to his self-pity. The market tradition brinks on extinction, the bank calls in his overdraft and he is forced to spend his evenings supplementing the family income as a Roy Orbison impersonator in local pubs. His wife contributes little and he will not tell his mother, Jacky, the truth of the desperate situation. Jacky unwittingly gives a £100,000 winning scratch card to a wealthy fellow market trader and a young hoodie vandalises Danny's stall and defaces his Roy Orbison costume. The hoodie then dies tragically and perhaps typically, at the back of the market's toilet block after sniffing lighter fuel. As Danny says, it is "a day of straws and camels' backs" and it is left to Jacky to keep Danny going.

● **Eve Syndrome, The** by Kara May - A Comedy (2m 3f) £3

Single mum Gemma, her student son Jack and lover Richard have an unexpected visitors from their respective pasts- Helen, previously married to Richard, and Gemma's man-hating mum, Rose. Before the visit is over Helen drops a bombshell, Gemma mortifies her mum, Richard owns up to a disastrously misplaced good intention and that's just the start of it. A comedy where past meets present and lifts the lid off relationships.

● **Field Full, A** by Alan Bates - A Comedy (2m 3f) £3

Set in the lounge of a seaside hotel in November, a group of mature holidaymakers from different backgrounds review the aspects of their stay as they spend the last twenty minutes of their holiday waiting for the coach to take them back home. David and Edwina reminisce about past lives and uncertainties about their future. There is obviously a chemistry between them, obvious, that is, to everyone else. Will love prevail and their futures be together? Or will it all end before it has time to blossom, with the departure of the coach?

● **Fresh Fruit** by Michael Paslawski & Roy C Booth - A Comedy (4m 1f) £3

+ 1m/f. What do two misguided, down-on-their-luck men do to reverse their fortune? In the case of Harry Pitts and Gerry Atrics, they set up their fresh fruit selling stand in front of a corner market with an unfriendly owner, Flynn James. Their troubles begin when they bump into (literally) the owner's fiancée, who develops feelings for Gerry. Harry and Gerry come to blows with Flynn to win the girl and in the process discover Gerry's destiny. This is the first of the Harry and Gerry comedies.

● **Full Circle** by Paul L Hedge - A Drama (4m 1f) £3

A ghost hunt with a twist. It is Paul Belmont's fiftieth birthday and he relates to the

audience an event that happened to him on his eighteenth birthday in the 1960's. As he does so his thoughts are acted out stage left. Eventually an event happens that he knew nothing about and so shocks him that he finds himself travelling back through time to confront the perpetrator, completing the full circle.

● **Get One Free** by Eve Blizzard - A Play (5f) £3

Passing Furze's Funeral Parlour gave Edie an idea. Her well-meaning but bossy daughter Susan had arranged a seventieth birthday party despite protests from Edie. The trouble was, Susan and her family didn't seem to understand Edie enjoyed life - in her own way. Susan had to learn that her mother wasn't a dependant. To do this Edie decided to show how independent she could be - when necessary. After all, Edie had plans for her future. In fact, Edie's visit to Furze's Funeral Parlour influenced future plans of, not only Susan, but the staff and a distraught customer too!

● **Gus** by Richard B Purdue - A Drama (2m + 3f) £3

+1 extra. This one-act play focuses on a marriage plagued by class warfare. A steeplejack and a school teacher drift intensely apart, as the former sticks to his working class habits and his wife aspires to better things. The contest seems to centre on their differences over Gus, a large (and growing) pet parrot whose devilish behaviour brings a quirky end to the marital conflict.

● **Hen Party, The** by Paul L Hedge - A Drama (5f) £3

\*Writing Award Winner\* Dawn, Rachel, Fiona, Maggie and Baba have been out celebrating Dawn's hen night. They return in very high spirits to Bab's house, much the worse for drink. As they sit in the garden, Babs tells them the history of the house, in particular the cellar. She explains that years ago, it was used for Devil worshipping when a young virgin bride was offered up to the devil as a fertility rite. Spurred on by drink and an impromptu seance, all the girls decide to go down the cellar (the auditorium) and leave the stage. The mood changes dramatically when the cellar door slams shut. The play continues for some time within the audience and in total darkness. Did the girls conjure up the devil? Was it just coincidences? Or was it a case of mass hysteria brought on by too much wine?

● **How The Jellyfish Lost Its Bones** by Roy C and Cynthia Booth - A Play (2m + 3f) £3

Cast 5, any mix. A children's fantasy play based on a Japanese folktale, our tale takes place in the Imperial Palace of the legendary Dragon King. In an attempt to satisfy his pregnant Queen's odd food cravings, the Dragon King sends the intrepid Turtle on an errand to bring back a monkey's liver with unsuspected results, especially for one nosey, insulting Jellyfish! With an entertaining message and colourful dialogue,

this lighthearted comedy is great for young children and adults, too. This play has already been produced in Bemidji and Grand Rapids, MN, Grand Forks, ND, and Winnipeg, Canada.

● **In After School** by Bob Stone - A Play (3m 2f) £3

Five teachers at a secondary school find themselves locked in a remote classroom by a vengeful pupil, who passes notes under the door revealing secrets about the teachers' lives outside school. As the facade of respectability breaks down, so do relations between the teachers. By the end of this tense drama, when at last the teachers are freed to leave, the only question remaining is whether they will ever be able to face each other again.

● **La Valée** by Rena Pope - A Drama (1m + 4f) £3

Jane, a writer of murder mysteries is disturbed by the brooding atmosphere of Carol's second home in France, isolated in an area of disused quarries, granite tombstones and crosses lie half buried in the long grass. Half buried too are secrets from the past which add to the fear as the tension builds, and secrets of the present are revealed. For three friends what should have been a carefree holiday becomes a sinister unfolding of tragedy and betrayal, the house once again is the setting for violence as the women become aware of the danger surrounding them through their love for the same man.

● **Last Pixel Show, The** by Graham Andrews - A Drama (3m 2f) £3

This play was written inside a capsule, travelling through the space-time continuum to a realm where humanity still uses materialistic symbols to enforce its will, but in a dimension we should never hope to know. More to the point, perhaps, computer scientist Bruce Conover becomes aware of a secret cybernetic plot to take over the world. He struggles to prevent it, with a little help and a whole lot of hindrance from fellow human beings who are not quite what they seem - especially the beautiful Hungarian concert pianist. "Bastards," warned Philip K. Dick, back in 1969. "All robot servo-mechanisms and all computers are bastards."

● **Legendary Lives** by Paul Francis - A Drama (2m + 3f) £3

\*Writing Award Winner\* Best Overall Play - Drama Association of Wales Playwriting Competition 2000. In a Welsh local radio station, two reporters are preparing a programme about local celebrities. Robert will interview Glyn Thomas, a retired poet, while Helen, a success in London, is coming back to talk to Elaine Morgan, a political star of the past. But is this a genuine tribute, or a planned hatchet job, digging up possible scandal? As the play develops, we find out more about Glyn, Elaine and their history, but we also see Robert and Helen tackle their work in very

different ways. A play with contemporary realism, which tackles serious issues (privacy and the media, political integrity, love and poetry) but also has whodunit elements - what exactly happened, who knows, and what will they do about it?

● **Love to Death** by Anne Stenhouse - A Drama (3m + 2f) £3

It's Christmas week and Brian has arrived in rehab from prison. As an alcoholic of thirty years, he's in very poor health. His care worker, Wilf, is someone from Brian's past and is now in an unhappy marriage with an alcoholic and abusive wife. Wilf's personal circumstances reach breaking point when Brian confronts him over his sexuality. Team leader, Yvonne, student, Mags and Bob, the cook, all try to keep Brian sober and Wilf safe. A drama shot through with dark humour that explores what it really means to be sober. Is knowledge king or simply dangerous? Must it be tempered with experience to reach good practice? All the characters in this play are the work of the author's imagination.

● **Lunch Time** by Derek Bowskill - A Comedy (1m 4f) £3

To the outside world, John lives a dull and lonely existence - but in fact he has an active secret life involving an attractive inflatable doll, known to him as Veronica. Margaret lives with her friend Dorothy - in a relationship that is not unlike that of John and Veronica. Chance dictates that the paths of John and Margaret should cross - indeed criss-cross in a manner that they seem not to comprehend. Ostensibly, and as perceived by themselves, they are sensitive and considerate mature people - but events prove that the capacity of the human mind for self-deception is unlimited.

● **Lysistrata's Daughters** by Rena Pope - A Play (5f) £3

An adaptation of 'Lysistrata', has been entered in a drama festival by St. Mary's Women's Group, produced by the vicar's dynamic wife. It concerns Athenian women, sick of the wars with Sparta, calling a sex strike. Perhaps on reflection it wasn't a suitable choice - or was it? Revealing aspects of local life about a men's secret gardening society, come to light during rehearsals in the Scout hut. Feminist sympathies overtake initial reticence, and who says you can't take a marrow hostage? A battle of the sexes ensues, which the women of ancient Athens in Aristophanes' play would have applauded.

● **Message, The** by Derek Bowskill - A Drama (5f) £3

Iris Travers, a widow in her fifties and Enid Croxley, her unmarried elder sister, live together not entirely in harmony. Two of their younger friends are visiting them for what they expect to be an evening's entertainment: namely, a visit from one Mrs. Dart - a well-known clairvoyant. When this lady abruptly leaves after giving her summation of the encounter, "...habits have built up the walls of betrayal - some

walls are past and some are yet to come," the evening's entertainment turns into something of a revelation and a revolution.

● **Most Perfect Daughter, The** by Rena Pope - A Play (5f) £3

A play for five women, a thought provoking and up to the minute exploration of the mother/daughter relationship. Isobel favours Sally, the youngest, over Carrie, a professional woman a doctor like Isobel, but then there is Elsa, the most perfect daughter. The action takes place in a Nursing Home.

● **Near Miss, A** by Dorothy Lambert - A Comedy (2m 3f) £3

Mel, a girl Rob met on holiday and drunkenly proposed to, unexpectedly arrives at his sleazy apartment, to stay and plan the wedding. Rob, a staunch bachelor, persuades his neighbour, Kate, to pretend to be his wife. They struggle to maintain this pretence in spite of the arrival of first his mother and then Jeremy, Kate's husband, neither of whom are in on the secret. Will they blow his cover? Or will Rob escape the threat of matrimony to flirt another day?

● **On A Night Like This** by Peter Yates - A Play (2m 3f) £3

Approx playing time 40 minutes Anywhere... everywhere... somewhere... on a night like this... folk putting on folk... taking... taking... no one wants to be a prostitute but folk want them and where there's demand, there's money, there's drugs and there's misery. This is Rhona's world and into it comes Caitlin, naive, junked up, spirited... desperate people do desperate things... and things happen... anywhere... everywhere... somewhere... on a night like this...

● **Phantom of the Arts Centre** by Geoff Buckingham - A Play (3m 2f) £3

Approx playing time 50 minutes. A small team of volunteers take over a disused building so that it can be used for community arts etc. The building, which was a factory during World War II, has a colourful history and a cellar. The building, and the cellar, have not been used for many years. There is a strange noise from the cellar... Sally mischievously goes down into the cellar and discovers that it contains a World War II veteran, who is still on duty! There then follows some moving dialogue between them, until they are interrupted by the adults. The veteran disappears, but then returns to find that he and Dolly may have met before... This play reveals the friction between members of a volunteer group and also the impact and heartbreak of war-time romance. **Winner of The Diana Raffle One Act Play Award 2010 Winner of The Basil Miles Award 2011** "A fantastic, fantastic, play. I was sorry it finished." *Jenny Shelford, professional entertainer and presenter on Radio Wey* "I really enjoyed your play - a very worthy

● **Private Eyes** by Jonathan Posner - A Comedy (3m 2f) £3

When hard-nosed, hard bitten, trigger-happy detective Rowman Henley first meets the luscious Monique, he knows things are gonna be interesting. But if he knew the web of lies, intrigue, family feuding and gratuitous killing that this sassy dame would lead him to, maybe he'da thought twice before kissin' her so hard... This light-hearted spoof of 1930's American detective stories features larger-than-life colourful characters and a fast-moving plot full of quickfire comedy.

● **Retiring Highwayman, The** by Michael Legat - A Comedy (2m 3f) £3

Gentleman Toby Royster has decided to retire from "the road". Stopping for the night in a lonely Devon inn, he cannot resist robbing his travelling companions, Lady Amelia Titepurse, an heiress in search of a husband, and Mr. Bragwell, a debtor in search of money. Both are easy game - especially Lady Amelia when she has drunk of the landlady's home-brewed posset, which has an aphrodisiacal effect. All ends happily when Toby decides to return his victim's money and jewels, and rides away, together with his sweetheart Nell Bedworthy, leaving Lady Amelia to make advances to Mr. Bragwell.

● **Return Of Spring, The** by Graham Sessions - A Play (2m + 3f) £3

Ellie, Geoff, Ginny and Mary were a close family until Ginny met Rick, then her relationship with the family started to turn sour. Freedom alone was what she wanted and Rick gave her that independence. On realising her own attitude was selfish and that Rick only wanted from her what he could get, Ginny finally returned to loving her family.

● **Shades Of Blue** by Ian Hornby - A Play (4m 1f) £3

David is a retired Policeman, terminally ill. Daughter June blames him for her mother's suicide years before so she and husband Alan plan his murder for the inheritance. They hire the shady Jones to do the job, little knowing that David didn't retire - he was discreetly sacked for criminal activities, and Jones was one of his criminal friends. There is honour among thieves - Jones will not see David murdered nor the couple escape. Yet David is shot...

● **Simple Ceremony, A** by Barry Hillman - A Play (5f) £3

Florrie's son is getting married at the local Registry Office, in 'a simple ceremony' - after all, the bride has been married before. Representatives of both sides of the family are waiting in the nearby pub for the ceremony to begin. Florrie has refused to join them in this vulgar celebration and waits in the Town Hall with her friend and sister. But there is a secret underlying the whole occasion:- Donald is an adopted son,

and when his real mother turns up, determined to see her boy settled in life, the balloon goes up. Florrie, tough, and incapable of sentimentality, is incandescent. She fights the interloper and her family for possession of the man she has fostered for 30-odd years and all sorts of family secrets are dragged out of the woodwork. Will she be generous enough to let go; or will her pride force her son to choose between two mothers?

● **Strains of Academia, The** by Tim Wildman - A Play (3m + 2f) £3

Professor Henry Piston is joined in his office by fellow academics George and Derek. George reveals his forthcoming armadillo research project, and Derek his diversification into plastics manufacturing, whilst educational standards, the role of committees and the value of consultants all come under the comic spotlight. Meanwhile hapless secretaries Susan and Amanda try their best to understand Henry's idea of the alphabet, and the rules which determine how degrees are classified.

● **Sweeties For Billy** by Paul L Hedge - A Play (3m + 2f) £3

The play is set in the St. Michael's village hall, Morton-Avon, Devon and starts in the year 1916. Ruth and heavily pregnant Beth are rehearsing for a recital. Billy, the village idiot, causes a tragic accident. We are then transported in time to 1945 when Beth's son stumbles upon his birthplace.

● **TRACKS** by Geoff Graves - A Play (1m 4f) £3

\*\*\* *Festival Winner* \*\*\* The HQ of T.R.A.C.K.S, The Rochdale Association of Creative Knitting Societies, is a cover for a school for assassins, known internally as The Regional Assassination, Corruption and Knocking-off School, set up through secret funding by a secret department of a secret government. The operation runs smoothly until a genuine knitter visits the office a day earlier than expected and runs into the school's newest recruit.

● **Two's a Crowd** by Michael Legat - A Comedy (5f) £3

Vicar's wife Janet Welling and her friend Liz Crawford are thrown into panic when the formidable Lady Carteret announces that she intends, after all, to open the bazaar that afternoon. But West End star Alison Hilton is on her way, expecting to perform the same duty. The only possible solution is to have two openings, but an even more tangled web of hilarious inventions and deceptions has to be woven as Liz and Janet try to keep the two openers apart. All ends happily - apart from the twist in the curtain line.

● **Violinist, The** by Angeliki Zaphiropoulou - A Play (3m 2f) £3

After having enchanted the audience by playing on his Stradivarius violin, a family heirloom, in the Opera House in Paris, Richard, the violinist, returns to his dressing room to find out that, Elizabeth, his beloved pregnant wife, a ballet dancer, has been kidnapped. Depressed, Richard is morally supported by Flora, his mother and Andrew, the conductor of the orchestra. When the schemer contacts Richard on the telephone, he easily yields to his demand to give his Stradivarius violin in exchange. But, thanks to the efforts of Andrew and the efficiency of the police, Elizabeth is safely set free and the whole scheme revealed.

● **Worst Day of My Life, The** by Alan Richardson - A Comedy (1m 4f) £3

Approx playing time 40 minutes. Charlie Brown's day in hospital begins very well. His devoted wife is at his bedside; a scene of conjugal bliss, that is until another female visitor arrives. When she reveals that she is also Mrs Brown, it looks like Charlie's got some explaining to do. As his previously secret life is hilariously disentangled, a third female visitor arrives, also claiming to be Mrs Brown. You'd think Charlie's day couldn't get much worse - but it does. Highly Commended in the SCDA Playwriting Competition and tailor-made for a "mature" cast, the play was described by one adjudicator as "A witty comedy... beautifully written".

**One Act Plays - 6 characters**

● **At The Third Stroke** by David Walker - A Comedy (3m 3f) £3

Simon Thornby is a worried man. His wife, Maggie, has invited her parents to come and live with them after their own house burned down in mysterious circumstances. Simon is against it all, but is powerless to prevent it. The house is too small to accommodate all four of them. Simon has hit upon the idea of a house-swap and has placed an advertisement in the local shop window. A young couple reply to the ad' and turn up on a Saturday night. Simon thinks that they have come to view the house, but he is wrong. He could have worded the advertisement a bit better.

● **Bum Deal** by Paul Beard - A Comedy (3m 3f) £3

When best friends Suzie and Kathy head off on a last-minute deal to Greece for a weeks holiday, instead of the planned trip to Bognor Regis, they think their secret is safe from their families and Suzie's long-term boyfriend. They return to find that a National Sunday newspaper has written an expose article on the bad behaviour of the Brit's abroad and included a photograph of a naked female backside, in a very compromising position, taken at a nightclub in Greece to support their story. Suzie is named and shamed in the article but she has no knowledge of entering the weekly heat of 'The Rear of the Year' competition. What follows is a comic exploration of farcical proportions as they try and keep the story hidden. But when the truth is

revealed - in more ways than one - there is one final surprise for everyone - including the audience.

● **Cracker's Christmas** by Jilly McNeil - A Farce (1m 5f) £3

It's Christmas day in the Cracker household and the family is enjoying their dinner. Their meal however is interrupted by the arrival of Aunt Delphine followed swiftly by the arrival of Aunt Daphne. The problem is that the Aunts argued forty years ago and haven't spoken since. The answer? Keep them separated. Hilarity rises as John and the family do their best to keep the unsuspecting Aunts apart, but the inevitable happens and another argument ensues until Beryl comes out with a startling confession!

● **Crisis** by Dougie Blaxland - A Comedy (3m 3f) £3

CRISIS is a satirical comedy in which a group of 'sad, separated and sagging' 40 year olds embark on a therapeutic holiday tour in search of psychic health. Led by the irrepressible Trish, the holiday 'rep', and Ivor, the prurient tour bus driver, four complete strangers begin a package coach tour during which they revisit the most traumatic points in their lives in order to confront personal demons and acknowledge hidden secrets. The revelations culminate in the objectionable Gavin's final confession that he has lived his entire adult life disguising his true identity. CRISIS involves the six actors playing multiple roles in a one act play that moves at break-neck speed.

● **Do We Know His Parents?** by Tom Casling - A Drama (3m 3f) £3

John and Lesley Scott are due to meet their daughter's boyfriend for the first time. They are anxious to make a good impression and like any doting parents are reminiscing about how quickly their daughter has grown up. They decide to make a special tea for the occasion. Like most fathers John is over protective and wants to know more about this boyfriend and his background. This causes him to ask the question that many parents, particularly fathers, through the ages have asked: 'Do we know his parents?'

● **Down the Hole** by David Wake - A Comedy (4m 2f) £3

Approx playing time 35 minutes Set during the Cold War, a training session on civil defence is interrupted by a nuclear war! As the three survivors attempt to cope without training, but with the assistance of the tea lady. One of them decides they must repopulate the planet. But first they need the right form. A comedy power struggle with tea and two sugars. Very minimal set.

● **Family Business** by Linda Smith - A Play (6f) £3

Dad's dead. Time to sift through the house contents and tot up the inheritance. It comes as a shock to the three sisters that dull old Dad appeared to have lead a dual existence! They knew he had longed to run a family business, but they didn't know the family included a secret lover... another daughter... a grandchild... and a fiancée, and that he was revered for his generosity by the British Legion! *Where* had the money come from? It becomes apparent when 'the plates' are discovered, and the family business becomes a probability.

● **Ghost Of 'Lantern Jack', The** by John Ellis - A Play (4m 2f) £3

A station waiting room in a chaotic state is the setting of a nightmare evening for Sir Geoffrey Napier QC and his colleague Victoria Granville. A cardboard box that moves on its own and the subsequent discovery of kidnap victim Julie Nolan leads to a hostage situation for all three, with old adversary Eddie Noakes. Sudden unexplained flashes of light and a door that swings open by itself add to the increasing tension. Tempers get frayed as the tempo reaches boiling point. The arrival of a Taxi driver adds an unexpected twist; posing the question does the Ghost of 'Lantern Jack' really exist?

● **In The Frame** by Jean Homer - A Play (6f) £3

Day to day life in an old people's home is enlivened by a wacky, likeable, care assistant who assumes that two of the elderly residents can be coerced into assisting with a desperate plan to conceal her boyfriend's unlawful activities. However, as the police close in, she has not reckoned on the residents deceptively quick witted reactions which result in a totally unexpected outcome to their exploits.

● **Jaffa Cakes** by Paul Francis - A Play (6f) £3

Parkway Women's Prison is short on sisterly love. Shirl and Marie don't get on, and Kim's friend has just committed suicide. The Free Expression course ought to help, but Jessica's not a confident or organised tutor, and Officer Flowers seems set on undermining the whole idea. Over four sessions the group tell stories and write poems, read a play, explore their crimes and their lives, and try to work together. Finally, the visit of a prison inspector threatens the group's survival – but also gives them a chance to show what they can do.

● **Jumpers** by Tom Casling - A Play (4m 1f or 3m 2f) £3

David Clark has reached a crisis in his life. He can see no way out of it and no point in going on, so he has decided to end it all. He has made his plan and decided how to take his life. He is going to jump off the Tyne Bridge. As he climbs out onto the edge of the bridge he decides to leave one final message for his wife, as if by way of an explanation. He cannot face talking to her direct so he decides to leave a message

on the answer machine knowing she will be out. Then the interruptions begin.

● **Loose Descriptions** by Dorothy Lambert - A Farcical Comedy (3m 3f) £3

Anni, developing 'flu, arranges for Paul to take Tina to friends for dinner in her place. Paul, unaware of this, decides to stay in and orders a pizza. When the doorbell rings Anni mistakenly assumes that it is her old friends visiting from S. Africa. Unable to face them, she instructs Paul, who doesn't know them, to send them away. David and Julie arrive to view the house believing it is for sale. Confusion escalates before the truth is uncovered. Pizza Pete and Tina appear to stir things up further, while Anni, fuelled by pills and alcohol, becomes totally irrational.

● **Mayhem Players Present Love In A Transylvanian Mist** by David Welsh - A Comedy (3m 3f) £3

Mayhem Players, the company who presented 'Death By Murderous Means', 'Mellow Drama' and 'Spectre At The Faust', return to the fray again with their unique style of production - comic lunacy combined with sincerity. They are trying, although they do not always succeed. Resources may be limited but the ingenuity is not. Sets are the best they can manage from the bits and pieces they have, and costumes are often cobbled together with imagination if not accuracy. It is also noticeable that their casting net still dredges up some strange fish. In this, their latest venture, they follow the classic story of Count Dracula and his relentless stalker Professor Reisling. (I told you they didn't always get things quite right.)

● **Mazarin Stone, The** by Ron Nicol - A Play (5m 1f) £3

An adaptation of 'The Adventure of the Mazarin Stone' from Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's 'Case Book of Sherlock Holmes'. Master criminal Count Negretto Sylvius steals a fabulous Crown diamond - the Mazarin stone - and Sherlock Holmes determines to get it back, despite the Count's threat to murder him. Sylvius confronts the great detective in his consulting rooms at Baker Street, but is tricked by the use of a dummy into revealing the whereabouts of the precious jewel.

● **Midsummer Madness** by Jeffrey A Lee - A Play (3m 3f variable) £3

Shakespeare's 'rude mechanicals', Quince, Bottom, Snout, Starveling, Flute, and Snug from 'A Midsummer Night's Dream', meet to perform a play. As Quince, their leader, has failed to produce a script, they decide to improvise and this leads to a farcical 'romp'. The play is probably best performed in a somewhat boisterous and full-blooded style in the open air.

● **Mission Impossible** by David Muncaster - A Play (2m 3f) £3

A meeting room, a flip chart, an enthusiastic facilitator, and four employees who are

determined to give her a hard time. This is the background to Mission Impossible, a hilarious look at the corporate nonsense that anyone who has ever attended a team bonding session will know only too well. Ice Breakers and silly games do little to bond this team as the beleaguered facilitator gets tough to ensure that she gets the outcome she desires. *Mission Impossible* won the Congleton One Act Play Festival 2009.

● **Murder At The Cathedral** by Ron Nicol - A Comedy (3m 3f) £3

Henry King is furious that his Cathedral Players haven't won anything at any drama festival since the defection of leading actor Tom Becket to the rival Priest's Gate Drama Club three years ago. Sally and Toby decide to do something about it, and Tom Beckett disappears. Did Knight and Barron bump off the Priest? Did Polly poison the coffee? And what happened to the body?

● **Night At The Moulin Rouge, A** by Barry Hillman - A Play (6f) £3

When Madeline joins a team of dancers at a sleazy Paris nightclub at the turn of the last century, she feels that this could be her big chance for success. For isn't the famous Can-Can dancer, the legendary la Goule, the team leader? La Goule! Who scandalised the world with her wild dancing and amoral life-style; star of the Moulin Rouge and friend of artist Toulouse-Lautrec. But Louie Weber (la Goule) is past her prime, sluttish, foul-mouthed and addicted to booze and she and Madeline are soon at each other's throats: and when a mysterious 'gentleman caller' starts courting the fading star and turns out to be not at all what he seems, the situation becomes electric and pregnant with conflict.

● **No Thought For The Morrow** by Jean Homer - A Play (6f) £3

Every Thursday afternoon, following a lunchtime meeting of their women's group, Barbara and Jane repair to the Primrose café for tea. Their weekly routine and that of the waitress Beryl is severely disrupted by the arrival of two more customers who blatantly challenge Barbara and Jane's notion of what is 'right and proper'. But, even for them all is not what it appears.

● **Offence, The** by Diana Raffle - A Drama (2m 4f) £3

The Tapham Players are meeting for a play reading, but what begins as a routine evening slowly deteriorates as a prospective member arrives. An unsolicited call from the local high security Psychiatric hospital that afternoon has created doubt over the identity of this new member and his arrival is greeted with suspicion. As the play progresses, nerves and misunderstandings lead to near panic as gradually the group begins to disappear one by one, but who is the perpetrator? This play includes comedy, suspense and an exciting twist that takes the audience by surprise, be

prepared to see them jump!

● **Old Fox, The** by Mike White - A Comedy (4m 2f) £3

There's ill feeling at the Slug and Lettuce, formerly the Fox. Old William, a regular, and Rebecca the barmaid, dislike the incomers for their arrogance, wealth and shiny four-by-fours, which tear up the byways and frighten folk. The incomers are involved in a cigarette smuggling escapade. Michael has put up the money because he's involved with Julian's wife, but doesn't know she's sharing the details with her amused husband. When he finds out they laugh at him and he storms out. Old William informs on the conspirators but saves poor Michael.

● **One Letter Out** by Duncan Marshall - A Comedy (4m 2f) £3

Attending her first meeting at Whitehall, newly-elected MP Julia finds herself part of a departmental team reviewing Government policy on alcohol, tobacco and drugs. However, she is thrown into a state of confusion by the other team members, whose opinions seem both irrational and contradictory. Only the appearance of a latecomer to the meeting reveals the reason why.

● **Openings** by Doreen Fay - A Comedy (4m 2f) £3

A new maternity ward is due to open but is unready: add to the mix; a fictitious Tony and Gordon team attempting to spin a solution; and an outside force determined to expose the deceit. This play was performed, in a festival of new writing, by Havant Bench Theatre. The following review by Mike Allen appeared in The News, Portsmouth on 21 September 2007. 'Umbrella title opens way for satirical spin - 'Tony and Gordon, senior and junior partners in spin. Ring any bells? No? Well try this line from Tony: 'We have to be practical not ethical.' And there are even hints of the junior partner's future as senior partner. The two characters feature in Openings, a slice of political satire by Doreen Fay that tops the polls in the first of two programmes of new plays being presented by Bench Theatre under the umbrella title, Supernova. Openings is impeccably short and sharp.

● **Parish Politics** by Anne Graham - A Drama (1m + 5f) £3

Approx playing time 25 minutes. The Civil War may be over, but personal battles are still being fought in this English village of 1663. Severe punishments and ever-harsher laws breed fear, greed and superstition. Meanwhile, vengeance marks time. Then a child is born... A period drama of five scenes, alternating between a room and a street, *Parish Politics* was a winner of Weston Arts Festival, Wordplay Competition 2006, and performed on May 4th and 5th, 2007, by The Wayfarers Drama Group at The Theatre in The Hut, Weston-super-Mare.

● **Pressing Engagement, A** by David Walker - A Farce (3m 3f) £3

Elizabeth has spent the weekend visiting her elderly mother. During her absence, Richard has thrown a party that began on the Friday evening and ended in the small hours of Monday morning. When he awakes, seriously hung over and minus his memory, his friend Terry and his brother Henry have some alarming information for him. What did Richard do at the party and how can he get out of the hole he has dug for himself? And who the hell is Mrs. Henshaw?

● **Prison Within, The** by Michael Legat - A Play (3m + 3f) £3

In a thirteenth century prison a group of people await trial - a merchant, a beggar woman, two sisters and a man who says that he is a Saint. The Saint's fellow prisoners demand that he shall substantiate this claim by performing a miracle and curing one of the sisters, who is lame. When his prayers fail, the self-styled Saint is forced to admit that he is a charlatan, but before the play ends it is plain that a miracle of a different sort has in fact taken place.

● **Railings** by Keith Clarke - A Drama (2m 3f inc 1 child) £3

An old woman is transported back in her own mind from 1970 to 1914 by the memory of a child tapping railings with a stick. She recalls the days leading up to her marriage to John. She is bright, lively but mature woman battling against the conventions of the day. The battle is for the heart and mind of John against the background of the Suffragist movement and the early stages of World War I as Britain emerges from the Victorian era, personified by her Father. Ultimately she loses the argument and her husband (husband to be?) leaves for war. We return to 1970 and the woman is left alone and sad.

● **Rehearsal** by Michael Legat - A Play (3m + 3f) £3

Rehearsals have begun for a new West End play. When the leading lady is killed in a car accident, two other actresses in the cast are affected. The confrontation between them means for one the end of her career, but for the other it could be the first step on the road to stardom.

● **Rest Cure** by Derek Bowskill - A Comedy (3m 3f) £3

Doctor Larson is the proprietor of a psychiatric nursing home and the inventor of 'mask-grafting' - a technique by which clients are cured of their ills and transformed forever into happy souls. Engrossed in his own ego, he is unaware of the behaviour of his staff. Pat Cole has been brought by her aunt, Miss Cole, who considers Pat's compassion for under-dogs to be a pointless pessimism to be cured by therapy. The sexual mischief and irresponsibility of the staff permit Tim, a skilled pretender who

has beaten the system, to neutralise Pat and viciously turn the tables in a macabre finale.

● **Say Goodbye To Ronnie** by John Ellis - A Drama (3m + 3f) £3

Joanne Johnson is convinced she has seen a Red Taxi with black spots all over it, parked in her front drive. A giant ladybird, she calls it. The problem is no one else can see it. Is this part of a devious plot by her husband, Ronnie to convince the police she is going mad, or does Ronnie have a more sinister motive... murder. Further ramblings by Joanne that business friend Franco Cicero has murdered his sister prove to be fruitless, resulting in the police doubting her mental state. Telephone conversation at the end of the play gives an unexpected and chilling ending to the play.

● **Singles Night** by Anne Graham - Short Plays (3m 3f) £3

**Singles Night** comprises of three very different ten minute plays, all taking place on the same evening in the same pub, With a minimum of costume and properties, the plays would work equally well in the confines of a public bar or onstage. **Up Close and Personal**, a winner of *Pint-Sized Plays 2011*, shows the meeting of a rejected wife and the woman who has obsessed her husband. **Rock 'n Roll Man** deals with the reunion of two musicians, fifteen years after their band nearly made it. **Time, Please** takes place in the early hours of the morning when the pub landlord and his partner are finally able to drop the pretence.

● **Sleeping Partners** by David Walker - A Play (3m + 3f) £3

Michael Rhodes and Don Henderson were once business partners in the financial services industry. Two years ago Michael walked out after discovering that Don was using the knowledge Michael had given him, to make a killing on the expanding Eastern markets, using clients money invested in his own name. For two years Michael has been obsessed with exacting revenge on his former partner. During these years there has been no contact between Michael and Don. Louise Rhodes has invited the Henderson family for a meal. Is it to try to heal the rift? Or is it to humiliate her husband? And what is the revenge that Michael has plotted?

● **Slice Of The Cake, A** by Jean Homer - A Play (2m 4f) £3

Following the funeral of Brian's elderly father, Brian and his wife Sylvia arrive at Braybourne and Betteridge, Solicitors for the reading of Brian's father's will. It is anticipated that this will not be straightforward as six months prior to his death, Brian's father had married Tracey, a thirty-five year old gold-digging hairdresser. As they await Mr Braybourne's delayed return from court, further complications ensue when an eccentric Old Lady appears bringing with her some startling news and an

unwelcome companion.

● **Speaking Ill of the Dead** by Dougie Blaxland - A Drama (6f) £3

A gripping one act play for an all-female cast, *Speaking Ill of the Dead* explores the raw and intense emotions of 6 women immediately following the funeral of a man to whom they were all closely connected. In an atmosphere of increasing suspicion and recrimination they re-live their personal memories and in so doing uncover uncomfortable truths about themselves as well as the man they have lost. There are numerous twists and turns in this fast paced and cleverly plotted play by award-winning writer Dougie Blaxland. *Speaking Ill of the Dead* has been successfully staged by schools, and both theatre companies, both amateur and professional.

● **Spy Who Came in for the Phone, The** by Alan Richardson - A Comedy (3m 3f) £3

Approx playing time 40 minutes. It's London, back in the swinging 1960's. Newly-weds Chris and Sally Taylor are moving into their new flat. Ron, a telephone engineer with a passion for paperwork is installing a new telephone. But the Taylors hadn't ordered a new phone, and once they start getting some very strange calls, they soon wish they didn't have this one. They encounter a glamorous Russian spy, not to mention Dracula, John Wayne and a yellow zebra, and an ordinary day becomes crazier by the minute. A play for everybody who hates filling out forms.

● **This End of the Game** by Anne Graham - A Comedy (2m 4f) £3

Approx playing time 30 minutes. Tuesday always finds Steve and Ian at the pensioners' day Centre, enjoying the cheapest lunch in town, but their enthusiasm is not shared by Laura and Pat, old school friends of Steve, who recently met up with him after fifty years. Although life could be better for all of them, they have learnt to appreciate its best things. Laura is particularly appreciative of Ian's handyman skills and his youthful physique, but their offspring look set to wreck her romantic hopes. *This End Of The Game* was a finalist in Weston Arts Festival, Wordplay Competition 2007, and was given a rehearsed public reading on 6th October 2007, by the Blakehay Actors Company at The Blakehay, Weston-super-Mare.

● **Three Little Pigs** by Tim Kenny - A Comedy (3m 3f (multiple parts)) £3

Once Upon a Time there were three little pigs who suffered horribly at the hands of the Big Bad Wolf. But one day the Big Bad Wolf was brought to trial... With surprising consequences for the characters and the audience! This unusual comedy, requiring a minimum of props, is for a mixed cast of about six playing 15 characters. It is aimed at actors who like the challenge of playing multiple parts. The play does contain adult humour suitable for a more mature audience.

● **Time And Rosemary** by Rena Pope - A Play (6f) £3

Visiting a medieval manor house, Rosemary is fascinated by a 15th Century tapestry in the Great Hall. She little imagines she will soon be part of it, changing places with Lady Elizabeth who longs to go shopping and hasn't been out for 200 years. As a tapestry figure, Rosemary learns that a mistake in the Guide Book could be put right with her help. Lady Elizabeth borrows Rosemary's plastic mac to buy thermal underwear, so what is she doing at McDonalds? Later, historians puzzle over the odour of onions pervading ancient documents, the audience know the answer, Rosemary's forgotten.

● **To Serve Our Master** by John Ellis - A Play (4m + 2f) £3

A young woman is shot dead. Rupert Rutland is caught red handed with a revolver in his hand, by his butler Joseph. Is this an open and shut case for Chief Inspector Armature? A later disclosure that Rutland is being blackmailed adds to the evidence against him. Released on police bail Rutland tries to abscond but is thwarted by the police. A spiteful attack on the victim's character by Rutland's wife Clarissa adds a possible alternative motive for murder jealousy. In a chilling climax loyal servants Martha and Joseph listen to a dramatic radio news bulletin, is this the end for Colonel Rupert Rutland?

● **To Sleep, Perchance...** by Ian Hornby - A Play (6f) £3

This play was written for a group of 6 girls who are currently Year 12 Speech and Drama students in South Africa. They had searched the catalogues and the Internet for a play for six girls based, roughly, on an insomnia theme, but could find nothing, so this was the result. It involves six young women at a summer camp. Anna has a deep-rooted personal anguish which she eventually decides to share with Brenda. Their chat attracts girls from other rooms and each explores her own real or imaginary problems, until Anna realises she's not alone in the world.

● **Tried and Trusted Methods** by Sandra Goddard - A Comedy (2m 4f) £3

At the end of a two-week holiday, Judy returns to work as receptionist at a veterinary practice, to find one of the partners has been taken ill, and a newcomer, Mr Skarowitz, appointed as his temporary replacement. As she relates the lurid details of her holiday fling to her colleague, Sally, a succession of patients arrive to receive effective if unorthodox treatment at the hands of Mr Skarowitz.

● **Waiting Room, The** by Paul Francis - A Drama (3m + 3f) £3

Darren is an ex-army man who thinks he's had a bad deal, but he isn't sure about what he wants. Gradually, we find out more about what he's done and how he's been

treated. He takes a random group of strangers hostage, and by the end of a tense day they have learnt more about each other and themselves. All of them are gripped by the mounting tension which builds during the play, intensified by pressures from outside. This is a suspense story, but also a study of changing relationships which offers challenging possibilities to an ensemble cast.

● **Why Won't They Believe Me?** by Ian Hornby - A Play (2m 4f) £3

A thought-provoking rework of the Nativity in present day guise suitable for youth and church groups. Marie is pregnant, but swears her innocence. Those who should believe her, including her parents, do not, and vice-versa. Marie and boyfriend Joe can find no shelter when they go to "the City". They are spurned by her GP, teacher and the clergy, helped by addicts and the homeless, who emulate the shepherds, and a policeman, doctor and truck driver the wise men. In a final song (music and lyric included), Marie turns to the audience and asks, "Well, if it happened today, would YOU believe it?" Playing time approx. 15 minutes.

**One Act Plays - 7 characters**

● **After Chekhov** by Michael Hodges - A Play (6m 1f) £3

The play opens with the end of Chekhov's play, the Seagull. The setting is Sorin's country estate in Russia 1900. Unknown to the actress, Irina, her son has committed suicide. Sorin is wounded by a labourer. Francis, an Irish cousin of Sorin's, Dorn, a doctor and Trigorin, a writer and lover of Irena go to St. Petersburg to support the protest march and on return stage a revolutionary play. They tell Irina her son has been killed at the barricades. Soldiers arrive to arrest 'the fugitives' who escape but Sorin and Irena are killed. A labourer has betrayed them. The estate is plundered.

● **Awning Has Broken!** by Tim Perkins - A Comedy (4m 3f) £3

It's August, it's Cornwall and it's raining. At least it was raining but it is expected to brighten up sooner or later possibly. Jake and his second wife, Miranda, plus his two teenage children together with her father and his mother are all away on the annual (compulsory) family holiday and are currently confined to the awning of their caravan. "What are we going to do today?" is the question on everyone's lips, but the answer is different depending on age, agility and attitude. The children are bored, the old folks are boring and the parents are, as ever, trying to make the best of the self inflicted misery. At times the conversation drifts in various directions and so do the children - but a few home truths are divulged, like Granddad's affair, Jake's previous life and a curious set of coincidences are uncovered.

● **Careless Talk** by Christopher Kelly - A Drama (5m 2f) £3

\*Writing Award Winner\* Max Schiller is a German-born pharmacist, living in the East End of London just before the First World War. His English-born daughter, Victoria, is fearful of the antipathy generated by the tensions between England and Germany. Their lives are complicated by the arrival of Peter Fleishner, a young German assistant to Max. As war is declared, Peter is stranded, local feeling turns to hate and Victoria is subjected to terrifying hostility. In self-defence, Peter kills a local trouble-maker. Will Victoria stand by her German origins or betray Peter to save herself?

● **Daddy Good** by Allen Saddler - A Musical (5m 2f) £3

Frank Goodman runs a holiday home for slum children. The home is under-funded, but Frank has his faith.

● **Dangerous Mission** by John Ellis - A Drama (4m 3f) £3

Underground cave chamber hiding a Security truck, containing ten million pounds in gold and silver bullion, proves to be an extremely dangerous mission for a

specialist Secret Service Unit, facing a race against time to retrieve the bullion. Hot on their heels are a Terrorist group hell bent on the same objective. Explosives are set to blow a hole in the side of the truck which goes horribly wrong. A virus is found in the Computers programme which threatens to wreck havoc. The discovery of a Mole in the team adds to the tension. A final confrontation with the terrorists provides a nail-biting climax, with a surprising twist to the end of the play.

● **Dead or Alive?** by Keith Hindell - A Play (3m 4f) £3

The play is a fantasy about a pregnant woman entering an abortion clinic who argues the pros and cons with the twin embryos inside her, their father and two spare sperms. The action takes place in a children's playground or is it her womb? Or her mind? The main protagonists are the boy embryo who pleads with his mother to be born and the girl who approves her mother's decision to abort them both. After some initial antagonism the woman tells the embryos the story of their conception which they find absorbing although they manage to get slightly wrong impressions of their father. When he appears in the latter part of the play he pleads with the woman to give the children life. He is welcomed as an ally by the boy embryo but fiercely castigated and catechised by the girl. Finally the woman goes through with her original decision but there is a further twist which negates her choice.

● **Every Kind Of Fool** by Fred Partridge - A Comedy (3m 4f) £3

Polzunkov is a fool: a professional buffoon. He makes his living telling people how it all came about. He used to be a conscientious Civil Servant, engaged, or thought he was, to Mashenka the daughter of his superior, Fedosy Nikolaich. But what with the Cavalry Officer, and not being acknowledged by his Father, who went and died without leaving him a rouble, and then the Inspector, to say nothing of Marya Fominishna, her mother, and of course the Maid! And it all started out as an almost perfectly innocent April Fool's Day joke! But it put paid to his poor old Granny.

● **Flowers** by David Wake - A Drama (4m 3f) £3

Approx playing time 25 minutes Lily and Daisy, two grandmothers, accidentally meet at a bus stop and while waiting find themselves discussing the flowers that have been attached there. The play concentrates on the two ladies and their conversation, while passers-by provide a contrast to their more traditional views and prompt their discussion on how the world has changed from when they were young. The distractions of a kissing couple and two men leave with the arrival of the elusive No 50. As the two ladies wait on, the real reason they are there is revealed - they have a secret in common.

● **French Toast** by Diana Raffle - A Farce (4m 3f) £3

After twenty-five years of marriage, Frederique and Jasper are delighted to find that their marriage was never legal and they are free. However, their daughter's wedding to an international rock star must come first, and so when an interfering member of the Press gets wind of this story, they endeavour to act like a happy family for all they are worth. This is a one act farce; fast paced and with a very funny twist. Great for one act evenings or festivals.

● **God Bless America** by Geoff Buckingham - A Comedy (2-4m 1-3f) £3

Approx playing time 50 minutes. Kevin Freckleton, a hen-pecked, sewerage recycling assistant from Middlesex, has mistakenly entered a lottery for the selection of the USA President for the year 2060 - and is dismayed to discover that he has won it! His wife, Britney, is furious with him but they both come under great pressure from a manipulative White House aide, Morton, who is anxious to quickly fill the void left by the mysterious disappearance of the last President. The conflict is heightened by the mischievous involvement of Brian the Robot, culminating in Kevin surprisingly making a late decision to accept the Presidency - but on his own terms! *"The characters immediately present humour, and the dialogue between them is extremely funny and original". This award-winning play is "fun and modern, with lots of humour, dealing with the future in an interesting and light-hearted way".*

● **Help!** by Patricia Sumner - A Play (3m 4f) £3

Approx playing time 45 minutes It's just before Christmas. Miss Morgan, a young and inexperienced supply teacher arrives at a junior school during a flu epidemic. Mr Parry, the ageing Head is muddled and ineffectual. Four children remain in the class, but they provide plenty of fast-moving banter and comedy (the comedy is enhanced by adult actors playing the parts of the children). The behaviour of Miss Morgan's most formidable pupil, Donna, becomes unmanageable. Donna's mother is called into school and Miss Morgan finds herself involved in the problems of a violent and troubled family. Finally, all seems to be going well and the children's Christmas show is a hoot, until the last moments of the play when Donna storms in to attack Miss Morgan. 'Help!' was a prize-winning play in the Theatre Clwyd one-act playwriting competition in 1995. Now it has been adapted and updated for today's audience.

● **Indian Summer** by Anne Graham - A Drama (2m 5f) £3

Approx playing time 30 minutes. Marie's decision to become a clairvoyant meets with spectacular success, until one of her utterances causes public outrage and personal tragedy. A drama with a twist in the tale, and opportunity for showcasing stage management skills.

● **Man Who Collected Women, The** by Ron Nicol - A Drama (5m + 2f) £3

An adaptation of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's "The Illustrious Client" When the unscrupulous Baron Gruner persuades impressionable heiress Violet de Merville to marry him, Sir James Damery approaches Sherlock Holmes and his colleague Doctor Watson for help. With the assistance of underworld contact Shinwell Johnson, and the Baron's discarded mistress Kitty Winter, Holmes comes up trumps. Despite being assaulted and left for dead, he steals Gruner's diary of conquests and prevents the Baron adding to his collection of betrayed women, while Kitty takes her own drastic revenge.

● **Mary** by John Collings - A Musical (4m + 3f) £3

+ extras. It's Mary's wedding anniversary, Mary has a flashback. Then Mary receives news that her husband Bill has died. Bill appears as a ghost, and tells Mary to go on without him. Mary refuses. Bill disappears. Mary is blamed for Bill's death. Mary contemplates suicide. It is New Years Eve. Mary meets Alan, but is attacked, by her relatives for doing so. Mary rebukes herself for going out with another man, and attempts suicide, but is stopped by her dead husband. Bill persuades Mary to carry on with her life. Alan appears and toasts in the New Year.

● **Mud Wrestling with Lawrence Dallaglio** by Sylvia Ann Jenkins - A Comedy (3m 4f) £3

Amateur dramatics are full of interesting people, and we am drammers all have our own stories. Edwina has been a member of the Backford am Dram society for a good few years, and is beginning to wonder if she will ever have the courage to audition for a part. She thinks that the directors all have their own favourites, and feels that perhaps trying would be futile. Then there's Louise, the club joker, who hides her insecurity under her jokey exterior. Ralph and Giles are the club's leading actors, and know they are. Dora is Giles' long suffering sister. Then we have Jack, a new member, and Pauline, a long standing member, who has everyone weighed up. Will Edwina get a part? Will Giles and Ralph ever get their comeuppance? And what has Lawrence Dallaglio got to do with anything?

● **My Brother Jake** by Tony Stowers - A Play (4m 3f) £3

Mark, 13, worships his brother Jake, 17. Together the boys and their widowed Mum grow up in frugal poverty and battle for sense and identity against a background of social deprivation. But Jake is running before he has learnt to walk and when arrested for dealing, his secrets unravel in a series of events that incarcerate him and almost ruin the lives of others. "My Brother Jake" was first performed on Tuesday 14th October 1997 in Durham, England, researched, with the help of Middlesbrough

police's Sgt. Brian Wilde, using thinking at that time aimed at informing young people and educating them to consequences. The show was performed 35 times over two years to secondary school students 12 – 15 years of age.

● **Party's Over, The** by Jay Parker - A Comedy (2m 5f) £3

Inspired by the farce, "Par La Fenetre" by Georges Feydeau "The Party's Over" concerns a married man feverishly trying to put his apartment back together after several days of decadence. With his wife due to walk through the door any minute, he is confronted by his hot blooded Spanish neighbor who insists on making love to him, three girls of questionable morals who have no intention of leaving, and a gun toting jealous husband set out to kill him. Running time: Approx. 30 min. 1st Produced, November 2007 at the Lizard Theater Comedy Festival in Los Angeles, California.

● **Poisonous Affair, A** by John Ellis - A Play (4m 3f) £3

A very early Sunday morning meeting with Detective Miles Cavendish poses a dilemma for Sir Geoffrey Napier QC. Rowland Digby is accused of Conspiracy and Murder. Will this jeopardise the departure of Rowland to Kuala Lumpur to defend Englishman Eddie Noakes, sentenced to hang in a Malaysian jail. Did Rowland add rat poison to the curry meal that sealed Maria Kemp's fate? What dark secrets are close friends Angela and Thomas Jackson hiding? A police raid later that morning on Rowland's flat uncovers the remains of the rat poison. As the play reaches its surprise climax could Sir Geoffrey be wrong. Is Rowland Digby guilty?

● **Sandwiches - Two Short Plays** by Rena Pope - A Play (6f/7f) £3

Making Sandwiches (6f): In time of celebration or crises this what women do - make sandwiches. The scene is the aftermath of a wedding. The women gather in one room, the men of the party are heard offstage, drinking and laughing. Friction arises between the mother of the bride and the mother-in-law, but Stanley, an offstage goat, unites them after the men fail them. A play with social comment as well as laughter. Eating Sandwiches (7f): This play can be performed in its own right or as a follow-on from the above. The setting is hospital room where a man lies dying. The women - natural homemakers - transform the bare ward into a cosy place to sit, watch and eat sandwiches. Not uncaring, but practical at a time of death, their conversation is amusing and increasingly ironic as the identity of the dying man is revealed.

● **Scars** by Tony Stowers - A Play (5m 2f) £3

The end of another school day and the kids are being ferried home on the school bus. Suddenly, outside there is an explosion of glass and a woman screams, clutching her face as it emerges somebody has thrown a bottle from the bus window. Three

suspects are gradually filtered out in scenes and monologues exploring vandalism and small town life. Finally, the culprit acts. "Scars" was commissioned by Durham County Council in 1998 to complement an "awareness" campaign following a number of dangerous incidents involving pupils on school buses. The storyline grew out of a number of true events. "Scars" touches on complex issues such as young people's attitudes, their relationships with adults and vandalism. It was performed 13 times.

● **Situation Vacant** by Ian Hornby - A Comedy (1m 1f to 1m 6f) £3

Unemployed Derek doesn't really want to work, and wife Jane has had enough. After a row she walks out on him, suggesting he should go through the papers for a job. Enraged, he decides to advertise for a new wife. The series of applicants each looks too good to be true at first, but finally he rejects every one. He never realises that each has a quality he had forgotten existed in Jane, who turns up as the final applicant. She turns the interview round on him and offers him the job. The play has six female characters, but these can be doubled up as necessary and could - if desired - all be performed by the same actress.

● **University of the Fuchsia, The** by David Withey - A Comedy (5m 2f) £3

Universities are everywhere these days, every former College and Poly, but a university in someone's house? And offering "Mickey Mouse" degrees? Surely it's a fraud? Two Civil Servants certainly think so and try to close it down - until they find out that the university has a special student. This satirical romp finds plenty of targets in today's world of Education. It's a comedy that will strike a chord of recognition with most people - teachers, parents, students or just ex-pupils. And it begs the question - could this be the future?

● **Up the Pole** by Roger Harvey - A Pantomime (5m 2f) £3

**UP THE POLE** is a short Festive Season pantomime for young audiences. The Wicked Witch of the North hates all children and wants to spoil Christmas. She has sent a terrible snowstorm to trap Santa Claus in the frozen wastes of the Arctic. She even bends the North Pole itself so no-one can find their way out of Lapland! How will Santa escape and deliver all his Christmas presents? A happy end is guaranteed when the Fairy Eskimo enlists the help of Santa's Elves, Rudolf the Red-Hot-Nosed Reindeer, and of course members of the audience.

● **Where There's Muck There's...!** by Julia Richdale-Ellis - A Comedy (4m 3f) £3

Preparations for Murkford's Harvest Supper are underway and Mrs Harkin is trying to clean up the hall before the Choir come in for their final rehearsal. She is hampered by Mrs Pilgrim the vicar's wife, Albert the odd job man, and interruptions

by Miss Jarvis and the Bishop. There are also undercurrents about the proposed alteration of use for the village hall site, which the vicar and his wife are against. When Fenton Farthing the council's surveyor appears it is up to Mrs Harkin with Albert's help to ensure (with the Vicar's approval) that he is given genuine village hospitality.

**One Act Plays - 8 characters**

● **Blood Sisters** by Dilys Gater - A Play (2m 6f + extras) £3

This powerful new play by award-winning writer Dilys Gater explores the links between women and their relationships with men, through a meeting that never happened between three women - Elizabeth of England, Mary of Scotland and Linnet, the wife of an obscure English yeoman. What are the links holding human beings together? Love and fear, envy, jealousy and misunderstanding. Women are all 'sisters in blood' by virtue of the very blood in their veins. When rank and position are stripped away, all are equally vulnerable. Dilys Gater's plays have won many prizes at Festivals and are performed all over the world.

● **Driving Force** by Geoffrey Elgar - A Play (4m 4f) £3

We follow the activities of staff and learners at Passmore Driving School, run by JERRY and JILL WILLIAMS. JERRY's trying to cool an ongoing affair with neurotic CELIA - and calm JILL's suspicions. Chief Assistant DENIS is verging on a breakdown, while RODNEY has difficulties teaching predatory blonde POPPY, who's fallen for him. Lonely MRS VOWLES only takes lessons for company and ex-racing driver JOHN MADDEN wants to drive again after a serious accident ended his career. With a little help from JILL, a series of encounters, comical and serious, bring a kind of resolution to some of their problems. Playing time approximately 50 minutes.

● **Fair Deal, A** by Jill Woods - A Comedy (5m 3f) £3

Bernie, facing bankruptcy and a certain descent from a well-off-working-class lifestyle, is suddenly a Lottery triple millionaire, which he would never have known had a suicide bid not been thwarted by an anonymous rescuer, whom Bernie now resolves to find and share his fortune with. But Bernie's generosity is not matched by his wife Alma, who has her own plans for the future that do not include her husband, or by son Darren, who almost finds a way of scuppering the proposed largesse... Until a most unexpected deal is struck...

● **Family Jewels, The** by Bob Galley - A Play (4m 4f) £3

George returns home with his fiancée Frances, and "The Family Jewels". He

introduces her to his muddle headed mother, and his father the Governor. The Governor's main interest in life is Maisie, the maid, with whom he has regular assignations. The other person in the house is Miss Horsfall, the Governor's secretary, and school mate of Frances. Wicked Uncle Richard arrives, determined to steal the family jewels. He enlists the aid of Maisie while George and Horsfall seek to thwart him.

● **Marriage A La Fleet** by Ken Lucas - A Play (5m + 3f) £3

This is the world of the rumbustious 18th century. Fleet Street, London, where the spritely French Huguenot emigre, Jessica, struggles to wed her simple Newcastle sailor in a society that has no sympathy for the dissenting. Where the avaricious 'Corporal' Jack Bentall, has converted his tavern into a 'marriage chapel' to exploit such couples and employs pimps and heavily indebted clergy. The high principles and humanity of Samuel Johnson jostle with gutter cunning for dominance in a capital - of easily coined morals. This licentious romp in Georgian England is enacted on its rump.

● **Master Class, The** by Paul L Hedge - A Play (5m + 3f) £3

A master class has been arranged for the local drama club and is to be taken by the director Michael D'Sainte. Although his name is well known, no one has actually seen Mr D'Sainte but he arrives and the master class begins. During the evening Michael learns that the vicar's wife disappeared exactly a year ago. Recreating a famous seance scene from one of his plays, Gabrielle, a newcomer to the group successfully makes contact with the missing woman and discovers her killer. A tragic and mysterious ending when the real Michael D'Sainte turns up.

● **Mayhem Players Present Spectre At The Faust** by David Welsh - A Comedy (5m 3f) £3

+extras. Mayhem Players' hearts are in the right place, but their actors and props rarely are. We join them in their production of Spectre at the Faust, loosely based on Phantom of the Opera. The setting is decidedly shaky and not exactly in period, backstage are seen and heard, and the cast includes one latecomer who is still working from the script, some excruciating French accents, a Spectre who has trouble with his specs and the mask, and an actress with long legs (and isn't she proud of them). All the ingredients of Mayhem!

● **Middlewood Manor Affair, The** by June Walker - A Comedy (2m 6f) £3

On a wet stormy day sisters Violet and Rose Walters are trying to find a friend who has moved into what they thought was a luxury flat. Instead they find themselves in a sinister old Manor House. This turns out to be a secret detention centre for senior

citizens who are regarded by the newly-formed Senior Actions Surveillance Group to be having too good a life- style on their pensions. The inmates are ready to escape and the arrival of the sisters gives them the opportunity. But the rain is a problem and then an Inspector arrives!

● **Necessary Death, A** by Trevor Smith - A Play (4m 4f) £3

Approx playing time 40 minutes. Helen, an apparently neurotic, pregnant housewife, has just become widowed following the death of her husband, Sean. The reasons for her apparent neuroses are revealed as guests arrive and leave her house following Sean's funeral. Helen has a letter from Sean; she has read it and has been pondering its contents. What messages has Sean left and how will they affect Helen?

● **No Concessions** by Christopher Kelly - A Drama (2m + 6f) £3

Kath is determined to bring old friends together for her fortieth wedding anniversary, especially Dinah and Mary. As a disastrous evening unfolds, old deceptions are uncovered. Through the eyes of Dinah, the past is shown in flashback and Dinah deduces that by cheating Kath, Mary secured a rich life with a successful entrepreneur while condemning Kath to an impoverished and loveless marriage. But further secrets are drawn from Mary, revealing a different picture, and Kath extracts revenge. Full of poignancy, powerful women's roles and tapping a rich vein of humour.

● **Pure In Heart, The** by Michael Legat - A Play (4m + 4f) £3

Late on Midsummer's Day, wealthy Harold Layton, an elderly man, gathers his relatives around him in Layton Manor. On this evening the Layton Ghost is said to walk, an apparition which, Harold tells the others, is visible only to the pure in heart. His intention is to make a new will, the provisions of which will be decided according to their reactions to the Ghost, if it should appear. Not unexpectedly, the spectre does manifest itself, after which Uncle Harold has a few surprises to announce to the assembled company - but is then himself surprised.

● **Roly-Poly** by Barry Hillman - A Play (8f) £3

Roly-Poly, a parable on human hypocrisy, is based on a famous short story by Guy de Maupassant - Boule de Suif. It tells of a group of "respectable" women who take advantage of a prostitute's services to secure their release from an inn where they are held by the Prussians, only to scorn her when she has done what they wanted. The all-women cast provides eight contrasting and worthwhile roles for its actresses. Period: Franco-Prussian war.

● **Ten Pence For The Swear Box** by Michael Park - A Comedy (4m 4f) £3

A retired couple discover an armed bank robber in their cottage, but is he as dangerous as he seems, or could there be some other, more innocent, reason for his presence? He soon realises that the old folks are not as intimidated as they should be, and that one thing they cannot stand is the use of certain words... This is the third Act of the full-length comedy 'A Hint of Old World Charm' by the same author, though the story is complete in itself, and its emphasis on family humour has proved especially popular with audiences at amdram competitions.

● **Unvarnished Truth, The** by Alan Ogden - A Play (4m + 4f) £3

\*Writing Award Winner\* Daly, an art teacher, is invariably reluctant to criticise his students' mediocre work. His evening class is visited by Paula Vivian, a former student now a world famous artist. She shocks the students by suggesting that, apart from Robin, a newcomer, they should destroy their paintings and begin again. Her attempt to inspire them by slashing an early painting of her own fails, and the students depart determined to carry on as before. Only Robin, who Vivian hinted may have talent, takes her at her word and destroys his picture. We wonder, is he inspired or put off by Vivian's remarks.

● **You See It All on the Radio!** by Jilly McNeil - A Comedy (4m 4f flexible) £3

A local radio station is performing a live radio play to celebrate the end of the 'Step back in time' festival. All goes well until the sound board breaks down and the cast are left high and dry with no sound. In this ridiculous predicament the cast have to soldier on using whatever they can find for sound effects. Then the leading lady feints and the cast draft Mike the caretaker in with hilarious results. Eventually they make it to the end of the play and are greatly relieved, that is until Tess makes a startling announcement!

**One Act Plays - 9 characters**

● **At The End Of The Day** by Barry Hillman - A Play (1m 8f) £3

Daisy Locke has 'risen through the ranks' and now owns a successful Old People's Home. One of her charges is old chum Freda - once a successful ballroom dancer, who affianced a rich American. What will happen to her inherited fortune when she dies? No-one knows, because Freda has suffered a recent speech-robbing stroke: but her colourful friends from the ballroom days and the local-radio reporter gather like vultures and try to second-guess her plans - all in favour of their own financial interests of course! But although they try to rig her radio interview, Freda has secrets up her silent sleeve...

● **Chairs** by Ron Nicol - A Play (5m 4f) £3

Mike, an enthusiastic young lecturer, is determined to foster better communication among the college staff. He enlists the help of his colleague Kath to re-arrange the chairs in the staff-room, hoping it will encourage the staff to talk to each other. Meanwhile, long-serving lecturer Douglas and newly-appointed Neil become involved in a feud about where each should sit. Moving the chairs has unforeseen consequences; feelings are hurt and tempers rise, Kath gives up her job, and Douglas has a break-down. For some people, insignificant things have an importance which others don't always appreciate.

● **Coming Around Again** by Christine Woodhead - A Play (4m 5f) £3

With the discovery of an old portrait, echoes of a long forgotten Victorian love affair are felt in the lives of a modern-day couple. As parallels between the relationships in the present and in the past are revealed, passions are stirred and secrets uncovered, resulting in betrayal and murder.

● **Confessions With Veiled Voices** by Rena Pope - A Play (9f) £3

Women in "Confessions With Veiled Voices", tell to strangers, in interlocking scenes, things too painful or secret to reveal to friends. Theirs seem to be chance meetings, random confessions, but the women who meet in an hotel opposite a cathedral are not there by accident, their lives and fates are linked by an enormous pot plant physically hiding them like a confessional screen, a colourful Turkish shawl and - a murder. Annie has planned a murder, then given means to escape over breakfast. Two years later she returns to learn the consequences of her actions revealed in veiled voices.

● **Dog Daze** by Derek Bowskill - A Play (5m 4f) £3

co-written with John Boylan. Originally inspired by the observation of a dog walker clinging to the leashes of several dogs in Central Park, NY, Dog Daze is a farcical depiction of six dogs behaving badly when they have been left tied to a tree, whilst their walker goes about her own business. Fearing that she is in danger, they band together in their misguided attempts to come to her aid. The dogs, blatantly presented as stereotyped people, expose the human foibles of suspicion, indecision, prejudice and procrastination until the play ends in riotous confusion.

● **Gabriel's Nativity** by Colin Wilson - A Play (7m 2f) £3

Two teens, a brother and sister, argue the truth of the Nativity Story on the Eve of Christmas whilst wrapping presents. A mysterious plain package has arrived for the boy skeptic who discovers it is a Reality Computer Game. Upon playing it both he and his sister are transported via the computer back in time to Jerusalem and Bethlehem to witness Christ's birth. They find they are an integral part of the

Christmas Story. The brother is whipped and imprisoned by King Herod, his sister is murdered by one of his guards and they make an appearance as angels!

● **Heirs and disGraces** by Janet Smith - A Play (4m 5f) £3

A Murder Mystery - audience participation. The family of Lord John Barleycorn Withers are summoned urgently to Withering Hall. Imagining the elderly Lord to be dying, they rush home to find, instead of the deathbed scene they had anticipated, the old squire preparing to marry a Land Army girl! This news is not greeted with universal delight. That evening his Lordship gives a grand banquet in honour of his bride to be - and despite tears and refusals the family all attend - but for one, it will be their last supper.

● **Let's Be 'avin' You!** by Geoff Buckingham - A Comedy (3m 5/6f) £3

Approx playing time 50 minutes. When the hapless Sergeant Pickles and Constable Cackett realise that Botchington Police Station is under threat of closure by the ruthless Chief Inspector Allcock, the future looks bleak, particularly when they learn that the country's most notorious criminal gang have moved onto their patch. However, they vow to fight this crime wave, and to keep the police station open. They stumble and bumble their way through a hilarious plot to save the police station and to catch the criminal gang. They eventually succeed, with the help of the spinsters of Botchington Ladies Knitting Circle! Their joy is heightened by the discovery that the Chief Inspector's Viagra prescription has been inadvertently swapped with Nytol tablets, resulting in his demotion and their promotion! *"This is great fun for groups to perform" and is "original, well-written and funny"*.

● **Living Backwards** by Richard B Purdue - A Play (7m + 2f) £3

+ extras. A play that etches in reverse the failed life of an honest man, whose life of struggle involves the subtle, grinding assault of his in-laws and the reluctant support of a Heavenly Soulmate. Despite his resistance to the irresistible forces in his life, the best that can be said at the final curtain is, "What goes around comes around."

● **Right Couples** by John London - Short Plays (4m 3f + 1) Contact us for price

'Lemon!' 'No.' 'Trousers!' 'Trousers?' In 'Right', a couple exchanges one-word phrases until the woman explodes under the pressure. In 'Couples', women talk about men and men talk about women, but the sexes never really meet. So, at the end of the evening, who's the 'right couple'? These two short plays provide several challenging roles for actors and perhaps even an answer to the question. On 'Right': 'tragi-comic look at the surreal extremes of communication breakdown' Time Out

● **Starlover** by Justine Jupe - A Play (5m 4f) £3

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### Catalogue of One Act Plays - 2011 - 9 characters

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Approx playing time 45 minutes As a singer she had control, as a lover she had none. The emotional insecurity of Magdalena, lead singer with rock band "Hard Rain", reaches crisis point when her dreams of stardom and love with lead guitarist, Jake, come into conflict with reality. Set in the tenuous world of rock music, this easy-to-stage play is especially identifiable for teenagers, college groups or drama societies with youth sections with directorial scope for artistic licence. "She tried to turn her dream into reality - but reality was the obstacle."

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### Catalogue of One Act Plays - 2011 - 10 characters

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#### One Act Plays - 10 characters

- **All Change For Valhalla** by Mike Lorenzo - A Comedy (6m 4f) £3

When womaniser John Clubwell takes a married lady back to his flat for a night of passion, he thought she would be hot stuff, but she proved to be too hot to handle and poor John suffers a heart attack and he finds himself in Heaven where he meets some strange and weird people. A glamorous doctors receptionist, a camp keeper of the robes, a domineering owner of a Heavenly marriage bureau and many more. Is it all a dream? Will it all come right for John in the end? Will there be a twist at the end?

- **Circumference** by Richard B Purdue - A Drama (7m 3f) £3

Searching for fame on a previously unconquered wall of rock and ice, Otto and Hans find their destiny. The world watches their progress, then their desperate battle to survive, while among the spectators, a wife sees her own fate and the fate of her children unfold. The mystery of why men attempt to defy death on a mountain and what they feel in their most hopeless moments is etched against the backdrop of a heartless environment and the masculine compulsion to strive against it.

- **Going Home** by Ron Nicol - A Play (4m 6f) £3

\*Writing Award Winner\*It's the end of the college term, and all Mr Mac wants to do is go home. Then his department Head demands he consider early retirement, a colleague asks him to alter examination results, he misunderstands the motives of one of his students, and is assaulted in his classroom - with disastrous consequences.

- **Matter Of Grave Concern, A** by Julia Richdale-Ellis - A Black Comedy (6m 4f) £3

Joe Hibbert is faced with the decision on where to have his wife buried. He hates churchyards and the thought of cremation unnerves him. He comes up with an alternative. Unfortunately not acceptable to daughters Bev and Fran and even less to his friend Leroy. Malc, Bev's husband is on the sidelines as is the Vicar who will go along with anything. Neighbours Mr Tate and Mrs Ford are very unpleasant and threaten Joe with menaces. However, fate takes a hand in the guise of Mr Boot and things appear to be resolved in a way no one expected.

- **Old Friends \*FREE\*** by Ian Hornby - Short Plays (cast of 5, aged, either sex) Contact us for price

The setting is an old people's home. The quirky, sometimes humorous interchanges between the residents cover a sad finality – who will actually still be there next week, next month, next year? Also available for 4 players on request - email [ian@plays4theatre.com](mailto:ian@plays4theatre.com)

● **Overbooked** by Judith Davis - Comedy/Drama (2m 5f) £3

Famous novelist Monica Hales is due to talk to the Book Group but bats have taken over the community hall. Organiser Hilary suspects the vicar of sabotage; Angela is desperate to find another venue. Mrs Graves, insomniac caretaker, is no help, nor is Yolanda, yoga devotee, exercising resolutely while tempers flare. The arrival of Roy, part time cowboy/reporter, Bella and her traumatised Mother - why? - intent on flower arranging, complicates the situation, as does Meriel, prepared to give a belly dancing class. Ultimately Hilary is vindicated, the vicar confesses and his ulterior motives lead to a surprisingly happy ending.

● **Thicker Than Water** by Ron Nicol - A Black Comedy (2m + 8f) £3

Mrs Prince makes her son a vampire cloak for his birthday. Harold is captivated, and bites a girl at his birthday party. He decides on a career as a vampire, and his reign as the self-styled Prince of Darkness begins. As Harold grows older, he and his mother encounter horrified parents and a succession of angry teachers, until his fumbling attempts at seduction lead to the deaths of a number of women. Combined with his new career, this eventually results in Harold's downfall and his inevitable destruction in the traditional vampire manner - a stake through the heart.

**One Act Plays - 11 characters**

● **Barber, The** by Geoff Graves - A Comedy (6m 3f +1) £3

Jack Diamond is a bachelor Barber in his late 50s. He's been a Barber all his life and still lives a bit in the past, so is a little prudish. He is struggling to make ends meet and, to help the gradually failing business, a regular customer suggests taking on an assistant and going "Unisex" - shock, horror! Eventually Jack has to agree so he advertises in the local paper for an assistant. Little did he realise just how much change would come about by having a woman in his life - and business! (Won first prize in the Sale Festival New Playwriting Competition, 2008.)

● **Gauguin's Ghost** by Tony Stowers - A Play (9m 2f) £3

"Gauguin's Ghost" is an informal study of the life of the artist Paul Gauguin. A well-researched piece, it explores the idea that Gauguin, on his deathbed, sold his soul to a witchdoctor in exchange for immortality in spirit form. We meet those who shaped his art and hear tell of how he pursued his own singular vision at all costs. First performed by the author in French/English in Brittany in France in August 2009, a skilled actor can manage the script as a one-man show but a cast of 11 men and 2 women, under a careful director, could just as easily manage it. Paintings can be mounted on an easel for traditional spaces or fixed on walls and exhibited for performance performances. The idea behind the entrances and exits of each of the

characters in this play are that there aren't any and actors are actually either already on stage when the show begins or are "hidden" in the audience and come to life on cue. All actors should be dressed on contemporary costume.

● **Save the City Baths** by Sylvia Ann Jenkins - A Play (4m 3f + extras) £3

Emily Houseman is a recently retired Primary School Teacher, who loved her job, so is feeling a bit useless. She has joined a Latin class, where she meets Rose, a retired Police Inspector, who is a lively character. Rose discovers that the local council want to close the old City Baths, and tells Emily. Much against her will, Emily is 'encouraged' to stand for the council on a 'Save The City Baths' ticket. She has help from her niece, Bea, and her polo playing boyfriend, Gary. Some neighbours, Robert, an unemployed road cleaner, and a University Lecturer with the unlikely name of Professor Percival Pomegranate Chocolate Hob Nob not New Labour Jones are also press ganged into the campaign. Does Emily win? Are the City Baths saved? Friendships are made and cemented throughout this play. Maybe Rose or Emily will find romance.

● **Well Kept Secret, A** by John Speller - A Drama (4m 7f) £3

A group of novice creative writers are meeting in an old priory when a skeleton is discovered in a priest hole accessed from a well. This provides material for a good story from one of the group (scenes 2 and 3), but what is fiction and what is fact? Scene 4 eventually provides the solution. Author's note: In 2005 the French press reported that a skeleton of an unknown man, who died some ten years previously, had been discovered in a chamber leading off from a well. The police were completely baffled. (Some doubling of parts is possible.)

● **Whose Line Was It Anyway?** by Ian Hornby - A Comedy (5m 6f) £3

The audience are unseen attendees at a mid-term rehearsal of a dramatic society. Authoritative director Grace is trying to pull the play into shape despite the goings on around her, which include collapsing scenery, forgotten lines, a televised football match, the playwright's amorous intentions on one of the leading ladies and frequent interruptions from just about anyone. Originally conceived as an episode of a television sitcom, staging is kept simple. The play avoids am dram "in jokes" in favour of genuinely funny characters and situations which some of the audience and all of the actors are likely to recognise.

**One Act Plays - 12 or more characters**

● **Animal Passions** by Dorothy Kyne - A Play (7m 5f) £3

It began as another boring day for 10S. Jed, Fatso and Darren drift in for registration

and tease and scuffle, while Jan, the committed animal rights activist, tries to ignore them and get on with her life's work. Others come in, and talk of this and that. "Wish something 'ud happen," says Dawn. Then it does, and she wishes she hadn't wished. Events include menaces by shotgun, hostage taking, and a conversion process. The animal rights activist faces a would be anarchist, and rescues a lost sheep. Teenagers face moral decisions, and get them, more or less, right.

● **Blenkinsop's Ghost** by Andrew Beattie - A Play (*1m 2f+ children – 8b, 1g*) £3  
Blenkinsop's Ghost is a ghost story set in a boys' country boarding school in the 1950s. On his first day at the school, young Ames encounters another boy, Blenkinsop, who has a remarkable story to tell – of a boy who was pushed from a window in the school, and died. The other boys in the house don't believe Ames' story; but as their feared housemaster becomes implicated in murder, Ames realizes that Blenkinsop's strange tale was intended as a warning to them all. Incorporating Gothic elements and utilizing a mixture of adults and children in the cast, Blenkinsop's Ghost is an ideal one-act play for schools or youth theatre groups. Running time: 45 minutes

● **Calling Time** by Derek Webb - Short Plays (*variable up to 6m 6f - 2m 2f (with doubling)*) £3

In the lounge bar of the local pub, these five linked short comedies all take place during one evening. They are all two-handers and vary from straight comedies to more thought-provoking ones. A short intro and outro - in which we meet the landlord, Bill, and a barmaid (sorry, barperson) Tracy - bookend the five plays. Calling Time is written to be performed by four actors performing all the parts, but can be played by a cast of up to 12. Similarly, the play allows for flexibility in length (from 30 mins to 60 mins). Provided the intro and outro scenes, together with 'Who's Joe?' are played, one or two other scenes may be omitted to reduce the running time for use in festivals etc. Playing time: approx. 30 mins to 60 mins

● **Kiteman, The** by Maxine Smith - A Play (*Min 2m 2f + 1 youth*) £3

The Makintosh clan think they are a nice family, who work hard and are getting on in the world. Then they are driven off the road during a Greek island holiday and are forced to scale a mountain to seek help. There they encounter the Kiteman who can offer no material assistance but knows everything there is to know about building kites. His insight into the kite world leads to an exploration that shows unknown aspects of each member of the Mackintosh family - malicious, unsympathetic, violent and dishonest. As their bad doings unfold, the tale of their main victim, Fiona Mayhew also emerges.

● **Mayhem Players Present What A Beauty!** by David Welsh - A Comedy (*6m 6f*) £3

Cast doubling. When the dedicated and enthusiastic members of the Mayhem Players turn their hand to pantomime they do so with the same fervour and chaotic results as they have to their former classics. Confusion reigns as to which panto they are actually performing, as Cinderella and Sleeping Beauty and Dick Whittington all appear along with a world weary Fairy, a Demon with a bad back, and a horse. All the usual fun of a Mayhem production with plenty of traditional panto business and all to the melodic (?) accompaniment of Beccy and her recorder playing friends.

● **Play's The Thing, The** by Marion Watson - A Comedy (*3m 5f + 2m/f*) £3

The setting is the floor level in a village hall during the performance of a play. We meet the two old ladies who's main enjoyment is looking at the food, a wife and her difficult husband who have come to see their daughter perform, the lady who has lost her husband and an awkward schoolboy. The front of house manager and the programme seller struggle to cope with situations as they arise including a potential fire, helping out an actress who has 'gone into the wrong scene' and identifying the mysterious noise coming from the back of the hall.

One Act Plays With Variable Casting

● **Accident Of Circumstance** by Ron Nicol - A Drama (*6m/f variable extras*) £3

John suspects that people are plotting against him. His GP diagnoses him as schizophrenic. John is a highly intelligent man; he analyses his illness and the treatment he's enduring, and knows there's nothing wrong with him. His encounters in hospital with the doctor who seems baffled by his illness become increasingly fraught. His relationship with his wife Ellen disintegrates, and their marriage breaks down. His turbulent and increasingly difficult life ends in his death, and a release from his pain. A drama based on actual events, and told in John and Ellen's own words.

● **Clearing Up Mrs Treeves** by Maxine Smith - A Play (*4m 4f + 1, 3+ extras*) £3

The local council is overwhelmed by complaints that feisty old Mrs Treeves has turned her council bungalow into a pigsty. Duncan, a young housing official does all in his power to have the property cleared but after a few months it returns to the same awful state and eviction becomes a real possibility. The audience alone glimpse Mrs Treeves' past but the neighbours possess no sympathy. In the end Mrs Treeves not only stands her ground against them all, but pays the ultimate cost.

● **Five Short Plays** by Graham Rhodes - Short Plays (*Variable*) £6

The Survivor. Comedy based around one man facing the rigours of a team-building exercise that goes horribly wrong. The Home Front. 1940, two women meet up on holiday for the first time in four years. Unhappy Medium. Comedy drama about a fortune-teller, reading a sceptical young mans future. New Neighbours. Comedy about a couple who move to the country to discover they've inherited an Internet inspired cleaner and an old woman living in their shed. The Last Visit. Elderly lady ruminates on her life, the death of her husband, and why she's never returned to her care home.

● **Four Short Plays** by Charles Ford - Short Plays (*Various casting*) Contact us for price

Cough Up is set in a betting shop. It is about noon and the shop, which is about to open, is deserted except for Joe the Bookmaker behind the counter reading a newspaper. The other character Grace, a punter, calls to collect her winnings from a bet which she has places with Joe the day before. The Complaint is set in a tailor's shop. The two characters are at odds with each other. The client enters the shop complaining about a suit, the Tailor tries his best to fool the client into another sale. Wash And Dry is set in launderette. The two machines, bemoaning each others lot, are sited opposite each other. Their day is disturbed by a non-speaking old lady. The Pillocks is set in Martha Woodford's country village shop in the 1970's has been receiving alien visitors at Grey Gables and, on the pretence of protecting the local villagers from having their brains taken over, has been selling them a supposedly special mixture concocted by Old Joe Grundy to which they have, except for himself and Joe, all become addic

● **Francis** by Rena Pope - A Light Musical (*Variable casting*) £3

Francis, a play with music, introduces St Francis as the despair of his parents and traces elements of his life which led to his becoming the much loved leader of the Franciscans we know today. The continuous action moves from the market place at Assisi to an area outside and can be represented with a backdrop of towers and walls, or a plain curtain. Trestle tables and cut-outs of trees and rocks are moved during the action. The cast can be large or small with doubling up and teenagers, children and adults can all take part in this lively play. Ideally suited to Schools, Children's Theatre and groups which contain children. The action is lively, the music catchy and the play ends with a nativity scene which makes it suitable too for a Christmas show.

● **Heaven Is Hard, Mr. Lincoln** by Richard B Purdue - A Play (*13m + 1f*) £3

+ extras. Heaven is Hard, Mr Lincoln although a play that primarily deals with Abraham Lincoln's alleged mishandling of the Civil War in America, it is, at the

same time, a quirky and humorous take on an event that had far reaching consequences for America in general and politics in particular. Set in Heaven including a Lower Level (Hell), a Middle Level and an Upper Level (Heaven) the play, in the form of a trial, assesses whether Lincoln is guilty of these charges.

● **In Hatred Unsurpassed** by Richard B Purdue - A Drama (*12m + 4f*) £3

Brilliant eccentricity and the prejudices of the media meet head-on in this drama of great hope and great disappointment. Years of research bring Pearce Miller to the shocking conclusion that Hitler carried out the Holocaust on the basis of his religious convictions. Pearce's frustration and the visceral reaction of the media against him finally bring him to a crisis and an ironic climax.

● **Ordinary Jack** by Andrew Beattie - A Comedy (*9m 7f*) £3

Ordinary Jack is a spoof fairy tale written for performance by 30+ pupils aged 11-14. The hero, a prince named Jack, faces banishment from his castle after he tells his father, King Lionel, that he would like to marry a village girl named Victoria Sponge rather than the Spanish princess that his father has in mind for him. Woodland spirits, exploding cauldrons, mad witches and a man who spends his days sitting on a swing in a forest pondering the meaning of life add to the mixture of surreal fun in a play with a large, flexible cast that has already been staged by a number of schools and youth theatre groups. Running time: 75 minutes Ordinary Jack was first published in a slightly different version in 1996 and received these reviews: "The play features racy dialogue, much movement, simple changes of scene... and has its own built-in comedy." (Junior Bookshelf) "...of exceptional educational value in developing a sense of theatre in its participants...this is a play that will read well and run well." (Amateur Stage)

● **Out With The Old In With The New** by Kaye Andrews - A Comedy (*8m 7f*) £3

Percy lived a simple life with his wife Flo. His sudden death (amongst the brussels) shocked all. Flo discovered a note, detailing a strange request for 'everyone' to see in the Millennium with him at the Stuffit Inn. Dr Groper sited Percy's coffin and the 'party' began. Percy's deaf, cantankerous mother and Flo's constant confusion with words causes amusement. Reverend Up preaches, secrets emerge, and Big Ben bongs. Percy (has heard all) leaps out of his coffin with lottery winnings and runs away with the barmaid.

● **Pain In The Neck, A** by Paul Beard - A Comedy (*3m 5f + 4m/f*) £3

\*Writing Award Winner\* The ultimate tongue-in-cheek horror spoof, containing page after page of some of the corniest one-liners ever known to man. Nerdy psychic investigator Nigel and his young American bride Penelope arrive at a gothic mansion

in deepest Transylvania for their honeymoon. They are shown to their haunted room by the porter, Frank Einstein. Throughout their stay they come face to face with the rest of the staff including an 'armless mad Russian monk, a French humpbacked maid, and a cook whose ingredients would not be found in any 'normal' cook-book. A ghost, a devil, a werewolf, a one legged bell-hop and a female vampire complete the collection of the inhabitants of this spooky venue. It was always going to be a long night.

● **Sanctuary** by Tom Casling - A Play (6m 6f + 3 voices) £3

The play deals with the issue of sanctuary, and is based partly on fact. It is the present day. John Lee is about to be deported. He has exhausted all the possible legal options to remain in the country and, when these fail, seeks refuge in his local church, claiming sanctuary. The play considers the legal aspects of sanctuary, and the relationship between civil and church law. It looks at how individuals, and the community, can provide support or condemnation, coloured by individual experience and media hype. The play also touches on the way in which our own private and public thoughts can be influenced by the situations we find ourselves in, and the people we find ourselves with.

● **Saskia** by Will Butters - A Drama (5f 3m + 5m/f min) £3

Set in the present day, Dawn finds herself in a predicament and feels there is no way out. A piece of paper she signed holds her as a victim to a man who does not have her best intentions at heart. She decides upon, what she feels is the only course available to her to free herself from the debt. She becomes 'Saskia' as she sells herself.

● **Seasons in the Sun** by Tom Casling - A Play (4m 1f + 4) £3

Neil is planning the ideal camping and cycling holiday with his wife to recapture memories of their youth together. They decide to re-visit one of their haunts which had happy memories from when they were first married only to encounter the family from hell.

● **Sex, Love, Life & Death Vol 1 (4 short plays)** by Graham Rhodes - Short Plays (see synopses) £3

Graham Rhodes has over 35 years experience in writing scripts, books, plays, articles and numerous other projects. His work has won a number of awards and competitions as well as being performed at by theatre companies in Leeds, London and Newcastle. All his plays last approximately thirty minutes. A Grave Mistake - A comedy for two actresses. The original two grumpy old women attend the funeral of a friend. Prior to the service the ladies can't resist commenting on the fashions and

lives of the other mourners. Holiday - A comedy with a twist for two actors. Two men meet by the poolside on a Greek holiday island. As the conversation progresses we discover they are without their wives, for two very different reasons. Always Listen to your Mother - A comedy for two actresses. A middle aged actress sits in front of her dressing room mirror reflecting on her life and career and the effect her mother has had on both, with a surprise ending. The Home Front - A light drama for two actresses. Set in Scarborough during

● **Sex, Love, Life & Death Vol 2 (4 short plays)** by Graham Rhodes - Short Plays (see synopses) £3

Graham Rhodes has over 35 years experience in writing scripts, books, plays, articles and numerous other projects. His work has won a number of awards and competitions as well as being performed at by theatre companies in Leeds, London and Newcastle. All his plays last approximately thirty minutes. New Neighbours - A comedy for three female & one male actors. A successful couple move into their new country house only to discover they've inherited a local cleaning lady who is a fully paid up member of an on-line swingers club and an old lady that has claimed squatters rights to their hen house. Sanctuary - A comedy for three actors. A vicar discovers a young man has chained himself to one of his church pillars. His problems increase when a second person does the same. Faced with two sanctuary seekers the vicar comes up with a unique and profitable solution. Summer on a Greek Island - A drama for three male & two female actors. A successful English artist and his young lover are enjoying summer on a Greek Island

● **Sex, Love, Life & Death Vol 3 (4 Short Plays)** by Graham Rhodes - Short Plays (see synopses) £3

Graham Rhodes has over 35 years experience in writing scripts, books, plays, articles and numerous other projects. His work has won a number of awards and competitions as well as being performed at by theatre companies in Leeds, London and Newcastle. All his plays last approximately thirty minutes. Jumpers - A drama for two female actors. In the middle of the night a desperate woman stands on a high bridge, looking down, contemplating suicide when a stranger intervenes and tries to talk her out of it. Sally O'Connell's War - Light drama for two 2 actors. A woman at a bus stop tells of her life as a young wife of an engineer and how they survived the war to become successful owners of garage in Suffolk. A tale with a sad twist at the end. Chasing the Hard-backed Beetle - Drama two actors. A disturbing play about a man's spiral descent into madness seen through his own words. Graham Rhodes has written an intriguing study of mental illness. Compelling stuff - Scarborough Evening News - Winner of 3 awards at the

- **Sex, Love, Life & Death Vol 4 (4 short plays)** by Graham Rhodes - Short Plays (see synopses) £3

Graham Rhodes has over 35 years experience in writing scripts, books, plays, articles and numerous other projects. His work has won a number of awards and competitions as well as being performed at by theatre companies in Leeds, London and Newcastle. All his plays last approximately thirty minutes. The Unhappy Medium - comedy drama 1m & 2f. A sceptical man asks a down at luck fortune-teller for a reading, little realising how accurate she can be. An insight into what it must be like to be able to see not only your own future but that of other people. Winner best actress award YMCA Drama Festival 2004 Crows - drama for 4 actors. Three crows meet on a high rocky crag, as they consider their good fortune they are joined by The Morrigan, a crow from Celtic legend and their own most dreaded goddess with a message that has great ramifications for themselves and the rest of the flock. This an enjoyable, if darker, piece from writer Graham Rhodes, who endows the birds with their own mythology and on the way says a lo

- **Sex, Love, Life & Death Vol 5 (4 short plays)** by Graham Rhodes - Short Plays (see synopses) £3

Graham Rhodes has over 35 years experience in writing scripts, books, plays, articles and numerous other projects. His work has won a number of awards and competitions as well as being performed at by theatre companies in Leeds, London and Newcastle. All his plays last approximately thirty minutes. A Ticket to Gracelands - Romantic comedy for seven actors. A comedy drama about the trials and tribulations of being a single female Geordie with a serious Elvis Presley fixation. Winner Best Actress Award Saltburn Drama Festival 2006 Bombs Away Dream Babies - Light drama for one male & one female actor. Set between 1942 & 1943, a fighter pilot enjoys an evening home leave with his new wife and small child. The couple discuss the war, their whirlwind marriage and discover some disturbing secrets about themselves. Dancing on a Table in Montmartre - Drama for three male and one female actors. Set in a Parisian street café, two elderly painters meet on the eve of the First World War, as they discuss their art and thei

- **Short, Sweet and Sour** by Anthony Moore - Short Plays (see synopses) £3

Short, sweet and sour is six short plays that examine a range of human experiences. From the outrageous humour of Seconds Out which looks at a husband and wife's argument governed by the Marquis of Queensbury, to the surprising gothic ending of I think it's time we had a talk these plays will make you laugh and cry. Above all they will make you think about life and our relationships with others. The plays are all small cast (2 to 3 characters) and all run about ten minutes. **Mother's Day** 2f.

**Seconds Out** 1f 1m 2 played by either sex. **The Table** 1f 1m, **Made In Heaven** 1m 1f **I Think It's Time We Had A Talk**. 2f or 2m, **And then what happened?** 2f 1m

- **Three Short Comedies** by David Withey - Short Plays (varied casting) £3

Couples. Overhearing two strangers arguing at the next table in a bar proves very entertaining for two listeners - until a name is mentioned - and one listener realises that her own indiscretions are about to be revealed. The Wrong Funeral. John is annoyed when he realises he's at the wrong funeral, but soon alarmed to learn that the mourners surrounding him are dangerous and notorious criminals The Drunk. When arrested, a drunk is asked to provide a urine sample. Having drunk literally gallons of beer, he obliges - with interest! The play then becomes silly and surreal, allowing the audience's imagination to provide the laughter.

- **Three Short Comedies II** by David Withey - Short Plays (various casts) £3

How The Professions Were Formed - Satirical comedy, where the peasants manage to escape from backbreaking work in the fields by inventing professions like the law and accountancy. Finally, the last peasant thinks up a dubious but profitable wheeze. His friends call it fraud - he calls it banking. Death-Bed Secrets - Mavis has timed her death-bed confessions well - her friends can't be angry with a dying woman - until; she gets the good news - she's not dying at all! Behind The Newspaper - Susan, a refined woman, despairs of her husband Eric, a slob with vulgar and unpleasant habits. But she has secrets of her own, in this very visual comedy.

- **Three Short Plays** by Derek Bowskill - Short Plays (see synopses for cast) £3

The Third Age (6f) Vicky is a bright young woman. She is misunderstood by all her family except her grandmother. Bitterly, her mother and sister make a false complaint about her boyfriend him to the police - but the ploy backfires when Vicky herself is accused of being involved in larceny. Lady Seeks Position (5f) Felicity Maltravers phoning "Hacker's Help", an agency for charladies. The more she auditions Mrs. Hacker's 'candidates', the more she despairs as one by one, they irritate her until, in desperation, she makes a final surprising phone call. Home is (5f) Stella is a woman of principle, attractive to men and women alike, with the exception of her close family, who think her beliefs have become obsessive. As they await her their attitudes harden, and when Stella finally arrives, reprimands and reproaches create a dramatic climax.

- **Three Short Plays** by Carole Richardson - Short Plays (see synopses for cast) £3

**The Brown Brogues** - 8-10 minute Comedy (2m 2f) Four good character parts which add comedy to a serious situation. How would you react if an enthusiastic angel Gabriel arrived shoeless on your doorstep? **The Inheritance** - 8-10 minute

Play (1m 2f) Jane visits the cottage she has just inherited from an aunt she never met. With a dramatic twist to the story, Jane finds she has inherited a lot more than bricks and mortar. **The Memory Chest** - 5-6 minute play - Play (1m 1f) A simple "For Sale" advertisement in a local paper reunites a father and daughter. Two parts that, skilfully played, make this short play a tearjerker. The three plays were written with the drama festival, Eisteddfod or evening of short plays in mind, giving scope to show good acting skills in the short space of time given.

• **Three Short Plays** by David Withey - Short Plays (*various casts*) £3

Aliens. A short comedy play, starting with plenty of visual humour, which then reveals itself as a satire, taking a swipe at management. Written for three males, it is equally suitable for actors of either gender and any age. A Victorian Plot. An apparently genteel setting which disguises a witty satire, targeting Local Government, as well as poking fun at out-dated attitudes to women. Written for two mature actresses. Do You Fancy A Cake? A comedy of triviality, with many opportunities for laughs from the characters, where a small subterfuge rebounds on the perpetrator. Written for five actresses of virtually any age.

• **Three Short Plays** by Geoff Saunders - Short Plays (*see synopses for cast*) £3

Benny's Funeral - Play - 1m. Three weeks ago, Morris's gay partner died. His visit to the funeral parlour, the funeral itself and the wake that followed are recalled in touching detail combined with humour and pathos. Manny's Party - Play - 1f. Cassandra is manning the door at her husband's party, and she's not happy. The guests are his odious work colleagues and he has locked himself in the study to watch the snooker. Under the influence of more and more alcohol she finds inspiration and strength and wrecks the party and then leaves - for good. Watch My Lips - Play - 2m. Jeff and Mark are embarking on a relationship - but there are problems. Are they a couple? Boyfriends? Lovers? Topics such as coming out and the vagaries of love - in any context - are explored in this piece of modern theatre.

• **Three Short Plays** by Ian Hornby - Short Plays (*see synopses for cast*) £3

**Time Itself - comedy - minimum 2m 2f + extras of either sex** Barry is clearing his deceased mother's effects from their attic when he discovers an old parchment bearing the inscription "Whoever holds the open parchment holds time itself". And that's what it does - when he unfolds it, time stops. Barry is heading for fun and wealth and a peaceful life, until the breeze plays a fateful hand. Flexible staging. **Clicks - black comedy - 1m 1f (unseen) plus one extra m/f** Mark is a computer buff, much to his wife's annoyance. He surfs the internet looking for sleazy material, unaware that the computer itself is watching his every move... **Fantasy** - play - 1m

2f Doug has been unemployed for two years and is in the depths of depression, where the border between reality and fantasy have become blurred. His wife Ellen tries to understand, until the arrival of the mysterious Ruth take things several stages further.

• **Three Short Plays** by John Speller - Short Plays (*see synopses for cast*) £3

Days Of Wine And Fungi. A black comedy for 2m 2f. The Smiths are new to the neighbourhood and are attending a small welcome dinner party given by their new neighbours. They discover the police have been searching for the previous inhabitants of their new home who disappeared in mysterious circumstances. Mr Smith is highly suspicious of the hostess. Is she trying to poison them? A Vicar Calls. A comedy for 2m 1f. The Millers are getting ready to go on holiday. The taxi is due at any moment and everything is under control. Then the vicar arrives. He is perhaps not the calming influence he claims to be. Hot Capsicum. A comedy for 1m 2f. The action takes place in a motorcar salesroom. The salesman feels he is in for a good day with one car out on a test drive and another potential customer on the way in. However, Alice returns from her test drive and his smooth demeanour is shaken. Things are complicated further when a psychiatrist appears on the scene.

• **Three Short Plays** by Rena Pope - Short Plays (*see synopses for cast*) £3

Meriel, an Armful of Warm Silk (4f) - W.I. members work to restore a bed hanging at a local castle, but a small fragment of the design is missing and they cannot complete the work until they find out what it is. The answer to their problem comes from a stranger. But how does she know the answer to a question that baffled the historians. Monks and Chocolate Digestives (4f) - An old monastery seeks 'ghostly monks' to create an atmosphere for visitors. The local W.I. volunteer but find themselves a person short. The shortfall is made up by a member of a neighbouring W.I. who seems to know the monastery better than any of them. She seems to be in two places at once, or does she actually walk through walls? Music at Midnight (5f) - W.I. member Martha's newly written carol is to be premiered at the Christmas Midnight Mass. It is to be sung by her past music students who are now successful recording artistes. It is Martha's last chance to hear her work as she is becoming increasingly deaf. At midnight the carol is heard, beautifully sung in the darkened church. But by whom? The singers are stranded in snow five miles away.

• **Three Ten Minute Plays** by Kathryn Dolman - Short Plays (*see synopses for casts*) £3

The Last Goodbye (1m 2f) - Two upwardly mobile types in the last throes of a once passionate relationship. Both dissatisfied with each other and ready to move on. All

they have to do is say goodbye. Room 14 (2m 1f) - An ex-drug addict is on his way to a new life. He picks up a teenage prostitute on his last night in England and they put each other's lives into perspective. The Companion (1m 3f) - Drama. Pearl was a ladies companion until her past caught up with her. She now runs the library of a woman's prison and looks after the literary life of the inmates.

● **Trilogy of Tragedy, A** by Angela Hornby - Short Plays (*Variable casting*) Contact us for price

\*Writing Award Winner\* "Deafening Silence" was a winner at the Liverpool Everyman WriteNow! 2000 Competition. These three short plays raise issues that challenge the ideals of young people in today's world. All strive to bring about thoughtful messages and to make younger - and older = generations ones aware of the problems that face our society. 'Deafening Silence' approaches the issue of paralysis, exploring the views of those who can speak out, and those who can't. 'Old Habits. Die Hard' deals with smoking and its side effects. 'Beep' is an emotional account of a father and daughter who face separation through horrific circumstances; euthanasia.

● **Untouchable?** by Paul Beard - A Play (3m + 10f) £3

'Untouchable?' was devised by Year 11 Drama Students at Addington High School, Croydon as part of their GCSE exam work in 2005. Working closely with the writer and Head of Drama they have created a hard-hitting, powerful and no-holds-barred piece of modern theatre that explores the themes of gun, gang and drug culture as seen through the eyes of teenagers in the 21st century. Controversial topics such as racism and teenage pregnancy add to its authenticity as we witness how all of these things effect not only the young people themselves but their families and their own futures. Although form and shape has been the responsibility of the writer it is the voices and experiences of the young people themselves that make this piece so frighteningly realistic.

● **View From the Gutter, The** by Douglas Fulthorpe - Short Plays (4m 3f + 4m/f) £6

Approx playing time 110 minutes Douglas Fulthorpe presents his penetrating view of life as seen from the gutter, in a madcap whirl of chills and thrills. Visit the elusive county of Wessex for an eerie and unforgettable lesson in hygiene in Afternoon Tea, then jet to the west coast of America for Orange Gin with Lieutenant Broccoli, a shabby, unconventional sleuth with an unusual taste in cigars. Finally return to Wessex, and the village of Little Slaughter, where, in Count Your Chickens, a sinister nephew performs his own brand of cosmetic surgery, under the seemingly

unsuspecting gaze of his devoted Aunt Millie. There are 32 separate parts, plus roughly 9 soldiers. Many of these parts are small and very brief.

**Youth Plays**

**Youth Plays - 2 characters**

- **Obsession** by David Walker - A Youth Play (1m + 1f) £3

Jacqui Stephens has arrived at the office of Mr. John Houghton for an audition. Mr Houghton is running late and has left Jacqui a note to that effect. Shortly after her arrival she is joined by her flamboyant and rather outrageous classmate, Simon Gray. He has also come for an audition. Or has he? Alone together in the room, Simon lets his true feelings for Jacqui become known. What follows is a dangerous outpouring of blind obsession, with fatal consequences.

**Youth Plays - 3 characters**

- **Pressure** by Tony Stowers - A Play (2m 1f) £3

Released after ten months for good behaviour on a two-year sentence for drug dealing, "Pressure" is a study of Jake after his release and a look at how pressure from outside forces and from former friends continue to tempt him back to the same path that caused his downfall. Intended as a follow-up to "My Brother Jake", it carries through certain references to the original but stands alone. It relies on an "inner world" of action rather than speech and silences in which outside interruptions create a menacing mood of the unknown. The "pressure" to cope with that is a challenge for the audience. It is designed for teenage audiences or schools exploring drugs issues.

**Youth Plays - 4 characters**

- **Brief Lives** by Andrew Beattie - A Comedy (3m 1f) £3

\*Festival Award Winner\* Brief Lives is a one-act black comedy set in a bleak seaside town, about two boys, Paul and Alex, who find the body of a dead woman in a house. They decide - with hilarious consequences - to try to ensure that the woman's death is dignified, although their efforts are nearly discovered by a young tramp called Dodge. The play won the Scottish Community Drama Association's competition for new writing for youth theatre in 2002 and has been performed by a number of youth theatre groups. Most recently it received a performance at the East 15 Acting School in Essex directed by the actress Alison Steadman.

- **Nightingale, The** by Steve Hunt - A Youth Play (4f) £3

\*Writing Award Winner\* A drama of the supernatural set in the middle ages of the last century. Three young, well-to-do women are amusing themselves by dabbling in alchemy, astrology and sorcery when they discover that a serving girl at the house had been hanged for witchcraft two hundred years earlier. Fancy takes a serious turn

when they force their own maid to help them delve into the past and discover the truth about Catherine Black - "The Nightingale".

**Youth Plays - 5 characters**

- **How The Jellyfish Lost Its Bones** by Roy C and Cynthia Booth - A Play (2m + 3f) £3

Cast 5, any mix. A children's fantasy play based on a Japanese folktale, our tale takes place in the Imperial Palace of the legendary Dragon King. In an attempt to satisfy his pregnant Queen's odd food cravings, the Dragon King sends the intrepid Turtle on an errand to bring back a monkey's liver with unsuspected results, especially for one nosey, insulting Jellyfish! With an entertaining message and colourful dialogue, this lighthearted comedy is great for young children and adults, too. This play has already been produced in Bemidji and Grand Rapids, MN, Grand Forks, ND, and Winnipeg, Canada.

**Youth Plays - 6 characters**

- **Doctor Mort's Free Weekend** by David Walker - A Youth Play (2m + 4f) £3

Marie, Debbie, Miranda and Billy have won a competition in the magazine "Youth Today". Their prize is a free weekend at Doctor Mort's Youth Hostel, promising fun, laughter and great night life. However, instead of their dreams becoming reality, their realities turn into dreams - and eventually nightmares, in the strangest Youth Hostel on the planet, run by the "slightly dead" Doctor Mort and his mysterious young companion, a one hundred and fourteen year old girl called Halloween. The four teenagers are about to be given lessons in the darker side of life. Will they learn from them?

- **Getting the Breaks** by Derek Webb - A Youth Play (3m 3f) £3

Approx playing time 30 minutes Jason and Zoe were going out together. Now Zoe claims she is pregnant - and tells her teacher Miss Priestly. Ben and Sarah are friends. He is unhappy that his mother won't let him out at night. Sarah thinks he should stand up for himself. Berwyn dreams of getting the perfect break in snooker and beating the record. We hear from all these teenagers, their hopes and fears. We begin to understand a little of what makes them who they are. When Zoe attempts suicide, lives converge, briefly touching, before going their own way again.

- **To Sleep, Perchance...** by Ian Hornby - A Play (6f) £3

This play was written for a group of 6 girls who are currently Year 12 Speech and Drama students in South Africa. They had searched the catalogues and the Internet for a play for six girls based, roughly, on an insomnia theme, but could find nothing,

so this was the result. It involves six young women at a summer camp. Anna has a deep-rooted personal anguish which she eventually decides to share with Brenda. Their chat attracts girls from other rooms and each explores her own real or imaginary problems, until Anna realises she's not alone in the world.

● **Whatever** by John Stuart - A Youth Play (3m 3f) £6

A group of teenagers meet as usual to pass the time on a street corner; but there is nothing usual about this gathering and by the end of the evening someone will be wishing they'd stayed at home.

**Youth Plays - 7 characters**

● **My Brother Jake** by Tony Stowers - A Play (4m 3f) £3

Mark, 13, worships his brother Jake, 17. Together the boys and their widowed Mum grow up in frugal poverty and battle for sense and identity against a background of social deprivation. But Jake is running before he has learnt to walk and when arrested for dealing, his secrets unravel in a series of events that incarcerate him and almost ruin the lives of others. "My Brother Jake" was first performed on Tuesday 14th October 1997 in Durham, England, researched, with the help of Middlesbrough police's Sgt. Brian Wilde, using thinking at that time aimed at informing young people and educating them to consequences. The show was performed 35 times over two years to secondary school students 12 – 15 years of age.

● **Rose Tinted Glasses, The** by Paul Beard - A Youth Play (4m + 3f) £3

'The Rose Tinted Glasses' was devised by Year 11 Drama Students at Addington High School, Croydon as part of their GCSE exam work. The students decided from the start which issues they wished to tackle and working closely with the writer over a period of ten weeks in a series of workshops the script gradually took shape until the group felt that they had sufficient ownership of the piece to perform it themselves as their exam piece in 2001. The script deliberately pulls no punches and deals with issues of drugs, alcohol abuse, racism, domestic violence, sexual abuse, teenage pregnancy, juvenile prostitution, street crime, graffiti, anti-social behaviour and homelessness as seen through the eyes of the current teenage generation. Although form, shape and drama has been the responsibility of the writer it is the voices of the young people themselves that make this a powerful piece of modern performance theatre that is suitable for use by schools and youth groups.

● **Scars** by Tony Stowers - A Play (5m 2f) £3

The end of another school day and the kids are being ferried home on the school bus. Suddenly, outside there is an explosion of glass and a woman screams, clutching her

face as it emerges somebody has thrown a bottle from the bus window. Three suspects are gradually filtered out in scenes and monologues exploring vandalism and small town life. Finally, the culprit acts. "Scars" was commissioned by Durham County Council in 1998 to complement an "awareness" campaign following a number of dangerous incidents involving pupils on school buses. The storyline grew out of a number of true events. "Scars" touches on complex issues such as young people's attitudes, their relationships with adults and vandalism. It was performed 13 times.

**Youth Plays - 8 characters**

● **Toad's Revenge** by Helen Landau - A Comedy (5m + 3f) £6

By Helen Landau and Ben Swaffer The sequel to "Toad of Toad Hall" reunites Toad, Badger, Mole and Rat who are once again at war with the wicked weasels. New to the story are DI Aznoclew and his partner Evie Dense, who are still in pursuit of Toad for his previous misdemeanours. The kidnap of Mole by the Chief Weasel and the resulting appearance of the two Police Officers sends Toad into a panic, but disguised as a washerwoman, he not only manages to hoodwink them, but also steals their car and crashes it! Later, having returned to Toad Hall, a ransom note is delivered from the Chief Weasel giving the choice between Mole's freedom and Toad Hall itself. However, unbeknown to Mole's friends, Mole has succeeded in escaping from the Weasels. At the same time, Badger, Rat and Toad, busy planning to attack the Weasels' den, are interrupted by the welcome arrival of Mole. Meanwhile Aznoclew and Dense have mistakenly arrested Mrs. Goodbody, the washerwoman, who previously helped Toad escape from prison. She is now employed as Toad's housekeeper and is dressed remarkably like Toad in his disguise as a washerwoman. She is subsequently released and returns to Toad Hall. The Weasels call there and persuade Mrs. Goodbody to let them in. Badger, Rat, Toad and Mole realise the Weasels are on their way to Toad Hall but meet DI Aznoclew and Sergeant Evie Dense in the Wild Wood. Toad hides as soon as they appear and then drives off on their moped. Rat persuades DI Aznoclew that it was the Chief Weasel who stole the moped. He is easily persuaded as Mrs. Goodbody has already told them that Toad is away on a cruise. Badger, Rat and Mole arrive first at Toad Hall and meet Toad outside. They enter through the pantry and during the ensuing fight DI Aznoclew and Sergeant Evie Dense turn up at the front door. The Chief Weasel is put under arrest in the cage, and Toad who has apparently returned early from his cruise is pardoned for previous misdemeanours for being so helpful in the arrest of the Chief Weasel. Revenge indeed!

**Youth Plays - 12 or more characters**

● **Blenkinsop's Ghost** by Andrew Beattie - A Play (1m 2f + children – 8b, 1g) £3

Blenkinsop's Ghost is a ghost story set in a boys' country boarding school in the 1950s. On his first day at the school, young Ames encounters another boy, Blenkinsop, who has a remarkable story to tell – of a boy who was pushed from a window in the school, and died. The other boys in the house don't believe Ames' story; but as their feared housemaster becomes implicated in murder, Ames realizes that Blenkinsop's strange tale was intended as a warning to them all. Incorporating Gothic elements and utilizing a mixture of adults and children in the cast, Blenkinsop's Ghost is an ideal one-act play for schools or youth theatre groups. Running time: 45 minutes

**Youth Plays With Variable Casting**

● **Acting Young** by David Walker - A Youth Play (Variable casting) £6

A collection of short acting pieces written for young people and ideal for use in drama schools, ordinary schools and youth theatre groups. All pieces were originally written for children at the Pamela Bardsley School of Speech and Drama in Southport. They have been used for festival work and drama examinations with outstanding success. They have also become a major part of drama and theatre studies at local primary and secondary schools. Above all, the pieces give young people the opportunity to experiment with characterisation, movement and choral speaking as well as building confidence and self-esteem.

● **Centre Stage** by David Walker - A Youth Play (Variable casting) Contact us for price

*Centre Stage* continues where *Acting Young* left off, providing young people with purpose-written scripts to perform at Drama Festivals, Drama Examinations and Youth and School Theatre groups. They have also been successful in schools, being read, out loud, during literacy hour. The subjects covered in the scripts include topics that are relevant to young people and their emotions, as they grow towards adulthood, as well as pure fun pieces, looking at normal situations and events in a somewhat different way.

● **Dramatic Licence** by Andrew Beattie - A Youth Play (Variable casting) £3

Dramatic Licence is a fifty-minute long, one-act play intended for performance by pupils of lower senior or secondary school age. It features a host of appealingly weird characters, including an actor who has had his "Dramatic Licence" withdrawn, a strange obsessive who is determined to discover the secret to making meringue despite constant tormenting from his batty landlady, and a Maths fiend whose evil plan to flood the world with algebra problems is only just foiled by the teenage hero

of the piece. It is an entertaining play for a group of young actors to perform or read, and flexible casting means that it can be staged by a mixed or all-male cast of up to thirty actors.

● **Francis** by Rena Pope - A Light Musical (Variable casting) £3

Francis, a play with music, introduces St Francis as the despair of his parents and traces elements of his life which led to his becoming the much loved leader of the Franciscans we know today. The continuous action moves from the market place at Assisi to an area outside and can be represented with a backdrop of towers and walls, or a plain curtain. Trestle tables and cut-outs of trees and rocks are moved during the action. The cast can be large or small with doubling up and teenagers, children and adults can all take part in this lively play. Ideally suited to Schools, Children's Theatre and groups which contain children. The action is lively, the music catchy and the play ends with a nativity scene which makes it suitable too for a Christmas show.

● **Genius** by Alan Pritchard - A Youth Play (13m 7f) £3

\*Festival Award Winner\*Flexible casting. Gossip, romance, relationships, dreams and attitudes are all explored in this lively play which takes an off-beat, hilarious look at the foibles and antics of a group of teenagers grounded one Friday night.

● **History of Kevin Figgins, The** by Maxine Smith - A Youth Play (10 (min) or 98+ as desired) £6

Kevin Figgins would rather play football than do his history homework until mum dusks off the Figgins family album. He discovers, amongst his many ancestors, a pirate who has lost his licence, a bootmaker who may or may not have met Napoleon, a Shakespearean actor who loses Yorick's skull, an early semi-professional footballer-cum-apprentice butcher and a merchant seaman who speaks out against slavery. This romp through history incorporates the years 1721 to 2006. This play is flexible enough for a varied cast between 10 and 100 performers with simple staging and props or a more elaborate approach if desired.

● **In The Spotlight** by David Walker - A Youth Play - Contact us for price

Variable casting. "In The Spotlight" is the third book of acting scripts for young people and follows the format of its predecessors, *Acting Young* and *Centre Stage*. Schools and Drama Schools have found the self-contained nature of the pieces means that their pupils have a better understanding of the subjects and therefore greater empathy with them. Once again the subjects range from the serious to the absurd, but always looked at through the eyes of a young person.

● **King Cat** by David Grant - A Play (9m 7f) £6

Struggling through a snowstorm, some children find their village school empty. Communications are cut off and they must fend for themselves until help arrives. In need of a leader, they elect the level-headed John Head. The rebellious Catlin challenges him at knife-point. The blizzard intensifies. Quarrels and desperate entertainments ensue. John Head rations out their sandwiches. Catlin goes out into the night and steals food, which he keeps for himself. However, he has found that Mary Harris' house has collapsed and, when she rushes out, Catlin goes to save her. John Head supervises a break-out to safety.

● **Ordinary Jack** by Andrew Beattie - A Comedy (9m 7f) £3

Ordinary Jack is a spoof fairy tale written for performance by 30+ pupils aged 11-14. The hero, a prince named Jack, faces banishment from his castle after he tells his father, King Lionel, that he would like to marry a village girl named Victoria Sponge rather than the Spanish princess that his father has in mind for him. Woodland spirits, exploding cauldrons, mad witches and a man who spends his days sitting on a swing in a forest pondering the meaning of life add to the mixture of surreal fun in a play with a large, flexible cast that has already been staged by a number of schools and youth theatre groups. Running time: 75 minutes Ordinary Jack was first published in a slightly different version in 1996 and received these reviews: "The play features racy dialogue, much movement, simple changes of scene...and has its own built-in comedy." (*Junior Bookshelf*) "...of exceptional educational value in developing a sense of theatre in its participants...this is a play that will read well and run well." (*Amateur Stage*)

● **Untouchable?** by Paul Beard - A Play (3m + 10f) £3

'Untouchable?' was devised by Year 11 Drama Students at Addington High School, Croydon as part of their GCSE exam work in 2005. Working closely with the writer and Head of Drama they have created a hard-hitting, powerful and no-holds-barred piece of modern theatre that explores the themes of gun, gang and drug culture as seen through the eyes of teenagers in the 21st century. Controversial topics such as racism and teenage pregnancy add to its authenticity as we witness how all of these things effect not only the young people themselves but their families and their own futures. Although form and shape has been the responsibility of the writer it is the voices and experiences of the young people themselves that make this piece so frighteningly realistic.

● **Vile Island** by Anne Graham - A Musical Drama (7, either sex + extras) £6

Approx playing time 145 minutes. Mean Madam and downtrodden Dummy live alone on Vile Island, until The Wish Screen, one of Madam's inventions, shows them

The Land Across The Sea, where Meo makes three impossible wishes, exactly what is needed to whisk him to Vile Island. Meo thinks he's dreaming until things turn nasty, when Madam tries to gain possession of Kag and Tud, his special friends. She agrees to a contest, cheats from the start, and almost wins them, but Dummy springs to her new friend's defence. Then there are two sailors, unfortunate enough to be shipwrecked on Vile Island. Twice. Five scenes, alternating between a beach and a castle. All seven characters may be played by either sex.

● **War Café** by Paul Brazier - A Youth Play - £3

Variable casting. This play is an account of the First World War, written for Amateur and Education Companies - for this reason it has a large number of speaking parts. The content is factual, therefore it can be used as an educational tool in performance as well as production. It aims to provide speaking parts for a large number of a class or company so providing a platform for the students or amateur performers thus eliminating the exclusivity of many productions where so many of the cast become little more than walking props.

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