

New Theatre Publications

Catalogue of One Act Plays - September 2011

This catalogue also contains details of murder games, pantomimes and musicals

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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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Full Length Plays - Monologues

- **Confessions of A Rock n Roll Star** by Tony Stowers - A Play (1m) £3

The world has rock n roll stars, for that we must be thankful. Sadly, we're not all going to get to be one. Nonetheless, millions of us can pose in front of our mirrors with tennis racquets and sweeping brushes slung between our legs in imitation of our heroes and dream and that's better than nothing. Featuring classic rock tracks by the Rolling Stones, Led Zeppelin, Dire Straits, Jimi Hendrix, the Sex Pistols, the Doors and Pink Floyd, wallow indulgently in a one-man fantasy guitar solo as homage to a wasted youth. First performed in French in a rock bar in Angers, France in March 2009.

Full Length Plays - 2 characters

- **Ay, Carmela!** by John London - A Tragi-Comedy (1m 1f) £6

When a couple of music hall artistes end up in enemy territory during the Spanish Civil War they have to perform in front of Franco's troops and Republican prisoners. One is more willing than the other and the clashes of taste and political attitude make for comic entertainment with a sting in the tail. Despite its cast of just two actors, Paulino and Carmela, Sanchis Sinisterra's play has proved to be popular all around Latin America, as well as Italy, Germany and Britain. Carlos Saura made a film of it. "A rich cocktail of verse, prose, singing and dancing." The Stage "An absorbing play which blends in a classic manner uproarious farce with deep tragedy." Morning Star.

- **Ebb and Flo** by Susan Howe - A play (1m 1f) £3

Ebb and Flo is a play about two people who meet in circumstances which are left to the imagination of the audience. They movingly regale tales from their past, exciting stories of working in the movies, sad tales of lost love, unusual goings on at the funeral parlour. They open their hearts to each other and begin to make a connection, then Ebb sees someone in the distance and they are forced to return to reality.

Full Length Plays - 3 characters

- **Confessions of Honour** by Gerry Hinks - A Play (2m 1f) £6

Frederick Salisbury is presenting his medal to his the Regiment in which he served during WW2. Among the guests is one-time combatant Wolfgang Meissler who has travelled from Germany to tell Frederick he wants to write a story about him, but the real reason is to tell him it he who killed a number of German soldiers at the battle of Epernay, not Frederick as stated on his VC citation, and such a confession could threaten the day's proceedings. However, the reason why Frederick must learn the

truth is because Wolfgang is dying. The past is forgotten as the two men's farewell stretches emotions to the limit.

● **Going Down** by Dougie Blaxland - A Play (3m) £6

Brought up in a loveless home, and labelled as a no-hoper at school, Dave Roberts finds his only sense of belonging as a fanatical supporter of his local football club. Although his weekly pilgrimages to the terraces of Scourton City FC provide him with an identity and a purpose in life, they also lead him into violence and ultimately a robbery which he undertakes to save his struggling team. The play moves backwards and forwards in both time and place at break-neck speed, requiring the three male actors who play 21 different parts between them to switch roles without drawing breath. Going Down was first performed as part of a new writers' initiative at Falmouth Arts Centre in Cornwall.

● **Hostage Close to Home, A** by Dougie Blaxland - A Drama (1m 2f) £6

Set in a university city in present day England, 'A Hostage Close to Home' explores what happens when two British students take the daughter of a Middle Eastern politician hostage. Although they pretend initially that their aims are political, it becomes all too apparent that they are driven by personal motives. As the play develops so do the underlying tensions that exist between the two hostage takers, and which are exploited by Amira, who recognises the contradictions in her captors' values and beliefs. This dark, sinister and uncomfortable play reveals both the terrifying gulf in understanding that exists between East and West, and the twisted logic that seeks to justify hostage taking and suicide.

● **Indiscretion of an Heiress, The** by Michael Barry - A Play (2m 1f) £6

Approx playing time 75 minutes A tragic romance of passionate young love across the social divide. Thomas Hardy himself tells his story, guiding his two characters as they live through their heart-breaking relationship plagued by so many tribulations. Edmund, village school-master, has serious literary ambitions. Geraldine is the beautiful and innocent daughter of the wealthy squire. When Edmund saves her from a dreadful death in the claws of a new steam-driven threshing-machine, their lives change forever. They slide irrevocably into the dangerous quicksands of first love, unaware of the unbridgeable class gulf lying between them. Decisive action to secure their happiness leads only to heart-rending disaster.

● **Letter From The Prisoner** by Don West - A Drama (2m 1f) £6

It is the afternoon of Monday 5th June 1944. The place - a small town in Normandy some 20 miles from the coast. The massive sea and airborne invasion of these coastal areas will commence in just 12 hours from now. A recently abandoned Resistance

hide-out has been uncovered. The birds have flown - but why? Tension mounts as the resultant investigation draws three widely contrasting characters - two German officers and a French housewife - into the frame. The tense interrogation scenes are akin to exciting courtroom drama at its best, these three remarkable roles providing an exciting theatre experience for cast and audiences alike.

● **Mockingbirds Don't Sing** by Liz Spear - A Drama (3f) £6

Two sisters are reunited after the death of their mother. Drink loosens their tongues and inhibitions as they revert to childhood, relive memories and play games. Horrific family secrets are revealed. Their lives will never be the same again.

● **Sitting Pretty** by Douglas Gallagher - A Play (2m 1f) £3

A journalist asks a former Nazi head-hunter to help him solve a murder in Rio de Janeiro. But the journalist appears to know more about the crime than he is at first letting on. Why is he so hostile to Sir Adrian's personal assistant? Is there some other hidden agenda? Who actually is the visiting journalist? Duration: approximately 60 minutes

● **Touch And Go** by Jim Miller - A Play (2m 1f) £6

Paul, a former actor, Tim, a bank manager and Faye, a grieving widow find themselves together in a waiting room. Although they have never met each other before, it becomes apparent that their lives are connected and the three of them have been brought together for a purpose. Each one of them has, through accident or design, had their lives on earth simultaneously cut short and the waiting room is actually a place of transition where the decision of where they will spend their eternity will be made.

Full Length Plays - 4 characters

● **Brussels Sprouts** by Michael Anderson - A Comedy (3m 1f) £6

Laughter guaranteed in an off-the-wall comedy which combines 'EuroTime', 'A Capital Solution' and 'That Sinking Feeling' (also by the same author) into a single full-length play. This sidelong look at the workings of the EU sees four bureaucrats in a series of meetings, where they consider bizarre plans to metricate time by slowing down the earth, decentralise national institutions from London to the regions, and save the UK from global warming, by relocating it to the Adriatic with the help of surplus marmalade!

● **Chameleon** by Barry Hillman - A Play (2m 2f) £6

Jan Janowski and his now-ancient mother, Louise, fled from Poland during the Second World War and now live in London, where Jan is an intellectual antiques

dealer. A self-hating and bigoted Jew, Jan - now plain John - is unsure of his sexuality and his status in the British hierarchy and poses as a mentor to a succession of young "proteges", to whom he represents a father-cum-lover figure. One such pupil, Murray, lives with the inseparable couple, emotionally incapable of breaking away - until John's "good cause" and project - a young female teacher, arrives on the scene. She flirts with John and tries to seduce Murray, the permanent lodger, into leaving this unhealthy menage-a-trois. But will he find the courage to live his own life?

● **Curse of the Pharaoh, The** by Neil Walden - A Comedy (2m 2f (min)) £3

It is 1919 and at the public unwrapping of an Egyptian mummy the explorer, Richard Arrowsmith, relates the tale of how he discovered the lost Pharaoh's tomb. This Egyptian adventure takes us to The Valley of the Kings in search for the lost pyramid. When the bandages are finally removed from the mummy it is found to be the body of the heir to the throne of the Austro-Hungarian empire! The play can be performed on a more or less empty stage and the parts can be easily doubled up.

● **Desarcher** by Alison Adams - A Violent Play (4f) £6

Note: this is for Adult Audiences Only A powerful and disturbing tale of sexual abuse and violence, endured by three women on a claustrophobic and nightmarish train journey to inevitable destruction.

● **Desperate Measures** by Melville Lovatt - A Comedy (3m 1f) £6

Approx playing time 90 minutes. Bet and Ian are employed by Cecil as his housekeepers 'On a six months trial'. After only five months, facing certain dismissal, Bet resorts to 'Desperate Measures' to save their jobs. These measures spark a duel with Cecil's 'friend', Benny, who now sees his own position in the household threatened. The duel, driven by greed and insecurity, intensifies until Bet's husband, Ian, unwittingly helps to decide the final outcome. Written with great economy, rhythm and verve, concerned with the shifting nature of power, 'Desperate Measures' is by turns vividly comic, violent, unpredictable, and wildly funny.

● **Hitching Rides Home** by Dougie Blaxland - A Drama (1m 3f) £6

Hitching Rides Home tells a sinister story of revenge, manipulation and a struggle for the control of other people's lives. Jessica Lawson an aging and jaded actress is planning to go to America to resurrect her declining career. She also hopes that her romantic life will be rejuvenated through her relationship with Denny, a young American actor whose motives for the association are very dubious. Tensions are running high as Jessica's 16 year old daughter, Olivia, objects both to Denny, and to her mother selling the house she has been brought up in. As a result she is refusing

to go with her. Into this cauldron steps Rachael Harris who through subtle manipulation and deceit takes over all aspects of Jessica's life. By the end she owns her house, has taken control of her daughter and she has seduced her lover. Gradually, Rachael's motives and the family's secret past are uncovered.

● **Jacuzzi Triangle, The** by Anne Knight - A Tragi-Comedy (4f) £6

Three very different women join a health club and form a strong relationship... Freya is in her mid fifties and is a campaigning academic and politically correct feminist. Anne is in her early sixties. She is rather shy and naïve and is battling through the menopause. Debra is a young, beautiful, rich morally defunct opportunist who is obsessed with sex.

● **Moving in and Taking Over** by Dougie Blaxland - A Comedy (2m 2f) £6

Set in the present day in a northern English town, Moving in and Taking Over tells the story of Luigi Martello, a small, local business man, who refuses to sell his café to one of the world's largest retail chains, frustrating the ambitions both of one of the world's largest retail chains, and the Chairman of the local council who plans to make political capital out of the company's arrival in the town. In a final ironic twist, which serves to question the Chairman's narrow concept of British history and heritage, it transpires that Luigi's café stands on the site of a Roman villa. Moving in and Taking Over was the winner of the New Plays UK 2004 Festival, and of the Pomegranate New Playwright's Festival 2004.

● **Red and the Angels** by Allen Saddler - A Play (2m 2f) £6

This play is based on the true story of an extraordinary man. Homer Lane was revered and reviled in fairly equal proportions. He came to England in 1914, ran a home for delinquent children until 1918, then went to London to set up a private practice. He was entirely unqualified and it was likely that he was dealing with matters outside his orbit, but it seems that he was perfectly sincere. Towards the end there is the suggestion that he thought of himself in Christ-like proportions. The play charts the crucial years. Although charged with the seduction of young girls, nothing was ever proven against him. The girls were all practised liars anyway, but Lane's make-up assumed that there would be periods of punishment. The writer has a 6 page history of Lane which could be sent as a useful background to the play.

● **Rude Awakenings** by Fred Partridge - A Drama (2m 2f) £6

Ruth, a librarian, introduces University drop-out Mike Brooker into the family home in the mistaken belief that he is a budding playwright whose 'Muse' she hopes to become. He, for his part, is under the equally mistaken impression that she is promising him sexual favours. Disabused, Mike deftly turns the situation to his own

advantage, but when Ruth discovers that sister-in-law Lilian is providing more than board and lodging, that brother George has also got drawn into the web of deceptions, and that the promised play is never going to materialise, she engineers her own version of a Greek Tragedy.

● **Swimming Pool** by John London - A Comedy (2m 2f) £6

By Juli Disla, translated by John London. An ingenious comedy. Four young characters live through the ups and downs of their interlocking love-lives around an empty swimming pool. But there is a twist to the action: nowhere in the text is the gender of any character defined. The dialogue is beautifully fluent and humorous, while at the same time conveying all the growing pains in relationships. This is a challenge to any ambitious director. Set: single set, with a section of a swimming pool. 4 men; or 2 men and 2 women; or 4 women; or 4 men and 4 women.

● **Waiting for a Train** by David Muncaster - A Play (4f) £6

Set on the platform of a rural railway station waiting for a train that never comes, this is a play about life, love and hope. The stark reality of living with schizophrenia is contrasted by the warmth and playfulness that exists between the main characters. With a degree of flexibility in casting and a set that would work better if it is suggested rather than detailed this play should be relatively simple to stage at the same time giving the actors the opportunity to immerse themselves into characters that have great complexity and depth.

Full Length Plays - 5 characters

● **Angels** by Jay Raymond - A Play (3m 2f) £6

When Jason Donovan, an unsuccessful playwright announces that he is about to write a play about angels, his friends question his judgement. He then explains that the play is about the kind of “angels” who finance theatre productions. His partner, Joyce, wants him to return to work as a schoolteacher, so that they can afford to have a baby. Seamus, the architect partner of Libby, Joyce’s journalist friend, is infertile. Having learnt that Adam Donovan, a philanderer and famous producer, is Jason’s cousin, Libby interviews him for her magazine, with a view to securing his help in staging Jason’s play. He agrees to do so, helps Seamus obtain an important building commission, seduces Libby and makes her pregnant. Joyce also becomes pregnant. Jason’s play achieves success. Ebenezer, Jason’s internet friend and fellow playwright, delivers a eulogy of Adam, who while hardly deserving the conventional description of an angel, has provided wonderful entertainment for millions of people all over the world.

● **Baggage** by Christopher Kelly - A Play (2m 3f) £6

Council workers, Melv and Dee, are instructed to empty a flat where the tenant is believed to have died without known relatives. They sift through belongings, building a picture of the tenant and discard the ‘baggage’ of a life. Unscrupulous Dee tempts gullible Melv to keep a gold watch. When the flat is almost empty, the real tenants return from holiday revealing the mistake of a wrong address. Can Viv and Wilf, the hapless tenants, rebuild their marriage after their frustrations and unfulfilled dreams have been systematically exposed and cruelly dismantled? What happened to their family heirloom? Can Melv put right his wrongdoing before his suspicious manager discovers the truth?

● **Celebrated Rosie Slade, The** by Cherry Bennet - A Play (3m 2f) £3

Rural England, and Rosie Slade may only be a between stairs maid but she is determined to follow her dream all the way to the Music Halls of Edwardian London. She can sing, will ‘learn’ herself to dance, and then she’s off to London to sing in the supper clubs. Rosie Slade loves an audience. What Rosie needs is a manager to earn his Per Cent and cater for her heart’s desire. Is Billy Cole the manager to make her a star?

● **Chip Off the Block** by Gerry Hinks - A Comedy (3m 2f) £6

Roger Hallam has been promoted to Chief Executive UK by this American employers Planet Avionics Inc. He lives with his wife Jenny, and his father, retired brain surgeon, David. Into this family circle comes Drew, a young executive sent over from America. On his arrival he reveals the real reason for his visit and Roger decides not to let Jenny know the details – just yet! However, Jenny overhears a conversation between David and Drew and puts two and two together and arrives at a shocking conclusion. She demands the immediate expulsion of the boy from her home! In no time at all, the tangled web becomes even more tangled and before the final curtain Drew has one more surprise, and the play ends in happy pandemonium.

● **Elephants Don’t Run** by Trevor Smith - A Drama (1m 4f) £6

Approx playing time 90 minutes Lily, an elderly widow, is in hospital suffering from a variety of physical, mental and psychological illnesses. She is visited by her eldest daughter Megan, whom no-one in the family has seen for nearly 20 years. However, Megan’s visit has caused distress to her angry, younger sister, Debra, who has secretly fallen in love with her mother’s doctor. Why is Debra angry and will the doctor return her love? Where has Megan been for all these years and what caused Lily’s illnesses? All is explained throughout this emotionally moving drama.

● **Helena** by Michael Hodges - A Drama (3m 2f) £6

The theme is that real power lies in the powerless. Helena is a torn and troubled

woman with a generation of mental health and internment behind her. The play asks some disturbing questions: does Helena really want to get better at the risk of becoming 'normal' and losing power over people and control on her sickness? A sub plot seems to imply sinister measures by government in the future policy towards those unproductive and draining citizens. Do people 'simply disappear in Britain like in South America?' asks Edward in an aberrant mood. But is it an aberration? These ominous practices seem compounded by suspect collusion between the hospital authorities and the Security Services.

● **Hell Hath No Fury...** by Tom Casling - A Play (2m 3f) £6

Peter and Sarah have been married for a couple of years. They met later in life than the average young couple and neither of them had had a great deal of experience of relationships prior to their marriage. Suddenly something has changed for each of them. They both believe that the fault lies with the other person. Sarah reluctantly confides in her mum whilst Peter chooses to confide in a work colleague and that's when things really begin to go wrong.

● **Late Of This Address** by Ian Hornby - A Comedy (2m 3f) £6

Newly-weds Rick and Vicky Maddocks have bought the run-down house for a song. Okay, so it needs some work doing, but for the price they paid you expect that sort of thing. What they didn't expect, however, was to find the house already occupied by the lovely Jessica. Even worse, it turns out that only Rick can see her - she died mysteriously 20 years previously. Rick finds Jessica very attractive, much to the annoyance of his bride, who, on finding a book left by a visiting psychic, attempts an exorcism, only to rematerialise Jessica's equally ghostly husband. Except, of course, that only Vicky can see him. After the four have sorted out their relationships with one another, and the ensuing jealousies and rivalries they set about trying to solve the murders. The seance scene is hilarious.

● **Lost Chord, The** by Michael Hodges - A Play (3m 2f) £6

Transcending the personal and political motivations in this extended version of the single act Comrades-in-Arms is the confrontation between good and evil. Of the engaging, idealistic and human Stepan Shaumian (Baku Soviet Commissar), a true revolutionary but flawed operator, his unlikely friend Julian Sutherland (British Consul) says, "Stepan has a sense of irony - very dangerous for a revolutionary!" And when Shaumian is deposed the chilling, duplicitous Anna Narkov accuses him of tolerance: "Our revolution cannot afford human frailties." To the political manipulations of Narkov an extra dimension is provided with her determination to control Tanya Shaumian and the Shaumian's son, Andrei, for emotional as well as

political purposes.

● **Love Letters** by Michael Barry - A Play (full: 3m 2f; w/doubling 2m, 2f) £6

adaptation of Thomas Hardy's enduring story "On the Western Circuit". Reduced cast (with doubling) 2m, 2f. Edith Harnham's young protegee, beautiful, uneducated Anna is training to be a domestic servant. One evening, she succumbs to a handsome lawyer briefly in town touring the Western Circuit. Charles is totally captivated although she's quite unsuitable for a professional man's wife. Anna, who is only just learning to write, persuades Edith to write her love letters to Charles but Edith with mistaken judgement improves them, and soon Charles' soul is captivated too. With Anna in the family way, these letters can only lead to tragic disaster for the true lovers, Edith and Charles, in one of the most moving of romantic tales ever written.

● **Lust In The Dust** by Alan Bates - A Comedy (2m 3f) £6

Elizabeth is a feisty widow, a former entrepreneur and explorer living with her daughter Penny and begrudging son-in-law Barry, who are due to visit Clive and Roberta - old friends and business associates - leaving Elizabeth home alone. Unfortunately the visit has to be cancelled because Clive comes down with measles. However other guests due at Clive's need access to a computer because of mutual business arrangements. The use of Barry's equipment is volunteered and the venue for the evening is changed to their house. Barry and Penny, not having the ideal marital relationship are both unbeknown to each other in the throes of an affair and as coincidence and the script would have it their respective paramours just happen to be the two business associates of Clive's who are due to descend on them that very night. Their secrets eventually come out and the weather worsens, trapping them together. During the evening it becomes clear that Elizabeth is in possession of a fantastic ancient artefact called The Diamond

● **Mules** by Jim Miller - A Play (3m 2f) £6

A web of secrets and lies surround the family of Tim Wareham, the victim of a brutal murder. The two accused young men mysteriously acquitted from the trial due to 'insufficient evidence', are part of a drug dealing syndicate that has a corrupt high profile ally within the police force. The intrigue in establishing why Tim was murdered is compounded by his mother and sister not knowing who of their Samaritans is telling the truth and who is lying. The answer to this bluff and double bluff tale is only revealed in the final twist.

● **Murder Amongst Friends** by Diana Raffle - A Drama (2m 3f) £6

After discovering the body of her boyfriend, Julia Fraser seeks refuge at the home of her ex-lover and his wife. However, it's not long before Julia makes a gruesome

discovery and the finger of suspicion points to all those around her. Deeply bedded jealousies and revenge surface, as the plot twists to implicate the most unlikely suspect. Then the police make an arrest, and one man is left with the evidence to save his wife, but will he use it? Perhaps someone else's set up is just what he's been looking for, but will it save him or kill him too?

● **No Two Ways About It** by Fred Partridge - A Play (3m 2f) £6

A hectic Sunday at the country house of celebrated comic author, Eugene Labiche in 1879. Hortensia, an actress, arrives requesting a play, accompanied by Hector, dedicated to realism in stage design, and pursued by Baron Hossegor, her jealous backer, with Achille, a naval lieutenant, in tow, bearing a death-bed message for Hortensia from his father. Hector also has an undelivered letter from his deceased father, and the contents of both are equally surprising. Forewarned, Labiche has absented himself. But after three of the four visitors have departed, both Isabelle, the local doctor's daughter, and Machut, the vet, have every reason for satisfaction.

● **Painter And The Portrait, The** by Angeliki Zaphiropoulou - A Play (2m 3f) £6

Peter, a Greek artist in Monaco, has fallen in love with Mary, an English pianist and wife of his best friend John, an English architect. Tortured by his secret yearnings for Mary, he secludes himself in his atelier to prepare his latest exhibition on the theme of 'Country Rivers'. Even the company of his girl-friend Anne, a young French journalist is beginning to annoy him. His decision to paint a portrait of Mary as a young lady, from memory, causes problems for John, Anne, Mary and Mary's mother Kitty, an English retired teacher. Eventually, there flourishes a mutual, passionate love between Mary and Peter.

● **To Moscow** by James MacDonald - A Comedy (1m 4f) £6

"To Moscow" tells the story of three young women who come to Moscow to live and discover that the sinister influence of the family is as dangerous as anything they face in Russia's "Wild East" capital. A bittersweet take on today's enterprise culture with a single set.

● **Trusting Herr Schickelgruber** by John C Bird - A Play (4m 1f) £6

It is September 1938. The eyes of the world are on Germany. Two men are in the spotlight - Germany's dictator Adolf Hitler and British Prime Minister Neville Chamberlain. Hitler is seeking to add to the territories he has already illegally appropriated into the Third Reich. Chamberlain has initiated a dialogue with Hitler to try to find a settlement that will preserve peace in Europe. Drawing on historical sources, the play presents an imagined account of what occurred in private before and after the meetings between the two leaders; in particular Hitler's intimate,

sometimes volatile relationship with his mistress, Eva Braun, and the frank and lively interaction between Chamberlain and his (fictional) shrewd valet, Walter Wright.

● **Vampyre!!!** by Anthony Moore - A Comedy (3m 2f) £6

In a small village miles from anywhere life is going on as usual. The pub sells its two pints a week, the squire's gardener works only at night and the sexiest milkman, er, milkmaid, er, milkperson in the world delivers the milk every morning about 3am. Enter a Professor in search of a vampire and a handsome but incredibly stupid young hero and the complications begin and twist and twist until the plot is completely braided.

● **Vaulting Ambition** by Maxine Smith - A Comedy (2m 3f) £6

Recently retired librarian, Gaynor Lewes' chief ambition is to be the only woman in her street who can bone a duck. When she discovers she isn't, the ramifications will completely rock her world. Following a consultation with telephone psychic "Shamian", Gaynor focuses her hopes on teenage granddaughter, Pip, becoming an Olympic pole vaulting champion. Gaynor's ambition drives her to deception, bribery, corruption, theft, homelessness and murder. Along route she will shock loyal husband Nick, drive Pip to rebellion and utterly misunderstand Pip's coach, Pete. Like Lady Macbeth, Gaynor's story should remind of us the dangers of obsessive ambition.

● **Visiting Time** by Melville Lovatt - A Play (3m 2f) £6

Approx playing time 105 minutes. Stella returns to visit the husband and children she walked out on nearly forty years ago. Her visit exposes a monstrous fiction, her past challenging the assumptions and perceptions of the present and changing forever the lives of the family. With its own dark imagery, poetry and humour, *Visiting Time* is a powerful family drama with sharp focus on the nature of loyalty and deception. It's portrait of a divided family is unforgettable and, finally, surprisingly uplifting.

Full Length Plays - 6 characters

● **Alter Ego** by Tom Casling - A Play (4m 2f) £4.5

Richard has reached a crisis in his life; he has no job, little prospects of getting one other than in car sales which he hates and he has lost all his self confidence. His wife is at a loss and at the end of her tether with him. 'Who would have my life?' is his regular retort. The one morning Richard wakes up to find his own obituary in the local newspaper and condolence cards on his doormat. It would appear that someone would indeed have Richards's life or at least his identity. This is a comedy for four men and two women with doubling.

● **Artful Lodger, The** by Tom Casling - A Play (3m 3f) £3

Can also be played by 2 men and 4 women. William and Millicent Foot are a couple in their late 50s. He is married to Millicent a housewife and his long-suffering partner. The couple are considering students as prospective lodgers. Having settled on a list of six from which to make their decision, Arthur enters unannounced seeking accommodation. Arthur is like a breath of fresh air into Millicent's world but a nightmare for William. Arthur, or Artful as he calls himself, manages to win over Millicent who in turn convinces William that they should take him in. It becomes clear, however, that Arthur has a secret past that he is unable to talk about; this is juxtaposed with a strange young pregnant female who appears to be blackmailing William to the value of £10,000 - the same £10,000 that Millicent impulsively donates to the Make Poverty History cause because 'it was a rainy day'. What is the link between Arthur and this girl who is blackmailing William? Why was Arthur expelled from his last University? The play is a comedy tinged with poignancy that has people experiencing a wide range of emotions in a short space of time.

● **Bar Talk** by Jay Parker - Comedy/Drama (3m 2f 1 teenage male) £6

Performed by an ensemble cast, BAR TALK consists of several intriguing stories that take place in a small neighbourhood bar in Pasadena, California over the course of a year. Established in 1933, The Rumpus Room has catered to a host of bizarre and flamboyant characters as well as been part of some of the cities most notorious headlines. Murder, adultery, deceit, sex and loneliness are all packed into one fun-filled evening. 1st Produced, January 2007 at the Lizard Theatre in Los Angeles, California

● **Benchmarks** by Bob Hartwell - A Comedy (3m 3f) £6

Somewhere in a municipal park stands a perfectly ordinary park bench. Around it on a November day the stories of six perfectly ordinary characters unfold. Perfectly ordinary? So why is... - The old lady determined to make trouble? - The park keeper becoming increasingly paranoid? - The jogger so desperate to get fit? - The teenage mother so anxious to meet a total stranger? - The businessman secretly making notes about everything? - The respectable married woman so keen to deceive her husband?

● **Boomerang** by Ian Hornby - A Play (2m 4f) £6

Approx playing time 100 minutes. When Duncan's new-found drinking partner Bob meets Duncan's wife Tracy, they seem to share some guilty secret from the past. Could she be the long-lost lover Bob was boasting about before he emigrated to Australia? Duncan must do something about it, but is rather worried what he may

have got up to under the influence when out the night before. At their anniversary party some unexpected guests turn up. Duncan tries to force the issue with Bob, but only succeeds in driving the couple away. All is not as it seems, however. Bob is an undercover policeman chasing a drugs smuggler - he is also Tracy's brother!

● **Clinking Of The Glasses, The** by Angeliki Zaphiropoulou - A Play (4m 2f) £6

David, a philosophy graduate, was badly injured during the collision of his car with Sam's, his TV cameraman, younger brother. They had both reached the building on fire where their father Tom, a firefighter, was in danger. Kate, his lacemaker mother, struggled to make his life bearable. Tom and Sam mostly took refuge in hard work. Jack, the family doctor, proved untrustworthy. Disheartened, David abandoned his devoted girlfriend, Joan, a rich heiress. Enlightened, Sam led David to Tinos, the Holy Greek island of Our Lady. Almost cured, David finally clinked glasses with his family and Joan at a joyful, home lunch...

● **Cold Blood** by Ian Hornby - A Thriller (3m 3f) £6

Approx playing time 110 minutes. When Chris finds her husband Allan is having a torrid affair with her best friend Joanna, she sets about planning his demise and her apparent guilt with cold-blooded expertise, helped by her experience as a forensic pathologist. She chooses her friend and colleague Don, a police inspector, as her perfect alibi. Don knows she is guilty, but every attempt he makes to prove it shows her always one step ahead. So how will he trap her? And does he really want to?

● **Dish Served Cold, A** by Ian Hornby - A Drama (2m 4f) £6

Approx playing time 100 minutes. When gold-digging wife Lynn discovers her husband is chatting on the Internet with another woman, and fearing someone else will move in on her wealthy lifestyle, she sets about planning to kill him. The plan seems foolproof, except that when she carries it through and shoots him, she is contacted by the other woman, who has witnessed the murder, unbeknown to Lynn, on a web camera, and has recorded it as evidence. And she wants Lynn's inheritance. Lynn and her policeman boyfriend entrap the blackmailer and attempt to destroy the evidence, but the woman is one step ahead - unless she enters a secret password every day, all the evidence will be sent to the police...

● **Farce Too Far, A** by Mike Lorenzo - A Comedy (4m 2f) £6

When fading actor Stephen Martin and his wife Jane decide to take a break at their holiday cottage things go farcically wrong. Much to Jane's horror Stephen decides to invite his forthcoming co-star, ex page three girl, Sophia Le' Gate to rehearse at the cottage. Add to this the unlikely mix of a vicar who isn't, a Member of Parliament, a bitter mother-in-law and a mad mechanic and life becomes chaotic.

Keep them together for the night after a storm and the hilarious consequences, for Jane, becomes a farce too far.

● **Gladiator in the House, A** by John Waterhouse - A Farce (4m 2f) £6

A fast-pace romp through the wealthy suburbs, steam-baths and gladiatorial cells of Ostia, a Roman town by the sea. Decius, an escaped Gladiator, needs all the guile he can muster in order to pass himself as a merchant, whilst romancing Livia, the daughter of the popular magistrate Gallus, herself the object of a blackmail plot by a vicious moneylender. Proculus, the brutal Gladiator is determined to track down his asset; the net is closing in on Decius but in two days time, Livia must be given to Carus, unless someone can think of a way to outwit him.

● **Grace Under Pressure** by Richard Morris - A Drama (4m 2f) £6

“Grace Under Pressure” was inspired by Stephen Tredre, Richard Morris’s nephew and friend. Stephen was an actor, script writer and the fiancé of Kate Winslet before his death from cancer aged thirty four. A subversive, darkly humorous and at times unsettling play which captures the fear, anger and hurt of a young person’s fight with a terminal illness and the reactions of friends who find the reality of death hard to face and whose behaviour is at times found wanting.

● **Heaven Forbid!** by Dilys Gater - A Comedy (6f) £3

It is simply routine for new residents in Heaven to be purified of their earthly bodies so Cynthia and Tabitha, the benevolent angels, assure just-arrived Debra and Kelly. The only trouble is that Debs is very much a Mum-to-be and has no intention of losing the baby she and husband Mick have so much longed for. But babies are not allowed in Heaven. Fortunately, there are two more new arrivals and one of them, Miss Bottomley, is a District Nurse. Just as well, since all the excitement precipitates a crisis that is going to revolutionise the Celestial community. This light-hearted comedy for six women has been found especially suitable for production in festivals or where facilities (and funds) are limited.

● **Hex Factor, The** by Ian Hornby - A Farce (3m 3f) £6

More goings on at New Copse Farm, where Brendan has brought his lady friend Carol for a romantic weekend. Except that Brendan’s widowed mother June - a self-professed white witch - mustn’t know or he’ll lose a lot of money. Cue June’s phone call, announcing her visit. Lecherous farmhand Ron adds to the mayhem as Brendan tries to keep Carol and June apart - not easy with June’s mystical (claimed) sixth sense. But is Brendan’s father really dead? A seance should find out, yes? And as in the first play of this series, The Ex Factor, the all-pervading scent of farmyards is never far away. A great comedy/farce for the audience and the cast alike.

● **Honey Trap** by David Challenger - A Comedy (2m 4f) £6

The family business is on the brink of collapse. A decision made by Rob, the youngest brother, not only threatens the future of the company but the stability of the family. Liz, married to Andrew, the oldest brother, decides to save the business by taking matters into her own hands alienating her husband in the process. She enlists the help of the other wives, Sophie, Christina and Katy using the only weapon they have... sexual blackmail! They compromise Rob, recently married to Katy, by using Sophie as sexual bait. As their plan evolves each of the wives reveals intriguing secrets about their marriages. They succeed in their mission by an unexpected twist which turns Rob into a hero and saviour of the business.

● **Letter of Intent** by Sarah Friedel - A Play (3m 3f) £6

A gritty drama of revenge and murder. For no apparent reason, an entire family suddenly seems destined to die. The plot twists and turns, and a shocking secret emerges before finally the motive and an unlikely killer are revealed. But did an accidental discovery lead to a false assumption? Where does the real truth lie?

● **Management Seminar Business, The** by David Withey - A Comedy (3m 3f) £6

All those business training courses - invariably held in a hotel, where staff practice the latest ‘management exercises’ to improve their communication skills, or sharpen their team-building - get the satirical treatment in this witty send-up. As they split into their discussion groups, the delegates’ plight will strike a cord of recognition with a wide range of people who have had similar experiences in the world of work. Ideal for small companies, small stages or touring companies, this play has no set and few props - indeed it positively revels in being such a cheapskate production.

● **Milly’s Moments** by Liz Spear - A Play (4m 2f) £6

Psychic counsellor Milly and her husband Derek have been married for fourteen years when their lives are turned upside down by the arrival of Derek’s ex mistress, his only lapse, Susie - who is more than keen to start another affair with the reluctant Derek who is intent on saving his marriage. Comedy moves into high farce when an unwitting RAC man Malcolm, spiritual guru Albert and Milly’s spirit guide Chief Running Water become involved in the comedy capers.

● **Money From America** by Tom O’Brien - A Play (4m 2f) £6

Money from America centres around the return of Jack Carey to his home farm from America. Having subsidised his brother Lardy over the years with money from America, Jack has returned to stake his rightful claim on the farm as elder brother. However, Lardy proves less than willing to give way to change, having lived a

solitary life of potteen-manufacturing with only Molly the pig farmer for company. When Jack's fiancée Phyllis arrives from Dublin to set things right tempers flare and secrets are spilled. When Jack is subsequently murdered the questions the police are asking are two-fold - Who? and... Why?

● **My Ex** by Trevor Johnson - A Play (3m 3f) £6

'My Ex' tells the story of three, very different, married couples who all recently decided to buy a new house. The three houses they buy are in a cul-de-sac on an up market estate. A few weeks after they move in, one of the couples invites the others to a 'get-to-know-each-other' dinner party. Each individual person knows there is something special about the evening from the beginning, but as the conversations develop before and after dinner, they all end up getting to know more than they bargained for.

● **See What's There** by David Welsh - A Drama (2m 4f) £6

Julie Granger pops down from London one weekend to see her widowed aunt Edna. She finds her aunt dead in her bath in the locked cottage. The Police tend to class it as an accidental death but Julie begins to see it in another light. Helped by her friend Jo and two local men, Harry and Peter, she sets about tidying up her aunt's affairs. However, it soon seems that Harry and Peter may have their own reasons for being helpful...

● **Small Mercies** by Melville Lovatt - Comedy/Drama (4m 2f) £6

Approx playing time 90 minutes. In Melville Lovatt's award-winning comedy/drama SMALL MERCIES, people's lives hang well and truly in the balance. Shop owner Donald and wife Andrea are desperate people with a failing business. They decide to pay an arsonist to set fire to their shop so they can claim on the insurance and start a new life. Little do they know that two late customers have inadvertently been locked inside! As the two couples, each with their own very different problems, touch each others lives with unexpected results, the comedy, pathos, and fragility of existence shines through in this ultimately heart-warming play. Prize Winner - Jack Langford Memorial Award Prize Winner - Derek Lomas Memorial Award

● **Things Aren't Always What They Seem** by Sylvia Ann Jenkins - A Play (3m 3f) £6

Maria is not having a good day in Soapy Joe's Launderette. Things have gone from bad to worse since the petty cash tin key, broke. The bright spot in her fraught day is the visit of Mr Jones, a charming? man, who is understanding and forgiving about is wash being dyed pink due to a rogue red sock. Still, she manages to put on a brave face with the help of her friend Ruth. They show their true 'grit' when two hoodies

attempt to rob their takings. In ACT II, the action changes to The China Teapot, a café across the road. There we meet the staff, the ladylike Barbara and the patient Mona. We meet Mr Jones again, and his two rather snobbish friends Mrs Steele and Mrs Burgess. Is something sinister going on? Who are the two scruffy men showing rather too much interest in Mrs Steele's and Mrs Burgess' expensive handbags? Who is the mysterious man tapping on his laptop? All is revealed in the last scene.

● **Thirty One Hope Street** by Peter Porter - A Play (1m 5f) £6

John Gilmore, an ambitious M.P. has moved his wife and young daughter away from London. Convinced that the child is mentally unstable, he fears that the stigma will jeopardise his career. The girl is a virtual prisoner, attended only by her mother, a housekeeper and a maid. Tensions mount through a series of macabre events, when a figure from the past appears and skeletons come tumbling out. Gilmore is revealed as a drug-addict, adulterer, trafficker in child prostitution, and manipulator of murder. When his addiction finally drives him to violent insanity, the women abandon him and plan a new life without him.

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● **Up the Garden Path** by Peter Porter - A Play (3m 3f) £6

Maurice & Caroline have all the trappings of today's affluence, but their marriage is on the rocks, and they both seek a missing element. Maurice would rather be a tree doctor, or even a lumberjack if only he could escape the treadmill of his failing property development business. Caroline has tried to scale the social ladder to discover that her pretentious climb was not worth the effort. She will sacrifice all she has for what she calls freedom. Their friends, the Brumfitts, share their intolerant opinions. The insular existence of these four is shattered when a handsome nobleman and his wild Romany partner arrive to point the way to the missing elements of love, honesty and freedom. They also show that half the human race is leading the other half up the .garden path.

● **Victim** by Don West - A Thriller (3m 3f) £6

An isolated lakeside cottage, a lone woman threatened by menacing phone calls, a midnight break-in by a desperate intruder, the sinister disappearance of two teenage girls and a middle-aged woman, local small town intrigue, cover-up and corruption - within seconds of curtain-up this stylish suspense thriller will have audiences glued to their seats as the tension mounts and a truly remarkable scenario unfolds. All caught up in this menacing chain of events, these are intriguing characters we really care about, yet nothing is quite what it seems. Who is the real victim? Played out on a single set, the play promises a truly exciting theatre experience.

● **Wait Until The Ghost Is Clear** by Ian Hornby - A Comedy (2m 4f) £6

Jack's marriage to Jill is not a happy one. His business is in trouble. Mother-in-law Edna is coming to stay. What else can go wrong? Jack is cleaning his gun ready to go to the shooting club with his friend and partner Walter when suddenly the lights go out and there is a shot and a scream. The police suspect Jilly of his murder, specially since a recent large life insurance policy is discovered in her name. In desperation Jilly and her friend Sarah try to solve the crime by recreating it. As the lights come back on there is Jack as large as... life!?!? Jack and Jilly eventually discover the culprit and it is time for him to return to "the other side"... except he doesn't want to go!

● **We're Gonna Win the Cup** by Steve Kellett - A Play (3m 3f) £6

A story about relationships: Working relationships; sexual relationships; and the strongest relationship of them all, a man and his football team. The cup progress of a lower league football club provides the backdrop to this comedy of the sexes as Eric, middle aged, and Sam, in her teens, are caught up in the excitement. Unfortunately, their respective relationships are suffering. Set in a garage, the men work out their solutions to the 'women' problem. But as the women battle against this bastion of male solidarity the men begin to reveal a more sensitive side. Will the relationships survive? Will the men change? Will the Rovers win the cup? In 2004 this play was produced in partnership with Doncaster Rovers and attracted wide publicity. The author would be happy for any group to use the name of their local team.

Full Length Plays - 7 characters

● **Allo, Allo, Allo (Est There Any Body La?)** by Ian Hornby - A Farce (3m 4f) £6

Approx playing time 100 minutes. Another visit to Squire Grange where Sir Malcolm Squire has been brutally murdered. The inept police Inspector Sides and Sergeant Fickey, plus the glamorous Eve, are on the case, aided by our old friends Lady Amelia, Mabel and Smalls. When Malcolm reappears as a ghost - visible only

to Amelia - the police think she's going mad. Then the body count starts to mount. Will the police solve the killings before everyone dies? Who is the mysterious Fifi, and why does she bear an uncanny likeness to Eve? More madcap humour from the "Hello" team - great fun for the audience and the cast.

● **and then you die!** by Anthony Moore - A Play (4m 3f) £6

..."and then you die!" is the story of seven friends and the glue that holds their relationship together. The play spans a period of seventeen years starting with a funeral at the end of that period and running backwards in time to their University graduation finally revisiting the funeral. Through examining each of the seven times these people are alone together over the period it studies friendships and how they form and change, how politics and friendship can affect each other. It's funny and tragic, about very real people. An ensemble piece for four men and three women.

● **Are You Sure There's No Body There...?** by Ian Hornby - A Comedy (3m 4f) £6

Approx playing time 100 minutes. Subtitled "The Legend of the 'eadless 'orseman", this can be performed in its own right or by groups who have performed the original, "Hello Is There Any Body There...?" It uses the same setting, Squire Grange, and most of the characters, but tell of how the bumbling police are investigating stolen racehorses, meaning Fickey and Eve have to go under cover to investigate the crime. It's not long before Inspector Sides gets too close and is trampled to death by the Headless Horseman that haunts the grounds of Squire Grange, except, well, she's not had a good part recently and refuses to die. Eve and Fickey are ordered to disguise themselves as a racehorse, except the drama group's last production was Ali Baba so the only costume they can find is a makeshift pantomime camel! The comedy stays down at the same level - oh yes it does - and the crime gets er... Well, forgotten really.

● **Be Careful Who You Wish For** by Ian Hornby - A Comedy (4m 3f) £6

Approx playing time 100 minutes. Jack and Mark have come to the pub to while away the rest of the day watching the football on TV. Before it starts they are chatting about how easy life is for women and utter the age-old comment "I wish I could be a woman for a day". All too soon, Jack becomes a woman, yet he's still here, facing his new, feminine alter-ego and feeling exactly what she does. But how does he explain away this new and attractive woman in his life to his friends and long-suffering girlfriend Lisa? More to the point, how does he get rid of her so life can go back to its previous normality? After all, a woman who dresses to kill, knows exactly how to get a man going, likes beer and is an authority of football is very

popular with the regulars! (Other non-speaking parts for pub guests if desired.)

● **Birds Of Passage** by Fred Partridge - A Play (3m 4f) £6

Fugitive insurance fraudster Owen is hiding out where you'd least expect - almost in the shadow of Dartmoor Prison. Wife Joy is fed up and plans a getaway with the first passing motorist. He turns out to be Guy, one of Owen's victims, and an acquaintance of hers when she was a teenager. He's there to rendezvous with another old acquaintance, prison escapee Charlie. Matters are complicated by hazy weather, and visits from 'Poison Violet', a much-widowed man-eater, and postmistress-cum-Prison Visitor Miss Hoare. But the arrival of heiress Des in her helicopter helps resolve the situation.

● **Cat Among The Pigeons** by Jean Homer - A Play (3m 4f) £6

Ben, a middle-aged Gynaecologist, and Billy, his photographer partner, live in one of four flats in a large Victorian house in Central London. Billy's parents are due in from the United States for a visit. His father, who is bigoted and homophobic, has no idea his son is gay. To avoid a difficult situation, other residents are coerced into an elaborate plan to keep Billy's father in ignorance, but like all best laid plans, this one goes awry.

● **Cocoa and Cuddles** by Jane Lockyer Willis - A Black Comedy (3m 4f) £6

Frank is squeamish by nature, especially when it comes to burying his late, irascible old mother, Edith, lying upstairs in the spare room. Urging him to make necessary arrangements, Lorna, Frank's 2nd wife, discovers that he has engaged the help of his sister, Polly. Val & Reg, members of the local folk dancing club, arrive to pay their respects & disclose that Edith, far from having been difficult, was a well liked, fun loving club member with a toy boy. Edith's presence is felt throughout the play as being symbolic of the fractured relationships & bickering family: Polly, jealous of Frank & railing against his ineffectualness; Lorna, angry over his reluctance to face reality; & Carrie, Frank's late daughter who casts a shadow over events. Frank finds solace in Lucy, a 20 year old mourner, who closely identifies with his emotional state. The play closes with more family disclosures which serve to reconcile Frank & Polly as they rediscover their abiding love for each other. Funny & sad, this play deals with love, loss, jealousy and regret.

● **Conference Pairs** by Ian Hornby - A Farcical Comedy (2m 5f) £6

Approx playing time 100 minutes. A (hotel) bedroom farce. Each and every year, the members of the national sales team of JW Roberts Ltd. meet in a hotel for their sales conference. And each and every year they continue their liaisons with other members of the sales team. Afterwards they will go back to their everyday lives, but this

weekend they're out to enjoy each other. Peter and Eve have conveniently opposite rooms in the hotel, but just about anything that can prevent their continued relationship actually does prevent it, including fire alarms, falls, difficult hotel staff, visiting bosses, lost keys, two pairs of handcuffs and a surprise visit from Peter's wife. Set in an area stage comprising a corridor and two rooms, this play is easy to set, even for groups with modest means - and in any case the payback is in the comedy.

● **Confrontation** by Marion Watson - A Drama (3m 4f) £6

Set in the 1960s in an RAF theatre club in Singapore the dramatic society struggle to put on a play written and directed by a newly-arrived Wing Commander. The production's progress is seen against the background of life on the Island and the Indonesian Confrontation which affects members of the group in a variety of different ways. Finally something snaps resulting in a murder. Most of the cast have reason to wish the person dead. . But who is responsible?

● **Day Out, The** by Tom Casling - A Comedy (4m 3f) £6

Today is Sid's 50th Birthday and he is, rather belatedly, having a mid-life crisis. If the truth were known he has been having one for the last few years but reaching the age of fifty has made the experience more marked. His wife, Mary, recognises this and has, for some time, been trying to re-capture the magic of their relationship and the things that had attracted them to each other many years ago. Their children have grown up now and moved away and Mary believes it is now time to address the issue. Mary decides to take Sid for a day out to celebrate his birthday. Sid, not unwisely, believes that the day will follow the same pattern as previous birthdays namely: breakfast in bed, presents of a book or a C.D, perhaps a new shirt and tie, followed by a meal and a trip to the theatre. The highlight to his birthday, however, will be the day off work and a limited amount of disruptions on his mobile telephone. Mary has other ideas though. She plans to take Sid on a day out to a tourist attraction close to his ho

● **Dial 01673 For Murder** by John Anthony - A Comedy Thriller (3m 4f) £3

Dial 01673 for Murder is a fully scripted Light-hearted Murder Mystery. Set against the backdrop of a small village and its monthly parish council meeting, what could possibly be the motive for murder? Enter Wind Farms 'R' Us and a planning application for their latest facility. Sexual intrigue aplenty, with a bitter love feud encompassing the Lady of the Manor, the village property developer, the local good-time girl and, surely not, the Vicar! An overbearing German and a highly eccentric financial officer make up the cast. With its simple setting this play has thrilled

audiences and been a sure-fire fun(d)raiser. A full-length evening for the outlay of a one act play.

● **Dream, Lover!** by Ian Hornby - A Comedy (2m 5f) £6

Approx playing time 110 minutes. Steve's and Janet's marriage has gone a little stale. Steve is unemployed and Janet works all hours trying to support them. To add a bit of spice to his life Steve spends long hours dreaming about Claire, a girl who satisfies his every fantasy, but unfortunately for Steve she exists only in his (very visible) imagination. When Janet organises a lingerie party to make some spare cash, imagine Steve's surprise when one of the guests - Maxine - looks exactly like Claire, even though she doesn't quite *behave* like her. Nevertheless Steve is in love. Janet leaves and Steve and Maxine move in together. Maxine tries - she really does - to return Steve's devotion but Steve is reaching for the impossible. In desperation Steve imagines Claire again, except that, this time, his imaginary Claire turns into his real Maxine before his eyes and is lost to him forever. The play closes with Steve wishing once again for that which he can no longer have - Janet.

● **End of the Road** by Stewart & Cheryl MacInnes - A Drama (4m 3f) £6

High flyer reporter Kate Morgan is less than enthusiastic when she is assigned to cover a campaign against a proposed road through a local village. She warms to the task when she learns of an MP's affair with a waitress and some crooked dealings involving those in authority. All is not what it seems. Having won one battle she finds herself personally involved which causes her to risk everything including her life.

● **Ex Factor, The** by Ian Hornby - A Farce (3m 4f) £6

Imagine it - you and your wife-to-be are struggling to open your bed and breakfast. The inspector is due any moment. So it is for Phil and Jane. Except the imminent inspector is Phil's ex-wife Felicity, and there never was any love lost between the two women. And there's a rumour that Felicity's latest beau used to be a Chippendale - not good when your first guest - two matronly women - are also due to arrive. And the place is almost - but not quite - finished, the rising wind threatening to blow the roof off the barn. The stage is set for misunderstandings, jealousy, women at war and even a burglary. That all-pervading scent of the farmyard doesn't help either.

● **Hanging in There** by Geoff Saunders - A Play (4m 3f (min)) £6

"...a powerful piece of theatre... touching, beautifully written..." www.theatre-wales.co.uk "...some great moments of black comedy and a strong message of hope..." Warwickshire Evening Telegraph Hanging in There tells the story of Jack

Jackson's battle with testicular cancer and the ripple effect his illness has on the other people in his life: his friends, his wife, her friends ... Two actors play Jack ("because one can be lonely") in this comedy based on the author's own experiences. 25% of all Geoff Saunders' earnings from Hanging in There will go to the Orchid Cancer Appeal.

● **Honourable Life, An** by Tom Casling - A Play (4m 3f) £6

Patrick and Mary await the imminent arrival of Father Brendan, Patrick's brother who has decided to come and stay with them two weeks before Christmas. Brendan is never the easiest of guests and it would appear that he has a problem that he urgently needs to discuss. At a time of 'goodwill to all men' both brothers find themselves in need of shelter, questioning family values and needing to address what constitutes and honourable life

● **Hostage To The Chechens** by Keith Hindell - A Play (3m 4f) £6

+ 2 children. This play is about hostages reacting to intimidation - by defiance or by submission. In 1854 the fanatical Chechen leader Shamyil kidnaps two Georgian princesses in order to exchange them for his son. During eight months of captivity Princess Anna resists Shamyil's demands that she plead his case with the Tsar despite ominous threats. In contrast her sister Varvara urges submission knowing how her husband had suffered as Shamyil's prisoner. The hostages are tormented by one of Shamyil's wives but helped by another. Shamyil himself plays genial "uncle" to the children while bullying their mother. The deadlock continues for eight months but has a benign outcome.

● **Initially Speaking** by Sarah Friedel - A Play (3m 4f) £6

A gritty drama of revenge and murder. For no apparent reason, an entire family suddenly seems destined to die. The plot twists and turns, and a shocking secret emerges before finally the motive and an unlikely killer are revealed. But did an accidental discovery lead to a false assumption? Where does the real truth lie?

● **Kathleen** by Angeliki Zaphiropoulou - A Play (3m 4f) £6

Facing a mid-life crisis, Kathleen, the modern wife of Paul, an Editor-in-Chief of an evening newspaper in London and mother of Lily, a law student, expresses her discontent with the mode of living imposed upon her. But Kathleen surprises Paul, Lily, Harry, Lily's fiancé, a lawyer and Rory, their faithful maid-servant when she doesn't hesitate to abandon her family and live with Robert, a famous, young sculptor in Hillingdon after their having mutually fallen in love at first sight. Conscious of the void that Kathleen also feels near him, Robert encourages her to become an independent personality through housework and artistic work, which

helps her to react with dignity when their age gap is emphasized by the revenge of Alice, a model and Robert's ex girl-friend. Due to rumours about Paul's depression and her own conflicting sentiments, Kathleen finally returns home. Though she feels welcomed and pardoned, she still struggles against her strong emotional turmoil. Will Robert let Kathleen find her inner peace

● **Leading Lady, The** by Angeliki Zaphiropoulou - A Play (3m 4f) £6

Claire, an incomparable Leading Lady, in London, is married to Ralph, a stage director. Joy, an actress and Ralph's childhood friend, envious of their happiness, cunningly persuades Rebecca, her attractive niece, to feign being in love with Ralph. The romance of unsuspecting Ralph with Rebecca stirs Claire. Away from public scrutiny, Claire learns to approach life in a humane way at a villa in Kinetta, in Greece. Ellen, her faithful maid-dresser and George, a gifted for the flute autistic boy, Ellen's nephew, stay with her. Despite their old age, Ellen and Andrea, the gardener, fall in love. Learning to his cost, Ralph joins them unexpectedly. Will Claire's and Ralph's hearty involvement in the autistic cause be beneficial for their stormy relationship?

● **Long Green Grass, The** by John Cade - A Play (2m 5f) £6

High tensions, humour, nostalgia and revelations with unexpected twists bring this play to an emotional climax. An ensemble cast will find great satisfaction in performance. Les, a successful businessman, is about to celebrate his 60th birthday. His Hertfordshire house is the venue for a dinner. Anne, his selfish second wife, has organised the preparations. Feisty daughter Jean comes down from University. Les's quaintly odd brother Phil and his wife Bertha join them. Gemma, Les's first wife, arrives to collect a painting. In the annexe is the brothers' ailing sister Nell, the play's catalyst. What happens? Let's watch as the day unwinds.

● **Murdered, Presumed Dead** by Ian Hornby - A Thriller (3m 4f) £6

Ruthless businesswoman Lynne discovers husband John in their country cottage entertaining Carol. They fight, not for the first time, and John is killed - or is he? She gets Carol's fingerprints on the murder weapon, and with the help of shady private detective Ronnie to cover the crime up. Lynne has been troubled by the paranormal before and when John reappears and only she can see him she is convinced he is a ghost. They devise a clever story, but when the police arrive they arrest Lynne, supported by the evidence of local fisherman Simon, the man she knew as Ronnie. The three of them had hatched this supposedly foolproof plan to get control of Lynne's business interests. John finds out too late that he too has been duped - Simon is also Carol's lover. They decide they no longer need him, and since he is "already

dead" anyway, they simply carry the plan through and kill him, knowing it all points to Lynne. This perfect plan is upset by the chance arrival of two hikers, who, quite simply, know too much. Will ruthless Carol get away with multiple murders? It certainly looks as if she might.

● **New Europe, The** by John London - A Comedy (4m 3f) £6

Helmut Kohl famously declared that European integration was 'a question of war and peace in the twenty-first century'. To coincide with the start of this new period of European history, The New Europe takes a satirical look at the implications of political developments. What happens when leaders sit down for dinner, tourists embark on a journey to the past, and kids play politics on the streets of Rome...? Can Captain Euro help? And why are there so many balls around? The New Europe is a polemical drama destined to cause controversy well beyond the theatre.

● **Patience My Sweet** by David Welsh - A Play (5m 2f) £6

Don Weston is a hard man, at work and at home. If problems arise, he doesn't solve them conventionally, he swats them. Problems follow on from his decision to sack one of his barmen to make way for his latest squeeze and he goes about sorting the problems in his usual way. His wife Lyn, all too aware of Don's wandering eye, keeps quiet because she could end up 'sorted' if she causes problems, and the trappings of Don's success let her live a good life. And there's always Jimmy to help here feel better. Unfortunately Jimmy, in trying to get money out of Don, only makes matters a lot worse for several people and he and Lyn decide it would be best for Lyn to go away for a week or two. But that night Don is murdered. In Act 2 DI Campbell, a quirky policeman, and his partner Rosie delve into the 'fog' until they come through with the murderer.

● **Powers That Be, The** by Melville Lovatt - A Thriller (3m 3f boy) £6

Approx playing time 90 minutes. Matt & Gary are 'minding' a man and awaiting instructions from the powers that be. Instructions which will decided the man's fate, and also, unbeknown to Gary, his own. For Gary, the time has finally come to prove himself to the powers that be. "It's a aptitude test of some kind, that's all." *the Powers That be* is a claustrophobic thriller which grips by the throat and never lets go. By turns, very funny, moving and chilling, it is also a very timely reminder of what can happen when humanity is brutalized and manipulated. Prize winner - Sussex Playwrights Club Full Length Playwriting Competition.

● **Price To Pay, The** by Ian Hornby - A Thriller (3m 4f) £6

Roger and Laura are just an ordinary married couple. Why then do a man and a woman, posing as police, kidnap Laura and keep her captive in a run-down

farmhouse? After all, Roger has no money. The plot unfurls on a dramatically-split stage - half in the couple's flat and half in the farmhouse - as we share Roger's and Laura's private agonies and uncertainties. The police are called, but their motives do not always seem in Laura's best interests. It is left to Laura and Roger to effect the final solution, but there is a price to pay, and their lives will never be the same again. This play has good character parts, especially the schizophrenic kidnapper Dianne and her slow partner Barry. "A tough, taut thriller. As tense as tomorrow's headlines" - T.O.A.D.S.

● **Thicker Than Water** by Maggie Scott - A Play (4m 3f) £6

How many times, when we have heard of a crime being committed, have we all said to each other, "omebody, somewhere, must know something"? It should be everyone's duty to co-operate with the authorities. However, it's not quite that simple when the problem lands on your own doorstep...

● **Tim'll Fix It** by Ian Hornby - A Comedy (3m 4f) £6

Sara is not very happy when her husband Paul asks his friend Tim - "the handyman from hell" - to help with some electrical work. Tim would do anything for Sara... Anything! After burst pipes, floods, failed heating, power cuts and other disasters Tim gets his marching orders, but not before he mistakenly finds out Sara's feelings for him are the same as his for her, a fact that does not please Tim's dowdy wife June. Hopelessly in love (well, hopeless, anyway) Tim locks himself away with Sara in their lounge, using his D-I-Y skills to nail up the doors and windows so they can be alone together. Well, alone apart from Sara's dad Frank, that is. Paul, daughter Barbara and Sara's mother Kathleen all attempt to rescue her, but it is the blossoming June who takes control and saves the day... Until they smell gas...."Do It Yourself Farce" at its best.

● **Whispers** by Ian Hornby - A Drama (1m 3f + 2 m/f) £6

Linda is wheelchair-bound. She also cannot conceive, and she feels total guilt about not being able to provide husband Sean with an heir. Accidentally breaking an antique photograph one day, she unleashes the ghost of Belle, a resident of the house in the 19th Century, who haunts the nursery they'd made before Linda discovered she was barren, and making sure Linda has less desire than ever to go into that haunted room. It transpires that her best friend Gwyneth is pregnant, by Sean. As Linda becomes more and more possessed by the spirit of Belle, she exacts revenge on Sean, killing him with the power of own and Belle's minds. The two gradually become one, and attempt to cause Gwyneth to miscarry. The police and a therapist are not sure whether she is really possessed or is going insane (she has a previous

occurrence of mental illness) and we are left not knowing whether Linda has committed a crime at all, or whether she imagined the whole thing. The challenging part of Linda can be played by a disabled (wheel

Full Length Plays - 8 characters

● **Baggy** by Paul L Hedge - A Play (5m 3f) £6

The play follows the daily lives of a group of vagrants in 'cardboard city', near Waterloo Station. It centres around Baggy, an Eton educated dropout from the sixties and his invisible friend, Malcolm. A serial killer is murdering his way through the community when Lisa, a young girl new to the road, appears. Baggy decides, with the help of female vagrant, Blossom Trolley, to try and persuade Lisa to return home. Meanwhile a mysterious stranger arrives on a quest for a lost relative just as the murderer starts killing Baggy's colleagues, one by one.

● **Beginners' Guide To Murder, A** by Bob Hartwell - A Play (4m 4f) £6

Imagine that the people watching this play are not members of an audience, but a group of paying customers assembled at "The Hangman's Arms", a remote moorland inn, where they hope to master the art of crime writing. Waiting to share all their experience and skill are a famous playwright, an ex-Detective Inspector and a glamorous TV actress. Together they intend to set up the illusion of murder. But what happens when illusion become reality? And how can the most unlikely amateur detective hope to solve this murder? And the second one? And prevent the third? Welcome to "A Beginners' Guide To Murder".

● **Brave Hearts and Baggage** by Janet Moran Neil - A Comedy (4m 4f) £6

Approx playing time 80 minutes The credit crunch is biting, the recession's failing to recede and the mobiles are jangling. Six yuppies (young aspirational persons) suffering from the maddening ailments of modern day life enter into a quagmire of relationships which has both a heart breaking and hilarious turn of events ... Jan Moran Neil's sharp, witty dialogue is expertly handled by a talented cast. Their timing, a crucial element in this fast moving production, is faultless. Bucks Free Press It is a play bursting with wit and energy- a frenetic romp through the angst-ridden, self-centred world of today's young things. The direction remains tightly controlled under the firm hands of Jan Moran Neil and Mike Breen. The casting is spot on. Bucks Examiner

● **Brother's Wife, The** by Paul Howard Surridge - A Play (4m 4f) £6

Jocelyn & Penny Taylor run a successful book publishing business & live in a smart house in the suburbs. Jocelyn has a younger brother Rod who is married to Mary.

Rod has always lived in Jocelyn's shadow; Mary has always been envious of their lifestyle. Joss & Penny discover that Rod has been arrested on suspicion of murdering Mary. Rod and Mary argued when she discovered that he had extended the mortgage & borrowed a considerable amount of money to invest in a yacht chartering business. The business proposition was a con & they stood to lose everything. Rod goes on a drinking binge and the first he knows about Mary's demise is when the Police arrest him. As the plot unfolds we discover that Rod was innocent all along, however, Joss had been enjoying a secret affair with his PA, Susie, & in an effort to wreck Joss & Penny's marriage she murders Mary. As Joss attempts to hide his affair with Susie they have a fight & Susie is accidentally stabbed & dies. Another cast member meets her demise as Joss panics when

● **Charity Begins** by Sylvia Ann Jenkins - A Comedy (3m 5f) £4.5

What goes on behind the scenes of charity shops? What sort of people fraternise them? What about the women & men who work there? Lillian & Muriel, stalwarts of the Weston Animal Rescue Charity Shop, love being there, love their customers & are passionate about helping the animals. Local businessmen Jeremy & Peter have their eyes on the shop - they plan to develop the area - & will use any means to acquire the property. The ladies have a fight on their hands, as the property is in need of repairs, costing thousands of pounds, so they risk the threat of a compulsory purchase order. Annie, Molly & Desmond are three regular customers, all with reasons for wanting the shop to remain open. Who is the mysterious woman with a stammer? Does she work for Jeremy and Peter? How does she know that the shop is under threat from closure? What is the petition being sent to local people? Is there any truth in the allegations it contains? Do Lillian, Muriel and their friends manage to save the shop? All is revealed.

● **Crown Signature, The** by Alan Navarre - A Play (5m 3f) £6

The life of Edward de Vere, 17th Earl of Oxford, populates many situations in the Shakespeare canon, while Oxford's education, social experience, and early plays and poetry evince the potential genius of the later works. The Crown Signature investigates Oxford's authorship connexion in the light of his mysterious signing of documents and letters with flourishes designating seven crowns, implying King Edward the Seventh. Any pretension to such an act and the signer would have lost his head. Why had Queen Elizabeth allowed this? Oxford stopped using his Crown signature immediately after Elizabeth's death.

● **Cupboard, The** by Geoff Graves - A Drama (4m 4f) £6

Jed Roberts is a man with a problem - his wife Marilyn. She is becoming more and

more obsessed with keeping the house clean and tidy. Jed tries to accept this gradually emerging trait of his wife's, but the strain begins to tell. Their teenaged children realise that none of their friends have mothers quite like theirs and they, too, become less comfortable with her but defend her against their friends' ridicule. The play monitors Marilyn's increasingly difficult behaviour, showing how the family tries to adjust and cope before events take an unexpected and sinister turn...

● **Doomed Youth** by Michael Hodges - A Play (5m 3f) £6

The play takes place during The Great War in London, France and Edinburgh between 1915 - 1917. The drama is based on Siegfried Sassoon's hardening disaffection with the War's conduct and his defiance of military authority. His attitude is reflected through his tough, morbid, mutinous poetry and his refusal to serve again in the War in which his Homeric exploits became one of the War's legends. Present, also, is the influence on his actions of his great friend and fellow War-Poet, Robert Graves, and, later, Wilfred Owen. The theme is loyalty and betrayal on a personal and institutional level combined with the contradiction of individual consciousness and national expectations.

● **Fairway to Heaven** by Diana Raffle - A Comedy (3m 5f) £6

Trevor's marriage is in a mess and so is his job. If he doesn't sell one big property before the end of the month he'll face the sack. However, thanks to his friend Bob, things are looking up. They have managed to get invited to a party that could just provide Trevor with a buyer, but the catch is that it's a Vicars and Tarts party. Unfortunately, before leaving, Trevor accidentally smashes a priceless artefact that his wife is valuing for the museum. Desperate to cover their tracks, the pair decide to break into Trevor's house after the party and fake a burglary. However, what they don't know is that not only is Trevor's mother-in-law holding a murder mystery evening complete with a policewoman kissogram, some real burglars have turned up! With great character roles for men and women, this fast paced farce romps from one hilarious situation to another! Definitely an audience pleaser!

● **Girls Reunited** by Barry Hillman - A Comedy (8f) £3

Old School reunions cooked up on the Web Sites: well - it's the "in thing" these days, isn't it? "Friends Reunited" dot com. But of course, there's no guarantee that they've remained friends, is there? Otherwise there wouldn't be a play! Barry L. Hillman's comedy soon shows how human nature will out - what you once were can become what you still are, only more so - the bully, the flirt, the efficient, the inept. Well-meaning Sarah summons up the computer girls from her old Notre Dame playground. For a start, attendance is less than hoped for: then there's the respondent

they prayed wouldn't dare arrive. And just who is the old-girl who nobody recognises? It'll all end in tears, thank Goodness - but let's do it again next year anyway!

● **Gypsy's Warning, The** by Sheila Sharpless - A Play (2m 6f) £6

Ruth, elderly, lives alone in a valley which is flooded for a reservoir. Maria her niece, fostered by Ruth, is a writer in America. Worried because she hasn't heard from Ruth she returns to England. Barbara, Maria's cousin jealously hides Maria's letters. Dora, Ruth's friend comes as her housekeeper but Ruth's body is washed up on the edge of the reservoir. Murder or suicide? A mystery over Ruth's will and another death lead to an unexpected ending.

● **Haunting of Grimsdyke Manor, The** by Iris Edwards - A Comedy (4m 4f) £6

Cordula and son Peregrine are visiting her aunts, Sophronia and Carlotta, in their dilapidated Grimsdyke Manor. Lottie has taken up spiritualism and brings her friend Deirdre to "experience the atmosphere" and to release the lost spirits, but Sophy sardonically explains that the only spirits there are what the handyman, Creptitude, has left in the cellar. The arrival of Inspector Quirk sets in motion a search for a stolen diamond necklace, with Senor Zaragoza exorcising the tormented souls he senses around him. The discovery of the "Mastermind", the necklace and the key to a fortune in a Swiss bank make for a very exciting and amusing production.

● **Iceberg Ahead!** by Jay Parker - A Farce (4m 4f) £6

The year is 1912, The Titanic sinks and a struggling Theatre producer's chief benefactors have gone down with the ship. With his backers gone, it's up to the Theatre producer to woo the daughter, a young, naive socialite and sole heir to their vast fortune, with promises of fame and stardom. With a jealous diva, a foreign maid, an insane stage manager, sadistic doctor and a newsboy with a very bad temper, clothes comes off, identities are mistaken and there is one miscommunication after another as the whole production sails swiftly toward disaster. A hilarious new comedy about a terrible tragedy. "...a bawdy, slapstick, hysterical farce of epic proportions!" - Jackie Houchin, American Chronicle

● **Kick Back** by Anne Graham - A Drama (3m 5f) £6

Approx playing time 110 minutes. Fronting as a book club, Kick Back is a failing vigilante group. Its only remaining members are Margaret, who lost her husband to crime, and Miriam, who favours public birchings, starting with benefit scroungers. Then Dave shows up with his troubled conscience, followed by Vicki, who wants to join a genuine book club, and Thomas, pursuing Vicki. The evening turns into a long, terrifying night for Thomas when Margaret suspects him of causing her

husband's death. Kick Back is a topical drama containing dark humour and some strong language. Action throughout takes place in a room over a pub, and with doubling as suggested, the cast of 3m and 5f can be reduced to 2m and 3f.

● **Last Wish, The** by Tony Janney - A Comedy (4m 4f) £6

In his mid-twenties, Ted has inherited his aunt's house. Downstairs, gathering dust on the mantelpiece, is an old brass lamp and Ted, curious to see what it might look like cleaned up a bit, gives it a rub with his hanky. When the smoke clears, the unwanted guest in the turban and baggy trousers proves not to be a singing telegram. But can he really come up with the goods? Can Ted get him a change of clothes in the meantime? Has Ted's new - and very nice - next door neighbour permanently blotted her copybook? And why can't the couple with the dodgy suntan get their money back? All, and more, is revealed in this tale of magic, mayhem and morality.

● **Mad Gary's Fruit and Nut Case** by David Muncaster - A Comedy Thriller (4m 4f) £6

It is a big day for Tommy. His lovely daughter Peaches has just married Lionel Looselips, the son of the biggest fruit and veg wholesale magnate in the whole of the county. Now Tommy can be assured that his market stall will always have the freshest, best value produce known to man. The wedding reception is a grand affair, friends and relations are joined by rivals who, for one day, put their differences aside; or do they? As the ceremonial fruit salad is consumed the guests start dropping like fruit flies. Who is responsible for this murderous act? What did they hope to gain? Who will be next? It's a job for "Mad" Gary Grasslover of the local constabulary. This intentionally corny and ribald comedy/murder mystery provides plenty of laughs and opportunity for the audience to join in the fun by, not only trying to guess the murderer, but also by selected members being given characters to play.

● **No Exit** by Don West - A Thriller (5m 3f) £6

Isolated small riverside hotel now closed for the winter, near impassable wintry road conditions outside, recently arrived lone barman holding the fort whilst owners escape to the Costa del Sol - the scene is set for Joe's cosy hibernation. Or is it? His tranquil peace is shattered by the arrivals of seven uninvited guests, including two ruthless armed hostage takers playing for big stakes in the sinister chain of events now unfolding. Are the victims themselves all above suspicion? Mounting tension builds up to explosive dimensions, as this intriguing suspense thriller finally lays bare its exciting denouement in classic style. Played out on a single set and simply staged, this play is a must for all who enjoy the thriller genre.

● **Nothing Old, Nothing New** by Anne Graham - A Farce (4m 4f) £6

Approx playing time 110 minutes. Valerie is dead, but still haunts her house, now lived in by her son and his wife, Zoe, the cause of Valerie's fury and her enforced sit-in. Her new-age grandson, Rob, arrives from his own sit-in to find Zoe making grand plans for his sister Miranda's wedding, although the family has yet to meet her fiancé, Alistair. There's a shock for Zoe and a serious setback to her wedding plans when Miranda, Alistair and his father arrive for the weekend. With the unexpected arrival of Maddy, Alistair's psychic mother, and some scandalous revelations, the wedding plans are blown apart and the weekend ruined, although thanks to Maddy, Valerie gains a happy release, and a Winnebago tour beckons...

● **One Too Many** by David Welsh - A Play (4m 4f) £6

Frank Harris is a successful solicitor and, despite being married to Pam, he is also successful with the ladies. Then, in a short space of time, his best mate demands an immediate loan of £10,000 - or else. He begins to suspect that Pam has found out about his current young lady, Rebecca, and to top it all... Rebecca announces that she is pregnant. Things get pretty hectic as he finds himself held responsible for his best mate's death. Rebecca's brother is hot on his trail intent on breaking bones and, the Police and Pam put him through the wringer.

● **One Too Many** by Anne Graham - A Play (5m 3f) £6

Approx playing time 120 minutes. Set in 1987, the play centres on Thorwood, a typical English coal-mining village, and the slow drift apart of Les and Rita Varley, suddenly accelerated by conflicts over their daughter's sex life and their son's criminal activities. As Rita struggles to cope with her daughter's unwanted pregnancy and her son's plans to relocate to London, she is floored by news that Les is trapped in an underground roof fall at Thorwood. Not knowing whether he is alive or dead, she, the family, the neighbours, and the whole village, can only wait.

● **Purgatory Park** by Steve Abbott - Comedy/Drama (5m 3f) £6

God has had a lot on his plate lately and mistakes have started to creep in. His latest blunder finds him calling a mortal before his allotted time. Adam Fineness is an ordinary guy, fumbling his way through life in his own merry chauvinistic way, when he suddenly finds himself in purgatory fighting for his life. With the help of his new found friend, Reggie the theatrical agent and assistance from Elvis Presley and camp Colin, can he possibly triumph in the celestial trial of the century and win back his mortal soul or will God get his way?

● **Ribald** by Keith Tomlinson - A Play (4m 4f) £6

Phoebe is devastated to find out that her boyfriend Ray has killed himself. His suicide note contained lyrics from a track by a famous rock band called 'Ribald', a

band he was obsessed with. Phoebe disappears from the circles of her life, and in a seemingly coincidental scenario meets Ian, the singer/songwriter of 'Ribald', quickly entering into marriage with him. Ian remains unaware of the recent turmoil in his new wife's life and the part he himself has unknowingly played in it. Ray's older brother Mark confronts Phoebe about what she has done and the tangled life the three of them shared. Meanwhile as their own relationship flounders Scott, the guitarist with 'Ribald', and his girlfriend Helen become suspicious of Phoebe until eventually the truth comes out and things take a final twist.

● **Round the Houses** by Diana Raffle - A Farce (3m 5f) £6

With divorce proceedings pending, Helen and Lionel Simpson instruct an estate agent, Simon Allcock, to find a buyer for their house. Instead, the unscrupulous Simon decides to use their empty property for a romantic assignation with his secretary! However, his carefully-laid plans are dashed by the arrival of his hapless assistant, Bernard, followed by a seductive female doctor and Bernard's very strange wife – not to mention the formidable WI lady who collects unwanted clothes! Further complications arise when the cast of Jack and the Beanstalk arrive, complete with pantomime cow! Missing clothes, mistaken identities... and much, much more. This is the brilliant new farce from the writer of Fairway to Heaven.

● **Scent Of Danger, The** by Michael Park - A Comedy (4m 4f) £6

Barry Bigley has just set up as a private detective and the last thing he needs, besides a lack of clients, is constant interference from a mother obsessed with cleaning, a father desperate to appear on television, a fiancée eager for marriage, and a threatening landlord. So when the daughter of a rich diamond merchant is kidnapped, it should be Barry's chance to overcome all obstacles and hit the big time. Of course, it would help if he had the faintest idea of how a private detective goes about his business.

● **Simpkins is Dead!** by David Withey - A Comedy (3m 3f flexible) £6

Simpkins is the willing horse they all rely on, the office workaholic who puts in the long hours, - until he suddenly drops down dead. Then it's a case of who will get his job - Jack, the office Romeo with a divorce to pay for, or Tony, the ambitious and devious executive. Both want to appear keen to get the promotion - while working hard to avoid it! This play combines plenty of strong character comedy with visual laughs. It has a unique beginning and as Simpkins' secrets are revealed, the plot twists right down to the feel-good ending.

● **Southern Belle** by Paul Beard - A Drama (5m 3f) £6

In the late 1830's in the Southern States of America, the full horrors of the slave trade

are flourishing. When the popular English Actress, Isobelle Evans arrives with her American husband and their two young children on his inherited plantation she immediately falls in love with the place and its people, as at first she sees things only through the eyes of the man she loves. It doesn't take too long before she is awakened to the harsh and often brutal lives of those that are driven inhumanely to slave to keep her in a life of luxury. Their relationship begins to fall apart as she demands better conditions for the slaves and her husband is torn between the woman he loves and his reputation with his long-standing white overseer and his neighbouring plantation owners. A secret admirer and a French Governess add fuel to the fire in this dramatic period piece which examines realistically a very dark period of history.

● **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!

● **Touch Of Familiarity, A** by Michael Park - A Play (3m 5f) £6

The grown-up children of the Brewster family have gone their separate ways: Jayne is a BBC executive, Brenda has married well, and Adrian is out and about supporting good causes. Only aspiring artist, Mel, is left looking after their widowed mother. But when mother suffers a stroke, this ordinary family finds it has to face up to dealing with extraordinary circumstances. Boasting strong female leads, this play is both funny and touching in turn, and examines the problems of coping with a stroke victim respectfully, without being in any way maudlin.

● **Twice Upon a Time** by Jim McKeon - A Play (4m 4f) £6

Twice Upon a Time is set in an Irish town in the mid seventies but it could be any town in Britain. The parents are trying hard to marry off their last remaining son, Jeremiah, but the reluctant son is scared of the female sex. His only friend is a little sow called 'Susie' who even goes to mass with him. The scheming mother arranges a marriage with a wealthy widow but it all goes wrong and, after many twists and turns, he ends up marrying his secret sweetheart. Act two is thirty years on with all the actors thirty years older and the now mid-fifties Jeremiah desperately trying to marry off his remaining son, but this wealthy, intelligent, womanising boy has no intentions of marrying until, eventually, at the end he gets his comeuppance in a surprise 'match.' The play humorously shows the different attitudes to religion, bad language and sex and how life has changed but does anything ever really change?

● **Washington Square** by Richard Hills - A Play (3m 5f) £6

Adapted from Henry James novel. Takes place in parlour of Doctor Sloper's house in Washington Square New York in the period of 1835-1845. Based on the story of Catherine Sloper, 'The Heiress' and Morris Townsend who is out to marry her for her money. Doctor Sloper sees through him and sets out to stop his daughter from marrying him. To keep them apart, Doctor Sloper takes his daughter on a trip to Europe. In the end Catherine rejects Morris Townsend and sends him on his way.

● **Where There's A Will...** 4m4f by Ian Hornby - A Black Comedy (4m 4f) £6

This farce opens amid a lengthy blazing row between Linda and husband Derek. Linda accuses him (quite rightly) of being unfaithful, but during the row it transpires that the other woman is Linda's younger sister. Derek is unaware that Linda is also having an affair - with Derek's younger brother! Each avows revenge, and as the result of a series of bungled murder attempts the bodies fall thick and fast. The vicar is the first to go, if only they can get rid of that annoying body. Despite their attempts to dispose of one another, Linda and Derek survive to the close, where, perhaps inevitably, they manage to murder each other. By the end of the play the entire cast

has been killed - but most of them deserved it anyway! Note that this play is also available with a cast of 3m 5f

● **Where There's A Will... 3m5f** by Ian Hornby - A Black Comedy (3m 5f) £6

This farce opens amid a lengthy blazing row between Linda and husband Derek. Linda accuses him (quite rightly) of being unfaithful, but during the row it transpires that the other woman is Linda's younger sister. Derek is unaware that Linda is also having an affair - with Derek's younger brother! Each avows revenge, and as the result of a series of bungled murder attempts the bodies fall thick and fast. The vicar is the first to go, if only they can get rid of that annoying body. Despite their attempts to dispose of one another, Linda and Derek survive to the close, where, perhaps inevitably, they manage to murder each other. By the end of the play the entire cast has been killed - but most of them deserved it anyway! Note that this play is also available with a cast of 4m 4f.

● **Winter Of Discontent, The** by Ian Hornby - Comedy/Drama (4m 4f) £6

Mystery novelist and womaniser Brian is obsessed with the murder games he writes. Wife Pam and three other couples turn up to his latest epic "The Winter of Discontent" with varying degrees of enthusiasm. Cynical Steve, Brian's publisher, simply does not want to go, whilst wife Ros seems quite keen, despite Brian's reputation. Hard-up Andy is convinced that Brian fancies his attractive wife Zoe. Apparently happily-married Colin and Marie are the least reluctant. Finally Pam has been cast as the dowdy cook one time too often. We witness the couples' preparations for the game, and see their worst sides displayed. Then we attend the game itself, set in Brian's much-modified house (complete with thunderclaps, dead phones, secret panels and plenty of hidden cameras and microphones). Nobody is surprised when Brian is poisoned during the meal - but is this part of the game or has one of the guests enacted revenge? Brian's fondness for special effects means they are locked in the isolated house with no outside communication, so they must solve the crime - if indeed it is a crime - for real. The play needs 4 couples, and their ages, apart from making make believable couples, are flexible.

Full Length Plays - 9 characters

● **As Fair as You Were** by David Chase - A Play (5m 4f) £6

As Fair As You Were tells the story of Maggie and Walt's late-life marriage over a weekend at her family's lakeside cottage in northern Vermont. The story is about family – not the idea of family as a permanent institution, but the reality of family – that we lose people, and new people come in. The weekend fires up Maggie's two daughters' long standing feud which then forces the family to confront their former

lives and move on. A poignant, often funny play, *As Fair As You Were* suggests that sometimes letting go and loving can be the same thing. Single set, five men, four women, mid 30s to late 70s or 80.

● **Cat's Away, The** by Ian Hornby - A Comedy (4m 5f) £6

Approx playing time 110 minutes. Alan's wife Marion has gone away for a few days. Alan is planning a quiet night in and a game of cards with workmates Barry and Carl. Barry has other ideas, however - he has plenty of booze and has invited some girls round. How is Alan to keep Marion from finding out, especially with his nosy mother-in-law Muriel living directly opposite? After a few too many drinks Alan falls and loses his memory, and suddenly he doesn't care anymore. Even when Marion arrives back and finds him in an innocent embrace with one of the girls he doesn't care - after all, he can't remember who she is! Something must be done - and it is!

● **Chill Of The Night** by Liz Spear - A Play (4m 5f) £6

1948. An horrific attack leaves Estelle blind. Her other senses heightened, she becomes an acclaimed psychic. Hidden in Wales she feels safe. But strange things happen: ghostly music, furniture moved, things going missing. Is there a conspiracy to drive her mad? When the body of a missing schoolgirl is found in the grounds, Estelle is determined her daughter, Trudy, leaves for London to follow her dreams. A companion is hired. This fuels jealousy, especially over the young man Trudy so desperately loves and whom Estelle knows should never be her son-in-law. The final climax reveals all is not as it seems.

● **Country Pleasures** by Fred Partridge - A Play (6m 3f) £6

+ Joseph Srokol. Adapted from the classic Polish comedy 'Pan Jowialski', written in 1832 by Aleksander Fredro, Poland's greatest comic playwright, which satirises in the character of Helena the extremes of the then fashionable 'Romantic' movement. In it the Jowialski country estate is the setting for a practical joke played by Janusz, a boorish landowner, on two travelling students, Ludmir and Victor. The joke backfires, leading to his own discomfiture, the victory of traditional good sense over romantic nonsense, a mother's reunion with her long-lost child, and an ending in which true love is triumphant.

● **Cry In The Night** by Colin Wilson - A Drama (4m 5f) £6

A young woman (Christine), now a paraplegic after an automobile accident, returns to her wealthy father's home on a remote island in the Caribbean to recuperate. Her father has remarried and she meets her new mother, sister and brother, but her father has mysteriously disappeared. A doctor and 'close friend' of her father's arrives to

inform her that he has known her since her birth. She, however, has no recollection of him and she notices a strong intimacy between this doctor and her stepmother. The she hears 'cries in the night' that lead to the play's terrifying climax and surprise ending.

● **Dangerous Legacy** by Iris Edwards - A Play (4m 5f) £6

Sisters Jean and Dorothy arrive at their villa, set high in the mountains of Spain and inherited from their late cousin, expecting a peaceful, quiet holiday. An over-effusive Englishman appears, making their acquaintance and welcoming them, but seeming eager to get them to leave, and apparently on excellent terms with the housekeeper, Bridget who, together with a maid and gardener, has been caring for the property. Jean soon has to send for Dorothy's daughter and her husband, as mysterious events come to a perilous climax, and they discover that their dream inheritance turns into a deadly nightmare.

● **Die Nicely Darling** by Peter Lancaster Walker - A Comedy Thriller (5m 4f) £6

A laugh-a-line, frantic comedy thriller that has the audience on the edges of their seats. Artist Raymond's life in a bed-sitter in Brighton, with girl friend Daphne next door, is likely to end dramatically after a phone call from his wife, Petula. Raymond thought she was dead and he has a nasty feeling she plans to kill him. Help from his crazy psychiatrist, Franz, and man-mad policewoman, Jackie, ends at a fancy dress party when the killer is unmasked.

● **Dish of the Day** by Christine Woodhead - A Comedy (3m 6f) £6

What should have been a quiet night at an Italian restaurant is thrown into chaos by an inept waiter, the antics of an inebriated Hen party and the interference of a pompous businessman. To make matters worse, there's a rat lose on the premises and a Lollipop man stuck in the toilet. And that's before the first course has arrived.

● **Dracula** by Anthony Moore - A Play (5m 4f) £6

A young woman dies of apparent anaemia in a Surrey Sanatorium. When her best friend begins to exhibit the same symptoms her Doctor sends for an expert from Holland called Van Helsing. He advises that he believes that a vampire is involved. The others scoff but eventually suspicion begins to point to a new neighbour Count Dracula. The action mounts to an eventual climax in the cellars of Carfax, Count Dracula's home. What more can be said, it's based on the original book, a script from the 1920's and a film script from the 1950's but most of the dialogue is original except what comes direct from the book.

● **Für Elise** by Tim Kenny - A Comedy (4m 3f + 1) £6

Approx playing time 60 minutes. Elise, the wife of Dennis, has died having won the Premium Bonds. Dennis' lodger, Edmund, a gay embalmer has taken care of Elise's body and tries to persuade Dennis that they go away on a cruise. But Dennis has a murky background which begins to emerge as others learn of Elise's death and her fortunate circumstances. Elise's death certificate says a natural cause. Or was it? The flamboyant sexy Alma arrives. She has taken a fancy to Dennis and to that cruise - much to the annoyance of Edmund. The plot twists and turns against a background of murders in which Dennis appears to be implicated.

● **Happy Acres** by H Connolly - A Comedy (4m 5f) £6

It may be advertised as "A Quality Establishment" but Happy Acres health farm is far from that. The domineering Mrs Comley and her sidekick Sam, the old odd job man, are in charge of the worn out and tired buildings. Sam is running a moonshine whisky still from the garden shed. They both spend their time trying to relieve the clientele of pounds, not from their waists but from their wallets. Mrs Comley, in cahoots with Madame "O", the struck-off hypnotist, allow the inmates to indulge in a spot of "harmless hypnotics". That is until all the booking forms get muddled up and the punters become not quite what they expected! A fast paced, very funny comedy that all the family can enjoy.

● **Hello, Is There Any Body There?** by Ian Hornby - A Farce (4m 5f) £6

All is dull and peaceful at Squire Grange. Lady Amelia searches for new ideas for her latest mystery novel as Sir Malcolm sleeps off the excesses of another idle day. Family friend Freddy is persuaded to try and think of new ideas. Meanwhile the hapless Vic Tim arrives and is promptly dispatched by an unknown assailant. Everyone tries hard to discover the murderer before he or she can strike again. The first problem, however, is how to get rid of Vic's body, not just because he is making an untidy mess on the stage, but also because he has to come back in ACT II as a policeman! Smalls, the butler, and Mabel, the maid, try to assist the inept police (and Sir Malcolm attempts to give the delicious WPC Nunall a hand too) but not in time to prevent the Producer being murdered. There is even a suspicion that someone may have poisoned the audience. Eventually Miss Marbles arrives to reveal, Agatha Christie-style, the culprit, who also happens to be the play's prompt. Or is there another culprit? This hilarious farce steadfastly refuses to take itself (or anything else) seriously.

● **Housewarming** by Barry Hillman - A Play (4m 5f) £6

Yes Folks! - it's the Male Menopause Play again:- and this time it's Dan who's got it bad. His Mother has just died, he nearly died himself via heart by-pass surgery. His

attempts at a writing career are in a mess. His safe job has hit the fan, and his sexual chickens are come home to roost. All this climaxes at his housewarming party where, in the company of his friends, his life unravels: and with friends like this, who needs unravelling? - Underlying the whole fiasco is the cautionary theme of the way sheer laziness of mind, self-pity and an inability to heed the feelings of others can lead to - unintentional - racism. But it can: and for Dan it's Nemesis Time, as his 'friends' turn the party into a war of nerves, and the black guy next door, who hasn't been invited, turns it into a guerilla war!

● **Iron Duke, The** by Rena Pope - A Play (9f) £6

Westwood Park has a fascinating variety of residents. There is Lily who shouldn't be in a home for the elderly confused anyway. Lily is seeking relatives, anybody's relatives, and uses the telephone book for inspiration. Kitty, confused and vulnerable sometimes remembers her days in the S.A.S. or was it the A.T.S? George, heard about but never seen, relives his naval life on "The Iron Duke". Care staff are aghast when Westwood Park is earmarked for closure and campaign to keep it open - helped by residents. Both funny and sad, the play has one set, seasonal flowers mark the passage of time.

● **Kipling's Jungle Book Stories** by John Chambers - A Play (7m 2f) £6

This epic version of Kipling's classic was first performed professionally as an outdoor promenade production by Lancaster Dukes Theatre. At its core is the man-cub Mowgli - torn between his wolf family and his human mother; torn between the law of jungle and "civilisation". Sticking closely to the ethos of the original, Mowgli faces threats on all sides - crazy monkeys, an idiotic hunter and a malevolent tiger. There's plenty of humour and drama, not to mention some original Kipling lyrics. At its heart there is a boy growing up and trying to discover who he really is...

● **Leaving Samson** by Dougie Blaxland - A Drama (9f) £6

Leaving Samson is based on a true story of the eviction of the women of Samson, one of the Isles of Scilly, in the mid 19th century. The play explores the way the women of the island face the loss of all their men folk who are tragically drowned whilst trying to secure a wreck for salvage in a raging storm. The bereaved community's way of life is doomed, however, when the island's water becomes contaminated by salt. Whilst Leaving Samson dramatises a struggle for survival, it also addresses the ambiguous relationship that the women have with an island culture which has made them subordinate to their men. Leaving Samson, which was runner-up in the 2005 New Plays UK Festival, has been successfully performed by schools and amateur theatre groups.

● **Medium Rare, The** by Brett Moore - A Comedy (5m 4f flexible) £6

A ghostly comedy with unexpected twists and turns. Light hearted entertainment for the whole family about what can happen if we meddle into the supernatural. Madam Christina Pillacough, the fake medium and fortune teller, thought that she would easily fleece her new clients, Collin and Casey Brinks for lots of quick cash. They were desperate to find their 'Fluff.' But she could not have anticipated the arrival of a real medium, a mad gardener, a police detective, a murderer and her next victim. It certainly was a very bad day for Christina and to make it even worse Eric, a real ghost shows up too.

● **Paraffin Oil Shop, The** by Harry Eicke - A Play (4m 5f) £6

Approx running time 80 minutes. Two families are brought together for a funeral in the nineteen sixties. One family is working class, while the other is middle class. The times being as they are leave no love lost between the two sides. Management hate Unions and Unions hate Management. Disrespect is rife because of the release of the working class from servitude. Discipline has disappeared completely. Arguments are constant. Heavy snow turning to rain brings on floods that isolate the house and make both families move up to the bedroom. It gets worse when they all have to move to the roof and their lives are threatened. But this danger makes no difference to their attitude. There's still no compromise. Everyone is still an individual with their own ideas of how to deal with the situation. So who leads who is still their main priority? It's a story that exposes the weaknesses in humans when leadership is weak and those incidents are still with us today but on a larger scale.

● **Pure Nectar** by Paul Howard Surridge - A Play (5m 4f) £6

Pure Nectar, a comedy in three acts with a cast of nine reveals the trials and tribulations of workers made redundant from a local factory and their attempt to get work with some humorous and fascinating twists along the way. Set in modern day Britain, most of the play involves the local pub and the banter and exploits of the lads and their respective partners. As the plot unfolds we discover that Jane becomes a Page 3 model and Noel wins the lottery. Both give Pete an opportunity to exploit their success with awkward repercussions.

● **Richard & Trudy** by David Trotter - A Black Comedy (2-4m, 3-5f) £6

Hotelier, Richard, accidentally kills his mistress Sam after being caught in the act by wife Trudy. The couple decide they must dispose the body to avoid jail when they are paid a visit from detectives on the search for a serial killer, who just so happens to be an occupying guest at their hotel. The couple hatch a plot to frame the killer for Sam's death. However, the scheme doesn't go according to plan and it's not long

before the body count starts to rise. Richard and Trudy is a fast-paced, deliciously crude, dark comedy with a shocking final twist.

● **Snappy Families** by Derek Parkes - A Comedy (6m 3f) £6

Henry, a semi-retired children's entertainer, had a flutter on the lottery for the first time and came up trumps - on a rollover week! He decides to treat his whole family to a cruise. They originate from Deddington, a small North Country town. At first they are a little out of their element on a cruise ship, but things soon change... The family meet up with a gold-digging Cockney charlady, a rather camp cabin steward, and a shy radio officer, among others. This comedy generated over 350 laughs at its premiere performance. The audience thoroughly enjoyed it - and so did the cast!

● **Surprise Me Darling** by Bob Heather - A Comedy (5m 4f) £6

John and Chrissie have been married for nearly two years. With a pending anniversary, buying presents has never been John's good point, so he picks the easy way out by trying to give Chrissie the money to buy her own present, but she insists that she would prefer a surprise. After a rushed and fraught-filled dinner party, where everything goes wrong, John decides to change his ways and surprise Chrissie more often, but he finds the element of surprise is not easy to master. This full length comedy has wit and laughter running through from start to finish with not one, not two, but three surprises in the final scene to keep the audience guessing. This witty comedy will have you wincing at times with the near pin-point accuracy of the relationship comments it makes. - The women in the audience will nod their heads gleefully as the blokes miss the point. - It is sure to delight audiences in search of a great night's entertainment. - AS Magazine.

● **Two Diaries of a Pilgrimage** by Marion Watson - A Play (5m 4f) £6

In 1890 the celebrated author Jerome K Jerome, already famous for his book *Three Men in a Boat*, went to Oberammergau to see the Passion Play. His adventures are recorded in his book, *Diary of a Pilgrimage*. Accompanied by his friend, B, he travelled by boat, train and finally coach to reach the village. In 2000 a lady and her husband went there to see the very special production to celebrate the Millennium. They travelled by car, aeroplane and bus to get there. Was it any easier than Jerome's journey? It was certainly quicker but perhaps no more comfortable.

● **Voices** by Ian Hornby - A Thriller (4m 5f) £6

Melanie arrives home from hospital after a car accident in which she was badly injured. Her plastic surgeon husband has done an amazing repair job to her facial injuries, but nobody can heal the mental anguish. Soon she begins to hear the haunting and menacing voices of two teenagers who were killed in the accident, and

her marriage and job - indeed her very sanity - are threatened. Things get worse when government inspectors arrive unexpectedly at Melanie's high-tech electronics company and the board threaten to have her removed. Even her company's main rival has found out something is wrong. Her family, friends and colleagues - even those she trusts - never hear the voices, so Melanie must be going insane... or is there another explanation?

Full Length Plays - 10 characters

● **3B Ranch, The** by Elizabeth Bromage - A Comedy (4m 6f 2 others) £6

Approx playing time 120 minutes. Randolph Weisermeiler the Second, known as "Randy 2" along with his Daddy, "Randy 1" and son "Randy 3" has been looking after holidaymakers for years, so when a new party of singles arrive with "Ye'Ha! Tours" to spend a week or so having fun and learning to line-dance at a real working ranch in Texas, USA, Randy 2 knows they're expecting some "rootin', tootin' fun!" The only accidents that usually occur are on the dance floor - with the line dancers colliding! So who's been knocked out by a dead buffalo? And what's the horse doing in the Swimming pool? - Not a doggie-paddle that's for sure!

● **Axedowne Mystery, The** by Michael Marsh - A Play (5/6m 4f Can double one male) £6

This 1920's plot revolves around the proceeds of a diamond robbery that happened three years previously. Information received suggests that the missing jewels may have been hidden at Axedowne and various interested parties descend upon the quiet English country estate to try their luck. The action comes thick and fast with an armed robbery, a blackmailer, a dead body, a bogus police officer, a secret passage, another dead body plus a couple of people who might not be who they say they are. The lady of the house, her daughter, her outspoken sister-in-law, and the doddering butler all join in the hunt to find killer and the missing loot.

● **Battle of Wills, A** by Martin Ladbrook - A Comedy (4m 6f) £6

You can't take it with you when you go, and James Wainwright knows that. But who can he leave his money to? He decides that his children have a weekend in which to decide how to split his will. His eldest child Claire thinks it should go to her, but son Norman is convinced the eldest son should inherit. What they don't know is their partners are having an affair. James' other two daughters also think they should have a say in what happens to his estate; plus there's a cook, a cleaner and a blackmailing butler to think about.

● **Brothers In Arms** by Philip Rowson - A Play (8m 2f) £6

14th Century Italy is a mass of warring States and Principalities. During this time two great Lords swear an oath of allegiance in blood. However, on returning home from service in the Great Dukes army they begin a feud that lasts a life-time. Some twenty years pass and two more soldiers, one the sons of these Lords, takes the same oath. When one of them is wounded, they return home, only to find the lives of all four men becoming dangerously interwoven, until the young mens oath and love for each other is put to the ultimate test.

● **Cadenza** by Iris Edwards - A Comedy (3m 7f) £6

On the Costa del Mar, Laura and her faithful helper Jaime are struggling to keep their small hotel going. Guests Bernard and Jessie have brought Delia back to her honeymoon hotel of 40 years ago. She and her grandson Gary enjoy speculating about two other rather suspicious guests, Tony and Coral. The fading actress Eva and her secretary Liz arrive, and Miss Burford's dinner dance gives Eva the opportunity to both avenge herself on her ex-husband and to achieve the publicity she craves. Delia's attempt to quash Jessie's pretensions backfires spectacularly, and Laura's hotel acquires celebrity status at last.

● **Cognitive Therapy** by Elizabeth Bromage - A Comedy (4m 6f) £6

Approx playing time 120 minutes. Take 5 new patients who are to start 'Cognitive Behaviour Therapy' Classes at the local Health Centre. Mix in a Doctor, a Counsellor a Clinical Psychologist and the Receptionist. Add a tea trolley... And remember the saying 'If you need to see a Psychiatrist, you need your head examining' This lot are well beyond that! Especially as one is an under cover policewoman. Another is a cold blooded murderer. Love is to blossom amongst the tea cups One patient points out that people who go around saying they are mad, must be sane! The argument being 'when did you hear a mad person question their sanity'?

● **Devil's Chaplain, The** by Alan Navarre - A Play (7m 3f) £6

Charles Darwin knew that the Bible and Evolutionary Theory embody violently opposed ideologies. He stated that with his mark-making book *On the Origin of Species* (1859) he hoped to do "good service towards overthrowing the doctrine of Creation." Darwin's Autobiography, written near the end of his life, expounds his anti-Biblical sentiments. The mystery begins in the Introduction of *On the Origin of Species*: "I cannot here give references and authorities for my several statements. . . . No one can feel more sensible than I do of the necessity of hereafter publishing in detail all the facts, with references, on which my conclusions have been grounded; and I hope in a future work to do this." He never did. Wherefore *The Devil's Chaplain*, indeed a "future work," endeavours to fulfill Darwin's "hope" for him.

● **East Lynne** by Richard Hills - A Drama (4m 6f) £6

Dramatisation of Mrs Henry Wood's dramatic novel brought to life as a play in three acts. Tells the dramatic story of Lady Isabel Vane, who marries Mr Carlyle at East Lynne and the dramatic events, which cause her to run off with Sir Francis Levison, the villain, creating a tragic ending to her life. Also interwoven in the story is that of Richard Hare, who people say had murdered Hallijohn, but his sister Barbara Hare sets out to prove him innocent. One of the great dramatic stories. 4M 6F 1 set, the sitting room at East Lynne in 1850-1865.

● **Enemy Of The People, An** by Barry Hillman - A Play (6m 4f) £6

A new version of the play by Henrik Ibsen adapted from the translation by William Archer When Dr. Stockmann discovers that the waters of his famous Spa town are so heavily polluted that they are actually poisoning its visitors instead of being beneficial to their health., he is confident the townsfolk will be grateful to him. On the contrary! Everyone with a vested interest in the financial prosperity of the town is immediately up in arms and insists on a cover-up! Even the 'campaigning' newspaper men are ready to jump on whichever band-wagon wins, and even try to seduce his daughter! - This is the first-ever Environmental Play, dealing with Green Issues, and Pollution versus Big Business and Greed. If you ever thought of Ibsen as Box Office poison and unable to appeal to modern audiences, this new version of his lively play will persuade you to think again!

● **Many Happy Returns** by Jill Woods - A Comedy (6m 4f) £6

When the Wilcox family gather together to celebrate Grandad's eightieth birthday, things don't exactly run according to plan. The members of the family are more complex than appearances suggest. The girlfriends of two of the brothers bring trouble in their different ways; father William has something to hide; mother Brenda, under severe stress, mixes migraine pills and cooking sherry with dire results; sandwiches disappear; the vicar is horrified (and wet), and an attempt to lift the party with a party game fails abysmally. Grandad, however, is oblivious to everything until grandson Martin presents him with his birthday present... and what a present it is!

● **Mary Slessor, Great White Ma** by Colin Wilson - A Play (5m 5f min (with doubling)) £6

A lowly little Scotswoman goes to Nigeria as a missionary around 1870. Despite great hardship and illness she perseveres and her unconventional approach and strong character wins the respect and admiration of the locals who give her the title "The Great White Ma." True story recounting the life of Mary Slessor, one of the greatest women of all time, who has not been universally recognized as such. This play hopes

to remedy this.

● **Meeting With Mr Stone, A** by John Ellis - A Play (5m 5f) £6

An undercover operation in a station waiting room goes horribly wrong for feuding police officers Cavendish and Miles in a meeting with drug trafficker, the elusive Mr Stone. Called away abruptly from his wedding anniversary dinner leaving a fuming wife, disgruntled C.I Davies arrives to solve the mystery of the missing drugs money and the attempted murder of Cavendish. This baffling case is not made easier by an oddball assortment of weekend travellers causing chaos and confusion. The subsequent murder of an old smelly tramp puts everyone's nerves on edge as the tension mounts in a dramatic and surprising ending.

● **Month of Sun Days, A** by Peter Henham - A Comedy (5m 3f 1 walk-on)£6

The Hassles, newly in Spain, desperate to get away from the dust and noise generated by an anticipated building site, seize upon an advertisement to do a month's swap with the Muggs in the UK, unaware that the Devonshire retirement cottage is in the middle of an army firing range. Added to this, both couples have the intrusive neighbours Ted and Beryl (played by the same actors) to endure. The plan - never to meet the people they have conned - misfires when flight times are confused, with resultant mayhem. A laugh from the beginning to the unexpected end.

● **Motel** by Don West - A Play (6m 4f) £6

Three contrasting scenes from West Virginia U.S.A. set in the President Richard Nixon era of the early seventies. All three are set in the same motel cabin with Motel Man acting as link-man. 'Cabin Nine' brings the young couple Harry and Julie to their intensely moving, dramatic confrontation with Harry's past. 'Don't call us, we'll call you!' sees our amiable 'two-bit con-man' Buggy on the run from revengeful Chicago Mafia mobsters, with the delectable Blossom as his side-kick, soon to be subjected to a terrifying ordeal as 'Man from Chicago' pounces on their West Virginia hide-out. 'Come the fall' brings two generations together in this moving family saga of conflicting aspirations, with middle-aged parents George and Elizabeth lured to the weekend venue by daughter Jenny, in league with the youthful Johnny - a painful reminder of Elizabeth's previous, disastrous marriage. Motel Man sums it up: "When you get to middle-age you gotta live it while you can. Ain't no going back. Yesterday - why, that's strictly

● **No, Minister!** by Ian Hornby - A Comedy (2m 5/6f) £6

When novice church minister Ashley is under financial pressure, she decides to take in a lodger - nice professional lady - except the applicant who wheedles his way in is smooth-talking Stuart, who won't tell her what he does and generally makes her

ministry, shall we say difficult. Of course they'll end up together, that's no surprise, but how, when all they do is argue?

● **On Track for Murder** by Marion Watson - A Drama (6m 4f) £6

The play follows the fortunes and misfortunes of a group taking a railway holiday. Steam engines fail and there are problems with the hotels. The hapless tour guide tries to keep things running smoothly but some of the party annoy others and some have secret knowledge about earlier trips. Matters come to a head when one of the group meets with an untimely death.

● **Question Of Innocence, A** by Ian Hornby - A Thriller (4m 6f) £6

The idyllic setting of the holiday villa in the South of France where Sally and her husband Matt have invited some friends for a holiday, is shattered by a robbery, one of a series in the area. Further turmoil is caused when Sally is arrested for the crimes, then for a murder. Sally has everything. Why should she steal? Yet all the evidence says she is guilty. Will her husband and her friends stick by her, or will help come from another source?

● **That's My Girl** by David Bathurst - A Comedy (4m 6f) £6

That's My Girl is a farcical comedy which explores the disastrous consequences which ensue when the central figure Richard is forced to persuade a complete stranger, Joanna, to pretend to be his absent fiancée Sarah in order to safeguard a very substantial and much-needed cheque promised to him by his parents. He finds himself having not only to convince his parents but to hide the truth from a mutual friend Carol, who is nobody's fool, and also his dotty aunt Moira. When Sarah herself unexpectedly arrives, his problems have only just begun. Will Richard choose the money, or Sarah?

● **Unexpected Visit, An** by Anne Knight - A Comedy (3m 5f +1) £6

Maud is an elderly widow dedicated to ballroom dancing. Having just won a cup she drops dead on the dance floor. Her youngest daughter, Lisa, is in shock and trying to organise her mother's funeral. Mona, the eldest daughter who lives in London, is on the way and ready to cause a lot of trouble. Madame Romano, a psychic friend of Maud, manages to make contact with the deceased. In the meantime, Mona ransacked the house looking for money and jewels. She thinks they are stashed up the chimney so she climbs up, falls and is killed. Therefore, Mr Grimethorpe has to organise two funerals within two days and, at long last, Mona's husband is now free to marry Lisa.

● **Wedding Guest Stood Still, The** by Marion Watson - A Drama (6m 4f) £6

A group of family and friends meet up at an hotel where they are to spend the night before a wedding. Plans are upset when one of the young guests is found murdered just before the bride is due to leave for the church. This is followed by a second murder because someone knows too much.

- **What's It All About?** by Martin Ladbrook - A Comedy (4m 6f) £6

Simon and Pat are trying to move their hotel upmarket, and the wedding party is the ideal opportunity. Unfortunately Kate is the groom's stepmother and an old flame of Simon's, her husband speaks no English, the bride's parents aren't speaking, the help is no help at all and another guest turns up at the last minute. A coat and the wedding dress and Simon's desperate attempts to keep out of the way of Kate keep landing him in trouble with Pat; and he wonders why she won't trust him.

- **Who's Afraid of the Booker Prize?** by Peter Cowlam - A Comedy (5m 5f)£6

Who's Afraid of the Booker Prize? is a comedy satire. Its two main characters are Marshall Zob, a well-known contemporary English novelist, and his agent Cornelius Snell. Zob's main professional frustration is that although he has frequently been shortlisted for the Booker Prize, he has never actually won it. In the course of the play his latest novel, Gimme the Cash, has recently been longlisted for the next Booker Prize. He and Snell fear that Zob won't win it, and may not even get it shortlisted, unless some clever publicity scheme is launched. The best that Snell seems to be able to come up with is a reading from the novel conducted at the South Bank complex, where Snell and his assistant Merle, and Zob and his assistant Wye, all take parts in a part-dramatised reading from the book. The plot moves steadily towards this climax. However, unbeknown to the other three, Snell has planned for and hatched a climax of quite a different kind, calculated to bring maximum TV and press coverage to Marshall Zob with

Full Length Plays - 11 characters

- **As Time Goes By** by Michael Law - A Comedy (6m 5f incl 2 m/f) £6

With the threat of a general Election, the end of New Labour is recognised by those in power: notably the devious Lord Waugh. He devises a trumped-up issue (the "gallant struggle of the Faroe Islanders for independence from Denmark") to allow the military to take command of the country. War however ends in a fiasco for the British. Together with this are interwoven the militant feminism of General Sir Grenville Haltemprice's sexually overpowering wife and the attempts by "the lovely Avril Delight" to sing "As Time Goes By"... attempts which are constantly interrupted by news flashes, though she triumphs in the end.

- **Champagne and Kippers** by Allen Saddler - A Play (6m 5f) £6

The rise and fall of Horatio Bottomley, who had more tricks than Maxwell, Laced with songs of the period, we follow the old trickster through the City, the Courts, his home life, his mistress, and his alarming financial adventures.

- **Dead Men Don't Walk** by Clifford Wright - A Drama (6m 5f) £6

A break-in occurs. The intruder is challenged and dies during the struggle. The body is moved to make the death look accidental. But when the police arrive they find the body missing. Inspector Warren is suspicious, the death was obviously faked and he is determined to find out why. Forensic evidence proves crucial to his investigations. Helen Henderson is planning something nasty for her husband Peter. She intends to have him committed to an asylum! And the break-in is a part of the game. Some women will do anything for love, (or money) Helen wants both!

- **Died In The Wool** by Peter Henham - A Comedy Thriller (7m 4f) £6

With all the ingredients of the conventional Whodunnit, this play is, in fact, a send-up of the genre. A Cluedo-like assembly, an amateur sleuth, everyone threatened with death and a Chief Inspector Haddock to boot. But aren't all the characters and events a little too pat? Isn't the fact that everyone is a suspect too good to be true? Well, of course. As one cliché after another of the typical stage thriller gets its comeuppance, a real puzzle is nevertheless presented. Although the plot twists, the answers are simple and will be easily assimilable by an audience that will be intrigued and amused to witness "a mystery with a difference".

- **Eye For An Eye, Darling, An** by Ian Hornby - A Farce (5m 6f) £6

Peter decides to throw an anniversary party for wife Amanda. Scatty housekeeper Mildred sees Peter with Caroline - a caterer. Amanda thinks Peter is cheating and hires a detective. Peter sees Amanda with the detective and, thinking she is cheating too, hires another detective. Eventually four detectives are hired by different people, each spying on the others in a confusion of mistaken identities.

- **Friends Disunited** by Claire Jones - A Comedy (6m 5f) £6

A fully interactive murder mystery. Old school friends meet again at the reunion of Sutton High School after several decades. Long-forgotten passions and jealousies surface, leading to the gruesome murder of one of them. The audience are part of the action from the start as they are all treated as ex-pupils of the school. They help Inspector Alzheimer and DC Potts with their investigations and can guess who the murderer is. There are several possible culprits and four different endings to choose from. The interval is designed to be a supper break at the reunion.

- **Grandad** by Tom Casling - A Play (5m 6f) £6

Catalogue of Full Length Plays - 2011 - 11 characters

The action takes place in the present day, in a small Northern town. Grandad lost his wife a few years ago and, as a result of a stroke and the illness which followed, had to move in with his son Dave, daughter-in-law June and their two teenage children. We meet the family two years on. Whilst the day-to-day effects of Grandad joining the family have had little impact on Dave and the two children, the relationship is beginning to take its toll on June. Every scene except one is set in the Wrights' living/dining room. Act 2, Scene 2 takes place in the park, and can be played in front of tabs.

● **Hatching Vain Empires** by Dougie Blaxland - A Drama (9m 2f) £6

Set in Roman occupied Briton in the first century AD, Hatching Vain Empires is a large cast historical drama which tells the story of the titanic clash between the Celts, led by the passionate and fanatical Boudica, and the Romans, whose Governor Paullinus is known for his cold, calculating rationality. Full of fury and fire, the cultural tensions and the epic nature of Boudica's struggle are reinforced by the language of this play which moves between the elevated poetry of the Celts and the utilitarian prose of the Romans. Whilst this is a play set nearly two thousand years ago, modern audiences may well see the many parallels between the imperialism of Ancient Rome and the expansionist politics of our own age.

● **Holiday Home** by Elizabeth Bromage - A Comedy (4m 5f +2) £6

Approx playing time 120 minutes. Three couples arrive for a 'Fancy Dress and Karaoke' themed-weekend. They discover to their horror that most of the holiday home, is in fact, an old ancestral place that is rapidly being reclaimed by the sea. Stuck in a fast disappearing house, with argumentative strangers, very odd staff and weather fronts that have cut them off completely from the mainland, they all have their hands full with family mysteries, treasure hunts and a long-ago drowning. This is before a drunken séance conjures up a ghost or two!

● **Little Women** by Richard Hills - A Comedy (4m 7f) £6

Adapted by Richard Hills from novel by Louisa M. Alcott. 1 Interior set. Period 1860. Meg, Jo, Beth, Amy, Mr Brooke, Laurie, Mrs March, Mr March, Mr Lawrence, Hannah, and Aunt March who objects to everything, all play a prominent part in this play. Beth gets taken ill before the end but survives to see one more Christmas, and Meg becomes engaged to Mr Brooke.

● **Murder At Doom Manor** by Anthony Moore - A Comedy (5m 6f) £6

co-written with Kathleen Morgan. The Carruthers family are gathered to receive some momentous news. Which of Celia's three sons will inherit the estate and the Doomstone? Just as the question is about to be answered the proceedings are

Catalogue of Full Length Plays - 2011 - 12 or more characters

interrupted by the arrival of an uninvited body and, at the height of a dreadful storm, a pair of eccentric detectives. Who has stolen the Doomstone? Who killed the unknown caller? Who made the wet patch halfway up the dining room wall? Follow the adventures of Chloe as she attempts to get her night-cap up the stairs and thrill to the dénouement as all is revealed in the final scene.

● **Toll The Bell** by Chris Rowe - A Play (5m 6f) £6

Tempers are running high as the Forditch Players prepare to put on their current production of 'Macbeth' at the village hall. Rehearsals are not running smoothly as deep hostilities come to light between members of the society. Things come to a head with a death of one of the members. Inspector Keats arrives to interrogate all the members of the Society and an intricate web of deceit and treachery unfolds. It transpires that more than one member of the society has good cause for wishing ill on the deceased. After several twists and turns the identity of the murderer is revealed.

Full Length Plays - 12 or more characters

● **Dying For Dinner** by Paul Beard - A Comedy (6m 6f) £6

A comic, multiple whodunit. Members of an amateur dramatic society meet on the set of their latest production to take part in a social event - a murder mystery dinner. The guests arrive in the costumes of the eccentric characters that they will be playing and the game begins. As the rounds progress, the clues point to all of those present. The game is interrupted when the Chairman's wife is found dead in the kitchen, but continues with her body now playing the part of the fictional murder victim. Shortly after the denouement, the lights go out and when they return, one of their number is found shot. The game begins again, this time in the guise of the characters that they are playing in their latest production. As the game progresses, three more members are murdered, by electric shock, strangulation and poisoning. Who is killing off all of the male members of the society? And why? The mystery is solved on the very last page.

● **Good Wives** by Richard Hills - A Drama (5m 7f) £6

Continuing story of 'Little Women'. Now two years later the March girls and Laurie come into adulthood, facing pained trials along the way, with Meg's lessons in housekeeping, Laurie's disappointment in love, and tragedy that touches them all. Each of the girl's finds happiness, if not in the way they expect. Ideal challenge for Youth Groups. One set throughout.

● **Here We Go Gathering** by Paul L Hedge - A Play (4m 8f) £6

Writing Award Winner The 'May Residential Home For Retired Theatricals' is the setting for stroke victim Ethel's one hundredth birthday party. Larger than life Queenie, (a fellow 'inmate') makes it known that if ever she has a stroke, she wants someone to put a pillow on her face. A few months later and Queenie succumbs to the illness herself. So who will do the deed? The young care assistant Sheena or the owners 'punk' son Spike? This play has a wealth of middle-aged and elderly 'comedy characters' who deal with the subject of old age, illness, death and euthanasia, in a light hearted and touching way. Through laughter and tears.

● **Home is Where the Heart Is** by Martin Ladbroke - A Farical Comedy (3m 9f) £6

Sir Rodney Wellard is planning a day of adultery. Unfortunately for him, so is his wife Harriett. She has her eye on Sir Rodney's assistant, Colin. What she's not expecting to find out is that Colin is engaged to a journalist with plans to blackmail Sir Rodney using photographs taken by a part-time pornographer who also has plans for Sir Rodney and Harriet's two daughters. The sudden appearance of Colin's mother and the Wellards' cook and cleaners complicates Sir Rodney's plans even more, before he realises what is really important to him.

● **Judith Code, The** by Colin Wilson - A Drama (3m 5f 1m 1f (opt), 1 extra) £6

(written with Dody Denman) A new wave of terrorism has struck America and the west. The Nebak-Ad-Nizzar Group boasts they act for all Muslim Freedom Fighters. Their target is the multi-national department stores. These have come under attack from suicide bombers killing and maiming thousands of people. Only Judith's the largest and most successful of the superstores, has been spared. Why? Who is Judith, the mysterious owner who no one has seen? A talk show host asks these questions to the Muslim CEO of "Judith's" - a woman known simply as Ayin whom many believe is really Judith. The Judith Code is love, honesty and faith in God - but might all these elements have to be broken to outwit the terrorist group's General Holofernes and free the world? Passion, betrayal, mystery and a haunting message that will stay with you forever.

● **Road Hill House Murder, The** by David Morrison - A Drama (8m 4f (with doubling)) £6

It is 1860 at Hill House in the village of Road, Wiltshire, and the body of a four-year-old boy is found pushed down an outside privy. He has been stabbed, and his throat cut. But how did the assailant manage to enter a locked house to abduct him, and why? No-one seems to have a motive, but many have something to hide. Based on true events that caused the scandal of the age, this play reveals the infidelities,

jealousies and ruthlessness that existed within the secretive middle class society of Victorian England.

● **Tom Jones** by Michael Barry - A Play (6m 6f or with doubling 3m 3f) £6

A great love story complicated by the fact that women cannot keep their hands off the irresistible "base born" young hero and that the twists and turns of the fast-moving plot seem hell-bent on dooming him to twist and turn on Tyburn's infamous gallows! Now "one of the great comic novels in the English language", but at the time outrage was so great that Dr Johnson declared "I scarcely know a more corrupt work". Only a year later, "Fanny Hill" joined it on the best-seller lists of the times! This tried and tested adaptation is above all faithful to the raunchy original! The press loved it: "packed with passion and innuendo." and "more double entendres than an explosion in a Carry On film factory", amongst many similar responses.

● **Upstaged** by Paul Beard - A Comedy (6m 6f) £6

It's 1804 and the acting dynasty of John and Charles Kemble and their sister Sarah Siddons reign supreme at the Covent Garden theatre in London's West End. Sarah returns from a tour of Ireland, where she has discovered the twelve-year-old Henry Betty, who she believes has great potential. Encouraged by Sarah's remarks, Henry's pushy mother spends her life savings to bring the boy to London in search of fame and fortune. John Kemble, who has recently become the first actor/manager and part owner of the Covent Garden is less than impressed but is forced to give him a chance or run the risk of losing his sister to his rivals at Drury Lane. Despite a marked lack of talent, the public take young Henry to their hearts and success follows success, which bring more and more financial demands from Mrs Betty and less and less parts for John to play. The story twists and turns in comedic style as John tries desperately to rid himself of his new star and his formidable mother. It's a dirty business - show business!

● **Warden, The** by Michael Barry - A Tragi-Comedy (10m 2f or with doubling 2m 1f) £6

Playing time approx 105 minutes Adapted from the story by A. Trollope Dr Septimes Harding is a minor canon, the Precentor at Barchester Cathedral and Warden of Hiram's Hospital, a charitable home for destitute bedesmen. "The Warden" is a delightfully-written and witty tragi-comedy of human aspirations and flaws, a delicate tale that tells of one man's traumatic fight between church and conscience - and one girl's romance in the midst of parsons and power struggles. The first of Trollope's six Barchester Chronicles, it was dramatised on TV to huge acclaim with Donald Pleasance as Harding. With an economic and effective blend of narration and

dramatization "The Warden" combines both an entertaining story and an emotional experience.

- **When The Lights Go Out** by Ken Chapman - A Drama (7m 5f) £6

The action of the play takes place in an East London square from the beginning of the Second World War until V.E Day. (The action could take place in any city of Britain of that period) Peoples emotions, anxieties and relationships are played out against the background of a country at war. The British spirit of laughter and fun shines through despite the peril the country faces. Short, sharp scenes take the play quickly through the main events of war with plenty of war time action and atmosphere. The cast range is from the young to the elderly and the play includes many non-speaking roles and gives the opportunity for a large cast.

Full Length Plays With Large/Variable Casting

- **1979** by Tony Stowers - A Drama (19m 7f) £3

Graham leaves his English school at 16 with no qualifications - just as Margaret Thatcher is elected the UK's first woman Prime Minister - intent on following in the footsteps of thousands of other men of his heritage, including his father. But the new economic order has other ideas. Confused, Graham ends up in a psychiatric hospital where he meets Emily and together they plan their escape to a world they can call their own. "1979" covered the years from May 1979 to June 1985 when, after crushing the Miner's Strike, the Police decimated The Convoy - people from the outer fringes of society who lived in old buses and vans - with a raid consisting of 500 constables against about 50-100 men, women and children, many of who were hospitalised.

- **Amazing Dancing Bear, The** by Barry Hillman - A Play (10m 5f incl 2 teenagers) £6

Writing Award Winner The Bear is a controversial play. It's strong stuff and produces opposing views wherever it appears. The play charts the upheaval of rural communities forced to become urbanised by the advent of the Industrial Revolution, and parallels the predicament of our modern current counterpoint of de-industrialisation. When a little girl is raped and murdered, the mob - confused by the destruction of its way of life - vents its anger on a travelling performing bear and its kindly owner. But who is the real culprit, and will the new Trade Union leader have to shield him or compromise his struggle for worker recognition in the New Age? The sexual images and strong language might disturb, but the drama is pertinent and perennially topical.

- **Asra! Asra!** by Roger Harvey - A Drama (9m 7f) £6

ASRA! ASRA! Dramatises a compelling true love story: the secretive and fateful relationship between the celebrated poet Samuel Taylor Coleridge and Sara Hutchinson, a young girl seduced into the tempestuous world of the Romantic revolution. Based on letters, diaries, and journals of the period, the play illuminates the careers of literary giants in a lively and haunting stage experience.

- **Beautiful Dream** by Annie Richardson - A Drama (3m 3f 7 extras) £6

Beautiful Dream tells the tale of a married couple Jimmy and Linda, who, over the years, have grown apart. From the birth of their son, tensions between the couple grew. Only their love for him kept them together and helped them pave over the cracks in their marriage. However when the son moves to the other side of the world, Linda is at a loss and full of self-pity. The tragic events that then unfold can be a lesson to us all.

- **Blackberry Promises** by Janet Moran Neil - A Play (8m 8f) £6

Approx playing time 100 minutes 'Remember the late 1950s? 'Lollipop' and 'Living Doll' on the juke box: boys in natty suits, their hair slicked back in Elvis quiffs; girls in puffed skirts - all of them with one thing on their minds. 'Blackberry Promises' is an evocative exploration of teenage sexuality set in the era that invented the teenager. Excellent and hugely enjoyable.' Bucks Free Press - Reviewer's Choice of the Year. 'First play is a winner. Beautifully crafted and thought provoking.' Bucks Advertiser. 'A gritty tale of late fifties' life which doesn't need to whet the audience's appetite with recipes.' *The Stage*

- **Bridge, The** by Janet Smith - A Comedy (6m 5f + 1) £6

A group of oddly matched people accidentally meet at The Bridge one fine spring morning, each with a diverse motive in mind; love, murder, suicide - and bird-watching! But even those who have come for darker reasons fall under the spell of the dawn chorus.

- **Christmas Carol, A** by Claire Jones - A Play (Variable casting) £6

This very free adaptation of Charles Dickens' classic morality tale of Scrooge's transformation is ideal for a small stage and a group which includes a preponderance of females. The scenes are short and can alternate between full stage and front of curtain, making it an ideal show to present instead of traditional pantomime. Directors can choose their own music and special effects, and staging is very flexible. There is no need for a box set. Including humour, music, drama and suspense, it lasts around two hours and is suitable for the whole family except the very young. The large cast can include doubling and even trebling!

● **Deadly Factor, The** by Janet Moran Neil - A Black Comedy (2m 2f 6 m or f) £6

Approx playing time 60 minutes Seven actors have been instructed to live and breathe their parts whilst 'getting into their characters' shoes' in the dressing room. The problem is ... they are to play the roles of the Seven Deadly Sins. Are they preparing for their first night or for their doom? An audience vote is to reveal the deadliest of them all and the prize? A winner-takes-all recording contract with a high flying producer. But there is a different ending at each performance – of which even the 'real' actors are unaware. It will be a sin to miss it...

● **Displaced Persons** by Michael Hodges - A Play (9m 5f) £6

Basil, a school master, dedicates his life to running his house on Periclean principles in which reciprocated trust with his boys is expected and absolute. These humane, worthy principles are undermined by Basil's flawed temperament, compounded by the claustrophobic nature of boarding school life. The consequences of Basil's well-meaning if misguided principles come to a head in a traumatic scene and, later, on an Alpine holiday. Ruin for Basil follows. In the final scene there is a reconciliation. A real feel for stagecraft and dialogue... gentle and heartfelt, with a moving turn on Mary's relationship with the boys. Soho Theatre... works surprisingly well with a delicate subject. It is well constructed and the characters and dialogue ring true. Granada TV Drama. The oppression of a world completely dishonest about what it believes is well described here. New Playwrights' Trust[]

● **Do You Have Gas?** by Michael Paslawski & Roy C Booth - A Comedy (11m 11f) £6

Cast 22, variable. Wise-cracking Tom works as a local convenience store to earn money for college. He hates his job, but he does like his co-worker, Jennifer a lot. Unfortunately, Jennifer has a sleazy, disgusting (and not too bright) boyfriend, Buzz, who also happens to be the neighbourhood drug dealer. Come along with Tom one night as he deals with all the strange people that seem to live in every neighbourhood as he makes a move to capture Jennifer's heart while getting rid of Buzz - even if it gets him fired in the process."A laugh riot!" The Northern Student.

● **Gentlemen's Agreement, A** by Sheila Sharpless - A Play (7m 9f) £6

Lord Frobisher is a smuggler. His accomplice the Reverend Soames, is engaged to Emily, his daughter, who secretly loves Sir Melville Chilverton, banned from the house. Unbeknown to Emily, Sir Melville is a highwayman who attempts to blackmail Lord Frobisher with threats to expose his 'trade' unless he gives consent to the marriage. Lucy, Emily's sister exposes the romance at the ball later and Augusta, Duchess of Steerforth (Lord Frobisher's sister) recognises Sir Melville as

a highwayman. Melville is arrested and vows to expose his Lordship, who gives in and has him released, by a Gentlemen's Agreement.

● **Give Your Mother the Bird!** by Anne Knight - A Comedy (7m 9f) £6

How would you feel if, out of the blue with no warning, your mother-in-law suddenly turns up from Spain and takes over your house? Your wife is less than pleased as she has just become pregnant and she wonders why her father has been left behind. The situation heats up when mother-in-law decides to set up a Barry Mancini club which clashes with son-in-law's pigeon fancying group. The tension increases when a flamboyant designer arrives to do a make-over and joins the club. Eventually a Barry look-alike is brought in to encourage mother-in-law and husband to go back to Manchester.

● **Hint Of Old World Charm, A** by Michael Park - A Comedy (7m 10f) £6

A comedy about a run-down cottage on the coast and the people who inhabit it over a period of time: newly-weds who experience every horror from mice to collapsing ceilings, a businessman desperate to spend a passionate weekend with his young secretary, a retired couple who discover a supposed armed bank robber in their living room. Written specially for the larger theatre company, with longer roles for the experienced actors down to a handful of lines for those with limited time for rehearsals, this popular play is ideal for those who appreciate good family humour.

● **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.

● **Inaccurate Conception, The** by Geoff Saunders - A Comedy (8m 12f) £6

Written by Geoff Saunders and Richard Ahsam. 'The Inaccurate Conception' is a raucous and often slightly surreal celebration of everyone's first brush with the theatre - the school Nativity Play! Celia Whibley is a young teacher directing class 3C of Verruca Street Primary School in just such a play, and though the children are unprepossessing and unco-operative, they are the least of Celia's troubles - her real obstacle is the unhelpful staff. Battling against the odds within and outside the

classroom is a 'learning experience' for poor Celia... Will the struggle have been worth it? Seven-year-olds, teachers and parents alike are played by adults in this energetic and warm-hearted comedy.

● **Jane Eyre** by Richard Hills - A Drama (6m 8f) £6

Jane Eyre, adapted from Charlotte Brontë's novel. Tells of Jane who comes as governess to Mr Rochester's young French ward in 1846. He falls in love with her, but on the wedding day, Mr Mason arrives making it known that Rochester already has a wife, his maniac sister, locked in the west wing. Jane runs off to Yorkshire returning to Thornfield Hall a year later, finding the maniac has burnt down the west wing and killed herself, leaving Rochester forlorn and blind, living a life in darkness. She marries him and they live happily ever after.

● **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.

● **Out of the Sewer** by Douglas Fulthorpe - A Comedy (3m 1f 7m/f for soldiers) £6

Approx playing time 54 minutes Douglas Fulthorpe presents the wittiest writing to emerge from the Tyne since the Great Flood, convulsing the north bank, or for that matter, south bank, Lloyds Bank, Barclays Bank or any other bank. Thrill to the biting conflict between the Real and False Comperes as they introduce twelve hilarious situations Struggle with a young couple as they strive desperately and painfully to fit in. Share the adventures of two alert, eagle-eyed lifeguards. Meet the quiz team straight from the joke-factory, then delve deep into fundamental irreligious history, before completing your education with a crash-course in Marketspeak.

● **Pa, Who's Me Ma?** by Ken Chapman - A Comedy (8m 6f) £6

A two act satire of the Wild West. Goldie, buxom owner of the Golden Horse Shoe saloon, over a period of time, has gathered what is known as her orphans, the result of misbehaving by the saloon gals with the customers. The orphans are getting big boys and girls now. Goldie tries unravelling relationships of the boys and girls with the Judge's help. Confessions of the preacher, at gun-point, solves the problems' resulting in the simultaneous weddings.

● **Redeeming Lizzie Reeve** by Dougie Blaxland - A Comedy (15f) £6

A play for an all-female cast, *Redeeming Lizzie Reeve*, is a Victorian melodrama which tells the story of a working class orphan girl brought up in a miserable and cruel institution which is run by the evil Mother Worsted. The girl appears to have been saved from a life of drudgery and despair when she is taken in by the wealthy philanthropist, Lady Arabella Widdowson. Her hopes for happiness are dashed, however, when Lady Arabella's nieces, jealous of their aunt's affection for the orphan girl, hatch a scheme which results in her being convicted of a theft she has not committed. The play has a dramatic twist at the end when Lady Arabella, having discovered her nieces' plot arrives too late to save the innocent girl from being hanged.

● **Relative Disaster** by Liz Spear - A Comedy (7m 7f) £6

Debbie is settling down to a comfortable evening in when she is interrupted by the arrival of Claire, her bossy older sister who has invited herself to stay. Claire successfully alienates all of Debbie's friends and family during the course of the weekend which is leading up to an important press conference. Claire is to reveal secrets which will change history as we know it. The appearance of a body further complicates matters and comedy fast escalates into farce before the truth is revealed.

● **Revenge Is Justice** by Keith Hindell - A Drama (13m) £6

A play about injustice and revenge, patriotism and greed, Scottish nationalism and English racism, of political leaders bowing before the passions of the mob. In 1705 four English sailors were hanged at Leith for pirating a Scottish ship on the evidence of an Indian with a grievance against his English Captain. In fact the piracy charge was trumped up by the Scottish India Company as a reprisal for the seizure of one of its own ships in London. The Scottish Privy Council, frightened of the mob, allowed the execution despite pressure from London.

● **Sci-Fi Man, The** by Michael Law - A Drama (Variable cast) £6

"That's the trouble with what they call 'creative writing,'" (as Luke the Sci-fi writer says), "sometimes your creations catch up with you..." And his do catch up with him - fatally, entangling him in his own imaginings and leaving him ultimately marooned on the uninhabited moon of an unidentified planet somewhere in Theta Orionis on Christmas Eve 2180 (or 1980 in the 'real' world where his wife and step-daughter exist). He is a man driven to the end of his tether: mourning the death of his first wife and deploring his second, trying to hold onto the reality of his very existence, while his marriage is being threatened by his wife's utterly earth-bound lover and his own inability to remain sane and deal effectively with his life.

● **Self Catering** by Marion Watson - A Comedy (*doubling possible*) £6

This comedy in six scenes takes place in a self-catering holiday apartment set in the beautiful grounds of a large farmhouse somewhere in England. We meet the occupants who come to stay over a period of six weeks: a honeymoon couple, a hen-pecked train-spotter whose wife get he comeuppance, a shady business man and his 'secretary', a gay pair who are not what they seem, an American couple obsessed with family history and a lonely widow. Their stories are linked by how they use the property, by the owner, Mrs Barton, and by a mysterious stranger seen near the lake.

● **Snow White and the Seven Dwarves** by David Ogilvie Grant - A Play (5m 7, 6f 3) £6

The play follows the Grimm Brothers' tale, bringing out its rich theatrical, poetic and comic potential. Snow White is born as her mother, Queen Rose Gold, dies. King Constant's second Queen, Belladonna, alias Witch, jealous of Snow White's beauty, spellbinds the steward, Janus, to kill her in the forest. He is foiled by a horde of strange, part-human Beasts, whereupon he falls in love with Snow White. The Seven Dwarves shelter her, until Belladonna poisons her with an apple. By chance she recovers and, at Snow White's wedding to Janus, the Dwarves fatally entrap Belladonna with their own seven-in-one, mathematical, golden spell.

● **Tartuffe** by Robert Messik - A Play (*Cast - as performed in Edinburgh - 17m 10f*) £6

A highly original adaptation of Moliere's Tartuffe captures and ignites the frenetic energy of the original seventeenth-century French farce. The story of the foolish patriarch Orgon, duped into giving all he owns to the slimy priest Tartuffe, is relocated into a modern political world of suits and swivel chairs, where paparazzi constantly hound and Tartuffe promises not only salvation but UN diplomacy. Why are the people in power the only ones that can't see the truth? A funny and punchy rhyming script, drawing on slapstick and Commedia dell'Arte, is designed for a flexible cast to accommodate as many or as little as a director may wish. A sell out at its Edinburgh Festival 2008 premiere, this is Physical Farcical Fun.

● **Tess of the D'Urbervilles** by Michael Barry - A Drama (*full: 7m 6F; w/doubling: 3m 4f*) £6

an adaptation by Thomas Hardy. Reduced cast (with doubling) 3m, 4f. The heart-rending tale of pure, innocent Tess, driven to the extremes of murder by Angel and Alec, the two very different men in her life, still has the ability to enthral audiences of all ages. Hardy's swingeing condemnation of the hypocritical mores of his age (1890s), which declared that a mere slip of a girl, seduced, indeed overcome while

asleep by an experienced man of the world, is a "fallen woman" beyond the pale of society, is as powerful today as it was a hundred years ago. This is the first republication of Hardy's own second dramatisation of his famous novel for many decades. It has been edited for performance by Michael Barry, the play's only director (twice) since Hardy himself. Cast 7m 6f, doubling enables 3m 4f.

● **Thane In The Arse, A** by Lou Stone - A Play (*Variable casting*) £6

The plot tells the true story of the three witches and their encounters with Macbeth. Unlike the Shakespeare play to which this play owes so much, the action for the most part takes place in today's suburbia where the three share a flat in Gravesend... where else? The play tells how on that fateful night when all three had an appointment to meet Macbeth on that now famous Blasted Heath, the third witch was having a personality crisis and unable to attend. How the other two get around this problem is the basic element to the plot of the play. That a ventriloquist's dummy features highly may give the game away but the idea might inspire the reader to continue to the end.

● **Tipp the Taxi Driver** by Tom Casling - A Play (3m 2f 6) £6

Tipp is married to Margaret, his long suffering wife. He is by profession a Taxi Driver although these days he drives reluctantly choosing to do only the jobs he wants to. Tipp spends his days in his arm chair watching quiz shows and re-living the day he almost won through to the finals of daytime quiz programme. Then one evening he gets a call that intrigues him to take a passenger to the Tyne Tees Television Studios. She has won a part in The Big Market a new T.V. Soap to be based in the North East. This is a comedy which explores the complex relationships which can develop between the most unlikely of people.

● **Walter's War** by Colin Wilson - A Play (6m 8f) £6

Seen mainly through the eyes of a 10-year-old child during the weeks leading up to Christmas 1942 on Strongkerry, Orkneys, a close-knit family encounters romance, tragedy, murder, kidnapping and German spies. Based on the award winning stage play 'Walter's War'. Roles for adults and children (10 +).

● **Wild Woods, The** by Dougie Blaxland - A Comedy (11m 11f) £6

Based on the tale of Hansel and Gretel The Wild Woods tells the story of two children left alone by their woodcutter father and wicked step mother in a dark and enchanted wood. Here they encounter numerous other fairy tale characters including Goldilocks, Little Red Riding Hood, Cinderella and the inevitable Wolf. Confusion reigns as these fantasy figures become mixed up in each other's stories. All ends well, however, when The Good Fairy saves the young heroes from the clutches of

The Witch, her diabolical assistants and the slobbering Swamp Toads. Originally written as a promenading play *The Wild Woods* by award winning writer Dougie Blaxland has been successfully staged in theatres by many schools, community groups and amateur companies. Other cast: 5 Silver Birds (male or female), 4 Assistant Witches (female), 4 Swamp Toads (male or female)

● **Wisp Of Scotch Mist, A** by Michael Park - A Comedy (5m 8f) £6

The hilarious sequel to 'A Hint of Old World Charm' in which the Mayberry family and friends head North to a small hotel on the shores of Loch Ness for a few days holiday. The promise of peace and quiet is soon shattered when they find themselves caught in the middle of a battle between the hotel owner and a firm of developers, and their first night is a disaster with a mix-up over room allocation, delayed arrivals, and some rather ghostly goings-on. Also as the location suggests, there is always the possibility of a certain monster appearing unexpectedly.

● **Woman in White, The** by David Morrison - A Play (10m 6f) £6

Adapted from Wilkie Collins - Drawing master Walter Hartright takes up an appointment in Cumberland, and immediately falls in love with his new pupil, Laura Fairlie. But Laura is already promised to Sir Percival Glyde, whom she later marries. However Percival is desperately short of money. He is also determined to keep hidden a dark secret from his past, which he fears has been revealed and could ruin him. He and his sinister friend Count Fosco hatch a plot to solve both problems. But they reckon without the determined Walter and Laura's half-sister, Marian Halcombe.

● **You'll Never Guess What?** by Dougie Blaxland - A Drama (14f) £6

Three friends who have never moved from the town where they were born go back to their school after 20 years in the hope of meeting an old school friend who has become an international celebrity. Tina Goddard who has "made it big" in show business has been invited back to her "alma mater" to open a new performing arts block. Whilst tensions and jealousies emerge as the three friends face up to the reasons for their under achievement, it soon becomes clear that Tina Goddard's life is not quite the success we had been led to believe. *You'll Never Guess What? We Went to School with Tina Goddard* by award winning writer Dougie Blaxland was performed to critical acclaim at The Ustinov Studio Bath in 2004 and has since been successfully staged by numerous girls' schools and theatre groups.

Pantomimes

● **Up the Pole** by Roger Harvey (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.

● **King and Queen Show, The** by Allen Saddler (5m 3f) £6

This is a fun show for children to be played at a lick. If a producer wanted to include a song or two it might fit. The show uses pantomime techniques and slapstick to produce a panto style entertainment. The King and Queen are bankrupt. Their only hope is to marry off their daughter, Poppy, to Guy, the son of the wealthy King Grumblebum. But Poppy doesn't like Guy and is more interested in steam railways than getting married. The play tries to resolve the dilemma.

● **Wuss In Boots** by Anne Graham (7m 4f chorus and dancers) £6

There's an irresistible attraction between Walter, the poor miller's son, and Princess Bridget, but it takes a whole pantomime and much scheming from Wuss, Walter's cat, before they get it together. Meanwhile, lured by his lying promise of monster wages, Walter's mum, Katy, takes a live-in job with skint, gambling addict, Ogre Bogey, only to end up imprisoned in his mucky castle. Jerry, King's Equerry, pants with unreciprocated passion for Katy, while ambitious DJ pants for Graham Norton's job, and when it comes to dishonesty, Poacher is... just pants, but despite some tortuous scenes, everybody ends up happy.

● **Goody Two Shoes** by Jackie Staite (7m 5f) £6

Approx playing time 145 minutes. *Goody Two-Shoes* is a rollicking good pantomime, full of humour, romance, audience participation, evil machinations and, of course, a happy ending. The wicked Squire Stinge has evicted Farmer Giles and his family from their farm in order to force the beautiful Goody to marry him. The local school mistress, Dame Trotter, helps them out by letting them stay at the schoolhouse, provided that Goody gives her a hand with the naughty school children. Goody meets a fairy, who gives her magic shoes, and she meets and falls in love with a handsome stranger, Randolph, so everything seems to be going well after all. However, Squire Stinge steals her shoes and plots to get rid of Randolph. In despair, Goody agrees to marry the Squire so that her parents can get their farm back. The last scene is full of excitement and romance, as Randolph returns in the nick of time to

save Goody from a fate worse than death! Dame Trotter finds romance with the school inspector, and the fairy's magic takes

● **Abanazar's Revenge** by Ian Hornby (*Variable casting*) £6

Approx playing time 100 minutes. The Evil Queen and Abanazar have pooled their evil forces to get their own back on the good guys. They kidnap Snow White, Princess Jasmine and Sleeping Beauty and it's up to Dick Whittington, Aladdin and Prince Charming, aided by Widow Twankey, Wishee-Washee, the cat, the good fairy and the genies to make a rescue attempt. An unusual pantomime with three principal boys, three principal girls and a host of well-known characters, plus all the usual ingredients you expect from a pantomime - songs, bad jokes, monsters, slapstick. Oh yes there is!

● **Aladdin** by Pat Jones and Brian Travers (*12 principal parts, 3 cameos*) £6

Fatima Twankey is a poor widow and not exactly "top totty" but that doesn't stop her reaching for the stars. She sets her sights on the Sultan and her son Aladdin is in love with his daughter, Princess Maria. Long lost "uncle" Abanazar turns up and gives them hopes of great riches but he is an out and out villain of the worst kind. He will stop at nothing until he has his hands on a magic lamp and a Genie who can grant his every wish. He wants control of the whole kingdom and Princess Maria attending to his every whim. Can Aladdin stop him in time? Is Ghenghis, Abanazar's hapless assistant, more hindrance than a help? Will Fatima get her man? Are the jokes side-splittingly funny or are they so old they are growing whiskers? There are 12 principal parts, 3 cameos, a fun part for two as the spitting camel, Honk and plenty of singing and dancing opportunities for a chorus.

● **Babes in the Jungle, The** by Anne Graham (*variable cast*)£6

Approx playing time 135 minutes. When Hansel and Gretel are abandoned to fend for themselves in the jungle, their repentant father, Chopalog the woodcutter, sets out to find them again. At the same time, Tomtom, a poor village lad, determines to reclaim the legendary treasure of his ancestors, the Heckawi tribe, who were turned to rocks by the evil Shape-Shifters. He is followed by his loyal girlfriend, Lolly, the fabulously rich kid. Jolene the Jungle Queen (with the five o'clock shadow) is only too pleased to desert her post as guardian of the celebrities in the "get me out of here" camp, to try and save our heroes, but her powers have been drastically diminished since the invasion of the Shape-Shifters. She eventually succeeds, but not before a battle of wills with Slither, Shape-Shifter of the Month, and some horrid cannibalistic capers inside the gingerbread bungalow. Suggestions have been made throughout for the inclusion of songs, dances, audience participation and an interval.

● **Babes in the Wood** by Pat Jones and Brian Travers (*12 adult principals*) £6

+ 2 babes, 4 small cameo parts and at least 12 chorus. King Richard has gone to the Crusades and Nottingham is ruled by evil Prince John assisted by the very nasty Sheriff of Nottingham and Asbo and Asbeen, his hapless henchmen. Prince John's new wards, the wealthy babes Albert And Victoria, are in terrible danger and chaos ensues as the babes and Nurse Ribena (Toothkind!) flee through the spooky Sherwood Forest. Will Maid Marion be able to get word to Robin Hood and his Merry Men or will they be too busy singing and dancing to help save the babes?

● **Bluebeard** by Martin Ladbrook (*Variable casting*) £6

Fatima loves Al. Al loves Fatima. Then Bluebeard commands her to come to the palace with him to marry the sultan. Al vows to rescue her, with the help of his new-found friends and Korma the dog. What does Bluebeard want with all these women? What does he do with them afterwards? Is escape possible? How long has it been going on? And why is there an Englishman in the desert? All these questions and more - are answered in Bluebeard - the pantomime.

● **Cinderella** by Ian Hornby (*Variable casting*) £6

Approx playing time 100 minutes. A new look starting from the traditional story but with all the pantomime traditions and some new twists to the characters. Buttons turns into super hero Zips, Blue Peter has always one he prepared before. Everything from slapstick to songs to appalling jokes. There are two dames and two principal boys.

● **Cinderella** by Pat Jones and Brian Travers (*12 principals*) £6

The well loved tale of Cinderella and her nasty, vindictive, facially challenged sisters Sam and Ella is a traditional pantomime with comedy and jokes laid on thick with a trowel. The lovable Buttons battles with his unrequited loved for Cinders while Baron Hardup, bankrupted by his stepdaughters is hounded by bailiffs Snatchitt and Grabbitt. Meanwhile, Fairy Godmother, assisted by Pixienose and Elfin Safety, outwit Sam and Ella and transport Cinderella to the Ball to meet Prince Charming. This is a full length pantomime with 12 principal parts plus cameos and chorus and includes plenty of opportunity for singing and dancing.

● **Cinderella** by Jilly McNeil (*3m 5f extras*) £6

In this retelling of the classic tale, Cinderella's Fairy Godmother is a trainee trying to pass her NVQ level 3 in Fairy Godmothering, the problem is that she is not really that good! Spells keep going wrong with hilarious effects and unexpected problems all round. Join in the fun as the lovable but inept Trainee tries to get Cinderella to the

ball so she can meet Prince Charming and live happily ever after.

● **Cinderella - The Sequel** by Jackie Staite (*11m 9f*) £6

Approx playing time 145 minutes. Variable casting. If you have already done "Cinderella" and your audience would like to know what happens next, or if you want a pantomime which is up-to-date, original and different, this could be the one for you. Cinderella decides the Prince is too boring to marry, so she runs away to join a pirate ship (in disguise of course). All the old characters, such as baron Hardup, stepmother, ugly sisters, the Prince and Dan O'Deeny, his Irish companion, follow her to bring her back, and the Fairy Godmother goes along to see fair play. Cinderella meets some interesting new characters, such as the swashbuckling pirate chief, the Earl of Sandwich and his wife, their well-endowed daughter Eglantine, and even some nasty characters such as the Old Man of the Sea. The ship sails to Mexico where pretty girls, bandits and lots more adventures await all our characters, and the ugly sisters are in for some surprises. Twists and turns, humour and thrills abound in this original and bang-up-to

● **Dick Whittington** by Pat Jones and Brian Travers (*9m 6f*) £6

Variable casting - Extras: Suggest 12 Adults, 10 Children. Dick Whittington is set both in London and in the Polar Regions. With his pet cat, Tom, Dick tries to rid the world of rats, in particular the villainous King and Queen Rat and their ratlings. He hopes to make his fortune so that he can win Alice, the daughter of Alderman Fitzwarren and step mother Lynne Polly who run a travel agency. Guided by Fairy Bow-bells, Dick and Tom brave a shipwreck, the Ice Queen's territory complete with a yeti and the magical tail of King Rat to finally win the day. Lots of music, dancing and very silly jokes.

● **Donkey Skin** by Roger Harvey (*11m 9f*) £6

The King of France wishes his daughter to marry the King of Spain, but the Lilac Fairy disguises her in a donkey-skin cloak. When a handsome Prince falls in love with her, how will he prove a ragged servant is the Princess he should marry? Roger Harvey's charming version of the old French fairytale adapts the plot for modern audiences, providing plenty of magic, humour and pathos. Donkey Skin is fun for all ages and offers a glamorous 'guest star' part in the time-travelling Lilac Fairy who ensures that everyone lives happily ever after.

● **Goldilocks** by John Myhill (*Variable casting*) £6

Wicked witch Smelvira wants Baby Bear's ears for her spell and Goldilocks must stop her, helped by mad Professor Hertz Van-Rental, amnesiac woodcutter Idunnoe, Fairy Nuff and Nugget the cow. Who is the Professor's handsome assistant? What's

lurking in the lab? Will Dame Dumpling get her man? A pantomime for all the family, with traditional fun and brand new laughs.

● **Goldilocks And The Three Martians** by Jackie Staite (*7m 7f*) £6

Approx playing time 145 minutes. Variable casting. This is a delightfully different pantomime, combining the favourite, traditional elements with space-age excitement, original humour, and romance. Dame Fatima Fazackerley has so many children she finds them hard to control - and in any case, she has her eye on that nice, eccentric widower, Mr Merryweather, who is always giving sweets to the village children. Her daughter, Goldilocks, goes for a picnic in the woods, and encounters not three bears but a spaceship. She is inadvertently taken to Mars, where her new friend, Baby Martian, takes her to the grooviest place in the universe, The Mars Bar. Its barman, Maxibillion Megalux, mixes cocktails which can have the most amazing results! Meanwhile, Goldilocks' bossy sister, Polly, has found romance with the rather inept Cuthbert - but is temptation in the Mars Bar too much for him? And what will become of the surprise visitor who arrives on a broomstick?

● **Goody Two Shoes** by Martin Ladbrook (*variable*) £6

What do you need if your village is ruled by a terrible witch? An orphan girl, a fairy and some wishes. Nightshade the witch has control of Mustardland after dark, but when she captures Squire Fennel and Goody's brother Tom she makes her first mistake. Putting a pair of inept villains in charge of them is her second. Goody, Vera from the orphanage and her sister Myrtle the landlady set off to rescue the prisoners with the help of Periwinkle the fairy. Add in a sprinkle of spirits, four lively children, and Alf the landlord and you've got a family pantomime with a difference.

● **Mystery of Aladdin's Lamp, The** by Michael Marsh - A Pantomime(*variable casting*) £6

This is a pantomime in the traditional format with all the usual characters. It's a story of the lamp with the Genie missing, a Prince with no memory, a stubborn Princess, a wicked Wizard and a lad named Lionel. The Caliph has offered his daughters hand to anyone who can bring back the Genie. Will our heroes succeed or will the Wizard and his sidekicks win out? On the way to try and find the Genie, our heroes Widow Tasty, Lionel and Sandy, travel on a flying carpet, meet Cinderella's Fairy Godmother, bump into a nasty Red Demon and have to dodge a large hairy monster. In the end of course they outwit the baddies and get everyone home safely. MUSIC AVAILABLE

● **Panto Star Wars** by Paul Beard (*Variable casting*) £6

written with Colin Warnock. A brand new story which guarantees to bring

pantomime into the 21st century. The evil Millennium Bug and his equally nasty side-kicks, Daft Moll and Anarchy Skystalker plan to take control of the entire universe. But first they have to capture earth. Their cunning plan is to kidnap all of the principal characters from every traditional pantomime and hold them to ransom. How could we ever survive without pantomime? A magnificent journey amongst the stars in this traditionally styled family panto. Slap-stick, corny jokes, and an abundance of audience participation together with a wealth of superb original panto type songs makes this show a must for those companies that like to be a bit daring and want to offer their audiences something new.

● **Red Riding Hood Goes Out West** by Jackie Staite (*11m 8f*) £6

Approx playing time 145 minutes. A new telling of the Red Ridinghood tale set in the American West. Red Ridinghood, an independent-minded English girl, arrives in the town of Not Very Big Boulder to save Grandma from the outlaw, Bad Bart, & his incompetent sidekick, Brains. Bad Bart wants to buy Grandma's home for a pittance as there is 'gold in them thar hills!' Red manages to foil his plan. In desperation, Bad Bart hires Big Bad Wolf, an Indian brave with a villainous reputation, to kill Grandma, leaving Bart able to claim the land as his own. But help it at hand in the form of the Lone Ranger & Tonto - or it would be if the Lone Ranger were more competent & less vain! Red Ridinghood, the children & Tonto save the day. This pantomime is very strong on plot, cleverly interweaving the original story with intriguing & innovative sub-plots. With varied settings, Can-Canning saloon girls and Indian dances this easily staged panto is full of colour. It has hilarious characters, such as the bumbling squaws, Maxiha

● **Robin Hood** by Nick Boardman (*Variable casting*) £6

There are strange happenings in Nottingham. A witch has found a magical gem that grants three wishes. The Sheriff of Nottingham, desperate to get his hands on the gem before Robin Hood, sends his executioner to capture Robin and the outlaws. As Robin fights for good and Maid Marion's heart he discovers the Sheriff's plan to use the gem to become King. The race to get the gem off the witch (who is too crazy to use it) leads to a spaceship and two disguised villagers. Will Robin Hood win the day with the help of King Richard?

● **Robin Hood** by Ian Hornby (*Variable casting*) £6

A rework of the classic tales of Robin Hood. Marian is not the usual fawning principal - this version has fight and is accompanied by her Nurse, Dame Madonna Kebab. The Sheriff is there, complete with his evil plans and two inept henchmen Twiddle and Twoddle, plus witches, Merry Men - "camp" Little John (who changed

his name from Willy), Friar Tuck, Wilma Scarlet and Alan-a-Dale, the minstrel who provides a link between scenes - plus a full supporting cast.

● **Robin Hoodlum** by Paul Beard (*Variable casting*) £6

written with Ian Rae. The familiar story of Robin Hood is re-told in traditional pantomime style. With a difference! It's set in Chicago in the roaring 1920's. Meet Dame 'Big' Lola Brown at the 'Cosy Nostra' bar where the prohibition laws are keenly watched over by Elliot Mess and the unbearables. The infamous Duke Nottingham and his evil gang are in town from New York, intent on taking over the joint until Robin Hoodlum and his gang, comprising 'Little Legs' John, Will Scarface, Helena Dale and Father Less, save the day. The love interest is provided by Mary-Anne, the leader of the Chicago showgirls. With 17 original songs, slapstick, audience participation and a multitude of colourful characters this is a show for all the family.

● **Robinson Crusoe** by Pat Jones and Brian Travers (*Variable casting*) £6

Follow Robinson's intrepid adventures through shipwreck, cannibals and Redbeard the Pirate's attempts to steal the treasure map as he tries to find the treasure on Yum Yum Island. Also in on the action is mum, Catherine Zeta Crusoe and his brother, Kevin, love interest Bonnie Peveril Point and Sheila a full-sized Aussie parrot. Comedy comes from Plankton and Guppy, Redbeard's henchmen. There's scope for developing characters like Squire Peveril Point and Witch Doctor, Roger Rhinohorn. There's plenty of singing and dancing, endless silly jokes and the inevitable custard pie sequence.

● **Robinson Crusoe** by Jilly McNeil (*4m 8f 2*) £6

Join Robinson Crusoe and his friends as they set sail to far off lands. A jolly good time is had by all until a storm leaves them washed up on a tropical island. On the island it is King Bongo's birthday and he wants a great feast to celebrate. The crew are captured by Cookie and very nearly become the feast, luckily Robinson and Friday are there to save the day. (Hooray!) A hilarious and light-hearted telling of the classic tale filled with colourful characters and good old fashioned pantomime fun!

● **Santa's Worst Nightmare** by Anne Knight (*large flexible cast*) £6

It's Christmas Eve. Santa Claus is worried because no snow has fallen. The toys in the waiting room are getting restless, one of them disappears for a while, and two of them have a fight. Dreamy, who makes dreams, has accidentally given the Witch a nightmare. She lands in Santa's warehouse and scares the toys, upsets Santa and his wife and begs to be sent back home. The Controller of the Weather has to quickly make some snow for a grumpy Santa and a rainbow for the Witch to slide home on.

● **Sleeping Beauty** by Pat Jones and Brian Travers (*Variable casting*) £6

Sleeping Beauty is set in the Kingdom of Lesser Ozonia, ruled over by King Forget-me-not and Queen Begonia. Evil Fairy Carabosse, assisted by dozy sidekick Henbane, makes sure Princess Peachblossom pricks her finger in spite of the protection of Dame Dockleaf and the seven Flower Fairies of the forest. Will the good Fairies save the day? Will Prince Robin Reliant be brave enough to battle through the enchanted forest, slay the dragon and wake Sleeping Beauty? Will Dame Dockleaf get her man, the very blonde Earl of Essex? Plenty of audience participation, jokes, music and slapstick.

● **Sleeping Beauty Goes Back To The Future** by Jackie Staite - A Pantomime (7m 10f) £6

Approx playing time 145 minutes. Variable casting. This pantomime, while following much of the traditional story of Sleeping Beauty, also has many quirks and surprises. The fairies all have original and amusing characters, the highlight being Fairy Liquid - played by a man, in pantomime tradition. This pantomime takes the audience through lots of eras, including rock 'n roll, flower power, and - after the Princess has fallen into a hundred years sleep - with the help of the Tardis, the roaring twenties and the elegant eighteenth century. On the way we meet such interesting characters as the eccentric Dr What, his assistant Question Mark, a dashing highway man, the evil Fairy Grotto, and, of course, the Princess and her Prince. The Prince really has to get to the future, to wake the Princess and break the spell!

● **Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs** by Pat Jones and Brian Travers (*Variable*) £6

Queen Chopemov is feared by all in her Russian kingdom. When the magic mirror tells the evil Queen she is no longer the fairest in the land she will stop at nothing to get rid of the beautiful Snow White. So she can be sure of winning the handsome Prince Rudolf the Rugged for herself, she enlists the help of henchmen Squintov and Bandy to take Snow White into the Forest of Dreadful Dreams and chop off her head. But she has reckoned without Snow White's nanny, Nurse Zsa Zsa Nastikov and the seven strange little men who sing and dance in the forest. Even Queen Chopemov's mobile mirror seems to be against her. Lots of silly jokes, opportunity for audience participation and plenty of singing and dancing for children and adult chorus.

● **Sweeney Todd** by Richard Hills (13m 7f doubling possible) £6

Based on the horrible murders of Sweeney Todd in Fleet Street 1846. The disappearance of men in his shop, the stealing of a valuable string of pearls and Mrs

Lovett's peculiar pork pies. What happened to Lieutenant Thornhill and Mark Ingestre? Will Miss Johanna Oakley find her lost love? Will the drunken Reverend Stillingport marry Mrs Lovett? Will Uriar Creep the Bow Street Runner get promotion and get married? Will Sweeney Todd be caught? Ideal challenge for Youth Groups. Cast 13m 7f some parts can be doubled or changed to women.

Musicals

● **Shadows In Red** by Paul Beard (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.

● **Advance to Go** by Paul Beard (4m 2f) £6

A colour co-ordinated feel-good musical, loosely based on the board game ‘Monopoly’. Spud works in the market at the Old Kent Road. He doesn’t realise that his best friend, the girl next door Kathy, is madly in love with him. Spud is recruited by an American con man Oscar P. Waddington Jnr, currently residing in room double six at a Mayfair hotel, to act as a front man for a real estate company that is illegally compulsory purchasing houses to convert the land into a chain of hotels which will be named the Grande Oscars or ‘Go’ for short. Oscar is aided and abetted by Roger the Whitehall ministry man who is engaged to his daughter Angel. Spud falls head over heels for Angel but is eventually brought to his senses following his arrest. With the help of his long time buddy, Tonka the scam is exposed and the bad guys brought to book and the good guys live happily ever after. During the show every board space is visited and every saying that is found on the ‘Chance’ and ‘Community Chest’ cards are cunningly worked into the text.

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

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

● **Mary** by John Collings (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.

● **Purgatory Park** by Steve Abbott (5m 3f) £6

God has had a lot on his plate lately and mistakes have started to creep in. His latest blunder finds him calling a mortal before his allotted time. Adam Fineness is an ordinary guy, fumbling his way through life in his own merry chauvinistic way, when he suddenly finds himself in purgatory fighting for his life. With the help of

his new found friend, Reggie the theatrical agent and assistance from Elvis Presley and camp Colin, can he possibly triumph in the celestial trial of the century and win back his mortal soul or will God get his way?

● **Toad’s Revenge** by Helen Landau (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!

● **Six for the Charleston - and Two for Love** by Barry Hillman (4m 6f, various ages) £6

If you’ve ever fancied staging the play “The Boy Friend” but never had the resources or the facilities, then take a look at our mini-musical “Six for the Charleston”! It’s full of that cheerful gaiety of the Roaring Twenties and even has six “boo-boopodoop” songs, which can be accompanied by either a single keyboard or a full orchestra! Rodney and Anona have been happily married for years, but when two of

their old admirers turn up, unannounced and unknown to their partner, when both believe they are alone in the house, they have to go to extreme lengths to hide the strangers' real identities and avoid rumours of infidelity. Rodney's pretty secretary is translated into a mustachioed young "man" and Anona's toy-boy and erstwhile leading man from her show-business days has the even greater indignity of becoming her female dancing mistress, Madam Viera! And when their married friends, who have their own marital troubles, fall in love with the newcomers, the complexities multiply in true farce fashion. Add the housekeeper and her pregnant daughter all set to wage class warfare on their bosses and the fun gets fast and furious with bed-hopping, denunciations and reconciliations. Your audience will leave whistling the witty tunes and your actors will revel in rehearsing the witty lines! What's not to like? Read a copy today!

● **Burning Passions** by Michael Barry (*full: 7m 4f, 1 boy 3 other; w/doubling: 4m 2f, 1 boy*) £6

Reduced cast (with doubling) 4m, 2f, 1 boy. Just days after marrying simple Jane Shorney, popular young charcoal-burner John Walford clubbed her to death in despair. In love with another woman, intense frustration and a passionate nature saw him condemned to hang by a judge who wept openly at his tragedy. His body was left swinging from a gibbet in a cage for a year afterwards. This true 1789 Somerset story of a crime of passion lives on in folk memory today: it appalled Wordsworth and Coleridge, Walford's Gibbet is still on the map, and audiences for the play's first production were deeply affected by this re-enactment – which is also strong on music (one singer, one guitarist) and humour.

● **Scarlet Musketeers, The** by Tim Perkins (*8m 4f*) £6

co written with Mark Wynne-Jones/Barrie Bennett. A witty re-write of French history at the time of the revolution... approximately. Roguespiere, the evil leader of the revolution is thwarted at every step of the way by the incompetence of his colleagues (including Madame Guillotine and J. Lieure, a prison guard). Just two Musketeers, Ampere and Watt, oppose him, together with a couple of dastardly English aristocrats, Lord D'Arlington and Sir Percy Vere. The symbols of French aristocracy Queen Anne Sanchez-Vicario, Joan of Arkwright, Milady de Summer and their 'friend' Cardinal Murphy Murphy-O'Murphy change sides frequently but despite this the revolution is undermined and eventually destroyed by the mysterious Scarlet Pansy and the strange keeper of the bells, Quasim Modot. This musical extravaganza is suitable for everyone, including children who are not studying history at GCSE level and adults who can't remember any of their history!

● **Broadway To Hollywood & Back** by Paul Beard (*Variable casting*) £6

Written with Ian Rae. A compilation musical which contains all of the most popular show tunes and film and stage characters from the Hollywood and Broadway era. The suggested songs are linked together with a series of short comic sketches and the show is narrated in two halves by Alfred Hitchcock and Al Jolson. Already successfully produced by an amateur company in London which resulted in a re-run due to public demand.

● **Magna Carta** by Colin Wilson (*5m 8f*) £6

(co-written with Dody Denman). King John is given the chance to come back to present time to try and prove that he was not the worst and most evil King who ruled England. The audience are judge and jury and the events of John's torrid reign are told from the time John is notified of his brother, Richard the Lionheart's, death, to the 'signing' of the Magna Carta and John's own suspicious death. With a modern musical score, love, romance, intricate webs of deceit and endless plots, 'Magna Carta...' is a fast paced history lesson for everyone.

● **Vile Island** by Anne Graham (*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.

Murder Games

A new venture for NTP, these murder games are theatre in their most dynamic best - an entire evening of high-energy entertainment enjoyed by the casts and audiences alike.

They are written to be structured around a sit-down multi-course meal where the cast acts out four of five small set pieces to teams of between 4 and 8 diners (ideally) between courses and make themselves available for questioning by the diners throughout. There are very few lines to learn (so you probably only need one evening for rehearsals), but your cast needs to know the story very well indeed.

The pack consists of the script and the storyline, plus master evidence documents (wills, letters, birth certificates, bank statements, etc., etc.) that you can print as needed (one set per team). Full instructions on how to run the event are available on request.

They're a great way to raise funds for your theatre doing what you like doing and can easily be staged at any venue without detracting from mainstream rehearsals. Script packs are £25 each and performances an additional £25.

● **Crime and Distribution** by Ian Hornby (2m 2f) £25

Bride to be Lil and her wayward twin sister Tammy both seem to have fallen for the charms of slimy Max, the groom, and chief bridesmaid Ann doesn't seem immune. But Max always seems penniless, so is it the sisters' inheritance Max is after? And what has oddball wedding planner Milton to do with it all? With pregnancies, affairs, blackmail and mistaken identities everywhere, it's up to your audience to solve the inevitable murders. Tammy and Lil are played by the same actress. This is one of my series of murder mystery scripts that are available for fundraising evenings and so on.

● **Fright at the Oscars, A** by Ian Hornby (2m 4f) £25

When this game was first run we happened to have people who looks (a bit) like the stars implied by (but bearing no real resemblance to, lawyers!) the character names, but this is not essential, and it would be easy to use any lookalikes/soundalikes you do have, by simple changes to the script. It is the night of the Oscars, when a prestigious lifetime achievement award is to be given. The compere, Sir Bruce Foresight, is missing, so washed-up chat show host Oscar Winner grabs his chance at instant career rescue by stepping it to take over the microphone. Oscar has no real friends, probably because he publicly ridicules just about anyone, and his constant companion - single malt whisky - is not a lot of help. Eventually Sir Bruce is found in the car park, very dead. Everyone has good reason to be rather glad at this turn of

events, but at least one of them has done something about it. And is that the only killing on tonight's menu?

● **Last Swallow of Summer, The** by Ian Hornby (2m 4f) £25

Your guests have come to dinner at Shelly's Restaurant, where the co-owners are a divorced couple with no love lost. Jean-Christophe's new wife, Maxine, wants to refurbish the place, get rid of the existing staff and reopen as a trendy brasserie, but the staff and a possible ghost or two are against her ideas. When JC is found poisoned, a police inspector who happens to have popped in for a drink on his way home from work attempts to solve the case as a last bit of glory before he retires, carefully not mentioning his attraction for JC's ex wife. We have gambling, jealousy and blackmail among the motives for the killing. And it's just possible the audience could have eaten the same poisoned food. This is one of my series of murder mystery scripts that are available for fundraising evenings and so on.

● **Saint Trinian Susannah's Production of MacDeath** by Ian Hornby (2m 4f) £25

It is the winter half term and Saint Trinian Susannah's school has been left in the hands of the headmaster, Mr Deadhead and Deputy Head, Miss McStrict, plus an assortment of prefects who have no homes to go to. The School is on a remote Scottish Island that has been cut off from the mainland by terrible weather. And the Headmaster has been murdered. It is left to the Deputy Head and the prefects to try to solve the case before anyone else gets bumped off, but the weather, a fire, secret tunnels and the prefects' own secrets hamper progress. Your audience is cast as the lower school and here is an opportunity for everyone to get dressed up and have a lot of fun. This is one of my series of murder mystery scripts that are available for fundraising evenings and so on.

● **Scousino Royale** by Ian Hornby (2m 4f) £25

Bingo Starr, the drummer with the famous group The Boutles, is a gambler, usually unsuccessful, but this weekend he had come up on the Euromillions and Thunderball Lottery at the same time. And he's leaving the group, much to the dismay of the company directors, to start up a girl band - The Scouse Girls, with his daughter Anne Field. When Bingo is found after having apparently choked to death (on a chicken drumstick, of course), the police are called, but the use of the word "Thunderball" in the emergency call means it is intercepted by the Secret Service, and instead of the police, James Bond and M turn up. There's a suspicion that the evil organisation known as SPECTRE (their boss is called Phil, geddit?) have infiltrated Banana Studios in order to provide a legal front for the illegal operations, and further that there is a mole on the inside. Added to that is the revelation that Bingo, a lover of

Catalogue of Full Length Plays - 2011 - Murder Games

chips, has been fitted with a special plastic dietary control band (invented by Doctor Robert) that makes the wearer say no to food - the Plastic Oh No Band. Who could have killed poor Bingo?

● **Codfather, The** by Ian Hornby (*3m 3/4f*) £25

Crime is out of control in prohibition-era Chicago. The Bold Street Gang, under the control of Don Calamari, and at war with the North Side Gang, headed by Al Mascarpone. Their respective molls, Ma Baker and Moll Flounders, have managed to set up a meeting between the two dons aimed at peace, but the mysterious Red Herring is there, along with Don's daughter Carla Calamari, so there could be trouble, especially since just about every woman there fancies Dick Tracy, who has joined forces with Elliot (Eton) Mess to defeat the gangs. Meanwhile speakeasy owner Machine-Gun Shelly watches over all. After some revelations about Carla's true father and suggestions of blackmail, Don is shot. But who would dare?

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