



## Comedy Plays

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# New Plays Catalogue 2012



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# WELCOME TO THE COMEDY PLAYS CATALOGUE

## THEATRE AND DRAMA GROUPS

This catalogue, in conjunction with our web site [www.comedyplays.co.uk](http://www.comedyplays.co.uk) will help you find new, funny and interesting plays.

Ten page extracts from all the scripts can be viewed on the web site free of charge.

If you would like to be kept informed of any new plays or updates to the site please send us details of your group. We will put you on our database.

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Full scripts and licences are available for purchase via the website using our secure payment system.



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- Plays
- Pantomimes
- Sketches

You will be paid Royalties when your work is performed and a royalty for every script sold. See web site for details.



# Full Length Plays



Code	Male/Female/ Length Mins	Title	The Play's CV Key = # performances x A = amateur P = Professional - date
flp01	7m 3f 70	Salmon Chanted Evening By Steve Davies ©	3 x A – 1995 3 x A - 2000
flp01a	2m 2f + 2 youth optional 135	Chain Reaction By Steve Davies ©	World Premier Still Available
flp02	6m 4f 70	Digging Up The Past By Willie Porter ©	3 x A – 1991 3 x A - 2001
flp03	4m 5f 70	It's Murder In Here By Willie Porter ©	World Premier Still Available
flp04	3m 1f 80	The End Of The End Of The Pier Show By Steve Davies ©	3 x A - 2005
flp05	1m 5f 60	The Crown Prince of Perfect By J Boyer ©	1# Off Broadway Run Dec 2004
flp06	2m 2f 80	In a Manner of Speaking By John Watts ©	UK Premier Still Available
flp07	3m 4f 80	The Bookstore By John Watts ©	UK Premier Still Available
flp08	3m 5f 60	Forty By Sue & Clive Read ©	1 x A
flp09	3m 3f 70	You Only Die Once By John Watts ©	UK Premier Still Available
flp10	6m 6f 75	Potemkin Village By Christine Emmert ©	UK Premier Still Available
flp12	3m 3f 90	Portrait Of Death By Richard Layton ©	World Premier Still Available
flp13	6m 3f 90	Beautiful Game By Nick Wright ©	World Premier Still Available
flp14	2m 2f 90	Awkward Pauses By Jay Boyer ©	Reading, Edward Albee Theatre Festival, Valdez, Alaska, June, 2000; Reading, Player-Playwrights, London, England, January, 2002; Developmental Performances, Tempe Performing Arts Centre, Phoenix , April, 2002; Kerr Cultural Centre, Phoenix, April, 2003; Reading, Off-Broadway, The Neighbourhood Playhouse, July, 2004. UK Premier Still Available
flp15	9m 8f + 6m/f 90	Kate From Behind By Sue and Clive Read ©	1 x A
flp16	1m 6f 50	Smalls Talk By Sue & Clive Read ©	1 x A, 3 x A Feb 2006, 1 x A Mar 2006, 1 x A Apr 2006,
flp17	3m 3f 60	Take A Seat By Sue & Clive Read ©	1 x A
flp18	7m 5f 60	Evil In Tents By Sue & Clive Read ©	1 x A
flp19	2m 3f 60	Only When I Dream By Sue & Clive Read ©	1 x A
flp20	5m 2f 70	Partaay By Damian Hutchinson ©	World Premier Still Available Contains some strong language
flp21	3m 3f (1m or f) 85	Maladites Last Xmas By Nathan Hughes ©	First performed at the Broadbent Theatre, Lincoln on 14 December 2002

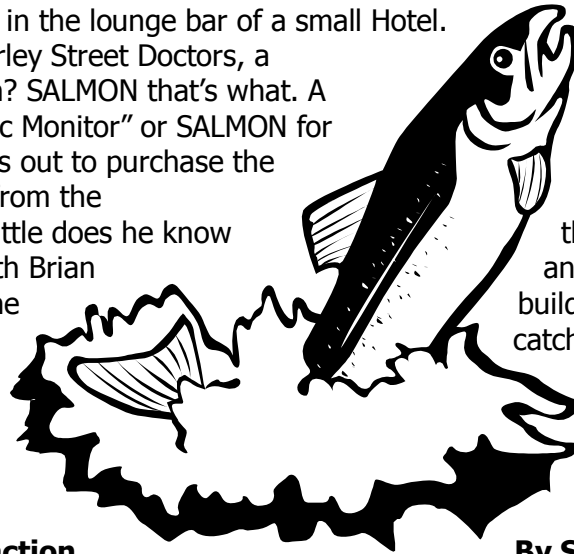
flp22	6m 9f or 7m 8f 80	Three Times A Day After Meals By Steve Doyle & Paul Cambell ©	First produced at the Library Theatre, Sheffield on 26 <sup>th</sup> May 2005
flp23	11m 7f can double up 90	Ba-Bang By Tom Kelly ©	UK Premier still available
flp24	4m 5f 90	Cheerleaders By Dorothy Cooke ©	1 x A
flp25	3m 1f 75	Spireites By Nick Wright ©	1 x P Pomegranate Playwrights festival winner 2006
flp26	3m 2f 80	The Stranger in Stanley's Room By George Freek ©	Workshop production in New York in 2004 by Animated Theatreworks, Inc.
flp27	5m 2f 70	Ghost Stories By Eckhard Marthen ©	World Premier Still Available <a href="http://www.eckhardmarthen.com/">http://www.eckhardmarthen.com/</a>
flp28	4m 5f 100	Plain as Jane By Leon Kaye ©	World Premier Still Available
flp29	3m 3f 90	Perverse Psychology By George Freek ©	World Premier Still Available
flp30	2m 2f 80	Sweet Youth By George Freek ©	World Premier Still Available
flp 31	3m 3f 112	Right Place Right Time By Paul Addison ©	World Premier Still Available
flp32	3m 2f 100	Don't Bury The Banjo By John Peel ©	World Premier Still Available
flp33	2m 4f 106	Pastures New By John Peel ©	World Premier Still Available
flp34	1m 5f 90	Starting All Over By John Peel ©	Booked for World Premier May2008
flp35	0m 5f 90	The WI Blues By John Peel	1 x A 2004
flp36	3m 4f 120	Try Anything Twice By William Roche ©	10-week run in the 150-seat Regency Hotel Theatre in Dublin
flp37	2m 5f 140	Knock and Wait By Johnathan Mee ©	World Premier still available
flp38	6m 3f 75	All Balls And Ashes By Mark Robberts ©	1 x A Reviews from world premier:- <i>'A happy mix of bumbling, comic chaos'</i> . Yorkshire Post. <i>'There were roars of laughter with almost every line'</i> . The Advertiser. <i>'Fully recommended. An evening of pleasure.'</i> Standard. <i>'My family laughed all the way home'</i> . Northern Echo.
flp39	4 m 2f 120	Family Affairs By William Roche ©	To be staged (40 performances) at Antwerp's Multatuliteater in 2008. Staged with success many times in Ireland. Awaiting U.K. premiere.
flp40	6m 3f 120	Last Orders By John and Yvonne Eddleston ©	3 x A
flp41	5m 5f (1 double) 110	Stage Struck By John and Yvonne Eddleston ©	3 x A

# SYNOPSIS

## flp01 Salmon Chanted Evening By Steve Davies ©

7m 3f 70 mins

A Farce style comedy. Set in the lounge bar of a small Hotel. prostitutes on holiday, Harley Street Doctors, a owner all have in common? SALMON that's what. A "Sound Activated Linguistic Monitor" or SALMON for psychopathic MI6 agent) is out to purchase the Brian thinks has stolen it from the device for his own gain. Little does he know is also MI6. But, what both Brian fishing contest between the night. They all end up Confusion reigns when convinced through a that all the others are actual fact they know

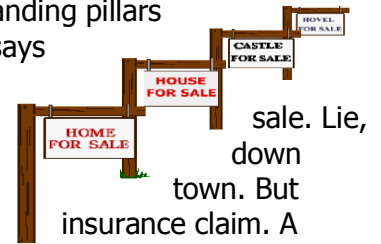


What do a set of Cowboy builders, psychopathic MI6 agent and a Hotel prototype electronic device called a short. Brian (a disillusioned and device from his contact Lynne, who manufacturer. He intends to sell the that he has been set up by Lynne who and Lynne had not bargained for is the builders, the toffs and the ladies of the catching, guess what? A real Salmon. Brian loses the device. He is series of overheard conversations after the electronic device when, in nothing about it at all.

## flp01a Chain Reaction optional 135 mins

By Steve Davies © 2m 2f + 2 youth

"Estate agents are trustworthy, ethical, professional, business people and upstanding pillars of the community who have an immense amount to contribute to society." So says Derek Figge of Cascara and Figge (moving the nation since 1927) He will do almost anything to get a sale. No, wait a minute, he will do anything to get a cheat, steal, de-fraud you name it. However, it is all about to come crashing around his neck. Estate agents for sale boards are going missing all over strangely not Derek's. The office gets burgled. Derek puts in an ambitious disgruntled client decides to take the law into her own hands and takes assistant and an off duty Policeman captive (albeit unintentionally) at the point of a loaded Baguette. In an effort to get Derek to tell the truth (for once) his assistant uses her newly found skills in hypnotism on him. Oh dear, oh dear! He's in trouble now. Who is Sid and will somebody shut that bloody alarm up?



sale. Lie, down town. But insurance claim. A Derek, his pregnant

## flp02 Digging Up The Past By Willie Porter © 6m 4f 70 mins



Professor Neyland, the eminent archaeologist, arrives at the Church Hall in Steeple Aston to investigate a "find" of Roman coins made by Lamplew Baines, the local sexton. Unfortunately, when the volunteer diggers begin to assemble it appears that they have very little idea about archaeology. Why are they here? What can they achieve? It would seem that they all have their reasons.

## flp03 It's Murder In Here By Willie Porter ©

4m 5f 70 mins

"The idea is you soak up the atmosphere of a remote country house in more leisured times. The classic days of the detective novel. The long afternoon of empire. Six pounds thirty eight please. Or will you have it on your bill?" As the guests assemble at Danesbury Hall for a 'classic murder weekend' run by 'Murder at the Manor' Limited, it becomes clear that the foggy weather has prevented not only many of the guests arriving, but some of the staff. The staff do their best but, with more revelations 'off stage' than on, the murder weekend seems set to end in hilarious disaster



**flp04****The End Of The End Of The Pier Show By Steve Davies ©****3m 1f 80 mins**

In a run down south coast seaside resort is a run down pier with a run down show at the end of it. The pier's old, the cast is old, the act is old. The rubber man has gone rigid, the fat lady won slimmer of the year and the knife thrower is on his twenty ninth assistant.. Nobody is coming to see it anymore. The show must go on at all cost but not at any price. The stakes are high when one stormy night the middle section of the pier collapses stranding the cast. Will they be rescued, will anybody care?

**flp05****The Crown Prince of Perfect By Jay Boyer ©****1m 5f 60 mins**

Fifty years of love, marriage and a questionable taste in chairs

**flp06****In a Manner of Speaking By John Watts ©****2m 2f 80 mins**

The scene is the apartment of Carl, a former UPS driver who won the lottery, quit his job and left his wife and teenage daughter. His daughter, Ruth, is now twenty-five, a graduate university student, and lives with her father while she completes her education. Stella, Carl's wife, is a pseudo sophisticate, attempting to better herself through exposure to arts and culture. Ruth's boyfriend, Humphrey, is an unemployed Chinese-American, New York actor, who earns a living as a waiter in a number of expensive restaurants owned by his father where he acts as a company spy. Ruth brings Humphrey to meet mom and dad. She has arranged for her mother to come to Carl's apartment under false pretences in order for her mother and father to be there together. Ruth is pregnant but no one else knows until the confrontation between the four characters begins. Conflicts emerge between each of the characters as they all attempt to deal with the truth about their relationships.

**flp07****The Bookstore By John Watts ©****3m 4f 80 mins**

Paul, the owner of a used bookstore lives in a private world of books. He allows outsiders to enter only on his terms, defining his existence through the written words in the great works that surround him. Julie, a dreamer, has evolved a protective wall of images drawn from her nostalgic preoccupation with classic Hollywood movies of the thirties and forties. A chance encounter caused by Julie's inquiry about books on Hollywood brings her into Paul's used bookstore. An attraction of opposites occurs. This brings with it a conflict of survival strategies in a world that both find unattractive and threatening. Julie's Hollywood obsession is a shield against the abandonment by her father and then her husband. Paul's bookstore isolates and protects him from the outside world and his fear of commitment to others. Both find themselves reaching for companionship but they are held back by a lifetime of missteps. The conflict is resolved through a series of encounters with other characters whose views on life help shed light on issues between them. Julie's protective mother looks out for her daughter's interests and a potential husband while Mrs.G, Paul's retired neighbor has similar instincts toward Paul. Paul's two friends, George the Mailman and Edward the lawyer, function as catalysts stirring the romantic mix. Julie's friend, Rita, does the same. Compromise and a willingness to accept the vulnerability that comes with romance are measures that finally cause Paul and Julie deal with their relationship honestly.

**flp08****Forty By Sue and Clive Read ©****3m 5f 60 mins**

Set around the 40<sup>th</sup> birthday of Gail and her family, a traumatic experience for anyone but especially Gail, who feels that life and sexual adventure has passed her by has only ever "known" her husband. In this permissive society this depresses her. revolves around attempts made to rectify this situation by her confident and sexually



as she  
The plot  
active

elder sister. Add two completely unsympathetic teenaged daughters, a bewildered husband, two naturist neighbours and a gay amateur dramatics leading man and hilarious chaos ensues.

**flp09      You Only Die Once By John Watts ©**

**3m 3f 70 mins**

Six people explore the death ritual in a funeral parlor. Henry, a funeral director, afraid of companionship because of the death of his wife, hires Beatrice. She is a cosmetologist looking for something better than a beauty parlor. Her job is to make the deceased look presentable for funerals. Albert is a middle-aged neighborhood bachelor who uses funeral parlors as source for women and customers for his used car dealership. Mildred is an unmarried schoolteacher still living with her mother, and looking for a husband. The minister comforts the bereaved and has his beliefs challenged by Joanna, a bitter prostitute whose friend, also a prostitute, has just died. The communal ritual of visiting the dead before they are laid to rest brings the needs of these individuals together. Romance develops between Henry and Beatrice and Albert and Joanna. Unsuccessful attempts at romance by the minister toward Beatrice and by Mildred toward Albert create counter balance and uncertainty. The comic nature of the play shifts to tragedy upon the death of Joanna the prostitute and the inevitable ritual presentation of her body to the living in the funeral parlor.

**flp10      Potemkin Village By Christine Emmert ©**

**6m 6f 75 mins**

On a wacky estate in Czarist Russia where a young teacher goes to get over her broken heart. She is told by the Nobleman who hired her that she is there exclusively to teach his son, a bastard child the man had with a peasant. The young woman becomes embroiled with the young man, the servant who loves him, his witch (literally!) of a grandmother, and the Holy Fool. All's well that ends well (as the Bard would say) when they perform an old legend for the nobleman's benefit on midsummer night.

**flp12      Portrait Of Death By Richard Layton ©**

**3m 3f 90 mins**

Traditional artist Pierce Thompson shares a house and studio with modern artist Peter Lockley. Their agent, Alex Turner, is also Peter's lover. Their differing styles of art are symptomatic of a general clash of personalities. Both scoff at each other's works but Peter would secretly give anything to be able to produce a painting as good as Pierce's. When Peter is offered a chance to display his work in a major gallery, he finds there is a catch: they want some of it to be paintings. Knowing that Pierce has a masterpiece, the Portrait of Death of the play's title which he has always refused to sell until he finds a buyer he considers worthy of owning it, Peter plots to murder Pierce so he can pass the painting off as his own. Meanwhile, Pierce has been commissioned by Wayne Garratt to paint a portrait of his girlfriend, Lisa Horton. When Pierce and Lisa meet, it's love at first sight and they agree to spin out the painting of the picture in order that they can see more of each other. However, Wayne has his own reasons for wanting Pierce dead: he can then, as the legal owner of Pierce's last work, sell it for a tidy profit. To this end he puts the drug addicted Julie Wyatt, who depends on him for her supply, up to killing Pierce. Julie arrives at the house on a mission to 'shoot the artist' and mistakenly kills Peter, unwittingly saving Pierce from Peter's murderous intentions. Wayne is initially angry when he discovers that the painting is still unfinished but when he realises that Julie shot the wrong man, he resolves to force Pierce to finish the work so he can still resell it. Julie falls out with Wayne and he kills her. Pierce mistakenly gets the impression that Lisa was in on Wayne's scheme all along, but this is untrue, Lisa being too scared of Wayne's temper to resist the embrace which he catches them in. When the painting is finally completed, Wayne attempts to shoot Pierce but Pierce is saved by his mobile phone which is in his breast pocket. Pierce breaks the canvas over Wayne's head and Lisa gets the gun. Pierce daubs green paint, the colour of jealousy on Wayne's face.

**flp13      Beautiful Game By Nick Wright ©**

**6m 3f 90 mins**

The near future. The soccer world has is even more dominated by rampant commercial interests than it is today. Manchester Athletic, one of the Commercialship's most successful clubs, are having a poor season and are in danger of being relegated from the Commercialship for the first time in their illustrious history. With the campaign reaching its climax they sack their manager. Gerald Hulbert, a modern languages teacher and part time schools football coach has just been made redundant. At his leaving party he gets drunk, and encouraged by his friend and colleague Phil Gadsby, he fools two girls he meets in a nightclub into believing

he is a French football coach. The next day Phil continues to persuade Gerald to pretend he really is a French football coach called Gerald Hulber and that he should apply for the Manchester Athletic position. Although Gerald is reluctant, events conspire to finally persuade him. He gets an interview and amazingly is offered the job. Can he save the great club from relegation? *The Beautiful Game* is an entertaining satire on the crazily commercial world of modern soccer, television and even education. It also questions the notions of identity and professional expertise.

**flp14 Awkward Pauses By Jay Boyer ©**

**2m 2f 90 mins**

A dark comedy about a turbulent marriage at its turbulent end. The play is set in London flat during a bout of inclement weather. There are but three characters in all. Judah sterling is a lecturer in the art department of the university of London, approaching midlife; Emily, Judah's wife is younger, in her thirties/early forties. Once Judah's student and now the mother of their daughters, Emily is an administrator in one of London's social welfare schemes. Finally, there's Geoffrey Brandt. Twenty-something, Geoffrey is under her tutelage, learning the ropes of child protective services. Not incidentally, he is also her lover. An examination of love and romance at three different ages, the play recounts what happens when Judah confronts his wife and Geoffrey on the evening the two mean to become a permanent couple.

**flp15 Kate From Behind By Sue and Clive Read ©**

**9m 8f + 6m or f 90 mins**

The story evolves during an amateur run of the musical Kiss Me Kate. We see the male and female principal dressing rooms simultaneously on stage and are treated to all the trials and tribulations, tears and tantrums which occur during a week's run. With the threat of the theatre's closure, the resignation of the Chairman, the spitefulness of the ex-leading lady towards the inexperienced newcomer, *Kate From Behind* mirrors situations only too familiar to anyone who has had anything to do with an amateur musical society.



**flp16 Smalls Talk By Sue and Clive Read ©**

**1m 6f 50 mins**



Five ladies of different ages and backgrounds meet for a lingerie party with Dawn, the Lady Lace Representative. The atmosphere is cool until the hostess gets out her husband's lethal pea-pod wine. Under its influence tongues are loosened as the ladies decide to give one of their dowdy colleagues a makeover in order to regain the affections of her errant husband. Using Rex, the hostess' wimp of a husband as a guinea pig to measure her increased sensuality, the ladies endeavour to achieve their goal through a haze of alcohol – with hilarious results.

**flp17 Take A Seat By Sue and Clive Read ©**

**3m 3f 60 mins**

The action concerns twelve months of comings and goings centred around the same park bench. The chance meeting of Ben, a young job and Alex, a city businessman recovering from a heart bypass operation, leads to an unusual friendship and an exchange of philosophies. The lives of a mysterious silent but communicative man, a young mum and her baby-hating sister and a nosey grandmother all become entwined the year passes. The play ends in unexpected results.



**flp18 Evil In Tents By Sue and Clive Read ©**

**7m 5f 60 mins**



As the title suggests the play is about camping in Britain. A motley assortment of campers are gathered at the Nurture Nature Campsite run by the redoubtable Mrs Stubbs. The campers consist of an illicit couple on a dirty weekend, some young, lusty men out for fun, a couple of luscious, young ladies, two scouts with their harassed scout leader and the central characters – a middle-aged couple trying to recapture the

bygone days of their youth. However these apparent strangers discover that the world is indeed a small place when they are thrown together with hilarious results.

**flp19      Only When I Dream By Sue and Clive Read ©**

**2m 3f 60 mins**

When Sebastian, a wealthy, young rugby-playing man-about-town is injured in a match and confined to a wheelchair life seems to have little meaning for him. He is preyed upon by an unscrupulous pair of "friends" and he seems intent upon a downward path to destruction. Enter Petula, a young physiotherapist assigned to his care and things begin to develop. But the course of true love never runs smooth and soon he is back on his own. His new physiotherapist, much older and wiser Val, takes over and Sebastian eventually comes to terms with his future, Petula, his disability and his attitude to life. An engaging and unusual love story with many comic moments, some pathos and a happy ending. Unusual inasmuch as the leading man could actually be played by a wheelchair bound actor.

**flp20      Partaay By Damian Hutchinson ©**

**5m 2f 70 mins**

Party at a house that does not want party. House wrecked! Police arrive arrest lots of people & go. Three remain - nephew of house owner, his nightmare best friend and a girl. Whilst clearing up the mess large amounts of cocaine are found. Girl ODs. She's dead ..Then Isn't. new chap arrives. New body is found. House owners return. Lots of lying, running about, and finale involving guns and loud hailer

**flp21      Maladites Last Xmas By Nathan Hughes ©**

**3m 3f 1m or f 85 mins**

Xmas eve. Four tenants of a shared house, a mix of student types and young professionals are preparing to leave. Shannon, is preparing to wallow in what she believes to be 'an over commercialised greed driven cesspit of self-delusion and exploitation' (Christmas). Victoria intends to work through the holidays, Christmas to her is 'comparable to any other day of year'. Art student Russ simply wants to get home, and join his family in the 'customary twenty pints to celebrate the birth of our saviour'. Finally, house patriarch and mature student Maladite makes his intentions for the festive period clear. Staying in, cracking open the alcohol and enjoying the seasonal TV offerings. Very soon, his housemates return, forced back by a freak blizzard that traps them in the house. A princely cache of contraband food, cigarettes and alcohol mysterious appears in the cellar. They decide to make the best of a bad situation and tuck in, unaware that it belongs to Shannon's ex, Gary Palmer, head of a crime syndicate. Just when it seemed that Christmas may be back on, the evenings chaos is topped by the discovery the worlds most unlikely homicide victim on their property – Santa Claus himself!

**flp22      Three Times A Day After Meals By Steve Doyle & Paul Cambell © 6m 9f or 7m 8f 80 mins**



St Victor's Hospital has been selected to be featured on the popular television series Life Saving Hands. The Head of Surgery, Mr. Horace Kutter is looking forward to the opportunity to display his operating techniques on the small screen when, just as the film crew are about to arrive he has an accident involving a bedpan and becomes unavailable. At the same time Department of Health Inspectors arrive to carry out a surprise inspection under the management of the formidable Miss Cowgate. It is well known throughout the Health sector that the television company don't like the health inspectors and vice versa. A junior doctor is persuaded to impersonate Dr Kutter for the television production company while a patient does him for the inspectors. At one time there are five "Kutters" on stage. But Miss Cowgate has other plans. She intends that her team deliver a damning inspection report that will lead to closure because a company with whom she is involved has an option on the site to build houses and make a mint. Thank heavens for the NHS that she is unmasked in the final scene and the hospital can continue medicating the patients Three times a day after Meals.

**flp23****Ba-Bang By Tom Kelly ©****11m 7f with doubling 90 mins**

A group of powerful and influential men and women meet at billionaire Warren Buffett's Waddesdon Manor: The ultimate networking opportunity. Among those invited are the President of the World Bank, Chief Executive Officer of the worlds largest food processing and distribution company, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of the worlds largest research-based pharmaceutical company, Chief Executive Officers of major oil corporations, Chairman and Chief Executive Officers of major banking establishments, Governor of California, Arnold Schwarzenegger, De Beers chairman Nicky Oppenheimer and three unnamed guests, outside the meeting hall: "Jay", "Que", and "Dubya". Of the three unnamed guests they nominate one to a very important unnamed position: the Presidency of the United States. They secretly nominate George W. Bush, DUBYA. At curtain, Scene Two, we find DUBYA trying to use his influence with GOD to help him with his legacy: his quest to spread freedom, liberty and Christianity throughout the world. During his private prayer session he is visited by some of the worlds greatest thinkers: CARL SAGAN, WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE, ABRAHAM LINCOLN, HARRY TRUMAN, CONFUSCIUS, JOHN F. KENNEDY, LEONARDO DE VINCI, MAHATMA GHANDI, LORD TIMOTHY DEXTER, SUSAN B. ANTHONY, ELEANOR ROOSEVELT, DWIGHT D. EISENHOWER, ANNE FRANK, BARBARA JORDAN, GOLDA MIER and of course GOD

**flp24****Cheerleaders By Dorothy Cooke ©****4m 5f 90 mins**

Set in Dave Thornton's disgustingly untidy flat, Cheerleaders tells the story of Dave and his neighbours Ken and Norm and their involvement with the local amateur football team. In an attempt to boost support for the team they consider auditioning some cheerleaders – but confusion follows as Dave also needs a char lady to clean up his flat so he can persuade his girlfriend Sharon to move in with him. Norm gets the wrong end of the stick and things go from bad to worse for Dave and Sharon. Further trouble lies ahead in Act 2 when Sharon's amorous mother arrives and sets her sights on Norm.

**flp25****Spireites By Nick Wright ©****3m 1f 75 mins**

It is the day of Chesterfield Football Club's 1997 historic FA cup Semi Final against Premiership Middlesbrough at Old Trafford, Manchester. Amongst the twenty odd thousand Chesterfield fans who are travelling for this unique day are Steve, Karl and Mark. When a couple of other friends can't make it Mark brings his wife, Ruth, who doesn't quite see football in the same way as the men. Whilst Karl and Mark are passionate about the football Ruth is more passionate about Steve. Spireites! is an exuberant comedy about football, romance and a uniquely special day for the citizens of Chesterfield.

**flp26****The Stranger in Stanley's Room By George Freek ©****3m 2f 80 mins**

The stranger in Stanley's room is a comedy which turns A Streetcar Named Desire upside-down. Thus, Stanley is a shy, modest and sensitive poet and literature professor; whereas Blanche, the sister of Stanley's down-to-earth and pragmatic but also pregnant sister, Stella, is loud, over-bearing, over-sexed and heavy drinking. Nonetheless, when he meets her during one of Stanley's 'Poetry Nights', Harold Twitch, Stanley's friend and colleague, falls heads-over-heels for Blanche. However, fellow poet and Spanish Professor, Pablo, is also enthralled by Blanche. From that point, Stranger progresses in a diametrically opposite direction from Streetcar, until it arrives at its unexpected conclusion with its tenuous reconciliation.

**flp27****Ghost Stories By Eckhard Marthen ©****5m 2f 70 mins**

Ghosts haunting an old Theatre; 2 old geezers and one little girl. Henry (a former accountant; nicknamed Suit), Albert (a former building inspector; nicknamed Sparky) & Mary (a little girl). Having died in the building many years ago they are stuck there. Henry, a former accountant for the theatre, died of a heart attack when one day he received an unexpected invoice from the Theatre's lawyers. Even as a ghost he still scrutinizes every play for its profitability. When Albert one day inspected the theatre for structural safety, he got killed by a lighting bar falling onto his head. He didn't wear a helmet at the time. Now a ghost, he refuses

to take off his safety helmet. He's determined the building is unsafe, and is convinced one day it will collapse with them in it. Mary one day sneaked into the theatre, climbed onto the lighting grid and got electrocuted. She still has an affinity with electrical equipment. Henry's and Albert's main task is to look after and care for little Mary ... and not doing a very good job of it. Their conduct as ghosts is scrutinized by the Celestial Office. Whenever they bugger up (which happens a lot) Top Dog (God) sends his 2<sup>nd</sup> in charge, Chief Whip, down to reprimand the unruly Henry and Albert.

**flp28 Plain as Jane By Leon Kaye © 4m 5f 100 mins**

A young woman conjures Jane Austen to help make the young woman a good romance novelist.

**flp29 Perverse Psychology By George Freek © 3m 3f 90 mins**

In the midst of their own argument, Ward and June are interrupted by the arrival of their neighbor and friend, Lefty, who has just lost his job and has also been kicked out by his wife; so he has come seeking solace and also a place to spend the night. Shortly thereafter, however, Julia, Ward and June's daughter shows up, pregnant and having walked out on her third husband. Later, when Nadine, Lefty's wife, finally arrives to take him home, more problems ensue with the arrival of Wally, Julia's irate husband, demanding to speak to Julia, who, however, refuses to let him enter the house.

**flp30 Sweet Youth By George Freek © 2m 2f 80 mins**

Alex, a high school teacher, faces a dilemma when Burt, his Principal, recommends him for a promotion; however, Burt also informs Alex that he would like to date his eighteen year old daughter.

**flp31 Right Place Right Time By Paul Addison © 3m 3f 112 mins**

The play tells the story of Kris Hart and what happens to him one week end when the first love of his life turns up out of the blue. The play had a gay theme, but would be accessible to mainstream audiences. The content of the play is not confronting but simple about the trials and tribulations of first love revisited

**flp32 Don't Bury The Banjo By John Peel © 3m 2f 100 mins**

In rural communities young people have two choices. Those with ambition leave to pursue their ambitions. Others stay at home, often spending a lifetime of regret at missed opportunities. But is life greener on the other side? Jake Thwaites is an only child to be proud of. At least that is what his mother Ruth thinks. Her single-minded determination has driven him through boarding school and university to a successful career as a commodities broker in the City. Ruth's long-suffering husband, Joseph, dies suddenly. Jake returns home to the village shop to find his mother dry eyed and negotiating keenly with Silas Dredge, the undertaker. Keeping her company is Jake's old school mate Ned, who has never left the village and works on his father's farm. The rekindling of this friendship, fuelled by whiskey, big boys quickly behave like little boys. So a gentle soirée on guitar and banjo develops into 'Duelling Banjo's' and to accommodate a spot of arm wrestling, the coffin is stood on end. If Ned's life is unfulfilled at least it is straightforward. Jake's is anything but. Beneath the Armani suit and Gucci loafers we gradually discover a man at odds with his image and apparently happy for things to stay that way. Ned's curiosity he can easily side step, whilst his mother remains dazzled. It is only when Roiseen, the partner he abandoned appears unexpectedly, that Jake realises his duplicity may come to an end. As the funeral draws closer with the coffin still lying on the kitchen table Ruth's behaviour becomes even more eccentric. Her eyes and ears are closed to what she is being told about her precious son. But there is no escape for Jake who finds himself pushed into a corner. By Roiseen on matters of the heart, and by Ned for whom Jake is an entry visa to a Promised Land. It is time for Jake, in modern parlance, to come out. We now know through Roiseen, this has no sexual connotation. Rather it is that Jake is the son of his father and he wants above all else to be a musician. His life has been unfulfilled and unhappy. The future has to be different. Events surrounding the funeral have crystallised his mind what he needs to do. All that is lacking now is the courage to do it. When Ruth tosses Joseph's banjo into the coffin to return it 'back to the devil himself,' he recognises the time has finally arrived and he must make his stand. Silas Drudge

confessed later, in all his years as an undertaker, he had never witnessed such a scene, mother and son wrestling for an old banjo over an open coffin.

**flp33 Pastures New By John Peel ©**

**2m 4f 106 mins**

Against a backdrop of farming in the Dales sliding into decline, recently widowed Giles gets entangled in new relationships. All Giles Briggs wants is a life that is uncomplicated and that is how things have turned out since the death of his wife. He has his pigs, his game of darts and his best mate Vincent who has worked on the farm since leaving school. But things are about to change and these changes are coming by way of what Giles calls petticoat power. His daughter Kate insists on a new kitchen for the farmhouse and there is no way Giles can cope with this modern technology. She is also pressurising him, as only daughters can, to pay for yet another vacation, this time to Australia. But far more serious news comes from sister Gertrude who throws the farm accounts onto the kitchen table accompanied by a grim warning that things have to change. Wallowing in the heritage that the farm has been in the family since Adam was a lad, Giles initial solution is to do nothing. But nothing is not good enough for Gertrude whose residency in numerous marital beds have given her a more pragmatic and hard bitten outlook on life. With Kate as an ally she appoints an expert to come to the rescue. On reflection the appointment of Lesley, being the same age and gender as Kate, turns out to be unfortunate. Lesley and Giles do not hit it off. In fact the meeting ends on a sour note with Lesley's tears assuaged by a parting gift of Vincent's sausages and home cured bacon. By now, Giles's quest for the easy life has been well and truly shattered. In a desperate move to raise cash he seeks planning approval for some surplus farm buildings which he can sell off for housing. Initially, this brings even more conflict with Kate and Gertrude that he eventually resolves by appealing to their mercenary instincts. His efforts, however, are in vain when the application is turned down. To complete his misery during one of their tete-a-tetes, Vincent, the only person he feels he can confide in, collapses after revealing some surprising secrets from the past. While all this drama unfolds there are matters of the heart to consider. Not unnaturally for someone of her age, Kate has a boyfriend. More surprisingly, Giles is smitten after a 'chance' meeting in the pub with a divorcee. He is uneasy about telling his daughter of this as he is uncertain what her reaction will be. As can happen, both relationships flounder and there are tears and heartache. But there is yet time for a happy ending. Unbeknown to any of them, far from taking the hump, Lesley has found a supermarket chain that views Vincent's sausages and home cured bacon as a profit opportunity. The boss lady of this company, Liz Ryan comes to seal the deal. Giles steels himself to contend with more petticoat power. But when Giles meets Liz we detect a somewhat different attitude than hitherto. There are more surprises at the end when we discover Gertrude's heart may not be chiselled out of granite. And of Kate's trip to Australia? Business class tickets: one for her, the other for the new boyfriend. She turns out to be a manipulative girl does our Kate.

**flp34 Starting All Over By John Peel ©**

**1m 5f 90 mins**



Roz and Daisy, friends from schooldays, have left London to live in the country. Roz, with five marriages behind her but no tears, dominates the relationship. The more sensitive Daisy is recently divorced but as vicar Janet discovers it was probably Roz who instigated this. Local village colour and comedy comes in the form of Joe the postman and an unlikely cleaner in Mrs Owen-Jones, wife of a retired army officer and would be ballroom dancer. Daisy's only daughter Arabella is a hard nut Home Office scientist with a mission in life to resurrect her parents failed marriage. She views Roz as the obstacle to overcome before this can be achieved. During a visit she puts into Daisy's head that former husband Charles wants her back. Unknown to Roz, Daisy makes the trip to London and leads to tragedy. The play is about the consequences of interfering in other peoples lives. Two strong characters tear apart the life the one person they both love There are back stories of the poignant affections of Joe the postman (based on a real life and well loved man) and the eccentricities of an ex army wife. These come together at the end to give a bitter sweet conclusion. The perceived 'good life' expressed as keeping pigs and hens is viewed with amused cynicism. A lady vicar, from her own tragic experience, represents the voice of reason. But this religious voice is nothing more than a whisper that is the modern church.

**flp35****The WI Blues By John Peel ©****5f 90 mins**

'The WI exists to educate women to enable them to provide an effective role in the community, to expand their horizons and to develop and pass on important skills.' (WI official website.) Grace and friends have a very different agenda. Next week will be the AGM of the Woman's Institute and Grace is all set to be the new chairperson. But there is a danger that some off-comers will stand against her. So Grace invites her supporters to a meeting to make sure her plans are not waylaid. Or is the real reason for the Jacob's Join at her house that she can show off her new conservatory and kitchen? Model husband Geoffrey is packed off in the brand new Jag to spend a few days with his mother. At least this is what she tells the others. But is Grace being completely honest? Fiona, the slow-witted but good-natured wife of a farmer is first to arrive. Then together come Jane, an acid tongued divorcee who has had more relationships than hot dinners, and Pippa, the classy daughter of a merchant banker, married to a former foot-balling star. Typical of many close friends, these two make perfect sparring partners. The preliminary skirmishes are about clothes, the new kitchen, for conservatory read orangery, and the quality of the contributions to the Jacob's Join. With Hazel, the ambitious, some would even say pretentious wife of Harold Nut-Brown the butcher, not yet arrived it presents the others with a not to be missed opportunity for gossip about her. All in the strictest confidence, of course! When Hazel does appear, the food she brings and clothes she wears have an immediate impact. Then there are the mysterious phone calls that Grace passes off as wrong numbers. And there is the phone call that Hazel awaits in trepidation. The Jacob's Join brings the first act to an end. It also brings to an end Grace's airs and graces. (Pardon the pun!) Or so we are led to believe. As the evening progresses laughter turns into tears as the past catches up with the present. Even silly party games can only lift the gloom for a short while. There are revelations never aired before. Again, all reported and received in the strictest confidence. The talk is all about relationships. Four of the women are happily married. The other would love to be in that situation. But is this really the case? Grace has retired tearfully to her bedroom by the time the others depart. If they think she will cry herself to sleep they are very much mistaken. Grace has other ideas on how she will spend the rest of the night. But then again, 'the best laid plans of mice and men,' or in this case women.....

**flp36****Try Anything Twice By William Rocke ©****3m 4f 120 mins**

When vivacious forty-something Josephine McGowan wins a Glamorous Grandmother Contest and brings home suave, Womanising TV actor Clive Cartwright as a prize she upsets More than her gone-to-seed husband Michael... Josephine seems to enjoy her nights out with romantic Clive. But when glamorous reporter Paula Smith arrives to Interview her husband, he sees a way to prove he still has 'it' With hilarious results!

**flp37****Knock And Wait By Johnathan Mee ©****2m 5f 140 mins**

Dan Lomax is one of life's drifters. That gap year after university lasted a long, long time. But he's now in his thirties and ready to settle down. He lands a job as a supply teacher at St Saviour's Junior School which has just had a damning inspection report. The head, Clive Beasley, is only concerned with sucking up to anyone who will enhance his CV so he can escape the sinking ship. The all-female staff are either too old, too lazy or too naive to make a difference. Shocked to see Dan is actually that rare thing - a male (and a handsome one at that!) - all the ladies set out to attract his attention. However Dan is amazed to find Kate Faraday, the girl he loved and lost at teacher-training all those years ago, is teaching there too. In all the confusion, the truth about Clive's school fund-raising scams is uncovered.

**flp38****All Balls and Ashes By Mark Roberts ©****6m 3f 75 mins**

The comedy is set in a quiet Yorkshire village, Greenbridge, where once a year the village plays a charity cricket match with a neighbouring team from Lancashire. With a village team composed mostly of geriatrics, the team is stunned when their star bowler, Hot Balls Seth, pops his clogs days before the match is due to be played. Not until Seth has been cremated do his former team mates recall that Seth had expressed the wish to have his ashes scattered over Jasper's Bottom, the colloquial name for the local cricket ground. One would think an easy enough task to perform, however, there were conditions and one enormous snag. Seth loved brass bands - and Morris men, so why shouldn't they be there at the 'scattering'? The snag? Seth has never

conveyed these wishes to his wife, Freda, a formidable lady now resolute in her determination that the ashes will remain in her keeping; after all, he'd spent more time in the 'Cobbler's Arms' with his mates, so wasn't it right he should now spend his hours with his wife? Not to be defeated, his mates come up with an ingenious plan to steal the ashes and replace them with something 'suitable'. In doing so they will encounter and outwit local police sergeant, Alf Dawson; confound and be confounded by Algernon Makepeace, the star-gazing vicar whose passion for producing his own altar wine is threatening to take over. Terrify and baffle Seth's widow; fall foul of geographic changes which will endanger Seth's proud status as a Yorkshire man; uncover the secrets of Seth's bird and nature watching; before finally discovering that it wasn't only worms 'Hot Balls' Seth charmed.

**flp39 Family Affairs By William Rocke ©**

**4m 2f 120 mins**

Public Relations exec., widower Gerard Morley, has it all...a luxury apartment, Herbert a discreet manservant, Jonathan a studious son, plus a brother, Father Joe, a long-term missionary priest in Africa – far enough away not to have an inkling of Gerard's nightly adventures with a succession of nubile young ladies... Gerard's world is turned upside down when he gets a phone call from Fr. Joe informing him that, having paid his debt to the world, Fr. Joe is quitting the missions and returning home, ready to 'join the swingin' scene', All this just as man-hungry Matilda Picard is set to call on Gerard, anxious to find out what he was up to last night with her darling daughter Jacinta....This fast-moving comedy makes for a fun evening.

**flp40 Last Orders By John and Yvonne Eddleston ©**

**6m 3f 120 mins**

There are three stories, running through the play. Owen takes a booking for Wednesday night, despite being told by his wife not to do so. He therefore has to hide this from her. Tracy is inveigled into acting as waitress for the night but gradually gets drunk, thus causing chaos to descend on the poor unfortunate couple who have made the booking. At the same time, Pat seems to have something to hide. Why is she not available to cook on Wednesday night? Where has she gone instead? Does she have a secret lover and if so, who can it be? Finally, there is the Mysterious Stranger who keeps coming into the pub and making notes. Is he someone for Owen to worry about?

**flp41 Stage Struck By John and Yvonne Eddleston ©**

**5m 5f 110 mins**

The Topspot Theatrical Agency has fallen on hard times. Business is bad and the only glimmer of hope seems to be a call from a television company seeking regulars for a new police drama series based on the London underworld. Things also seem to be looking up when Jenny gets a telephone call from Robbie Williams, seeking new management. At the same time, the detective agency next door, which has a somewhat similar name, is doing rather well, due to mainly nefarious practices. The owner, David Mackay, has now agreed to fence some stolen jewels for the local gang boss, James Malone. Malone and his henchman are not the brightest sparks and by mistake go into the wrong office, that of the theatrical agency, where they hide the jewels. The play is the story of the attempts to retrieve the jewels, to arrest the bad guys and of course, to save the agency.

**Wife Gags**

The wife was in floods of tears, I said "what's the matter?" She said, "I'm home sick" I said, "this is your home." She said "I know I'm sick of it"

The wife said to me, "look when I want your opinion I'll give it to you"

I wear the trousers in my house, I said to wife, "anymore of your lip and you'll make these beds yourself"

## **For balance and to maintain harmony, here are some husband gags**

How do you make your husbands eyes light up? Shine a torch in his ear.

A lady inserted an 'ad' in the classifieds: "Husband wanted". Next day she received a hundred letters. They all said the same thing: "You can have mine."

### **The Secret**

On their 15<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary the wife decided to come clean about her past and tells her husband that before they were married she used to be a Hooker. "That's OK" he says, "you've been a good and faithful wife all these years I forgive you and may be if you can remember some of the things you used to do it might spice up our sex life."

"No you don't understand", she replied, "my name was Brian and I played for Wales"

### **The Check Up**

An old guy of 90 years of age goes to the Doctors for a private health check and insists that the Doctor looks at and tests everything imaginable. After several hours the Doctor has finished his exhaustive examination. He says to the gentleman, "well I'm amazed for a man of your years you're extremely fit. I'm happy to give you a clean bill of health."

"What about my sperm count?" replies the old guy.

"I beg your pardon" says the Doc

"Well, you've tested everything except that"

Reluctantly the Doc says, "Ok, you're paying for it, I can't see much point but, here we go" he hands him a small container, "go home and bring me back a sample in this tomorrow" The old guy goes away and returns to the Doctor's surgery the following day. He hands the Doc the still empty container.

"I'm sorry Doctor, I couldn't do it. I tried it with my right hand. I tried it with my left hand, nothing. I tried trapping it in the door. The wife tried it with her teeth in, she tried it with her teeth out. We still couldn't get the lid off"

# Single Act Plays



Code	Male/Female/ Length Mins	Title	The Play's CV Key = #performances x A = amateur P = professional - date
oap01	3m 1f (+2 optional) 60	<b>Many Hands Make Light Work - By Steve Davies ©</b>	3 x A - 2002 3 x P - 2002 Winning piece Pomegranate Playwrights Festival 2002 2 x A Oct 2005
oap02	3m 1f 50	<b>Romance Of The Cup By Dean Lawrence ©</b>	World Premier Still Available
oap03	2m 40	<b>Second Chance By Steve Davies ©</b>	World Premier Still Available
oap04	Either 2m or 2w 40	<b>I Keep On Thinking It's Thursday By Paul Groves ©</b>	3 x A - 2004 3 x P - 2002 Wining piece Pomegranate Playwrights Festival 2002 2 x A Oct 2006
oap05	3m 2f 45	<b>Finding a Voice By Nick Wright ©</b>	World Premier Still Available
oap07	3m 2f 20	<b>Fool On The Hill By Linda Rose ©</b>	3 x P – 2005 Winning piece Pomegranate Playwrights Festival 2005
oap08	1m 1f & 1f (off) 45	<b>Walter and Peg By John Watts ©</b>	UK Premier Still Available
oap09	2m 5f 30	<b>Listen By Clive Read ©</b>	1 x A, 2 x A May 2006,
oap10	4m 2f 25	<b>A Night at The Theatre By Tracy Delamere- Tippler ©</b>	nominated for several awards during the 2004 Sheffield One Act Play SADATA Festival.
oap11	5m 4f 60	<b>Wands Don't Grow On Trees By Stephanie Spiers ©</b>	World Premier Still Available
oap12	3m 4f 60	<b>Well Groomed By Ian Townsend ©</b>	2 x A
oap13	5m 4f 60	<b>Granny Must Die By Ian Townsend ©</b>	Played very successfully at local theatre and at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival (4 stars, Critic's Choice of the Day).
oap14	2m 3f 45	<b>It's In The Bank By George Freek ©</b>	World Premier Still Available
oap15	2m 2f (2m Child – could be V/O) 30	<b>Rut By Sara Beasley ©</b>	World Premier Still Available
oap16	3m 2f 35	<b>Love Hurts By John Peel ©</b>	World Premier Still Available
oap17	2m 3f 30	<b>Judgement Day By John Peel ©</b>	World Premier Still Available

<b>oap18</b>	<b>2m 2f 50</b>	<b>Skin Deep By John Peel ©</b>	<b>World Premier Still Available</b>
<b>oap19</b>	<b>7f 45</b>	<b>Summer Belles By William Roche ©</b>	<b>Summer Belles has been broadcast several times on RTE (Irish) Radio, and has had over 500 stage performances, winning awards for the actresses playing the roles of the gossipy neighbours Mrs. Harris and Mrs. Tracy</b>
<b>oap20</b>	<b>6f 33</b>	<b>Neighbours By William Roche</b>	<b>World Premier Still Available</b>
<b>oap21</b>	<b>4f 1m of f 50</b>	<b>Waiting For Gordon By Derek Webb ©</b>	<b>World Premier Still Available</b>

## SYNOPSIS

**oap01: Many Hands Make Light Work By Steve Davies © 3m 1f + 2 optional m 60 mins**



Bert, Harry and Alan are three lighthouse keepers contemplating the light going automatic and the subsequent loss of jobs, when the peace and tranquillity is shattered by two unexpected visitors. One highly explosive, literally, the other not so, but just as devastating. Will life ever be the same again? Not if the visitor has her way.

**Scene from "Many Hands Make Light Work" by Steve Davies ©**

**oap02: Romance Of The Cup By Dean Lawrence © 3m 1f 50 mins**

Ollie Davies is the Chairman of Lentby Football Club recently promoted to the premiership. The FA Ground Quality Committee has just paid them a visit. Estimates to bring to the ground up to scratch come to twelve million pounds. As if this was not enough they have just drawn Manchester Utd in the FA cup. Plagued by injury this could be the final nail in the coffin for Lentby. - Unless! - Ollie has an idea. The game is to be played under flood-lights so what would happen if there was a "failure?" The game would be abandoned and have to be replayed, with all the additional gate fees & TV money. Problem solved! It's as simple as that. Or is it?

**oap03: Second Chance By Steve Davies © 2m 40 mins**

It's Christmas eve in the Spink house and something is moving is it a mouse?. No it's a burglar caught in the act. Sometimes we could all do with a second chance. A chance to turn the clock back, go back in time and do things differently if we could. But that's impossible? Isn't it?

**oap04: I Keep On Thinking It's Thursday By Paul Groves © 2m or 2f 40 mins**

Two old dears in a retirement home cannot decide which day of the week it is. Why don't they ask somebody? Well they wouldn't want to appear stupid would they.

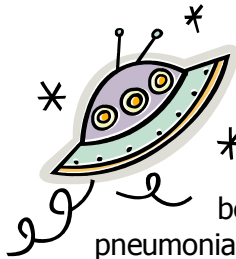
**oap05: Finding A Voice By Nick Wright © 3m 2f 45 mins**

Basil is a librarian and frustrated unpublished and un-produced writer. Each year he looks forward to the annual writers' workshops at his local theatre. Each year he hopes that the workshop leader will help him

achieve his dream of becoming a 'real' writer. He is 'over the moon' when he discovers that this year's workshop leader is the celebrated playwright Howard Imperial. Basil's long suffering wife, Helen, agrees to accompany him to the workshop, where the only other apprentice 'writers' are Mrs. Selly and Con Fitzgerald two eccentric old people who frequent Basil's library. Both have a fund of stories to relate, but whether they are writers or not is debatable! Will this be the year Basil achieves his dream or will Howard Imperial turn out to be just another charlatan?

**oap07: Fool On The Hill By Linda Rose ©**

**3m 2f 20 mins**



Colonel Mallory is camped at the top of a hill, owned by farmer Molly Fletcher. He is waiting for aliens to abduct him, and is set to stay there until they do; but Farmer Molly is impatient to regain her property to allow a mobile phone mast company to set a mast there, and she is insistent he has to move. Will the loving history they had many years before add any sway? Can she get him to see sense before he dies of pneumonia on the hilltop? When the colonel disappears into the autumn mists, was it finally aliens, the loony bin – or the aggressive strategy of the mobile phone mast company?? Will we ever know?!

**oap08: Walter and Peg By John Watts ©**

**1m 1f + 1f (off) 45 mins**

Recognition of the aging process, empty nest syndrome, the needs and regrets of marriage, all are crammed together in an unexpected evening at home for Walter and Peg. The prospects and threats of reaching the age of fifty are revealed through the conflicts of this middle age, middle class couple confronting each other with the truth about their relationship on a average evening in their average home. The planting of frozen green beans on the front lawn, the click of an empty pistol in a darkened living room, and the tea party with teddy bears and a moth eaten rabbit help reveal their needs and regrets. Desperate phone calls to their daughter Ruth throughout the play gradually reveal that she has found a prospective partner in her life and will be bring this person to meet them before the evening ends.



**oap09: Listen By Clive Read ©**

**2m 5f 30 mins**



The curtains opens with our leading lady recently deceased! She can talk to the audience, but that is about all! The story involves her efforts to find out how she died and to eventually bring her murderers to justice. Communication with her living relatives is difficult and intermittent and causes much confusion and amusement. Justice prevails in the end but not in the conventional way.

**oap10: A Night At The Theatre By Tracey Delamere-Tipler ©**

**4m 2f 25 mins**

Newly-weds Mike and Penny Webster Nest at their local theatre. They are is made by Nell Bostock that the show they are paid a refund. Another After a while they realise they are to scare them and has locked them in. acerbated by the situation and checks back-stage with Mike for a way out, we see a very different side to George. No longer the old codger, he threatens Nell, changes Penny's asthma cartridge and coolly sets up a dummy corpse which he drops on Penny. This triggers a fatal asthmatic attack and she dies. It soon becomes apparent that Mike is George's son and he has only married Penny for her money. They have taken advantage of the situation to



decide to go and watch One flew Over the Cuckoo's irritated when a rather strange announcement has been cancelled and refuse to leave until customer, George Bennett waits with them. alone in the theatre and that someone is trying Penny suffers badly from asthma which is George's reminiscences of the war. Whilst she George's reminiscences of the war. Whilst she

commit the perfect murder. They leave to tell the police of Penny's 'accident'. Switch to a mental health institute where a solicitor is talking to a nurse. Penny has left her money to the charity in her Will with instructions that the longest residing inhabitant chooses how it should be spent. This person turns out to be Nell. She is obsessed by One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest which is why she had gone to the theatre that night even though the show had previously been cancelled. She decides she wants the money spent on putting on the show. Mike will inherit nothing.

**oap11: Wands Don't Grow on Trees By Stephanie Spiers ©**

**5m 4f 60 mins**

A comedy with songs. The Gaiety Music Hall has seen better days. By the 1930s it's tired and worn out. The building is under threat of compulsory purchase as audiences dwindle. Times they are a-changing radio is the big thing, all the old time variety shows are feeling the pinch. The Gaiety acts are second rate and only attracts those who the fashionable, shiny-new Alhambra Variety and Dance Hall doesn't want. The Gaiety's top-of-the-bill. Polly Perkins, has been poached away from The Gaiety's stage and into the arms of Dylan (Taff) Davids, the Music Hall's manager by loads of dosh. Is this the death knell for the old theatre? All the turns are hoping for a miracle – word has it the batty old biddy who owns The Gaiety, Viola Van de Vere – 74, is threatening to make a stage comeback as the Singing Squaw from Saskatoon unless the rent is paid on time: now that is scary. Is that bells ringing? Gawd above: the fire-eating moggie act Charlie Clackton has had a bad day and gone and set the Alhambra on fire. EEEEEee Hey Up! It's an ill wind.

**oap12: Well Groomed By Ian Townsend ©**

**3m 4f 60 mins**

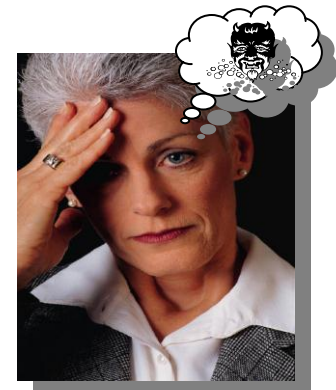


Tom, wakes up in a hotel room, trouserless and surrounded by clothes, bottles of wine and other evidence of a wild night. Hearing a noise outside, he retreats to the bathroom. Jack and Sal enter, obviously from a wedding and very much in the throes of passion. They indulge their passion – eventually – once they have ensured dresses won't get crumpled, shoes will get taken off, and an alarm clock is set so they don't stay away from the party downstairs too long. Tom ventures from the bathroom to witness the coupling, and retreats again, suitably embarrassed. Post coital chat between Sal and Jack reveals it is former child actor Jack's wedding night, although Sal is not his wife, but a bridesmaid, and not even chief bridesmaid at that! They are just about to get down to it again, when there is a knock on the door. It is Ann, chief bridesmaid, and she has come looking for the missing pair. Sending Sal to get some food, Ann comforts Jack by seducing him, again witnessed by the soon to be scarred for life Tom. Will the reckless lovers be discovered? Will Jack make it back to his wedding? Will all the bridesmaids turn up? With visits from the mother and father of the bride, plus a final revelation about Tom's true identity, Well Groomed is a fast-paced, furious and fun farce for 3 men and 3 women (and 1 female voice), with a real Jack-the-lad character, finally facing up to the vows he has made, and the decisions he has to come to.

**oap13: Granny Must Die By Ian Townsend ©**

**5m 4f 60 min**

Part farce, part Carry On, part biting inaccurate satire, *GRANNY MUST DIE* is a farce in 5 scenes and a prologue. When sweet little old lady ESME makes a pact with the DEVIL, each side gets more than they bargained for. She transforms from a sweet Granny to a foul-mouthed Beelzebub, while he becomes a sozzled old wreck, who has to bring disease, plague and eternal damnation back to the world just to get a look in! When Granny is accidentally murdered by her recently betrothed grandson, MARK, things start looking up for her unfortunate family. However, Granny has other plans, and rises from the dead, attitude and perm intact! From here on in, things become slightly less realistic. Everyone suddenly decides the world would be a better place without Granny in it - members of the family, including her sex-mad son CHARLIE and Mark's fiancée, the utterly dim socialite CATHERINE ; passing acquaintances such as FRINGE, the camp undertaker and WICKET, the baffled inspector ; even formerly law-abiding and upstanding citizens like HELGA JUNG, the eminent foreign and therefore not to be trusted doctor, and JULIA, the crap reporter. As



they take it upon themselves to systematically murder her, Granny remains one evil step ahead of them, as she sets out on her mission to become the ultimate coffin dodger. It is left to the Devil to return and perform a little light exorcism, with the help of all the potential assassins. But will it be enough to stop Granny? Or will there be a twist in the tale? (Clue : yes!)

**oap14: It's In The Bank By George Freek ©**

**2m 3f 45 mins**

While celebrating his tenth year as Bank President and awaiting the Board of Directors, Alfred Shipman is harried by a disgruntled employee, who dallies over completing an important financial report, the surprise arrival of his frantic wife, and an irate lady, demanding exorbitant compensation for her injured husband, a malingering bank employee



**oap15: Rut By Sara Beasley ©**

**2m 2f + 2m child could be V/O 30 mins**



Based around the life of Julia, a single parent struggling to make ends meet after her husband Barrie leaves her. Julia has a secret shame that even her best friend Sheila knows nothing about. It is after Sheila forces Julia to tackle her problems and take steps to force her errant husband to face up to his responsibilities that the truth gets out. The story follows Julia's journey, the ups and downs, on her path to self-improvement and shows it is never to late to learn – a better life may be just around the corner

**oap16: Love Hurts By John Peel ©**

**3m 2f 35 mins**

Tommy lives with his mother Maggie. Ever since a boy he has followed the circus and after many unsuccessful attempts he has finally arranged a date with Natasha, one of the circus clowns. The secret he has been keeping from his mother is broken when he meets her on the bus. Maggie is also on a secret mission. In her case to meet a man: any man. Tommy's meeting with Natasha does not go to plan. He is devastated when she finally reveals she is not normal. She is a clown, was born a clown and will always remain a clown. Even the hard nosed bartender admits to never having seen anything like it. Returning home on the bus he meets up again with his mother. He is nursing a broken heart, she a black eye. Love hurts.



**oap17: Judgement Day By John Peel ©**

**2m 3f 30 mins**

A publishing company have decided to run a competition to select a one act play for publication and eventual performance. In the interest of political correctness apart from Fliss, the company project manager, the judges will be a playwright, Rupert, and a town councillor, Judith. The play is a satire not only on subjective literary evaluation but through the caretaker and tea lady also on life within the walls of a modern corporation.



Dot still makes tea as she has done for years but has been promoted to be the in house catering executive. Nelson is no longer merely the caretaker but now a resources manager with biannual assessments. When the judges arrive they have a broader agenda than choosing a winner. Rupert is promoting his new play and brushing aside the abject failure of his last production. Judith pushes to get her expense sheet signed and the pair of

them are as one in prioritising a table booking at an expensive restaurant for lunch. The plays are weird and wonderful in content. Judith looks for the political and social content whilst Rupert searches for deeper meanings and sub texts. The discussion becomes heated and ends in a falling out amongst the judges. No decision is reached. Only Dot and Nelson grasp that the plays are all either plagiarised or simply rubbish. But who will decide the winner on this the Judgement Day?

**oap18: Skin Deep By John Peel ©****2m 2f 50 mins**

Amanda is a twenty something year old hairdresser still living with her mother Edith and a younger brother Jim. Her father Dick is a long distance lorry driver. Amanda's problem is that she can get boyfriends but she can't hang onto them. Listening to her brother she reaches the conclusion that she is flat chested. She sees a newspaper advert about a clinic in Prague that can solve this problem. Obstacle number one is to get her mother to approve of a trip to Prague and to lend her money. Not unnaturally her mother poo poos the idea but Amanda needs to win her over because obstacle number two will be her father who looks on his only daughter as a beautiful princess. Edith's suspicions are aroused that Dick might be having an affair with sequence dancer in Coventry. She studies the prospectus of the clinic and notes they perform a wide range of cosmetic solutions and together with a special two for the price of one offer decides Amanda's idea has some merit after all. Together they make secret arrangements to go to Prague and concoct a story for Dick that they are visiting a distant cousin in Cornwall. On the day of departure Amanda announces that an old boyfriend wants to start all over again and kick start it with a romantic weekend. She backs out of the trip upsetting her mother who now has two airline tickets and pre paid clinic fees. Edith has to move quickly. She decides the solution to rescue what she now recognises as a loveless marriage might be a second honeymoon. The unsuspecting Dick is rushed to the airport to catch the night flight to Prague. When he gets there he is in for another big surprise.

**oap19: Summer Belles By William Rocke ©****7f 45 mins**

When merry widow Josephine O'Mara takes a holiday at Sunnyside Holiday Camp and wins the Glamorous Grandmother Contest, she delights her young-at-heart mother, but angers her two snobbish daughters Betty and Deirdre. When Josephine's two gossipy neighbours who are also widows, upmarket Mrs. Patricia Harris and Mrs. Agnes Tracy, call in to 'congratulate' her on her return home, the ladies cannot control their sharp tongues. Until Josephine recounts her romantic nights with wealthy suitors, including a proposal of marriage! And when a lady journalist calls with unexpected news, Mrs. Harris and Mrs. Tracy simply cannot control their emotions!

**oap20: Neighbours By William Rocke ©****6f 33 mins**

The local ladies' fund-raising group is meeting prior to receiving an award that evening from their local Government Minister for their charity work down through the years. But their cosy champagne afternoon get-together is shattered by the arrival of a young woman who confronts them with a deed from their past

**oap21: Waiting For Gordon By Derek Webb ©****1m 4f 50 mins**

Three women are attending a DIY class at their local college, when they are joined by a fourth, Helen. They are all, in their different ways, wanting to assert their independence and not rely on men. Jo doesn't like men full stop and her motivation is clear-cut: she simply prefers a man-free zone to live in. Linda has recently discovered that her husband has been having an affair with a woman twenty years her junior, and sees the DIY class (together with other similar interests) as being a diversion, something to keep her functioning. She also views it as a way of putting two fingers up to her wayward husband Gordon. She's just waiting for him to return to her, so she might have the pleasure of rejecting him, like he has rejected her. Helen has recently been widowed and views the class as a necessary thing to do. She feels at a total loss without John, her husband. Tracy has had a history of problems with men and is just waiting for the right man to come along. She has joined the class for companionship as well as a way of proving herself. In the opening scene we are apparently waiting for the tutor, Mr Rees, who never shows up – he has had an accident doing DIY at home. So the four women are left to their own devices to construct a set of shelves – the assignment that Mr Rees had given them the previous week. During their conversations we discover that Tracy has 'met' someone in an Internet chat room and is planning to meet him properly for the first time the second week... Their various attitudes to men are explored, and become more acute after a fateful visit to an art class, instigated by Linda. The play resolves with the arrival of Tracy's 'Barry' who, as we are expecting, is in fact the eponymous Gordon.

## New Plays - More Details on the Website

### Full Plays

flp43	2	3	110 min	<a href="#">Building on Sand by Claire Booker ©</a>
flp45	3	2 +2 Double	75 min	<a href="#">Boxes by Sue and Clive Read ©</a>
flp46	2	3	62 min	<a href="#">Mrs. Bags by Sue and Clive Read ©</a>
flp47	7	5	70 min	<a href="#">Riotous Reception by Sue and Clive Read ©</a>
flp49	2	2	75 min	<a href="#">Laid to Rest by Barry David Mills ©</a>
flp50	2	2	110 min	<a href="#">A Night At The Oldhams by George Freek ©</a>
flp51	6	2	132 min	<a href="#">A Marriage OnThe Rock by Alan Peat ©</a>
flp52	4	3 +3 Either	115 min	<a href="#">Turning Duck by Glen Andrews ©</a>
flp54	2	5	140 min	<a href="#">What I Did at School Today by John Mee ©</a>
flp55	5	4	140 min	<a href="#">Pure Nectar by Paul Howard Surridge ©</a>
flp56	2	2	110 min	<a href="#">Who Me? by Clive Read ©</a>
flp57	5	5	120 min	<a href="#">Drop-In by Brian Havers ©</a>
flp58	0	4	80 min	<a href="#">Fringe Quartet by Ian Townsend ©</a>
flp59	3	1	100 min	<a href="#">He Has A Plan by George Freek ©</a>
flp60	5(3 Doubling)	2	80 min	<a href="#">The Pigeon Lady Strikes by Glen Andrews ©</a>
flp61	5	3	150 min	<a href="#">Mates by Peter Higginbotham ©</a>
flp62	3	3	72 min	<a href="#">The Admirable Miss Smith by Sue and Clive Read ©</a>
flp63	3	4	120 min	<a href="#">It's a Wonderful Death by Kevin Windle ©</a>
flp64	2	4	120 min	<a href="#">Marjory, Edward and George by Ian Townsend ©</a>

### One Act Plays

oap22	3	4	50 min	<a href="#">Another God by Henry Wizzier ©</a>
oap23	3	3	40 min	<a href="#">Gone Fishing by Claire Booker ©</a>
oap24	1	4	50 min	<a href="#">Socks Go In The Bottom Draw by Claire Booker ©</a>
oap25	2	2	35 min	<a href="#">Kelly and Donald by John Collings ©</a>
oap26	1	1	10 min	<a href="#">Rita by John Collings ©</a>
oap27	8	2	40 min	<a href="#">Revenge Of The Mutant Cockle by Pete Barrett ©</a>
oap28	2	1	50 min	<a href="#">The Vampire Monologues by Gary Ow ©</a>
oap29	0	2	50 min	<a href="#">The Cranes Are Falling by John Watts ©</a>
oap30	3	2	60 min	<a href="#">Double Life by Barry David Mills ©</a>
oap31	2	1	60 min	<a href="#">The Last Chair by Ian Townsend ©</a>
oap33	6	3	45 min	<a href="#">The House Bachuss by Michael John Carpenter ©</a>
oap34	0	4	55 min	<a href="#">Fringe Quartet by Ian Townsend ©</a>
oap35	4	4	45 min	<a href="#">Steam Radio by Peter Higginbotham ©</a>
oap36	2	4	50 min	<a href="#">Making Ends Meet by Peter Higginbotham ©</a>

Further plays added all the time.

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