

# Cressrelles

Short Pieces and  
**One-Act Plays**  
for Mixed Casts Catalogue

October 2011

J. Garnet Miller  
Kenyon-Deane  
New Playwrights' Network

## Short Pieces

*Code AS applies except where indicated otherwise.*

**Alison and Others** - **The Boys and The Girls**  
**More Sketches** - **Ten Sketches**  
**by David Campton**

These books of sketches were originally published as **On Stage** and **On Stage Again**. They are for all age groups, with mixed, all-women or all-male casts. All have been professionally produced: *Table Talk* in the revue *On the Brighter Side* with Betty Marsden and Ronnie Barker; *Service*, with Sheila Hancock, in the revue *One Over the Eight*.

**£5.00 per book**

**Between Ourselves** **John Waterhouse**  
A series of sketches by this skilled writer: two monologues for a man; four duologues for 1m and 1w and one for 2m; a playlet for 2m and one for a man + voice over.  
**Varied Cast** **Code BS**

**A Bit of Three By One** **Rob Wise**  
*Sound Choice (2m 3w)* - Wemford Dramatic Society have 5 weeks to pick their festival entry, but the committee must cope with David's failing marriage! *When One Door Closes (4m 3w)* - George thinks a garage sale will be easy money. Events and Mrs Philpotts seem intent on making the morning anything but profitable! *Eventide* - see all-women list.  
**Varied Cast** **Code BS**

**A Click of the Heels: A Book of Monologues and Sketches** **Eleanor Fossey**  
A collection of four sketches including two mixed cast sketches. *Poetry Wars (2m + 2 of either sex + 2 b or g)* is a comic battle of wits between Percy Shelley and John Keats in a tennis-like poetry championship. *Questioning Jimbo (2m 2w)* is a dark comedy in which a game of trivia exposes the divides in a relationship as events take a sinister twist - semi-fianlist in the 2007 Melbourne Short and Sweet Competition.  
**Varied** **£2.75** **Code BS**

**Footlight Fun Encore - Fun for the Footlights**  
**Further Fun for the Footlights - More Footlight Fun**  
**by Courtney Hope**

4 books of sketches, monologues and poems for all-women and mixed casts.

**£5.00 per book**

**Full Circle Ros Moruzzi**

17 mainly comic monologues and sketches depicting life from the cradle to the grave for all-women and mixed cast and run from 5 to 10 minutes.

*"Ros's wicked sense of humour is perceptive, contemporary and very funny. The laughter keeps flowing in these sharply observed pieces whilst the characterisations, each drawn with an economy of lines, provide some splendid roles for comedy actors. A new playwright to savour."* - Scott Marshall, GODA.

**Varied Cast £5.25 Code BS**

**Georgiana Kenneth Rose**

Seven sketches inspired by famous paintings: *Mrs Kitty Clive; Boswell Meets Johnson; A Winter's Tale; Death of a Hero; The First of the Dandies; The Tragic Muse; The Pilot Who Weathered the Storm.*

**Book: £5.00**

**Intervals Eleanor Fossey**

Three linked sketches set during different intervals during a pantomime production of Goldilocks and the Three Bears. Two sketches are set backstage in the dressing rooms of two of the bears and of the principal boy and expose the tensions in the cast. The third features two refreshment sellers as they gossip about the cast. All-women cast with male voices off. Running time of each is 20 minutes. The three can be presented together as a whole one-act play or separately.

**Varied £2.75 Code BS**

**Mimes for Everyone Book I - Mimes For Everyone Book II**  
**Constance Ross Mackenzie and Dorothy M D Scott**

Two collections of various mimes for all-women and mixed casts.

**£5.00 per book**

**Willie Conker's Windfall and Other Dramas Les Walker**

Four 20 minute melodramas. Little in the way of scenery and lighting required. Can also be staged by all-women and youth groups.

**4m 4w £2.50**

# One Act Plays

*Code A1 applies except where indicated otherwise.*

## **Act of Murder**

**Paul Reakes**

A wife and her lover plot her husband's murder. A simple plan goes wrong as an ingenious counter-plot emerges.

**3m 2w**

## **Adventure of Sir Gawain and the Green Knight**

**Michael Herzog and Kenneth Pickering**

Gawain accepts the Green Knight's challenge, but his relief at severing the Knight's head is tempered when the Knight picks his head up and reminds Gawain that he has the chance to do the same to Gawain next year! Will Gawain stand true? Suitable for children or puppets.

**6m 3w**

**Code B1**

## **Advertising Arnold**

**Maggie Law**

Arnold is lonely, so advertises for a girlfriend. He arranges meetings on the same evening at half-hourly intervals, but one arrives early!

**1m 2w**

## **Affairs of Dilys Willis**

**David Walker**

Dilys must have the latest Hoover. She has no money, so removes the salesman's trousers so he has to wait for her husband. Her scheme to steal Ron's cheque book fails when he returns with awful news about his sister.

**3m 2w**

**Code B1**

## **After All Those Years**

**Joe Corrie**

When James is dismissed at 60 to avoid paying him a pension, he can't tell his wife. Instead he tramps the streets until he is penniless. He is then forced to make the dreaded confession.

**3m 2w**

## **All Along the Line**

**Nigel Stannard**

To the staff the little-used station is closed - a haven of peace and cultural activities, until an inspector threatens to report.

**4m 2w**

**Amelia and the Man**

**Christine Lang**

Amelia and The Man want Richard and Sarah to start a family, so that they can be 'born'. But Sarah doesn't want children. Divorce proceedings are interrupted by Sarah's pregnancy, but their problems are just beginning! 1997 *English Drama Association One-Act Playwriting Festival* finalist.

**4m 4w**

**Code B1**

**Amy on a Tuesday**

**Gillian Plowman**

Amy, the white sheep of a strange family, wants a quiet life with a normal boyfriend. We see the subterfuges she uses to get her way.

**5m 5w**

**The Answer**

**Simon Bamford**

His wife, parents and boss have rejected Billy. He seeks solitude in the park only to be taken on a surreal journey through his subconscious.

**2m**

**Code B1**

**Answers On a Postcard**

**Andrew Rock**

Harold relieves the boredom of unemployment by advertising for lady visitors. During a visit, his wife, a successful business woman, unexpectedly returns home and her reaction surprises her husband. Festival winner.

**1m 3w**

**As Flies to Wanton Boys**

**Derek Lomas**

Mericke is tortured and questioned by Elizabeth I about Essex's role in a plot. Essex's own words condemn him: "the Queen is an old woman, crooked and distorted, no less in mind than in body."

**4m 1w**

**As Short As Any Dream**

**Audrey Evans**

The audience relaxes in the bar before, during and after a performance of *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. Some exceptional character studies.

**5m 7w**

**An Author In Search of Eight Characters**

**Jessica Fraser**

Jo tries various styles for a play for her drama group, but none work. The solution, writing a play about writing a play, turns out to be brilliant!

**3m 6w**

**A Bargaining Point**

**David Appleford**

Gail, working late, surprises an assassin working from her office! Events sweep Gail into undreamt of realms.

**2m 1w**

**The Baths of Borcovicus**

**Roger Walker**

A Scottish prisoner introduces whisky to his Roman captors as an antidote to the ills of the British climate. The effect can be imagined!

**4m 2w**

**The Beecher File**

**Brian Austin**

Beecher, a civil servant, fails to return from a trip to Warsaw and is branded a defector. To authenticate the story, his family must also disappear. Even when his corpse is found, the ruthless arrangements must proceed!

**3m 2w**

**The Beggar's Blight**

**Jessica Fraser**

A publican makes a pact with the Devil and gets what he deserves!

**5m 6w + extras**

**Bein Lochaber**

**Tom Quayle**

A Scots family faces eviction from their Highland croft. Father constantly bullies his son who gave up college to help him. Sheila, who left home years ago, returns. So why is Father's life in danger?

**2m 1w**

**Code B1**

**Below the Belt**

**Don Hill**

A blow-by-blow analysis of a marriage breakdown; of the attempts of an inept Counsellor to repair it; and of the mother-in-law to keep it asunder. The play fizzles along with some excellent punchlines! The dialogue sustains a sense of civilised acrimony with occasional breaks for sex!! The characters of the sexually-compatible-but-psychologically-at-daggers-drawn couple, their helpmate and their bête-noir are most effectively drawn.

**1m 2w**

**Code B1**

**Benedict**

**Charles Causley**

Benedict gives Freda a valuable violin to prove his love. When she tells him that she loves another man, Benedict reveals his true self. He confesses he murdered a collector and stole the violin.

**3m 2w**

**Benjamin Goodright's Bedtime Story**

**Ron Betts**

A bleak December night in the 1930s. A curate, visiting a remote Pennine village, is stranded in a deserted parsonage when a figure silently appears! Marvellous scope for FX with a chilling ending!

**3m 1w**

**Beryllium**

**Fiona Angwin**

When a man breaks into a laboratory, the computer tries to determine whether he is a burglar. When Rosie, a researcher, confronts the man more than scientific secrets are revealed!

**1m 2w or 2m 1w**

**Code B1**

**Best Laid Plans**

**David Welsh**

A man has a wife, a mistress and a problem. He plans a robbery so that he and his mistress can hide in Spain, but he is actually planning something else. Then something else quite different happens!

**2m 4w**

**Beyond Necessity**

**Barry Hillman**

Based on *La Beauté Inutile* by Guy de Maupassant. Gabrielle, fed up with her child-bearing rôle, convinces her jealous husband that one of their children is not his, thereby gaining her freedom.

**1m 2w**

**Binns Comes a Cropper**

**Thomas Doran and Arthur Martin**

A mysterious French Countess almost makes a fool of the susceptible Sergeant Binns whose downfall is prevented by the intervention of his superior officer.

**2m 3w**

**Birds**

**Jay Teagarden**

Two parallel stories, set in 19th and 20th century Cornwall, unfold. In each, an abused, young girl is castigated for unacceptable behaviour. A shamanic healing experience helps the girls accept their situations.

**2m 7w**

**Code B1**

**Birds of a Feather**

**Thomas Doran and Arthur Martin**

Inspector Lacey makes use of his talent for impersonation to unmask a cunning receiver of stolen goods.

**4m**

**A Bit on the Other Side**

**Jack Booth**

Cuthbert Ball, prospective MP for his Moral Equality Party, insists that Eric ends his profligate lifestyle and his involvement with his adopted daughter. Eric tries to blackmail Cuthbert for a youthful indiscretion in France. Complications and mistaken identities ensue, followed by the arrival of the real bit on the other side.

**3m 5w**

**Code B1**

**Black, Green, White and Gold**

**Ken Owen**

In Africa, a friendship grows between a British soldier and his houseboy. Keith's generosity to Kaba and his unprejudiced views cause conflict with his superiors, ending in humiliation and sadness. Winner of the 1996 *Drama Association National Playwriting Competition*.

**4m**

**Code B1**

**Black Velvet**

**Winifride Trentham**

A family reunion is about to take place when the son's wife, who is hated by every member of the family, is found dead.

**4m 4w**

**Blonde on the Bonnet**

**Jennifer Curry**

When George buys a new car he is surprised when the scantily-clad girl draped over the bonnet is included. The effect on the family and neighbours is devastating - until his wife wins a DJ in a competition!

**10m 9w (doubling possible)**

**The Bodenham Bogey**

**Jessica Fraser**

The villagers of Bodenham try to catch the Bogey. Although they get some surprises, only drunken Granny sees the Bogey - but who will believe her?

**1m 10w or 2m 11w**

**Both Sides**

**Sue Welch**

Following the breakdown of his marriage, Bill turns to Peter, a counsellor, to help him come to terms with his loss. Meanwhile, his wife Louise, has a new boyfriend and has asked him to move in with her and her teenage daughter, who is already struggling to come to terms with her parents' splitting up. But why is Louise's sister pleased with this turn of events and what is her secret?

A poignant and powerful drama with a surprise ending. Won awards for *Best Original Play* and *Best Actor* and was nominated for *Best Supporting Actress* and *Most Promising Youth* at Thameside Theatre, Essex in 2003. Running time: 50 minutes.

**3m 3w**

**Code B1**

**Both Worlds**

**Jack Booth**

Jessica is off to climb the Himalayas. But both her mother, afraid that the shock of an accident would kill her father, and her husband are opposed. Jessica's pregnancy raises their hopes and doubts about her ability to live in both her worlds.

**1m 2w**

**Code B1**

**Bottled Up**

**Terry Collister**

Jean's pent-up anger and pain need relief, but surely an alcoholic tramp isn't the answer? But Archie isn't all he seems. Who needs whom the most?

**1m 1w**

**Branching Out**

**J. Cooper**

Charles finds his senile, bed-ridden father assaulted. His efforts to find the culprit reveal some skeletons in the family cupboard.

**2m 2w**

**Bringing Home the Ashes**

**Dorothy Pollard**

Liz's family gather to hear her Will, thinking she was poor. She has fooled them all and their reactions are what might be expected in the circumstances!

**5m 2w**

**Brönte Seasons**

**Anthony Hunt**

The Brönte sisters are seen as children in Spring, creating their own worlds. Summer is the end of childhood. Autumn brings published poems and novels. Winter harshly cuts short their lives.

**4m 6w**

**But With a Whimper**

**Pat Trevor**

Babs and Ian seem to be the sole survivors of a nuclear holocaust. Menace lurks close by, but what emerges is unexpected.

**2m 2w**

**By Sun and Candlelight**

**Vivienne Harrison**

Based on the life of Ana de Mondoza, a Spanish noblewoman. After a long imprisonment, Ana is freed under certain conditions set by the King. She abuses her liberty with fatal results.

**4m 4w**

**Cabbages and Culture**

**Eugene Labiche**

**Translated by Edith Saunders**

Illiterate Monsieur Caboussat has civic, academic and political ambitions, and is entirely dependent on his educated daughter. He is faced with the possibility that she will leave him for a life of her own.

**4m 1w**

**Camouflage**

**Nancy McPherson**

Two couples meet in a Scottish wildlife park. Domineering Senga persuades down-trodden Melanie to assert herself, forcing the tension between Melanie and her chauvinist husband to a head.

**2m 2w**

**The Candle**

**Eleanor FitzGerald**

A passenger travelling home from London at Christmas finds her wait at a small station enlivened by the arrival of tinkers.

**4m 3w 1boy**

**The Candy-Floss Man**

**Alex Taylor**

Louise is proud of her business. Her estranged father, a charmer, turns up. They uncover some truths about the past. A brief intrusion by his ex-wife adds to his failings.

**2m 2w**

**The Cardboard Cavaliers**

**John Waterhouse**

Lil, Will and Bill live on the streets. Bill tells his parents that Corrine, a famous TV presenter, is on her way to interview them! Their eagerness to impress is confounded by Bill's ineptitude. No happy ending, but there is humour and no doubt that they are survivors.

**4m 4w + extras**

**Code B1**

**Cash and Carrie**

**Nicholas Corder**

Hapless Nigel is back! He awakes from celebrating gaining his PhD with a hangover, a strange woman and a sports bag full of cash that belongs to neither of them. As they try to decide which of them is to keep the bag, they challenge each other to a quiz where the stakes become ever higher. Is this Nigel's last chance for love? Part of a trilogy, see also *Nigel's Wrist* and *Jacobson's Organ*.

**1m 1w**

**Code B1**

**The Castle**

**Jeff Galagher**

An unemployed youth's fascination with a ruined castle and the chance it affords for escape lead ultimately to salvation, but at a price.

**3m 2w**

**Cat**

**John Reason**

Who is this girl who comes from the dark? She has a great effect on those around her. A most unusual play.

**5m 4w**

**Catspaw**

**Paul Reakes**

Greedy relatives hasten an old man's death and suffer as a result.

**2m 1w**

**Change Partners**

**David Campton**

An unusual vision of the eternal triangle, involving a man, his wife, a young man, and the wife's mother!

**2m 2w**

**Charley's Uncle**

**Jack Booth**

Charley and Paul pretend to marry in order to get Uncle George's money - but when Paul is detained at work, Charley recruits a stand-in. George stays the night, so Paul pretends to be a friend. Amicable relations soon end.

**3m 3w**

**Code B1**

**Checkmate**

**Edward Salmon**

Charles is happy to have an affair. But when his wife announces that she too is having an affair, Charles sees things very differently.

**1m 2w**

### **The Children**

**Don Woods**

A schoolboy dies in an accident. He is revealed as the grandson of one of the staff, an embittered spinster. The characters are despicable and there is a great deal of bickering before the truth is exposed.

**4m 2w**

### **Children of Darkness**

**Joe Corrie**

If Mary, the daughter of an unemployed miner in the days of the depression, marries, will her life ever be different from that of her parents?

**3m 3w**

### **The Chinese Crystal**

**Gwen Pierce**

Crystal-gazing at Sir Hugh's home has dramatic results.

**3m 3w**

### **Christmas Balls**

**Coleen Sadler**

The backstage crew becomes involved in the sinister onstage tale of lust, greed and murder! Outlandish and hilarious, reveals more than just the relationship between two sisters and their husbands.

**4m 2w**

**Code B1**

### **Cinquepace**

**Alex Taylor**

A five-step dance. The five people in Lovell's life are his wife, his new lover, an old flame, a demanding client and Anthea, perfection! Lovell's dance becomes increasingly frantic until, in desperation, he takes his final step.

**1m 4w**

### **City Riots**

**David Davies**

In 1381 Wat Tyler led a revolt to petition Richard II. After the King accepted the petition, Wat and 5,000 rebels were killed. We see the revolt through the eyes of the preacher John Ball and Walworth, Lord Mayor of London. The imaginary Minister for Inner Cities presides over a Commission to Investigate the Causes of Inner City Riots.

**10m 3w+ extras**

### **Closing Day**

**Taylor Lovering**

It is Wesley's last day before forced retirement. Frustrated and worried, he doesn't want a leaving-do. His wishes are ignored with disastrous results. A keen dramatisation of an acclaimed radio play.

**3m 3w**

### **The Colour of the Wind**

**Peter English**

Throughout his life, shown in retrospect, George was a keen poet. This caused problems with his teachers, employers and girlfriend. His death was too unpoetic - being knocked off his bike on his way to buy chips! Winner of the 1980 *Playwrights' Workshop Competition*.

**11m 5w**

### **Come Now to be Joined**

**Robert Ernest**

An objection halts Charlie's wedding. They crowd into the vestry to solve the problem. They leave, but not necessarily with the partner they came with!

**5m 3w**

### **Come On Up**

**Sylvia Walker**

Kath is in Heaven, but misses her husband. She wants him to experience her wonderful new life - dancing with Valentino, painting with Picasso, soirees with Churchill - but must decide whether to stay in Heaven or return to Earth. Winner of the 1997 *English Drama Association One-act Play-writing Competition*.

**1m 3w**

**Code B1**

### **Common Denominator**

**Sue Welch**

What exactly goes on in the Ladies' Loos in a nightclub on a Saturday night? This hilarious play shows the emotional chaos of various groups of women on a night out. They are beset by problems from cheating boyfriends, tiresome mothers and a baby who insists on being born! Brilliant physical comedy combines with moments of poignant drama, resulting in a thoroughly entertaining night for both cast and audience alike.

Won *Best Original Play* and *Best Actress* at Thameside Theatre, Essex and was also nominated for *Best Supporting Actress* and *Best Stage Presentation*. Runner-up at the 2007 *Thurrock Drama Festival*. Running time: 50 minutes.

**2m 15w**

**Code B1**

### **Conscience Stricken**

**Neil Fitton**

Ex-lovers meet, even though they both are happily married. Their consciences accompany them and try to give advice. At their final meeting, their spouses turn up, as they too have been "friends" for a long time! Festival winner.

**3m 3w**

**Contrary to Belief**

**John H. Newmeir**

After an abusive marriage, Ruth avoids men until persuaded to try computer dating. Naively expecting to meet Mr Right, she meets Doreen, an ardent feminist, who plays men at their own game - getting what she can from them. She tries to convert Ruth to her way of thinking, but Ruth is not the pushover she expected.

**1m 2w**

**Code B1**

**Cross Petition**

**Michael Lynch**

The Blanches are divorcing. Each is on stage with their solicitors, commenting on each other, love and marriage. The interviews are skilfully inter-woven. Winner of several awards.

**2m 2w**

**Crossfire**

**Doris Hodges**

A poignant look at the Irish troubles and their tragic effects. Very relevant in current times.

**3m 1w**

**Cruise For Two**

**Terry Ellis**

When Carol interviews Philip he suspects her interest is in his relationship with his gay flatmate. But what is her motive?

**3m 2w**

**Cry Wolf**

**Maggie Law**

A rich American holidays in London with his wife and friend, but gets caught in a web of deceit and is accused of raping a 15 year old girl. Did he do it? Who raped his own daughter?

**2m 2w**

**Code B1**

**A Crying Shame**

**Georgina Reid**

*"A Victorian melodrama which is enthusiastically over the top in every way. This short piece packs in a suicide, a pregnancy, madness, a lot of jokes and a twist ending and is great fun for all."* - Amateur Stage.

**4m 3w**

**Cryptogram**

**Don Carroll**

A man is held for ransom. He cleverly engineers distrust between his kidnappers and they become the victims.

**3m**

**The Daisy Chain**

**Lesley Clive**

In the Tower on the eve of her execution, Catherine Howard relives her passionate affair with Tom Culpepper and Henry VIII's reaction. An imaginative play, ideal for festivals. Adapted by *Radio 4*.

**3m 1w**

**Dancing to the Sound of Crunching Snails**

**Joe Graham**

We all remember events differently. Katy is nervous about meeting her estranged father for the first time since he left the family when she was almost too young to remember him. An uncomfortable evening ensues and, as memories are stirred, it reaches a head over a remarkable game of *Monopoly!* Won *Best Play* awards at both the 2008 *Oxford Drama Network* and *Wallingford Corn Exchange Drama Festivals*. Running time: 55 minutes.

**2m 2w**

**Code B1**

**Date a Mate**

**M. Morton**

Norman is looking for a wife. He meets the ladies chosen by a dating agency at a cafe, only to find that the waitress is more his cup of tea.

**1m 9w**

**Date Blind**

**Anthony Wright**

Two flatmates arrange blind dates. Misunderstandings lead to the wrong couples meeting, but the results are favourable, especially for shy Chris who finds much in common with Lisa. Festival winner.

**3m 2w**

**Davy Jones's Clock**

**T. C. Thomas**

Constable Prosser is no match for Davy and Mrs Hargest in complicated adventures involving a bookie's clock and a betting slip. *British Drama League National Playwriting Award*. Televised by the *BBC*.

**6m 1w**

**Davy Jones's Dinner**

**T. C. Thomas**

Davy shoots a pheasant with an unlicensed gun, but avoids the legal consequences with the help of Liza - but at a price. Televised by the *BBC*.

**6m 1w**

**Davy Jones's Locker**

**T. C. Thomas**

Davy and friends are involved in the black market during the Second World War. Televised by the *BBC*.

**6m 1w**

**Dead Man Talking**

**Don Hill**

The police surround Tony after he went on a killing spree. We glimpse the mind of a psychopath - what made him treat life with such cold disregard? A harrowing play which won the Best Original Play Award at the 1998 Southeast Essex Area All-England One-act Drama Festival and the Adjudicator's Discretionary Award at the 2000 Southwest Hertfordshire Area All-England One-act Drama Festival. Contains strong language and imagery throughout.

**2m (or 1m and 1w) + Voice Off**

**Code B1**

**Dead On Time**

**Jack Booth**

A wealthy but ruthless industrialist is told that by 2.00am he will be dead. The deadline approaches but nothing happens. Is it a hoax or will he be dead on time?

**3m 3w**

**Deadly Date**

**A. Frederick Daniels**

Two 20-something hitmen and their girlfriends have booked rooms overlooking the route of a motorcade for a top statesman. They think they have the perfect spot and cover.

**2m 2w**

**Death and Nellie Miller**

**Jack Boswell**

An exciting supernatural confrontation. Festival winner and a runner-up in the *British Theatre Association Original Play Award 1973*.

**2m 1w**

**Death by Murderous Means**

**David Welsh**

The cast mean well but their attempts to present a modern play are imperfect. A perfect vehicle for brilliant bad acting! Highly recommended.

**4m 3w**

**Death In the Dark**

**Harris Deans**

A jealous husband strangles his wife to incriminate her lover.

**3m 1w**

**Death of a Dummy**

**John Reason**

*"The symbolism of the dummy is used as an expression of inadequacy - the lead role of the cuckolded husband is a challenge to any actor who has to adopt three personalities."* - Amateur Stage.

**2m 2w**

### **Death of a Hero**

**Jack Booth**

General Lewisham's son won the Military Cross in North Africa. When Wally, who served in his son's tank, unexpectedly arrives, the General insists that he give a first-hand account of his son's death - with revealing consequences. A well-crafted and moving drama.

**3m 4w**

**Code B1**

### **The Desirable Residence**

**John Vose**

Bransby lives in the late Captain Meredith's house. By inventing ghost stories he averts a sale. Meredith's son invents his own ruse to evict Bransby, but his father intervenes!

**4m 1w**

### **Dirty Weekend**

**Jack Booth**

16 year-old Sally's parents are separated. With her mother away, Sally spends the weekend in the empty house with her boyfriend instead of at her father's. When a neighbour gets involved, matters really get out of hand.

**3m 4w**

**Code B1**

### **Disturbance**

**Colin Lawrence**

When a harmless drop-out refuses to let his landlady into his flat, she calls the police. The ensuing interrogation is chilling and sadistic as the two policemen refuse to recognise a plea for help.

**3m 1w**

### **Divergent Lines**

**Chris Pearson**

Tony and Caroline's relationship is changing - he is struggling to accept her new career. Highly emotional scenes are played out as sympathies sway one way and then the other.

**1m 1w**

**Code B1**

### **Donalbain**

**Soinbhe Lally**

Written as a companion piece for students of *Macbeth*, this is a great introduction to Shakespeare and an excellent piece for adults. The violent verbal imagery and the obsession with death and blood in *Macbeth* appall Donalbain, King Duncan's youngest son. Despairing, he seeks refuge in the Irish classic, *The Playboy of the Western World*! Winner of 12 major festivals in 1989, including performances by the prestigious *Dublin Shakespeare Society*.

**6m 4w**

**Code B1**

### **Driving Force**

**Sue Welch**

This is a tense drama about the consequences that follow a hit-and-run incident. As the victim's family struggle with their emotions, the driver fights his own demons whilst trying to prevent his wife discovering the secrets that threaten their marriage. The plot twists and turns, leading to a devastating final twist. This drama holds the audience spellbound right up to the final curtain. It provides an excellent opportunity for actors to explore the full range of emotions and leaves them exhausted at the end.

*Driving Force* won *Best Original Play* and *Best Actor* at the 2001 *Thurrock Drama Festival*, and was also nominated for *Best Actress* and *Most Promising Youth Actress* at *Thameside Theatre, Essex*. Running time: 45 minutes.

**3m 3w or 2m 4w**

**Code B1**

### **The Drummer of Shawn**

**Violet Rutter**

The ghostly drummer is said to foretell the death of the head of the house of Shawn. A guest beats the drum and reveals an unsuspected crime and the true head of the house: then comes the real thing - and tragedy.

**4m 2w**

### **The Drunkard's Lament**

**Jack Boswell**

On returning from sea, Jack Tarr finds his sister married to a drunk who has sold everything for drink. The landlord of the Gin Palace has designs on Lucy and encourages her husband to drink. Hilarious Victorian melodrama.

**6m 4w**

### **Ducks and Mr Drake**

**Derek Hoddinott**

Henry loves to paint. He shocks his wife by replacing her flying ducks with one of his pictures of a nude woman. An amusing clash of personalities follows, but Mrs Drake wins!

**2m 3w**

### **Early Closing**

**Albert Morton**

In the flower department of a large store, characters from varied social circles briefly meet as they buy flowers.

**2m 5w**

### **Echo of Applause**

**Jack Booth**

Tony strives to save a theatre and his career. In despair, he turns to alcohol. He may be saved by a girl's innocent love, but the theatre will be left with its ghosts and an echo of applause.

**3m 2w**

**Code B1**

**Eileen Plays a Hand**

**Thomas Doran & Arthur Martin**

The Inspector's new maid arrives. She is engaged to his assistant, Sergeant Binns, and soon proves to be a worthy partner.

**3m 2w**

**The End of a Fairy Tale**

**Violet Rutter**

The Brothers Grimm are terrified of matrimony, but their aunt is determined that one of them will marry. In true fairytale fashion the younger brother wins the bride. Televised by the BBC.

**2m 2w**

**The End of Courage**

**T. B. Morris**

In a besieged 15th Italian city, a young man has shirked a desperate task and sent his friend to his death instead of himself. The tension inexorably mounts to a powerful climax. A verse play of poignant beauty.

**3m 6w**

**End of Term**

**Peter Johnson**

Frank has been a Labour MP since 1964. Tonight, the Constituency Party is choosing their next candidate. Will they re-select Frank, a popular, local, old-style Labour member, or will they select a more modern candidate?

**3m 2w**

**Episode**

**Douglas Jackson**

The Brönte sisters are about to submit their manuscripts to publishers, but some pages from *Wuthering Heights* are missing.

**1m 4w**

**Escargots**

**Graham Jones**

An ageing Welsh miner and his daughter have starkly contrasting lifestyles and the reason for their dislike, shown in flashback, is obvious. He would like to make contact, but the courage to do so is hard to find.

**3m 1w**

**Exercise Conflict**

**Donald Fitzjohn**

An exercise for drama classes, schools etc. The conflict is between war and peace, using excerpts from Shakespeare, Bunyon and various modern poets.

**Large mixed cast**

**The Face of an Angel**

**Taylor Lovering**

A famous artist picks an unlikely model for the central figure in the church mural. Worthier candidates, like the Vicar, have to accept minor roles. Lots of comedy in the ensuing arguments.

**4m 1w**

**Face of Evil**

**Jack Booth**

The police visit Trish and Philip to identify a male body. Both deny knowing the man. Later, facts emerge which link them to the man. Then the police return!

**3m 3w**

**Code B1**

**Fair Youth and Dark Lady**

**T. B. Morris**

Shakespeare's Dark Lady remains anonymous and the Fair Youth is Will Hughes, the actor. The theory that Shakespeare was inspired to his greatest heights by a love tragedy is widely held, as well as dramatically satisfying.

**4m 3w**

**Fallen Angels**

**Sue Welch**

Five angels have been sentenced to an all-female Celestial Punishment Centre to reform after their halos have slipped! As they squabble over who is best resisting their temptations, a mysterious man appears in their midst. Who is he and why is he there? An hilarious battle of the sexes develops as the angels unite to show the man the error of his sexist ways! *Fallen Angels* is popular with audiences and actors alike, winning several festival awards. Running time: 40 minutes.

**1m 5w**

**Code B1**

**False Pretences**

**Paul Reakes**

A family tries to solve the problems caused by their daughter inviting a film star to the house on the pretext of writing his life story. A farcical frolic.

**4m 3w**

**Family Pride**

**Georgina Reid**

Victorian melodrama with murder, weird noises offstage, a deranged wife in a locked tower and the famous detective Sherlock Holmes.

**3m 4w**

**The Farce of the Devil's Bridge**

**Henri Gheon**

**Translated by Sir Barry Jackson**

Father Kado, a hermit living on an island, is hindered by the Devil from completing a bridge to the mainland. In desperation he bargains with the Devil, who is in the end outwitted by a cat.

**4m 1w, 1m or w**

**A Father's Daughter**

**Norman Windwick**

The C19th emigration of unemployed men from the Orkneys lowered the status of unmarried women. A daughter's love for her father makes it impossible for her to accept his departure. She determines to hold on to his possessions and turns a period of danger into a chance for retribution.

**4m 2w**

**Fell Blow**

**Hilary Trenholme**

After battling with difficult pupils, Henry is at breaking point. He walks on the fells with his colleagues. They have differing viewpoints, yet still can laugh. The crisis is resolved unexpectedly.

**3m 3w**

**Code B1**

**Festival Rites**

**John H. Newmeir**

The committee meets to arrange their Drama Festival. The event is fixed so that they win the prizes – solely to maintain standards, of course! Tempers fray as they attack each others' production. Scene Two is the post-mortem on the new, honest Festival. An excellent satire and an ideal festival show.

**2m 4w**

**Code B1**

**50 ... and Counting**

**Jack Booth**

At 50, Julie, her marriage over, acting career faltering and finances failing, poses for a nude magazine! She flirts with the photographer, unaware of his relationship with her daughter. Further complications arise when Howard arrives to collect his daughters for a picnic.

**2m 5w**

**Code B1**

**Figments**

**Alan Griffiths**

A playwright's characters assume a life of their own and switch between their assigned roles and their 'real' personalities. They take over the plot with bizarre results.

**3m 5w**

**The Fisherman's Wife**

**T. H. Stafford**

During a storm, Pierre discovers his wife in the arms of his partner, Herve. A fight ensues. Herve is at Pierre's mercy when a distress signal is heard from the bay. The quarrel is set aside, and the two men rush to the rescue.

**4m 2w**

**Five at "The George"**

**Stuart Ready**

Five guests at a house party, at which the host died, receive a mysterious invitation to gather at a wayside inn. Was one a murderer?

**5m 2w**

**Five Characters in Search of a Change**

**Hugh Beresford**

George has a novel to finish. Five characters appear and mutiny - the vamp is respectable and the villainous duke weds the maid!

**3m 4w**

**Fool of Creation**

**Norman Holland**

A prisoner is accused of speaking against the State and has to prove his claim that mankind is inhuman. He proves his point effectively.

**6m 5w**

**The Fourth Man**

**A. Daniels**

An ex-policeman is plagued by the mystery of the fourth man in a robbery. He continues the investigation and finally finds the answer.

**4m 3w**

**Frank's Feathered Friend**

**John Waterhouse**

Frank and his wife are in for a shock. But their supernatural visitor is in for an even greater surprise. How will this shocking situation be resolved? Heavenly farce in which the main role can be of either sex.

**2m 1w + 1 extra or 1m 2w + 1 extra**

**Code B1**

**The Friends of Valerie Lane**

**Dolland Parsons**

Dr. Parkinson's flat is exactly as it was when its former tenant, an actress, was found dead there one year before. He and his guests mean to solve the mystery. Strong, dramatic tension throughout.

**3m 3w**

**From a Distance**

**Barrie Farnell**

Michelle leaves her mother-in-law to suffer the attentions of a tramp. Appear-ances can be deceptive however, and it becomes clear that they have not met by chance. Sinister undertones give way to a surprise ending.

**1m 2w**

**From Whence He Came**

**Steven Blandford**

If the death penalty for murder was restored, what could happen to our soldiers? A Catholic soldier is framed for the murder of a Loyalist paramilitary and we see his and his loved ones' despair as the death sentence is passed. Less a turgid, political drama than a charming look at Michael's relationships. Picked by *The Independent* as *Pick of the Fringe* at the 1990 *Edinburgh Fringe Festival*.

*"The harsh conclusion, with its stark economy of means to convey the hanging, was most effective."* - *The Stage*.

**1m 4w**

**Code B1**

**Funny, You Don't Laugh Jewish**

**Mike Tibbetts**

Chaim and Rachel face retirement and eviction! They find that their son is not a famous architect after all and that he intends to marry a non-Jewish girl! Their problems are resolved after a foray into the world of Jewish humour. Winner of the 1980 *George Taylor Award*.

**3m 2w**

**The Gentle Heart**

**Vera Arlett**

Dante visits the Inferno with Virgil as his guide. After meeting Paolo and Francesca, Dante understands the eternal conflict between Reason, Philosophy and Conscience on the one hand and earthly love on the other.

**3m 2w**

**Getting Dark**

**Joe Graham**

Karen is going blind, but she is only 6 so she doesn't really understand. The adult Karen does, however, and it is she who tells her story. Karen's parents have to decide what is best for a child they feel they are no longer able to care for. Their decision is one that haunts Karen still. Based on the true story, *The Ribbon of Truth* by Kal Gibson. Very moving. Won awards at the 2003 *Oxford Drama Network* and *Wallingford Corn Exchange Drama Festivals*. Running time: 40 minutes.

**1m 2w**

**Code B1**

**Give Me a Chance**

**David Welsh**

A couple are trying to relax, but are jumpy, when in bursts Jane, mouth running, brain in neutral, oblivious to the atmosphere - she is too much for them to cope with. The play spirals to a violent climax. Despite the tension, the humour shines through. Pinteresque in its sense of menace.

**3m 2w**

**A Glass of Marsala**

**Arthur Hessayon**

Emilio, last of the Brigands, expects to have the final say in his granddaugh-ter's marriage. She fears he will disapprove of Giovanni, a goatherd's son.

**4m 3w**

**The Goldfish Bowl**

**Joe Graham**

The latest hit reality TV show is *The Goldfish Bowl* in which the twenty-something contestants must successfully care for the fish or lose the prize money. As the fish disappear, one by one, they suspect each other of trying to hide the fish's deaths. A satire on the vacuity of reality TV and those people desperate for their fifteen minutes of fame. Commissioned by the *Sixth Sense Theatre Company* for an educational tour in 2006-7. Running time: 25 minutes.

**2m 2w + Voice Off**

**Code B1**

**Goodbye, Casey Burnside**

**Don Hill**

Casey is given the chance to return to Earth, after his sudden death, to say goodbye to his loved ones. But he gets the bigger surprise when he appears to his girlfriend, who has a revelation to make. This fine piece of theatre is a delightfully offbeat tragi-comedy, with fine characterisation and dialogue.

**3m 2w**

**Code B1**

**Goodbye, My Darling**

**Barrie Farnell**

Mike's widow is distraught. Alone with the body, she bends over to give him a parting kiss and is strangled. The perfect crime?

**4m 4w**

**Gran**

**Linda Evans**

A flashback to Gran's childhood, then past and present merge. A universal story - funny, sad, nostalgic, but never falsely sentimental.

**7m 10w (Doubling)**

**Code B1**

**The Green-Eyed Monster Comic Strip**

**Alex Taylor**

James was only intimate with his late wife. His relationship with Mavis is dodgy, especially physically. Her worldliness clashes with his lack of sexual confidence, sending his imagination into a frenzy.

**2m 2w**

**Ha'Porth o' Difference**

**Christine Dearden**

Two lads mend a window at a retirement home and become the centre of attention. Mick befriends Harry, who advises him on his relationship with Nurse Vera. Comedy with underlying pathos. Winner at the 1990 *Oldham One-Act Drama Festival*.

**5m 5w**

**Halfway Up the Wall**

**Don Carroll**

Agatha inherits a fortune in Australia and plans to emigrate, leaving her confused sister in a nursing home. But their positions are soon reversed! A delightful comedy and festival winner.

**4m 3w**

**Halfway Up the M3 on the Way to Basingstoke**

**Barry Kitchen**

A festival entry could never be like this, could it? A struggling drama group present a new play, full of flowery, clichéd dialogue and ... Oh dear! This hilarious, well-observed comedy follows the progress of the group from initial reading to the final, devastating performance!

**3m 5w**

**Code B1**

**A Happy Man**

**David Welsh**

Peter is an executive with a house, wife and a buried body to worry about! He's sure no-one will miss the drug addict - but they do. Tension mounts as the plot twists and turns.

**3m 2w**

**Happy the Bride**

**George Taylor**

The groom is delayed and the authentic, homespun characterisation will set the audience chuckling.

**1m 5w**

**The Harpy and the Slob**

**Leonard Morley**

The party is in full swing: the rugby team are stripping! Whilst Maggie and Richard forge a fragile relationship in the bedroom. But when he discovers that she is holding up his insurance claim, war breaks out! Winner of the 1984 *Welsh Playwriting Award* and the 1978 *HTV Premier Award for High Comedy*. See *Sit Vac* for the hilarious new sequel.

**1m 1w**

**Have You Seen My Lady?**

**Geoffrey Skelton**

A Victorian landlady plans to marry her daughter to her lodger. But her daughter wants to marry a young Irishman, so schemes to match the landlady with the lodger!

**2m 2w**

**Hazel's Nuts**

**John Waterhouse**

The elderly residents of a nursing home on a day trip take shelter in a barn. But the thieves who use the barn have other ideas! Witty dialogue and zany action from this favourite author.

**5-7m 4-6w**

**Code B1**

**Heaven and All This Too**

**Vivienne Harrison**

In a celestial office, the staff try to sort out the final destinations of the new arrivals. In vain, they also try to organise a few things on Earth!

**5m 3w**

**Heaven to Betsy**

**John Waterhouse**

The Bishop is due any minute, but the Reverend Betsy is dealing with a frantic parishioner in the final stages of childbirth! The Town Planning Officer and an angry husband add to the chaos!

**4m 3w**

**Code B1**

**Hell and Damnation**

**Leonard Morley**

The taxman has lost patience with Lord Charles and arrives with the bailiffs. Charles takes him hostage and barricades Summerville House against the bailiffs. Salvation comes from an unlikely source once this romp has run its course! Sequel to the hugely popular *Hell and High Water*.

**5m 1w**

**Code B1**

**Hell and High Water**

**Leonard Morley**

Lord Charles and his family are at dinner - so why are their skirts and trousers hitched up? Why does the daughter wear wellies and an oilskin over her dress? Great scope for comic acting, with hilarious dialogue and clever plot development. Winner *Guild of Welsh Dramatists' Award for Outstanding Originality*. See *Hell and Damnation* for the hilarious new sequel.

**5m 2w**

**Here I Am, Girls**

**David Stant**

The conversations of a singles' club as they weigh each other up are revealing. Mime complements the brilliant and witty dialogue.

**3m 2w**

**Hewers of Coal**

**Joe Corrie**

Four men and a boy are trapped at the coal face in this famous play about a 1930s mining disaster.

**5m**

**High Tide**

**A. Daniels**

A waitress is missing and a waiter is acting strangely when female body-parts are found. He is a suspect as he fled after being charged with an earlier attack. But is someone else exploiting the situation?

**4m 3w**

**Honeymoon Express**

**David Campton**

A quarrelling young couple arrives at a railway station. There they meet Cupid in the guise of a porter and he sorts out their problems.

**3m 1w**

**Hope Springs**

**J. Caws**

This Pinteresque play gives the cast the chance to revel in fun. The dialogue is tight and produces exciting theatre with minimal props and effects.

**1m 1w**

**Horns of an Alibi**

**Bob Scanlon**

Ed is having an affair, his son is a drug addict and Ed is suspected of smuggling drugs. But his alibi could destroy his marriage.

**2m 2w**

**I Spy**

**John Waterhouse**

An hilarious Bond spoof, with a beautiful Russian spy, the CIA and MI5, secret weapons and hidden identities! Our hero is Cyril and the location - his Bradford council house! Attempts to involve Cyril in espionage backfire, while his poor wife grows ever more confused.

**3m 4w**

**If Imagination Amend Them**

**T. B. Morris**

Doubts, temptations and frustrations assail a young writer and he learns that it is only by sustained effort that inspiration is found. A verse-comedy.

**7m 9w**

**If I Can't Take It With Me - I'm Not Going to Go**

**B. Kendrick**

Age, her priest, doctor and neighbours have decreed that it is Rose's time to die, but she is so strong-willed that she refuses to go!

**3m 6w**

**The Improper Appointment**

**Gillian Plowman**

In a small Welsh town, a couple plan to sell their off-licence. The prospective buyer takes a fancy to the unhappy wife.

**3m 3w**

**In A Country Churchyard**

**Margaret Franks**

A retired American couple find the ghost of Thomas Gray in a Suffolk churchyard, along with other historical figures who demonstrate that history isn't always what you think it is.

**6m 4w**

**In the Doghouse**

**John Waterhouse**

Two hen-pecked brothers are bullied by debt-collectors. The wives mistake the thugs for pall-bearers, the thugs mistake Bert for Sam and Sam tries to convince Maud that the debt was her late mother's!

**8m 3w**

**The Incorruptible or The First Dictator**

**Phoebe M. Rees**

Robespierre at home in contrast to the Robespierre of history: a dramatic comment on a dictator's personality.

**1m 6 or 8w**

**Interrupted**

**Robert F. Norwood**

Three WWI officers wait to fire the mine that will destroy the enemy. Throughout, the tension and suspense is relieved by the grim humour of an irrepressible Cockney batman. "*Real dramatic intensity.*" - Drama.

**4m**

**Is There Anybody There?**

**Pat Bisson**

Mix a haunted snuff-box, a psychic wife, a beleaguered husband, two sexy teenagers, a not-so-saintly priest and a missing Will together and you get an hilarious play - great characters and fun.

**5m 3w**

**Code B1**

**Island of the Mice**

**Winifride Trentham**

A young wife is attracted to a younger man who threatens to ruin her, but he meets a strange end on an island off the Brittany coast.

**3m 1w**

**Jacobson's Organ**

**Nicholas Corder**

Nigel and Fiona, a spirited young liver specialist, have arranged a blind date. Both are intelligent, neurotic and in need of love - they should be perfect for each other! On a split stage, they prepare for the date and imagine how it will go and the actual results. Fiona isn't prepared for the rubber snake and Nigel isn't cut out for a life of violence. Part of a trilogy, see also *Nigel's Wrist* and *Cash and Carrie*.

**1m 1w**

**Code B1**

**Johnny PM**

**Taylor Lovering**

Greedy neighbours gather to scavenge Johnny's estate. Their hopes are dashed when they learn the Will is invalid, as Johnny didn't sign it, although they witnessed it! Excellent characters.

**3m 3w**

**Jump Off**

**John Waterhouse**

In this comedy nothing is quite as it seems. A young man and woman look as if they are about to leap from the top of a six-storey building.

**3m 2w**

**Just Like It Was**

**J. Turner**

Having lived a simple life, Charles returns as a more adventurous ghost. When he dallies with Rosie, a buxom barmaid, his widow confronts him. Charles insists that he and Rosie are just good friends, but are they?

**2m 3w**

**The Kadins**

**Rhona Shepherd**

The Sultan's Kadins (concubines who have borne him a child) await his return from war. He took Barbara with him, and they wonder if she is still his favourite. She is, and death and destruction follow. Set in C15th Turkey.

**1m 7w**

**Kelly and Donald**

**John Collings**

Kelly and Donald are mentally ill. Kelly wants to find his mother, but Donald stops him. They fight, talk about the hospital, Donald's nervous breakdown, their dreams, the past. When Kelly breaks down, Donald is able to destroy another person's life.

**2m**

**Code B1**

**Kenneth**

**David Foxtan**

Kenneth is offstage and visible only to the actors. His character is built up in each scene so that the audience thinks they have seen him.

**5m 6w**

**Kill Me a Dragon**

**Maureen Neild**

*"May not be a solution to the problem of an old woman's eviction from a demolition area, but it has its appeal to the students who seek to prevent it."* - Amateur Stage.

**2m 1w**

**The Laboratory**

**David Campton**

Three disreputable Renaissance Italians visit an apothecary to obtain poison to get rid of each other. The apothecary mistakenly gives them love potions! Televised by the BBC.

**2m 3w**

**Lacey Lashes Out**

**Thomas Doran & Arthur Martin**

Inspector Lacey stakes his reputation on a gamble to recover the stolen Mappin diamonds, but discovers that one of his colleagues is implicated.

**5m**

**The Lady's Bicycle**

**David Stant**

Two young men meet two young ladies who visit their flat in error, expecting to buy a bike - with interesting consequences.

**2m 2w**

**The Lake of Wonder**

**Hugh Stewart**

Captures the mysticism of Glastonbury, yet also makes the people and incidents realistic. The scenes are arresting and dramatic.

**2m 2w**

**Landlord**

**Steven Blandford**

A satire contrasting the rise and fall of Georgina, a property developer, with Margaret Thatcher's premiership. A fast-moving, blackly comic, ensemble piece which requires the actors to perform multiple rôles and be part of a chorus. Premiered at the 1991 *Edinburgh Fringe Festival*, where *The Independent* chose it as *Pick of the Fringe*.

**1w 5-9 of either sex**

**Code B1**

**The Last Blue Mountain**

**Edward Murch**

One of the three survivors of a plane crash is dying. In his delirium he recalls the most poignant episodes of his life: he was a famous conductor who forsook the woman he loved and fame to seek the lost idealism of his youth. In a dramatic and unusual sequence his past is linked with the present and he finds the things he has been looking for just as a rescue party arrives. A festival winner of great atmosphere and drama.

**1m 3w**

**The Last Post**

**Rhona Uren**

Harriet thinks her daughter is a thief, so makes a new will favouring Derek. When she discovers that Derek is a thief, she writes to her solicitor to rectify matters but dies before she can post it. Derek posts the letter thinking it is the new will!

**2m 4w**

**The Last Time I Saw Paris**

**Philip Stagg**

*"Set in a cafe in the Bois de Boulogne, with the time changing between 1964 and 1945, a novelist recaptures the memories of old love. Some wonderful old characters. Both moving and funny, highly recommended, simply a gem."* - Amateur Stage.

**3m 3w**

**Laughter**

**Eleanor Elder**

Shows the jealousies between an equestrian and a gypsy queen, and a clown's struggle with family worries - but the show must go on.

**1m 2w**

**The Law My Enemy**

**K. Giddins**

A drama about a woman's struggle to escape from a brutal husband only to be beaten by the unfairness of the law. Challenging parts.

**3m 3w**

**Lear of Albion Crescent**

**Joyce Dennys**

A father of three daughters is desperate that his fourth child be a son. A witty, delightful story.

**1m 4w**

**The Legend of Raikes Cross**

**Stuart Ready**

With superb artistry the author evokes spine-chilling thrills with eerie undertones. The kind of tale whispered round the fire on Christmas Eve.

**4m 3w**

**Thriller**

**Letting Lucinda Down**

**Jay Teagarden**

A couple find a strange girl in their home. She can't explain her presence and will not leave until Stu collects her. Then an explosion is heard. Is there a connection? All very awkward for the couple who are expected for dinner and don't want to let Lucinda down.

**2m 2w**

**Code B1**

**Little Secrets**

**Gerry Schilling**

The husbands have agreed to swap wives, but complications arise, especially when Berenice realises that she has forgotten a basic item of underclothing!

**2m 2w**

**Little White Lies**

**Jack Booth**

Laura invents a visit to a friend in Brighton to explain her unexpected arrival at her parents's home. This arouses Muriel's suspicions about the Brighton conference that her husband was to attend. Laura and Clive stage a seduction scene which backfires with the arrival of husband Alan. Another white lie is revealed - Muriel and Alan had spent a night ... together?

**3m 3w**

**Code B1**

**Lives O' Men**

**Joe Corrie**

There is danger of gas in the mine and John, a miner blinded at work, is worried about his son going to the pits that day. Tense 1930s drama.

**3m 3w**

**Lizzy**

**Don Carroll**

An old woman's home is to be demolished, but she only agrees to be rehoused so long as her new garden is bigger than that of her hated home-help! Full of laughs and pathos. A festival winner.

**1m 4w**

**The Llanwrtyd Cycle**

**John Stuart Anderson**

Three plays inspired by the countryside of Llanwrtyd Wells. Each play is designed to be staged simply, with emphasis on the skills of the cast as actors, speakers and movers. *Actors of Atlantis* (11 + chorus) - monks save an exhausted young man. Can he solve a crisis?; *Hawkridge* (9m 5w + chorus) - Hilary is plagued by his memories of war. Winner of the 1997 *Grampian TV Award* at the *SCDA Festival*; *Winterhill* (5m 8w + chorus) - what is the mystery of Winterhill, a Welsh border town?

**Large mixed casts**

**£6.50**

**Code B1**

**Logic Upside Down**

**William Dinner**

In an unusual twist, the Bangs learn that their cousin's estate has been left to Robert the Robot! The solicitor wants to refer the will to the Law Society to decide whether a robot can inherit, but the Bangs are impatient and destroy Robert. Are they now guilty of murder?

**3m 4w**

**Code B1**

**The Long Shadow**

**Peter Johnson**

A manager is replaced by his rival. But their rivalry extends into their personal lives. "*Highly professional in theme and approach.*" - Amateur Stage.

**3m 2w**

**Look Ma, No Hands**

**Gerry Schilling**

Paul is exhausted by his house move. Viv arrives, seeking refuge from a possible rapist! Mum visits and her attacks cause Paul to explode and ban her from his life. Alone at last, he holds Viv's card in one hand and the phone in the other.

**2m 3w**

**Looking For Rosy**

**Leonard Morley**

Fred and Brenda are forging fivers; Rene is looking for Rosy; and Gran monopolises the loo! Excellent characters and zany situations. "*One of the funniest and most original one-acters for some time.*" - Amateur Stage.

**3m 2w**

**Love All**

**Philip Stagg**

Four people with two wedding nights into one room won't go! The arguments, mix-ups and tears are just beginning as they resolve the overcrowding! Festival winner.

**3m 2w**

**Love Lies Creaking**

**Taylor Lovering**

Middle-aged Tom takes his young girlfriend to a disco. He is shattered, so decides to date widowed Katie instead, but Katie has plans of her own.

**2m 2w**

**Love On a Matchstick Spent**

**Kenneth James**

Don Pietro is trying to carve the most beautiful matchstick to make money for his family. Like all good comedy, this one is near to tears.

**4m 8w**

**Mexican Farce**

**Love's Young Dream**

**Ros Moruzzi**

A delightful comedy which explores the complications of modern family relationships. In Scene One, Jill's parents anxiously await the arrival of her future in-laws. Peter's parents have new partners and aren't on speaking terms: Bridget is with "Loadsamoney" Dave and Stan brings his tarty young fiancée. The mothers clash over the wedding plans, class rears its ugly head and old animosities flare up! When Jill fails to turn up, the wedding seems to be off, but ... Scene Two is set in a maternity ward. Over the no-man's land of Jill's bed the new grandmothers fight over baby names, child care and who will be called Nana! The young couple, despairing of the older generation, find their own way to cope. Jill has one last bombshell to drop and it's back to square one again! Running time: 40 minutes.

**4m 4w**

**Code B1**

**The Loved One**

**Jack Booth**

Lewis has a fling with Jane in Paris. He then learns of Ed, her dead fiancé -Jane was insanely jealous of her sister and may have caused the accident that killed her and Ed. Lewis hastily retreats, leaving Jane fantasising of a Paris honeymoon with her loved one - Ed.

**1m 2w**

**Code B1**

**The Lover**

**G. Martinez Sierra**

**Translated by John Garrett Underhill**

The Lover, a humble man who has devoted his life to following the Queen, saves her life and so meets her at last.

**1m 2w**

**Low Comedy Woman**

**Jack Boswell**

After two failed attempts with professional killers, Harry decides to try a DIY exterminator's kit and finish off Granny himself. This is the start of a series of zany happenings, which just have to be staged!

**1m 4w**

**Luck of the Draw**

**Susan Quinn**

Flo embarks on an irreversible last journey when she meets a strange young woman - but the young woman is not what she seems.

**1m 2w**

**Lumbered**

**Don Carroll**

Nora looks forward to moving home and escaping Lena, her nosy neighbour. When her house finally sells, Nora learns that Lena has bought a new house too - next door to the one Nora wants to buy!

**2m 4w**

**Mademoiselle Rousset**

**Wyn Davies**

Seven travellers are fleeing the advancing Prussian Army. Elizabeth is a beautiful courtesan. Her fellow travellers despise her and use her for their own ends, but Elizabeth is the best of the lot. Winner of the 1979 *George Taylor Memorial Award for Best One-Act Play*.

**5m 5w**

**Maggie's Children**

**Anthony Hunt**

Three generations of the Davies family share a council house. Maggie's passion is religion. The men's is rugby. Bleddyn dreams of his own flat. When his girlfriend becomes pregnant he has to make other plans.

**4m 2w**

**The Maid of Domremy**

**Joe Corrie**

Joan of Arc prepares to leave her home on her mission to save France.

**4m 3w**

**A Major Defeat**

**Dennis Haywood**

Odious Major and Mrs Truscott threaten the peace of Duntourin, a home for retired actors. The residents concoct an elaborate plan to prevent them moving in which is almost thwarted by the Chair of the Board of Governors. An ingenious twist means that the residents win.

**3m 7w**

**Mak the Sheep-Stealer**

**Terry O'Brien**

A verse dramatisation of the medieval mystery play, *The Second Shepherd's Play*, which juxtaposes a thief's attempts to pass off a stolen lamb as his new-born son with the shepherds being summoned by angels to witness the birth of Jesus. Terry has successfully captured the rich comedy, reverence and social comment of the original text. Running time: 45 minutes.

**6m 2w**

**Code B1**

**Make It Happen**

**David Welsh**

Adrian and Claire live life to the full. When Adrian loses his job, he tries to make money by faking his death. Claire has her own reasons to encourage him. A tense 1980s thriller.

**4m 3w**

**Code B1**

**Man and Boy**

**Joan Duce**

As Community Service, Nick does jobs for Ed. Nick is appalled by the emptiness of the old man's life. Sadly, Nick goes too far. Comedy runs through the play and the ending leaves room for hope.

**6m 4w**

**Man At the Door**

**H. C. G. Stevens**

A convict escapes from Dartmoor and the woman who gave false evidence against him at his trial fears his revenge.

**1m 3w**

**The Man Next Door**

**Thomas Doran & Arthur Martin**

Inspector Lacey finds his sense of duty at variance with his affections. A mysterious Frenchman brings tragedy into Lacey's life.

**3m 2w**

**The Mannie**

**Charles Barron**

Hector, a vicar, envies Bobby, a slum girl, for having all the fun. Hector plays Santa at a children's party and Bobbie helps make him more human. Scots dialect. A rewarding choice for English groups.

**2m 4w**

**Many Happy Returns**

**Margaret Tims**

Reunion of five former school friends, but conflicts have developed as the years have passed.

**2m 4w**

**March Evening**

**Winifride Trentham**

A husband, who is ruining his son's life, suffers a heart attack but his wife didn't immediately call for help. Her remorse is the price she pays for her stepson's freedom to live his life.

**1m 3w**

**Marius's Mule**

**Bob Sturgess**

Reg is obsessive, disorganised and dull! His colleague is a charming rogue with a secret passion and no scruples. *Best Original Script* and *Best Comedy Production* at the 1995 *Shinfield Drama Festival*.

**3m 2w**

**Code B1**

**The Martha Syndrome**

**Scott Marshall**

The police find a middle-aged woman wandering in the park in the morning with blood-stained hands. She is questioned by a brusque DI and a more sympathetic female colleague. The detectives disagree on their approach and tension rises between the old style policeman and his more PC junior. As they slowly drag information from the Woman, they have to discover the whereabouts of her two children, who is her abusive husband and what has happened to him? This is a very well-paced, strongly written drama, with three excellent roles. Running time: 50 minutes.

Premiered by the Hereford Players in March 2011.

**1m 2w**

**Code B1**

**Mayhem at Mudlark Manor**

**John Waterhouse**

Spoof Agatha Christie thriller in which the whole cast dies! With so many murders in a short time, it is vital that it is played at breakneck speed for the humour to have full effect.

**6m 5w**

**Meadow's End**

**Alan Griffiths**

*Meadow's End Tennis Club* faces redevelopment. The Committee, mainly elderly, has seen the world they knew disappear. They fight a losing battle to save the club. Very funny dialogue.

**3m 4w**

**Mellow Drama**

**David Welsh**

The *Mayhem Players'* production of melodrama is hilarious. There are many opportunities for good 'bad acting' and FX in this disaster.

**4m 6w (variable)**

**Code B1**

**Men of Letters**

**Fred Partridge**

Cabouset is seeking re-election as president of the local agricultural society, but he relies on his daughter to write his speeches and letters to hide his illiteracy. Her marriage puts him in a quandary. An excellent festival choice. Adapted from Eugene Labiche.

**3m 2w**

**Mephisto Rock**

**Mike Wells**

A manager offers to get a fading rock group back to the top if they sign themselves over to him completely. The lead singer agrees - to loud music, flashing lights and the manager's manic laughter - the others hesitate.

**5m or 4m 1w**

**Merlin Limited**

**Winifride Trentham**

An ex-conjuror, bullied by his son-in-law, convinces him that he has an extraordinary power; and exploits the situation to turn the tables.

**3m 2w**

**Merry Widows**

**Pat Bisson**

Avril, starved of sex and attention; Maureen, a battered wife; and Nancy, well-to-do wife of a womaniser, lament and celebrate their husband's deaths. In walks Mr Smith who, finding himself in a lion's den of hatred, must fight for survival.

**1m 3w**

**Milton's Paradise**

**Philip Stagg**

Milton's ideal holiday is eating, drinking, womanising and humiliating Owen. Owen has his revenge. An explosive comedy!

**5m 3w**

**Mirror, Mirror, On the Wall**

**Jack Booth**

Helen introduces Anne to her new husband, Edgar. Anne fears for Helen's safety as Edgar, obsessed with his first wife's mysterious death, has kept her almost a prisoner. But Anne is the spitting image of the first wife!

**1m 2w**

**Code B1**

**Miss Clithold's Class of '58**

**John Waterhouse**

Bert and Jen are woken by a burglar. Jen is angry, Bert terrified until he realises that it is Len, an old schoolmate. Revelations ensue - Bert isn't Jen's husband, Len's daughter could be Bert's, especially when Jen's husband returns and they pull the wool over his eyes!

**3m 2w**

**Miss Haffner**

**Patricia Chown**

A dying governess recalls various scenes in her life, and sees how her pupils have succeeded in carrying out her unfulfilled ambitions.

**2-3m 6-7w**

**Miss Pringle Plays Portia**

**Victor Maddern & Lyn Reid Banks**

The play opens with Miss Pringle misquoting *The Merchant of Venice* mercy speech. But she is far better than the distracted vicar when it comes to village business. As Prothero says "Ah! She's no woman! She's got brains!"

**3m 5w**

**Mission Accomplished**

**Graham Jones**

A Nazi war criminal living in England receives a death threat. A man visits him - is he a chance visitor or from the National Front?

**2m**

**Moonset Over Zeron**

**Martin Davies**

Two patients have much to gain from each other and from the shared trauma of the tragi-comic world of the hospital. Winner of the 1988 *Geoffrey Whitworth Cup, All-England Final*.

**5m 4w**

**More Than Just a Game**

**F. Major**

Three witches need a sacrifice for the Sabbath. Linda's baby-sitter seems ideal, but she has other ideas! But there is nothing comic about the way she deals with Linda's husband or provides the sacrifice!

**1m 5w**

**Mother Came Too**

**John Waterhouse**

When the newly-weds move into their new home they are horrified to find that Raymond's domineering Mother has no intention of letting him escape her apron strings and is moving in with them! However, Raymond's long-absent Father arrives intent on making up for abandoning his son when he escaped his wife. A large cheque allows them to escape on an impromptu honeymoon and escape Mother's grasping clutches! Based on the author's television play, which starred Peggy Mount as Mother and Graham Stark as Raymond. The excellent script allowed them to showcase their talents to the full. A one-act comedy.

**2m 2w + 3 non-speaking extras**

**Code B1**

**Moving Day**

**Don West**

Tom offers Mary, recently widowed, support and a future. She is moving away, but she may come back once she has adjusted.

**1m 1w**

**Moving On**

**Scott Marshall**

Gordon is a newcomer to Silverdale Residential Home. It is run by the efficient widow, Mrs Beauregard; Amy is the 15 year old new cleaner, whilst Miss Leinster is a long-term resident. Gordon finds it difficult to settle in to his new surroundings as his frequent recollections of his family show. But this elegiac piece has a surprise twist in its tail as it moves to a startling revelation! A delightful, yet deceptive drama.

**1m 3w 1 girl**

**Code B1**

**Mr Paterson's Lunch**

**Michael Sergeant**

Ed is dissatisfied with his wife, job and life. An encounter with an eccentric woman gives him the chance to express his feelings and helps him realise what he wants from life. Comedy with a serious core.

**1m 2w**

**Mum's the Word**

**J. Woods**

Mum wants her daughter to have a big church wedding; her daughter only agrees when she discovers that Mum's was a shot-gun wedding.

**2m 4w**

**Murder at Midday**

**Frances Langhorn**

When Ruth, her sister and daughter receive a visit from gossipy Dolly, Julie learns that her father was murdered. Her mother was suspected, but nothing was proved. Julie, desperate for the truth, discovers that he got what he deserved.

**1m 4w**

**Murder at the Mill**

**Jill Sumner**

A spoof Victorian melodrama: a plot to murder the bride for her money and an eleventh hour rescue by the beloved hero!

**6m 6w**

**Murder in Mind**

**John Waterhouse**

Ronnie and Stephen concoct the perfect solution to their financial worries - they will hire a contract killer to get rid of Mother and inherit her wealth early! Hatching the plan and finding a killer prove no problem, but putting the plan into action proves hardest of all. Mum might have the last word.

**4m 1w**

**Code B1**

**Murdering at the Vicarage**

**H. Connolly**

A man is brutally murdered, his distraught wife consigned to the singles' tournaments for ever! Can the sleuth solve the case? Will Brian die? Are mouse droppings taken internally fatal? Hilarious who-dunnit. A favourite.

**3m 3w**

**Music Lovers**

**N. Warburton**

Mr Parley gives a talk to the music society, but only shy Miss Eames attends. Parley hints there may be more to their meeting. She is flattered until he plays a tape - his purpose is not love, but revenge! "*An excellent black joke.*" - The Times.

**2m 1w**

**The Mute**

**Eleanor Worsley**

A Spanish lady refuses to remarry, despite the pleas of an admirer and a neighbour. The constant, mute visitor is her husband's ghost seeking forgiveness for his infidelity. There is a startling revelation!

**2m 3w**

**My Johnny**

**Maggie Law**

Mum controls John's life, but her domination causes his early death.

**1m 4w**

**My Name Is Oscar Wilde**

**Norman Holland**

Wilde is musing over the events that led to his imprisonment. From his past emerge the main characters in his fall from grace. An impressive play.

**8m**

**Needing Space**

**G. Nicholson**

A separated couple get back together to stop their 8 year old son's delinquent behaviour. In the course of the play, the child behaves more like an adult and vice versa. All roles are played by adults.

**2m 1w**

### **Neighs, Neighbours and Naivety**

**Jack Booth**

A banker's wife is bored of her dull life. A handsome explorer asks her to run away with him. Who will win the day? Is a duel the answer? An amusing commentary on the ties that bind relationships.

**2m 3w**

**Code B1**

### **A Nest of Cuckoos**

**John Waterhouse**

Elsie and Frank, short of money, take a lodger. Two strange men offer to pay a higher rent and are accepted. Soon their bizarre behaviour disrupts the household, setting wife against husband. Beneath the comedy is real menace that leads to an explosive climax.

**2m 2w**

**Code B1**

### **Never A Cross Word**

**Ros Moruzzi**

Julia and Bernard have always got along pretty well, but Bernard is retiring and ill-prepared for it. At a loss for a new purpose in life, he re-organises Julia's routines, driving her crazy. She escapes into a series of romantic fantasies. Tensions increase to crisis point but, eventually, Julia recognises the tragedy of Bernard's situation and, little by little, they manage to adjust to this new phase in their lives.

A delightfully funny but poignant observational comedy. Running time: 45 minutes.

*"The drama is established in a style reminiscent of "Shirley Valentine". The sweet and sour dialogue holds such pain, fear and loss. We really do get a sense of a man fighting for his dignity and the effect the fight has on his wife, who needs to escape from the reality of him. There are some great things in this play ... A piece with profound resonances for any community audience, especially a maturing one. - Ian Rowlands, Drama Association of Wales*

**2-6m 1w**

**Code B1**

### **A New Woman**

**Ellie Fossey**

Anna has an appointment with her consultant. He is called away and another patient, the brash Viv, appears. What seems like a light-hearted encounter gradually develops into a titanic clash of personalities. In this fascinating study of a tormented mind, the two fight for dominance and Anna is forced to face up to a disturbing past. Only the strongest will survive and become the "new woman". Winner of several awards, including *Overall Winner* and *Best Actress* at the 2004 *Teignmouth Drama Festival*; *Regional* and *Area Winner* in the 2004 *All-England Theatre Festival*; and a finalist in the *AETF 2004* competition.

**1m 2w**

**Code B1**

### **Nicodemus**

**Joe Corrie**

Nicodemus announces on his wedding day that he doesn't feel like getting married. The bride, however, has other ideas.

**4m 2w**

### **Nigel's Wrist**

**Nicholas Corder**

Nigel, a post-graduate student, is funding a night out by donating sperm. Though the spirit is willing, his flesh is weak! It's a solitary business, but will Nurse Rogers lend a helping hand? Nigel fantasises about her in a series of costumes - psychiatrist, dominatrix, maid - to bring the play to a climax! This robust comedy for an adult audience had its professional premier at the *Theatre-by-the-Lake* in Keswick and was the winner of the 2001 *Siemens-Congleton Players Bi-annual One Act Playwright Award*. The first in a trilogy of plays about Nigel, see also *Jacobson's Organ* and *Cash and Carrie*.

*"... very funny and extremely rude without losing its innocence.*

*It's a tough trick and (he) pulls it off impressively, if you'll pardon the pun." - Alan Plater, playwright.*

*"Outrageously and excruciatingly funny! The brilliance of the writing leaps out and grabs you by the short and curly hairs." -*

*Jim Eldridge, playwright and creator of Radio Four's King Street Junior.*

**1m 1w**

**Code B1**

### **Night Intruder**

**Paul Reakes**

A murderer confronts a novelist. Nat and her husband arrive, saving Faith from a brutal attack, but is he the murderer?

**6m 2w**

### **The Night Shelter**

**John Vose**

A tramp has hated nuns since childhood. Every misfortune is blamed on nuns, but a visit by a local sister to a shelter puts things in perspective. Winner of the *Playwrights' Workshop Competition 1981*.

**5m 2w**

### **A Night to Remember**

**A. Daniels**

A stripper causes a stir at the Bowling Club Dinner. The Chairman's wife, keen to see her husband elected Mayor, sees her hopes fading. She must find out who booked this shameful act and why.

**4m 3w**

### **The Night Watch**

**Susan Quinn**

Marie is impressed by Rembrandt's *Night Watch* and, through Hans, experiences a terrifying dimension to the painting. Her fate lies in the hands of two Americans who like the painting.

**7m 2w**

### **Nightmare**

**Mavis Smith**

A young couple is woken by an intruder. They tackle him but discover that he is a she and is more than just a common burglar!

**1m 2w**

### **Nine to Five**

**Jack Bingham**

Fred is fed-up with the daily grind. His wife and friends try to bring him to heel. He fights the system but cannot beat the unions.

**2m 1w**

### **No Crime Like the Present**

**John Waterhouse**

Alex comes home from work, not to the restful dinner party with friends that he was expecting, but to find a body on the dining room floor! As Alex tries to deal with the situation, his wife is more interested with getting dinner ready and their guests are only concerned with the theft of their car! Mayhem ensues in the latest offering from one of our most popular authors.

**4m 2w**

**Code B1**

### **No Flowers From the Duchess**

**Taylor Lovering**

Explores the extremes of human conduct when the shadow of terminal cancer is miraculously lifted. Is Marie a faith-healer? One patient tries to exploit her power, but she turns the tables on him. A thoughtful and powerful play with well-drawn characters and effective black humour.

**2m 2w**

### **Nothing On Tonight**

**T. Collister**

Bert's caretaking job is easy until his daughter decides to make better use of the hall - with poetry readings, badminton, a disco and more!

**5m 5w**

### **OAP Rules, OK!**

**Marion Whybrow**

Mrs Rogers seeks respite from her grandchildren in a Senior Citizens' Club. Angered by the petty rules of the despotic volunteer, she inspires the cowed regulars to assert their independence and organise the volunteer's retirement party 20 years early! Running time: 30 minutes.

**1m 5w (4 retired)**

**Code B1**

**The Old Fiddle**

**George Taylor**

Grandad's prized fiddle causes great excitement, but he prefers not to have it valued as the result might destroy his illusions. Comedy.

**3m 4w**

**Oliver's Twist**

**J. Caws**

A rehearsal of a professional production fails. The complexities of professional theatre are interwoven with human problems.

**3m 3w (or more)**

**One and One Is Two**

**Don Hill**

Two actors, also lovers, audition for a play about romance. Tension arises over the Girl's use of the phrase "a pregnant pause". They try to resolve their differences by exploring the audition pieces they have prepared for resonances in their own lives. In an emotional finale, they reveal their hopes and fears. A festival success, winning awards for *Best Comedy*, *Best New Play* and for *Originality* and *High Dramatic Achievement*.

**3m 1w or 2m 2w**

**Code B1**

**One Bad Apple**

**Peter Hartley**

A study of four survivors of a war. An older man and girl have a relationship based on fear. A young man appears, looking for somewhere free from contamination to start afresh. He wants the girl to go with him!

**2m 2w**

**One Can But Try**

**Anatole France**

**Translated by Ashley Dukes**

Sophisticated comedy about the love of two men for an attractive widow.

**3m 2w**

**One Day, Summer's Day**

**B. Powell**

The racy lives of the residents of The Crescent. Calls for imaginative characterisation. Festival winner, with keen observation and wry humour.

**7m 10w**

**One of the Family**

**Peter Johnson**

The residents of a home for retired actors are staging a cabaret. One has to admit that, although he loves the theatre, he was just a clerk.

**3m 2w**

### **The Onion Seller**

**Jessica Fraser**

A Chinese-style narrative, this is the story of Wei Ku and his search for a bride. "*A charming and original play.*" - Amateur Stage.

**8m 4w + extras or 9m 5w + extras**

### **Only the Bull Can Lose**

**Don West**

This tense, emotional drama concerns the death of a matador. Professionally premiered at the *Mercury Theatre*, Colchester.

**3m 2w**

### **Operation Horace**

**Vera Arlett & Elma Verity**

A farcical situation arises when a load of furniture is moved into the wrong cottage. Horace, the tipsy removal man, protests that it's not his fault. In fact, he becomes a bemused hero!

**1m 5w**

### **Orders**

**John Gray**

Susan's life is shattered when a man telephones. Then Alan brings home Eddie, one of her ex-colleagues. Eddie taunts Susan about her past, implying that they were more than just colleagues. Susan's anxiety turns to terror when Eddie reveals his orders.

**3m 2w**

### **Othello - The A4 Edition**

**Soinbhe Lally**

A mock-scholarly attempt to create a politically-correct edition of *Othello*. The Professor's attempts to resolve the problems of race, gender and animal rights in the light of contemporary thinking, flounder on the issue of Desdemona's handkerchief. This clears the way for a feminist liberation of the text by Miss Stratford. As the grand tragedy is reduced to the level of farce, some of the loftier theories of contemporary literary criticism are exposed as absurdities. Ideal for both colleges and adult groups.

**5m 4w**

**Code B1**

### **Our James**

**Ros Moruzzi**

Iris is appalled to learn that she was a test-tube baby. 'Aided' by a series of well-intentioned professionals, Iris sets out to discover her father's identity. In a descent into black comedy, the possibilities become ever more alarming! A funny play with deftly-drawn characters, a serious message and an hilarious dénouement. Festival round winner, *Best Actress* winner and runner-up in a national playwriting competition in 2001.

**1m 4w**

**Code B1**

**Out of His Mind**

**J. Caws**

A playwright is desperately trying to write. As he loses control of the plot, his characters take on a life of their own, demanding better parts. An enjoyable play which captures the creative processes of writing.

**3m 2w**

**Out of Hours**

**Richard Reyland**

Penny meets Tom, her schoolboy crush. He is a top salesman and she a cleaner. Rôles are reversed when, due to his nerves, Penny has to close a sale for him. Old rôles are quickly resumed, but Penny will never be quite the same again.

**1m 1w**

**Over His Dead Body**

**Jack Booth**

Deborah's one-night stand - the Minister for Sport! - is dead in her bed! Frantic attempts to remove the body are thwarted by the police seeking an escaped convict and Sharon's journalist boyfriend seeking a sleazy scoop.

**3m 4w**

**Ozymandias the King**

**Dorothy Hewlett**

Power does not bring happiness. A mighty king is isolated in his court - spoiled by early success, suspicious. A Little Man, the symbol of his inner disharmony, appears to him in the midst of his splendour.

**9m or w**

**A Pair of Feet**

**Alan Richardson**

Surprisingly, despite the running gag about his unlikely footwear and his attempts to seduce the secretary, the punk turns out to be an excellent salesman.

**2m 1w**

**Pancakes**

**D. T. Davies**

Why has Martha, the Welsh miner's wife, made pancakes for supper? What is the special occasion? Televised by the BBC.

**2m 3w**

**The Parting Shot**

**Edward Murch**

Third of the popular Captain Savage tales is comic, racy and romantic. Set on Christmas Eve 1815, it will also appeal to groups looking for a rollicking Christmas play. See also *Things That Go Bump* and *The Thin Red Line*.

**3m 3w**

**Costume Comedy**

**The Perplexing Puzzle of the Pedigree Pet and the Policeman** T. Victor

Shirley Holmes and Joan Watson uncover a murderous plot involving a reporter, a party at a police station, an ex-park keeper, an Afghan hound, illegal narcotics and two Doctor Watsons!

**1m 4w**

**Picking Up the Pieces**

**Edward Salmon**

A psychologist returns to his hometown to lecture. His marriage is rocky, but Lindsay, a childhood sweetheart, excites his old yearnings.

**1m 1w**

**Picture Framed**

**Neil Fitton**

A provincial town is bequeathed a famous painting. The Mayoress is to unveil the painting, but the *Mothers' Union Moral Protection Society* object to the saucy scenes. Riotous confusion ensues as the Mayoress tries to decide if it is art and what effect it will have on the town.

**3m 5w or 3m 3w + 2 walk-ons**

**The Pie and the Tart**

**Hugh Chesterman**

Lively and entertaining farce set in a 15th century French patisserie.

**3m 1w**

**A Piece of Paper**

**Edward Salmon**

Alison returns from university to announce that she is to live with her boyfriend. Her mother's calm acceptance of the situation is a surprise.

**1m 4w**

**Pieces of Hate**

**Richard Franks**

Judi and Thomas throw a fancy dress party to meet the neighbours. The characters, their kinks and relationships are a source of amusement in this black comedy. *Scarborough Theatre-in-the Round Festival Winner.*

**3m 3w**

**Ping Pong**

**John Waterhouse**

A middle-aged couple plays table-tennis every night. Tonight, Henry provokes Doreen - she tells him of her frustration and what she thinks of him. They hurl accusations and years of pent-up resentment across the net in a bitter, but amusing, contest.

**1m 1w**

**Pitch Pine and Brass Handles**

**Ted Sharpe**

A Chicago crook hides his loot in a coffin. Two of his ex-molls grass him up. After the coffin has been seized, the gangsters get their come-uppance, leaving the molls and the undertaker to share the loot.

**3m 2w + extras**

**The Play's the Thing**

**Peter Pitt**

His extravagant young wife ruins an ageing matinée idol. Larry, a young actor who is in love with her, tries to interest Charles in a murder play that he has written. Very tense drama.

**3m 2w**

**Poppy**

**Leonard Rogers**

Young, flirty Poppy, a figment of Mike's imagination, materialises at the most awkward moments! Mike's wife exorcises the problem, only to benefit Rodney! Winner of the 1981 *George Taylor Memorial Award*.

**2m 2w**

**Portrait of a Mother**

**Alfred Emmet & Barbara Hutchins**

Leonardo da Vinci was the illegitimate son of a Florentine lawyer and a peasant girl, Caterina, and was brought up by his father. Eighteen years later, Caterina meets her son for the first time since infancy.

**2m 2w**

**Postcards, Please**

**Wilfred Harrison**

Widower Harry writes to Walter, an old friend and radio presenter. Harry is envious of Walter's lifestyle and fame, but Walter is the lonely one.

**2m**

**Power Cut**

**Keith Edmund**

Martin and Sarah use a hypnotism tape to stop them arguing. A power cut strikes before the end of the tape can bring them round!

**3m 2w**

**The Prattling Prentice**

**Norman Holland**

An amusing and original play set at the end of the fourteenth century.

**3m 4w**

**Chaucerian Comedy**

**The Primrose Path**

**Gillian Plowman**

James can't adjust to unemployment. Bridget tries to stimulate his interests. Primrose, a tramp, shows him the possibility of freedom, so he allows Primrose to establish herself in the household. Zany.

**1m 2w**

**The Professional Touch**

**Iris Capell**

During a rehearsal in the village hall, an unpopular member of the society is murdered. The Chief Constable is in the cast and after several false alarms the killer is discovered. A neat and well-constructed thriller.

**5m 4w**

**The Prisoner**

**N. Husband**

A woman is to be executed for killing her lover. Two prison chaplains struggle for her soul with the Devil. After all the arguments and promises, the choice of her soul's destination is left to her. Late 1950s.

**3m 3w**

**The Private Lives of Sherlock Holmes**

**Michael Lambe**

Holmes, in plaster after fighting Moriarty, is at the mercy of Watson and a killer. Is Watson a murderer? Who are the women in their lives?

**2m 2w or 3m 1w**

**The Prodigal Son**

**Jill Woods**

Pop star Justin returns home for an interview, but Mum reveals his childhood secrets. As a result, he gets more publicity than he wanted.

**5m 2w**

**The Professionals**

**Albert Dobson**

A victim gains the upper hand over his kidnapers. His morale is shattered when his captors find they have the wrong man and return him to his nagging wife. Well-written in the style of Pinter.

**3m**

**A Promise Is a Promise**

**David Coe**

The description of a stolen clock fits Harry's latest acquisition. If it is, how can he get it back from the neighbour he has just sold it to?

**2m 2w**

**Protective Custody**

**Taylor Lovering**

This powerful drama concerns the fate of three English women in the 1857 Indian Mutiny. They face the hideous deaths awaiting them with dignity. The youngest is spared by her companion's last bullet.

**1m 3w**

**The Psychologist**

**Keith Briant**

A man who, when he lost his faith in the person he trusted, lost all, and the incessant strife between the mean and fine in human nature.

**4m**

**A Quiet Night In**

**David Walker**

A couple's peace is shattered by two animal rights activists who raided a pet shop to draw attention to their cause and deliberately led the police to their hideout. But the activists made a fatal mistake and armed police arrive!

**2m 2w**

**Code B1**

**Quotations on the Margin**

**Scott Marshall**

In a setting left to the director's imagination, Duffy, an actor, is being questioned indirectly by the persistent Johnson. With echoes of Pinter, an atmosphere of mystery and menace hovers over this black comedy, as Duffy displays his professional dexterity. But who are these men? Where are they? And, most importantly, where is Duffy's wife?

*"I don't think I've enjoyed reading a one-act as much as this in years."*

*- Jeremy Lewis, Riverside Theatre*

**2m 1w**

**Code B1**

**Rain in Majorca**

**T. B. Morris**

George Sand, her children and locals bring love and trials to Chopin, as he tries to compose his *Prelude in D Flat* in a deserted monastery.

**2m 4w 2children**

**Rave No More**

**Josephine Carter**

John, paralysed in a car crash, is writing a book on fate - regardless of the course taken, fate always wins! A good range of parts.

**3m 3w**

**Reality Dreamt**

**Keith Edmund**

A powerful drama which explores alternative realities. Duncan and Kate care for his brother after an accident. When Ross, another victim of the accident, returns, a new dimension appears. Ross is thoughtful, plagued with the need to know why we are here.

**3m 1w**

**Red Box**

**Peter Mercer**

A moral comedy. Loco the Clown tries to talk to a plain, red box to no avail. An hilarious series of misunderstandings and blatant prejudice lead to his arrest and the ensuing trial continues the theme of his isolation and despair at remaining an individual in a society where conformity is the rule. An unexpected ending asks who is the real clown? Winner of many awards and an ideal festival play.

**3m 6w + extras**

**Rehearsal**

**Valrose Lindley**

An exciting, fast-moving thriller that will appeal to younger groups. Bored with her friends, arguing with her husband, Freda is knocked out and from her astral body learns how wrong she was about them all.

**5m 4w**

**Thriller**

**The Replacement**

**Scott Marshall**

This hilarious, frenetically paced one-act seems to be set in a Doctor's surgery. But quickly the Doctor and patient seem to swap identities. An invisible nurse is addressed as the tension between the men increases menacingly. The denouement explains all, with one of them revealing a shocking piece of information. Two first-class roles for versatile actors in their twenties to forties.

**2m**

**Code B1**

**Requiem for a Robot**

**F. Major**

Ross, in hospital after an accident, is attracted to his android nurse. Ross decides to test its capabilities. Through these tests it acquires human feelings and falls in love with Ross. Then his fiancée arrives!

**1m 3w**

**Research**

**Michael Coyle**

Harry, a writer, poses as a psychiatric patient to research his next book. But things go wrong when Harry assaults a nurse and is committed for life. He was set-up by his wife and doctor who are now free to marry.

**5m 2w**

**The Revival**

**Edward Murch**

A Jacobean gentleman has retired from a dissolute youth and has spent his later years climbing the ladder of respectability. Some actors ask him for help in staging his version of *Hamlet*, but he is adamant in his refusal to return to the life that he led. A warm, witty festival winner.

**1m 2w**

**The Ribs of Argo**

**T. B. Morris**

By the rotting *Argo*, Jason, as an old man, meets Medea, the enchantress, in her vigour and beauty, to bring their tragedy to an end.

**3m 11w or 6m 8w**

**Ring Out the Bells**

**J. Duce**

Prince Charles and Lady Di's wedding coincides with the Percivals' anniversary. An elegant table is set in a sparsely furnished, windowless room. The celebration leads to a row. Loving and full of wry humour.

**1m 2w**

**Roll Over Play Dead**

**Ted Sharpe**

The calm of the cleaners's room is shattered by a mysterious Scot. The cleaners, an ex-good time girl and a football hooligan, are celebrating her birthday. The play explores the humour and shifts of power in this ill-assorted trio.

**2m 1w**

**The Rose King of Gisors**

**Neil Fitton**

Based on a story by Guy de Maupassant set in 1880s France. Madame Husson is upset by the lack of virtue of the village girls and her attempts to choose a Rose Queen come to nothing - no-one meets her high standards! Festival winner.

**2m 5w**

**Runaway**

**Norman Holland**

An escaped convict discovers that his hostage is a murderer and the corpse is still in the house! As he flees, the hostage incriminates the convict.

**3m**

**The Sad World of a Barren Heifer**

**John Healey**

A frustrated spinster is dominated by her manipulative, 'disabled' mother. Discovery of the cruel deception severs her tenuous ties as the daughter leaves to seek a new life. An intense, unusual play.

**2m 2w**

**St Michael Comes to Shepherds Bush**

**James Parish**

A man keeps two pieces of coloured glass from a French Cathedral as war souvenirs. When St Michael and the Devil arrive to claim parts of their glass anatomy it becomes pure farce.

**3m 1w**

**Scruples, Agents and Wilfred**

**Chris Pearson**

Estate agents *Macmillan and Stott* have to cut staff. As they decide on who must go, suspicion, jealousy and back-biting are rife as the staff jockey for position. The final choice is a shock to all concerned.

**3m 1w**

**Code B1**

**Season of Goodwill**

**Jack Booth**

Alfred's friendship with his new boss and neighbour is shattered when his much-anticipated Christmas without his mother-in-law is ruined by Humphrey's cockerel. The rift widens when Alfred vetoes their children's wedding. Unexpected events heal the rift but Alfred still has a problem.

**3m 4w**

**Second Time of Asking**

**George Taylor**

A widower finds it difficult to pick up the threads of a past romance, until his future father-in-law intervenes.

**2m 2w**

**The Secret of the Years**

**T. B. Morris**

It is the 40th anniversary of the disappearance of a beautiful girl, the mistress of the master of the house who is dominated by his sister.

**2m 4w**

**Victorian Melodrama**

**See You Tomorrow**

**Frank Vickery**

Robert is dying of cancer. His nurse and visitor are both in love with him. The tragic situation is handled with delicacy, taste and skill.

**2m 1w**

**Seeing Double**

**Jack Booth**

Quentin uses his twin brother to end his affair with Lysette. Justin's wife mistakes Lysette for a patient and Quentin's suspicious wife arrives, forcing the brothers to make increasingly frantic appearances as each other.

**1m 3w**

**Set Piece**

**Peter Johnson**

An old flame shatters the busy life of an executive. She exposes the emptiness of the life to which he sacrificed his talent as a poet.

**2m 6w**

**Set-Up**

**Brian Austin**

A tender and moving relationship between a professional stagehand and an ASM with a touring company. Time and place weave forward and back with fluidity. Winner of the 1978 *Highbridge Literary Festival*.

**2m 2w**

**Seven Cream Jugs**

**David Coe**

A middle-aged couple is visited by a relative who tricks them into parting with one of their prized cream jugs. Amusing and ingenious.

**2m 2w**

### **Shadow of the Valley**

**C. Hawkins**

Two World War One soldiers discuss their dreams, families, feelings about the war and the bloody officers. The sufferings of those at home are not forgotten and the ending has an unusual twist.

**6m 2w**

### **Shadows**

**Ted Sharpe**

Ann and Rex expect to sell their house quickly. But they could do without the ghostly return of the ex-owner and the interference of their drunken neighbour. Humour and spine-chilling moments.

**3m 2w**

### **Shadows of Vilette**

**Margaret Crompton**

Having outstayed her welcome at the Hegers, Charlotte Brönte pretends to be needed urgently at home. Madame is pleased, but M. Heger has trouble hiding his feelings. His suspicious wife witnesses his show of affection.

**1m 3w**

### **Shagathon**

**Nicholas Corder**

In this light-hearted satire of the worlds of sport and reality TV, sex has become a spectator sport! It's the annual grudge match with *Rotherham Rogerers*, who are well-known for bending the rules. Old hand, Vince, is past his prime and young upstart Dave can't wait to dethrone him. Throw in some love eggs, illegal use of Viagra, a jobsworth official, a foul-mouthed team masseuse, a stalker-cum-gossip magazine reporter and you've got a sure-fire recipe for silliness and mayhem! *Shagathon* was premiered at the *Rose Theatre*, Kidderminster in 2004 in a joint amateur-professional production. Strong adult theme throughout. Running time: 60 minutes.

*"... so remarkably rude that the surreal and outrageous become the norm and we are jollied along on a tide of disbelieving, chuckling acceptance."*

*- John Slim, Birmingham Evening Mail.*

**3m 2w**

**Code B1**

### **Shame the Devil**

**Alison McMaster**

A strict Edwardian bans his daughter's marriage to his assistant. The aide discovers that his employer has received smuggled goods and forces him to accept a plan to evade customs. Aunt's coffin hides the loot whilst she is away. But her unexpected return during the wake jeopardises the plot!

**3m 2w**

### **Shock Tactics**

**Mary Lee**

A family man is suddenly made redundant and reacts violently. He takes the personnel officer and her staff hostage. His plan fails, but not before he realises that other people have problems too.

**2m 5w**

### **Siege of Sevastopol Terrace**

**John Waterhouse**

Billy tries to gain Harry's blessing for his marriage to his daughter by tying dynamite round his waist. Harry refuses to give in. The police arrive to interview Billy in connection with a routine matter, but Billy threatens the officers and they leave hurriedly, only to return heavily-armed. Harry and Charles, robbers, are now trapped by the law and a mad bomber!

**5m 2w + extras**

### **Significant Others**

**John Waterhouse**

Unexpectedly, Alan's parents arrive from Australia, only to discover that Alan's home life is not what they imagined. Alan and John frantically twist and turn in their efforts to keep the truth from them and to find Alan a girlfriend! When all their stratagems fail, they find that Alan's parents have not been blind and, like all parents, just want their son to be happy. A one-act comedy.

**4m 2w**

**Code B1**

### **Simply The Best**

**John H. Newmeir**

Jack is obsessed with his cars: a Rolls-Royce, a sports car and a used Land Rover. Each car has its own personality and each is convinced that she is Jack's favourite! Until they overhear Jack arranging to sell one of them ... but which? As they try to discover which is to be replaced, they embark upon a catastrophic course of self-analysis. A great drama - the characters are well-drawn, the dialogue is sound and their rivalry is meticulously detailed.

**1m 3w**

**Code B1**

### **Single Fare Only**

**Taylor Lovering**

Cathy is blackmailing a co-worker for an indiscretion between them to subsidise her idle boyfriend. When the truth is revealed Cathy has to face her father's rage.

**3m 2w**

**Sit Vac**

**Leonard Morley**

Maggy, an efficient business woman, is waiting to interview an applicant for a job. In walks Richard, scruffy and forlorn, who stood her up a few weeks earlier. A prickly interview ensues! The quick-fire répartée provides excellent comic entertainment. Vanessa, a glamorous sec-retary, enters and exits to great effect. Sequel to the hugely popular *The Harpy and the Slob*.

**1m 2w**

**Code B1**

**Skeletons**

**Don Woods**

Fraser, the Principal, is faced with the squabbles of his staff over the disruptive influence of a transvestite student. But Fraser has a dark past too.

**5m 2w**

**Skin**

**Ros Moruzzi**

Dr Foxley, a cosmetic surgeon, has a macabre way to hide the ravages of time. Daphne, his attractive, scheming receptionist, knows too much! Violet, the cleaner, finances her dream make-over with a lottery win, but is alarmed to wake up looking just like Daphne, who has mysteriously disappeared! Violet replaces Daphne on reception, but is shocked when a colonel and a pervy judge arrive for their regular appointments with Naughty Nurse! The spurned judge gets his revenge when Violet and Foxley are charged with Daphne's murder. Jailed, both are deprived of the drugs they need to preserve their youth! A lively, black comedy with a bizarre take on the quest for eternal youth.

**3-4m 3w**

**Code B1**

**Slice of Battenberg**

**Michael Sergeant**

Three years after leaving home, Jane returns for Dad's birthday. Her sister is furious - they've heard nothing from her since. Why has she come now? What causes Anne's resentment?

**1m 3w**

**Smuggler**

**Barry Moore**

The cook and the galley boy on a ship have the perfect hiding place for smuggled rum. Customs Officers are unable to find the rum - at first!

**6m**

**Snakes and Ladders**

**Winifride Trentham**

Extravagant plans to spend a win on the Pools are ruined by the discovery that the daughter sent the message as revenge for a vetoed outing.

**2m 4w**

**Soldier From the Wars Returning**

**David Campton**

A sentimental barmaid and a bartender so influence the morale of a soldier on leave that they reduce the gallant warrior to a wreck. Amusing psychological comedy.

**2m 1w**

**Somebody for Dinner**

**Ted Sharpe**

An observation of a marriage becomes a commentary on the manipulation of an elderly person and an exposure of greed and its effects.

**3m 2w**

**Something On His Mind**

**Jack Booth**

Martin is to emigrate to Australia, but his family are hostile. The crisis deepens when Janet discovers that his secretary is already in Sydney and Martin's best friend asks Janet to stay with him!

**3m 3w**

**Code B1**

**Spacennapped**

**Pat Bisson**

Skyhawk, a vicious alien, has invaded England. Only young Sebastian, his gypsy aunt and a homeless vagrant realise what is afoot. When Annabel, the Mayor's fiery daughter, is spacennapped, Sebastian must rescue her. An exciting, fast-moving show with lots of OTT characters.

**13+**

**Code B1**

**Spanish Rhapsody**

**T. B. Morris**

A young poet and idealist, commanding a Republican garrison during the Spanish Civil War, spares an innkeeper suspected of treason. The prisoner escapes with tragic results for the poet and the girl he loved.

**7 or 9m 6w + extras**

**Stage Door Murder**

**Sam Bate**

Based on the murder of William Terris by Prince, a stage manager whom Terris sacked. A gripping story, a good balance of suspense, tragedy and humour, set in an authentic theatrical background.

**5m 3w**

**Starters**

**Brian Austin**

Brian, unemployed and dependent on his wife, attempts to conceal the truth from his father during dinner. When he fails, a row erupts which threatens to break the family. Brian's mother saves the day.

**2m 2w**

**Stress Fracture**

**S. Twinn**

Peter and Ann attend a vintage car rally and discover the bizarre relationships in a group of obsessives, where absurd sex and violence lurk.

**5m 4w**

**Strictly Doctor's Orders**

**Albert Coates**

A patient falls for his nurse and is in no hurry to get well, until a plot, hatched by his wife and his doctor, has remarkable consequences.

**2m 2w**

**Strictly for the Birds**

**John Waterhouse**

Can novelist Dudley deliver the play his wife has promised her local drama group? Dudley struggles with his unwanted assignment and we see different scenes and plots acted out in his efforts to write an amusing play.

**1m 8w**

**Code B1**

**The Suitor**

**Leonard Morley**

Nothing ever happens to Joan and Arnie - she knits, he gardens. When their daughter's ex-boyfriend calls, things are very different - for a while.

**2m 2w**

**The Sun Goes Down**

**Eleanor FitzGerald**

The children of a stern Irish father escape from his tyranny through the resourcefulness of his younger daughter. A tragi-comedy.

**4m 4w**

**Sunday Tea**

**Terence Bowen**

A daughter introduces her boyfriend to her family.

**2m 5w**

**Sunstroke**

**Philip Stagg**

Tom and Kath celebrate their anniversary. Two honeymooners trespass on the private beach and Tom sees them off. They have met before and Tom's grudge ends in indignity and hilarity. Festival favourite. Sequel to *Love All*.

**4m 3w**

**The Supper Dance**

**Mary May**

An English lady visits some White Russian refugees to collect a dress. She learns that she knew the dressmaker's husband in the days of the Tsar and that his wife has just died of exhaustion.

**3m 1w**

**Sweet Rose of Old Aldgate**

**Monica Sharrocks**

Secretly betrothed to Albert, Rose supports her idle parents. One awful day they sell her to the villainous Murdoch, who imprisons her in his Den of Thieves. Will our heroine escape? Will a wrong be righted? Will the bad repent and the good be rewarded? Melodrama.

**6m 7w**

**Code B1**

**Take a Leaf Out of Gregory's Book**

**Jack Bingham**

A planned bypass will destroy an old tree. Gregory camps in the tree in protest. The issue becomes muddled as everyone, even the Church, profits.

**5m 5w**

**Talk of the Devil**

**John Waterhouse**

Harold uses the Devil's name and unwittingly invokes him. He can only be seen by Harry, but he still manages to make his presence felt!

**3m 3w**

**Tea Time Yesterday**

**H. C. G. Stevens**

The love story of a middle-aged spinster. Full of charm.

**2m 4w**

**Tempest**

**Evelyn Kingswood**

In the days of wreckers, a young girl fires a beacon to save a ship from foundering upon the rocks and incurs the wrath of the wreckers.

**7m 3w + non-speaking parts**

**That Old Black Magic**

**Andrea MacPhail**

The Great Majestica, a drunk magician, is unable to repay his debts! Tonight's show could bring some money in, but he has disappeared. His bimbo assistant and his long-suffering wife step into the breach. Two excellent characters and hilarious dialogue, lead the audience up the garden path and into a wickedly black comedy.

**1m 2w**

**Code B1**

**Their Town**

**Steven Blandford**

Contrasting with the warm, small-town life of its inspiration, Thornton Wilder's *Our Town*, this play portrays a bleakness in our cities, where the employed turn their backs on the less fortunate and everyone is after money. A vagrant couple tour Anyville on Election Day, 1987 - a pit of envy, hatred, greed, despondency and violence. Will they find a welcome in Their Town? Though serious in intent, the tone is lively and varied, using humour and the music of the 1980s as major elements.

*"It pre-eminently conjures up the nastier personae of Thatcherland. Yet this is no crudely didactic, political theatre but telling entertainment with a sharp eye on contemporary Britain."* - *The Stage*.

**1m 1w + 5-12 extras**

**Code B1**

**There You Are Gone**

**Anthony Hunt**

Bill has been looking after his sick wife. On returning to work, he finds that his job has gone, the company is about to go into liquidation and a partner has fled to Spain. The mystery unfolds in this engrossing play.

**2m 2w**

**The Thin Red Line**

**Edward Murch**

The second in the Captain Savage trilogy. An excellent comedy set in 1815. See also *Things That Go Bump* and *The Parting Shot*.

**3m 3w**

**Costume Comedy**

**Things That Go Bump**

**Edward Murch**

An original, rollicking play based on an old Dartmoor tale of the Warren House Inn. Excellent parts in this Napoleonic era drama. See also *The Thin Red Line* and *The Parting Shot*.

**3m 3w**

**Costume Drama**

**The Thirty-seven Sous of Monsieur Montaudoin**

**Eugene Labiche & Edouard Martin**

M. Montaudoin, who has been driven frantic by the daily loss of 37 sous, learns the identity of the thief and the reason for the thefts on his daughter's wedding day. (Music available.)

**4m 3w + Chorus**

**Threat**

**Christine Cook**

Peter and Angie are waiting for Laura and Malcolm. Peter is worried about Laura's visit with yet another boyfriend. He tells Angie that Laura is a threat to their shaky marriage. Tension rises as past events are recalled.

**2m 2w**

**Code B1**

**Three Faces**

**Don West**

*Face of Compassion* - a Battle of Britain pilot faces increasing disability; *Face of Violence* - The Wandering Man marches for racial equality, but is killed; *Face of Hope* - A famous actress and her husband face up to her increasing blindness. Can be presented separately or together.

**Varied**

**Tick Tock Tick**

**Richard Franks**

The trials and tribulations of Mike, his wife, colleague, sister, friend and ex-fiancée. Winner of the 1978 *Scarborough Festival*.

**2m 4w**

**A Ticket to Ride**

**Don West**

Two young people visit Siberia. They have the money and appropriate documents to buy tickets, but a disgruntled railway official has other ideas.

**2m 2w or 3m 1w**

**A Time For Hating**

**Taylor Lovering**

Boardroom intrigues between the ruthless Max, his devoted secretary and his ex-partner. The final twist is original and compelling.

**2m 1w**

**Time For Maggie**

**Anthony Hunt**

Maggie thinks that her husband is a womaniser and her son is gay. Unable to distinguish between fact and fantasy, Maggie projects us into her own odd perception of these two perfectly ordinary men!

**3m 2w**

**Time Gentlemen, Please - see The Drunkard's Lament**

**Time of Departure**

**Jack Boswell**

Nanny is to retire and expects the family to say goodbye at the station. They don't, but the strangers she meets become their substitutes.

**4m 5w**

**Too Many Pebbles**

**Ted Sharpe**

A dictatorial deckchair attendant is incensed when a tent is erected on his beach, but the tables are turned and he loses his dignity - tied to his own deckchair and sobbing pathetically as the tide comes in!

**5m 5w**

**Transitional Stage**

**Michael Pugh**

Arthur's final destination after his death is being decided. In a series of flashbacks, we see his life and his relationships.

**14m 5w + extras (doubling possible)**

**Travellers' Rest**

**Peter Johnson**

A couple has to spend several days at a remote inn as the girl is ill. A local girl shows her companion the area. His attraction to the country is shortlived as they soon return to their sophisticated city life.

**1m 2w**

**The Trial of Harry Mann**

**Michael Dines**

With sheer genius it combines humour, pathos and bewildering but logical argument in an Alice-in-Wonderland-esque trial.

**1m 5w + extras**

**Fantasy Drama**

**Triangle**

**David Walker**

Paul is enjoying life until his ex-wife unexpectedly leaves their daughter with him. He tries to get her to leave so as not to ruin his romantic weekend - he has to choose between his girlfriend or his daughter.

**1m 2w**

**Code B1**

**Truth About Scotsmen**

**Muriel and Sydney Box**

Are Scotsmen mean? The junior clerk finds the answer when his boss, a solicitor, gives him a wedding present. A fast-moving farce.

**3m 3w**

**Truth About the Russians**

**Muriel and Sydney Box**

A burlesque of the Russians as they were and perhaps still are.

**3m 3w**

**Truth About Women**

**Muriel and Sydney Box**

A publisher's catalogue causes various women to visit a society playboy and ask what he is writing about them in his memoirs.

**3m 5w**

**Twenty Candles**

**Ed Gilmorton**

David's family fear the worst after an accident at the pit.

**2m 3w + extras**

**Twilight and Roses**

**Taylor Lovering**

Grandad falls for Nell, Jack's ex-girlfriend, jeopardising Jack's inheritance. To prevent this, Jack proposes to Nell himself. Not to be outdone, Grandad returns from the lonely hearts' club with yet another fiancée!

**3m 3w**

**Twisted Tape**

**Dennis Haywood**

Someone is trying to kill Alice, a bitter old woman. Is it her daughter, whose lover she drove off? Her housekeeper? Or her nephew? All is revealed in a dramatic climax.

**2m 2w**

**Two Sides of a Square**

**Jack Booth**

Maggie and Ernest have a successful romance, living apart. He is shattered by her wish to start a family. Complications arise from Nadine, his nubile neighbour, and a voyeur who is sure that Ernest is a rapist!

**1m 3w**

**Uncle Jasper**

**Leonard Morley**

Sir Jasper is arrested. Faced with losing an important contract, his nephew persuades the lecherous Springer to impersonate Jasper. The farcical situations that arise are deftly handled. Winner of the 1982 *Drama Association of Wales* and *Somerset Original Play Competitions*.

**3m 3w**

**Under Grave Threat**

**David Knowles**

A wealthy industrialist wants to spend his birthday quietly, but the arrival of his wasteful son triggers family arguments. Unexpected events cause a reversal of rôles in the household.

**2m 3w**

**Underwritten**

**Joe Graham**

Mr De'Ath is distraught when his bank manager unexpectedly turns down the mortgage application which he thinks is the only way to save his marriage. Rather than accept this rejection, De'Ath decides to take desperate measures to secure his loan - he takes the bank manager and his secretary hostage at gunpoint! When the senior 'underwriter', Mr Gogently, arrives to negotiate, the outcome is far from gentle! A very black farce. Running time: 50 minutes.

**3m 1w**

**Code B1**

**Underneath the Arches**

**Thomas Doran & Arthur Martin**

An old lag has a tune on his brain and corns on his feet. These two circum-stances give Sergeant Binns food for thought and lead to the recovery of some valuable diamonds.

**6m**

### **The Unrighteous**

**A. Daniels**

To solve a murder, DI Slinger probes the characters and intimacies of the suspect and his wife. The interrogation is convincing and Slinger gets his man. *"Tension is well-maintained in this tightly-written play."* - Amateur Stage.

**3m 3w**

### **Vacant Possession**

**Eileen Clark**

A nervous estate agent awaits prospective buyers of a haunted house. His worst fears are confirmed when a mysterious grey lady appears!

**2m 2w**

### **Valparaiso**

**Peter Norbury**

Winner of the 1991 *George Taylor Memorial Award*, where the adjudicators said: *"A delightful, original piece of absurdist theatre, but here the humour has a gentle pathos rather than a sense of the oblique and black. The play describes the relationship between Gerald and Letitia, the latter being a pillar-box!"*

**3m 2w**

### **The Veterans**

**John Waterhouse**

Summermead House is a care home for retired Variety performers. The residents relish reliving their past glories on stage, whilst belittling the others' achievements. Their egos and eccentricities often cause friction, but never so seriously as to spoil their deep affection for each other. This is a snapshot of their daily lives, in which the excitement about a proposed BBC documentary about them proves too much for some. Whilst meeting his son's intended spouse proves equally shocking to another resident. Comedy.

**6m 5w**

**Code B1**

### **Waiting For Nesbitt**

**N. Warburton**

The characters play various rôles: a new boy's first day at school; a teacher giving a few home truths to the wrong parent; two boys trying to chat up a school-girl. Either an all-adult or all-youth cast.

**2m 1w**

### **The Walrus and the Carpenters**

**Jack Boswell**

Mike and Mary agree to house rich Uncle George's friend for a few days. But the friend is a walrus! Michael's boss and their strict landlady cannot understand why the bathroom is always engaged. In the nick of time, George turns up, gives Mary and Mike a huge cheque, saving them from the boss and landlady!

**4m 4w**

**Ward D**

**Winifride Trentham**

A group of patients and nurses react to hospital life. Good character parts, plenty of humour and some pathos.

**1m 8w**

**The Waters Of Lethe**

**Frank Sladen-Smith**

People gather on the banks of the River Lethe. They sip the water, which causes forgetfulness, but, although aware they are no longer alive, are astounded to discover that they are in Hell.

**4m 6w**

**When Did You Last See Your Father?**

**John Davison**

Inspired by the picture by William Frederick Yeames, RA (1835-1918), now hanging in the Walker Art Gallery, Liverpool.

**7m 1w**

**English Civil War Drama**

**When the Clock Strikes**

**Pat Bisson**

Count Dracula hasn't had a bite for ages and is despondent. His faithful housekeeper devises a plan to restore the Count's zest for life!

**1m 4w**

**Code B1**

**When We Practice to Deceive**

**Ted Sharpe**

Parkin dresses as a woman to discover if his master's wife is having an affair. He finds that Her Ladyship's lover is not averse to donning female attire himself!

**3m 1w**

**Where Late the Sweet Birds Sang**

**Cherith Baldry**

Francis refuses to write any more poetry. In an attempt to provoke him into writing again, George arranges an interview with a journalist, Sheila, a former lover.

**2m 2w**

**Where the Brass Band's Play**

**Philip Stagg**

Ellen and Fleur always holiday in the same resort. The summer of 1954 is as dull as all the rest, until a shy, middle-aged bachelor asks one to a concert. Winner of the 1986 *George Taylor Memorial Award*.

**3m 3w**

**The White Horseman**

**T. B. Morris**

A group awaits the last trump on Judgement Day. Their reactions, hopes, faiths and fears are shown. The End comes but in a wholly unexpected way.

**6m 8w**

**Who's a Pretty Boy Then?**

**Simon Bamford**

Gerald's unrequited love for Brenda rules his life. His only comfort is a missing budgerigar. Young Lenny and three old ladies try to help. When their do-gooding lies are exposed, it intensifies the pain Gerald has long avoided. A lovesick, lonely old man is crushed.

**2m 3w**

**Code B1**

**Wimbledon Fortnight**

**Patricia May**

Mam and Alice want to watch Wimbledon on TV. Interfering Aunt Shelagh's arrival puts a spanner in the works and the rest of the family are forced to take strong measures to cope with her.

**1m 5w**

**Witches of Prestwick**

**Joe Graham**

Three actresses are rehearsing as the witches in *Macbeth* when they decide to try a spell for themselves! They start to conjure the man of their dreams, but chicken out halfway through - but have they gone too far? An unexpected knock on the door terrifies them! Is the salesman selling the new *Dirt Devil* all that he seems? A hilarious comedy with a strong adult theme. Running time: 40 minutes.

**1m 3w**

**Code B1**

**Within Eyeshot**

**Robert Ernest**

The darkest corner of a run-down city pub, frequented by crooks, is not the safest place for a secretary to get drunk. But Madge is an unusual woman who lip-reads and has plenty of pluck.

**3m 2w**

**The Wooden Pear**

**Gillian Plowman**

Daniel, newly released from prison, meets Madeline, the victim of his assault that left her disfigured and disabled. After bitter recriminations, he makes a peace offering and accepts the responsibilities of a close relationship. An award-winning play - strong and poignant.

**2m 1w**

### **Worlds Apart**

**Alison Roe**

The Daceys and their high-flying neighbours are worlds apart. A deaf mother-in-law and a pain of a neighbour make for a comical evening. A disturbing news item gives a new meaning to the title and causes them to re-assess events.

**3m 3w**

### **Would You Adam 'N' Eve It?**

**Don Hill**

Adam and Eve have called in a celestial therapist to resolve their problems. Eve thinks it unfair that she has to bear Adam's children for the next 800 years - Adam is repulsed by her solution! Cain and Abel are at each other's throat and want God to start from scratch again, without the other one! The appearance of a real Jezebel throws another spanner into the works - sexual jealousy between Cain and Abel rears its ugly head! The Counsellor finally admits that God is a practical joker and that Man is a product of his warped sense of humour - so they will just have to make the best of a bad job!

*"Original work (not to mention sin) with gentle humour, makes this an entertaining piece of work." - Panel for the 1996 All-England Drama Festival, which placed it in the Commended Group for Best New Play.*

**4m 2w**

**Code B1**

### **Your Place or Mine?**

**Jack Booth**

Going to visit Jane, Tony is followed by a mysterious man. His wife and her boyfriend shelter from the rain in his flat. But the imminent return of Jane's flatmate causes Tony to return home! Who is the mysterious man?

**3m 3w**

**Code B1**

## Information to Help You

### *Approval Copies*

This is a convenient and inexpensive way to select your next play. A single copy of any number of our plays can be perused for up to a month for selection purposes only. Once you have selected your play, please return the approval copies and order an acting set. Please see our separate Price List for current charges.

### *Prices*

Scripts and fees are priced by Code. Codes AS/1 apply unless otherwise indicated. For rates and postage charges please see our current Price List.

### *Overseas Agents*

Outside of the UK and Europe (except Ireland), application for scripts and performance fees should be made to:

***Baker's Plays:*** PO BOX 699222, Quincy, MA 02269, USA

***DALRO:*** PO BOX 31627, Braamfontein, South Africa

***Drama League of Ireland:*** Mill Theatre, Dundrum Town Centre, Dundrum,  
Dublin 16, Ireland

***Origin Theatrical:*** PO BOX Q1235, QVB Post Office, Sydney,  
NSW 1230, Australia

***Play Bureau:*** PO BOX 420, New Plymouth, New Zealand