



The Play Bureau Newsletter

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Play Assessment Process

As we have a number of plays submitted to us quite often, finding time to read them, appraise them and give feedback rarely happens. Over the past few months we have had discussions with PANZ, and by mutual agreement, decided to have them take over this process. This will give our future playwrights a chance to have their play read by a suitably qualified assessor and be given feedback. Plays considered to be of a suitably high standard, will then be submitted to Play Bureau for an additional assessment for commercial worth.

The Playwrights association of New Zealand exists to foster Playwrights new and established, they are the right people to be assessing new plays. There will be a cost to have your work appraised and the rates will be available when the final details have been worked out. We will have a link on the website once up and running, but in the meantime any questions please just email info@playbureau.com

Welcome...

Welcome to June newsletter for Play Bureau. It is hard to believe that nearly half the year has passed with lots of productions done and dusted and heaps more in the planning.

We are in the process of sending as many monthly statements out by email as we can and need the email address of the right person to send it to. Thank you to all those who have send us their Treasurers details. Also make sure we are on the list of 'People to notify' when changing treasurers.

Regards Helen

What's New?

HOT OFF THE PRESS!!

- ❖ *One Man – Two Guvnors* by Richard Bean
6 Male, 3 Female

Fired from his skiffle band, Francis Henshall becomes minder to Roscoe Crabbe, a small time East End hood, now in Brighton to collect £6,000 from the dad of his fiancé. But Roscoe is really his sister Rachel posing as her own dead brother, who has been killed by her boyfriend Stanley Stubbers. Holed up at The Cricketers Arms, the permanently ravenous Francis spots the chance of an extra meal ticket and takes a second job with one Stanley Stubbers, who is hiding from the police and waiting to be reunited with Rachel. To prevent discovery, Francis must keep his two guvnors apart.

- ❖ *Bothered and Bewildered* by Gail Young
3 Male, 5 Female

As her family struggle to come to terms with her Alzheimer's, Irene's past passion for romantic literature blurs with reality. She spends hours discussing how best to write her 'memory book' with her imaginary friend and favourite author Barbara Cartland (the deceased world famous romantic novelist), disclosing long kept family secrets that she would never divulge to her daughters. This tragic-comedy is about memory, loss, secrets and, above all, love.



❖ *Jeeves & Wooster*

by The Goodale Brothers, based on P.G. Wodehouse

3 Male

An inventive, fast-paced comedy featuring P.G. Wodehouse's iconic double act. Winner of the 2014 Olivier Award for Best New Comedy. When a country house weekend takes a turn for the worse, Bertie Wooster is unwittingly called on to play matchmaker – reconciling the affections of his host's drippy daughter Madeline Bassett with his newt-fancying acquaintance Gussie Fink-Nottle. If Bertie, ably assisted by the ever-dependable Jeeves, can't pull off the wedding of the season he'll be forced to abandon his cherished bachelor status and marry the ghastly girl himself!

Written for a cast of three, who play multiple roles, this adaptation will suit any theatre company or drama group looking for a comic play to perform

❖ *Losing The Plot* by John Godber

1 Male, 1 Female

When Jack Munroe's life is turned upside down by changes at the school where he teaches art, he turns his back on the world – he walks out on his job, his wife Sally and two university-bound teenagers without explanation, leaving only unanswered questions and copies of *Which Caravan* and a book of *Hot Sex Tips* on the bedside table. In his absence Sally ploughs on running her flower shop as best she can but the weeks turn to months and the debts begin to rise.

Jack unexpectedly returns home three months later to find that to occupy herself, Sally has been writing a book – a comedy about him – which promises to be a best-seller. Unlike the promising artist Jack once was, Sally has the popular touch and with the publication of her book talk of television sitcoms grow and Jack's foibles are on show for all the world to see (and laugh at). As they gradually repair their relationship after Jack's return, it's clear that the roles in their relationship have been turned on their head with Jack left to run the flower shop and field phone calls for Sally in this heart-warming comedy examining the trials and tribulations of modern married life.

❖ *Getting Sara Married* by Sam Bobrick

3 Male, 3 Female

Sara Hastings is an unmarried lawyer in her mid-thirties, much too busy to get involved in romance. Her Aunt Martha has decided to take matters into her own hands and find her a husband.

Unfortunately, Aunt Martha's method of doing it amounts to having the prospective groom bopped over the head and brought to Sara's apartment. Aunt Martha's choice is Brandon Cates, a young man who handles Aunt Martha's finances. Although Brandon is engaged to be married, this does not deter Aunt Martha.

After being bopped on the head a few times, having a temporary loss of memory and experiencing several instances of mouth-to-mouth resuscitation and a confrontation with the very angry fiancé, Brandon slowly comes to realize that Sara is really the girl for him.

❖ *The Man Who Shot Liberty Valance*

by Jethro Compton

6 Male, 1 Female

Journey into the Wild West, 1890 in this classic story of good versus evil, law versus the gun, one man versus Liberty Valance. A tale of love, hope and revenge set against the vicious backdrop of a lawless society.



When a young scholar from New York city travels west in search of a new life he arrives beaten and half-dead on the dusty streets of Twotrees. Rescued from the plains, the town soon becomes his home. A local girl gives him purpose in a broken land, but is it enough to save him from the vicious outlaw who wants him dead? He must make the choice: to turn and run or to stand for what he believes, to live or to fight; to become the man who shot Liberty Valance.

1 Act Plays

Welcome on Board Richard Harris

❖ *Eminent Visiton* by Richard Harris

4 Male, 2 Female

Barry and Colleen run a small guest house in England's Derbyshire Peak District. Their web site states that a distinguished guest, Picasso, stayed there in nineteen fifty. They are delighted to find it actually attracts the occasional curious visitor. But a certain number are not all they seem. When Darren, a New Zealand art dealer and Hastings a London competitor both arrive at the same time, it is not a coincidence. Both have a different agenda than a peaceful stay in the country, and what of Barry and Colleen, simple country folk?

A delightful light-hearted play that is sure to please!

This play has won PANZ annual competition and also Australian (Noosa) one act play competition under the original title 'Distinguished Guest'

❖ *Radium Girls* (competition version) by D.W. Gregory

5 Male, 5 Female

In 1926, radium was a miracle cure, Madame Curie an international celebrity, and luminous watches the latest rage—until the girls who painted them began to fall ill with a mysterious disease. Inspired by a true story, *Radium Girls* traces the efforts of Grace Fryer, a dial painter, as she fights for her day in court. Her chief adversary is her former employer, Arthur Roeder, an idealistic man who cannot bring himself to believe that the same element that shrinks tumours could have anything to do with the terrifying rash of illnesses among his employees. As the case goes on, however, Grace finds herself battling not just with the U.S. Radium Corporation but also with her own family and friends, who fear that her campaign for justice will backfire. Written with warmth and humour, *Radium Girls* is a fast-moving, highly theatrical ensemble piece for 10 actors, who play more than 30 parts—friends, co-workers, lovers, relatives, attorneys, scientists, consumer advocates and myriad interested bystanders. Called a "powerful" and "engrossing" drama by critics, *Radium Girls* offers a wry, unflinching look at the peculiarly American obsessions with health, wealth and the commercialization of science. May be expanded to 30 or more actors.

❖ *A Candle on the Table* by Patricia Clapp

4 Female

Three elderly women meet at a lunch table on their first day in a home for senior citizens. A candle placed there by the matron awakens different memories in each of them ...

To the frivolous, friendly ex-actress Maribeth Garrity, candles belong with champagne and flowers. To Miss Tolliver, a children's nursemaid, they speak of childhood poverty when candles gave the only light. And to the aristocratic Mrs Bramson, they mean the formal meals which only emphasized the emptiness of her life.

The lunchtime conversation reveals some surprising aspects of the lives and personalities of the three women and culminates in a friendship and an affirmative decision.

Sensitively drawn characters, gentle humour and a generous dash of truth.



❖ *Bags* by Anne McGravie

3 Female

Set in Northern Ireland during the troubles of recent memory, two women, one Protestant and one Catholic, sit down in the outdoor section of a bakery shop. The women don't know each other and sit separately, enjoying a peaceful snack, when a maddeningly illogical and demanding waitress, reflective of the unsettling and maddening atmosphere of the times, forces them to share a table. They begin to discuss the bakery and find they have much in common. They are drawn to speak of their loneliness and, eventually, come together tentatively in what promises to be a friendship. Yet, when the Catholic woman leaves the table for a few minutes without taking her shopping bag with her, the old fears surface, and the waitress and the Protestant woman begin to suspect there might be a bomb in the woman's left-behind bag. Upon her return, the woman realizes the others' suspicions, and, hurt by their mistrust, leaves.

Always Popular

❖ *Cash on Delivery* by Michel Cooney

6 Male, 4 Female

Michael Cooney's riotous farce has all the ingredients for rib-tickling hilarity and offers a colourful selection of character roles. Eric Swan (aided by his Uncle George and unbeknown to his wife, Linda) has pocketed thousands of pounds through fraudulent DSS claims. When Norman Bassett (the Lodger) opens the door to Mr Jenkins, the DSS inspector, deceptive mayhem follows - as do the undertaker, bereavement counsellor, psychiatrist, Norman's fiancée, a corpse, the ominous Ms Cowper and a rather rebellious washing-machine.

❖ *My Husbands Nuts* by Devon Williamson

2 Male, 3 Female

Barbara's husband is missing on the family farm. When Jack finally returns he is a nervous wreck and will not leave the house... he is suffering from Agriphobia (the fear of agriculture)... and is convinced that he is Hiroo Onoda - a Japanese soldier holding out on an island after World War Two. Barbara's husband is nuts. The only people she can trust with this information is the new vet and the village idiot. How will they restore Jack's mind without the help of the medical profession ...or common sense?

❖ *Forget-Me-Knot* by David Tristram

2 Male, 2 Female

Imagine the plight of poor Robert Zeinfeld Found wandering the streets of Leicester at 4 a.m. without even the slightest clue how he got there Total amnesia And only a bruised head and a suspicious policeman for company Not an experience you'd forget in a hurry But then again, you have to see it from the policeman's point of view Perhaps this Zeinfeld character's not what he seems Perhaps he's got something to hide Perhaps he hasn't lost his memory at all Perhaps it's all an elaborate cover-up for, well, something or other Trouble is, the deeper the policeman digs, the more confused he gets, until he finds himself wrestling a plot with more twists than a buckled Slinky Of course, the truth always comes out in the end Or does it?

❖ *The Old People Are Revolting!*

by Devon Williamson

2 Male, 5 Female

The senior residents of Sunshine Lifestyle Village have had enough... they're revolting! Once the 'makers and shakers' of their community, the residents of Sunshine Village are now largely



ignored, and relegated to the sidelines of life. The world is about to find out how dangerous retired lawyers, Carsalesmen, hairdressers and farmers can be! Using the United Nations charter on the rights of self determination the residents decide to create their own independent Kingdom, appoint a monarch and teach the wider community a lesson. The resulting chaos and shenanigans draws the attention of the international media and upsets the nations balance of power.

Christmas Shows

❖ *A Christmas Story – The Musical*

by Joseph Robinette, music by Benj Pasek & Justin Paul

15 Male, 10 Female

You've seen the movie at Christmas - now released for family entertainment.

This musical, which received rave reviews on its Broadway run, is based on the movie classic that runs round-the-clock on television every Christmas. Set in the 1940s in the fictional town of Hohman, Indiana, the musical follows 9-year-old Ralphie Parker and his quest for the Holy Grail of Christmas gifts—an Official Red Ryder carbine-action 200-shot Range Model air rifle. Rebuffed at every turn with a similar echoing response, Ralphie plots numerous schemes to achieve his desperate desire for the coveted BB gun. All the iconic scenes from the movie are here: Ralphie's friend, Flick, getting his tongue stuck to the flagpole; his brother, Randy, getting dressed in his snowsuit; the bullies, Farkus and Dill; the leg lamp award; the bunny suit; the Chinese restaurant; Christmas dinner; and many others. The delightfully versatile score ranges from gentle ballads to show-stopping full-ensemble numbers such as "Ralphie to the Rescue!," "A Major Award," "Sticky Situation," "Up on Santa's Lap," "Somewhere Hovering Over Indiana" and the inevitable "You'll Shoot Your Eye Out!" A Christmas Story, The Musical will bring an exciting new dimension to those who have seen the movie and will certainly stand on its own for those who haven't. Check out the clips on line!

Other Popular Titles

- ❖ *T'was the Fight Before Christmas*
by Devon Williamson – (new this year)
- ❖ *Seasons Greetings* by Alan Ayckbourn
- ❖ *A Kick in the Baubles* by Gordon Steel
- ❖ *A Christmas Carol* - many versions
- ❖ *Pantomime* – many titles and versions

What's on around the Country

<i>Play</i>	<i>Author</i>	<i>Group</i>	<i>Dates</i>
Heroes	Gerald Sibleyras	Titirangi Theatre Inc	2 nd -13 th June
See How They Run	Philip King	Tauranga Repertory Society	3 rd -20 th June
Littlebro Morning and Bigsis Afternoon	Mike Tobbetts	Taieri Dramatic Society	4 th -13 th June
Red Hot In Amsterdam	Patricia Robinson	Taieri Dramatic Society	4 th -13 th June
Things My Mother Taught Me	Katherine DiSavino	Ellerslie Theatrical Society	4 th -13 th June
Tree World	Frederick Stoppel	Coromandel Players	5 th ,6 th ,12 th ,13 th June
Friendly Fire	Frederick Stoppel	Coromandel Players	5 th ,6 th ,12 th ,13 th June
Bed Among the Lentils	Alan Bennett	Coromandel Players	5 th ,6 th ,12 th ,13 th June
Friendly Fire	Frederick Stoppel	Coromandel Players	5 th ,6 th ,12 th ,13 th June
Looking	Norm Foster	Dolphin Theatre Inc	6 th -27 th June
Attempts On Her Life	Martin Chimp	CPIT – NASDA	6 th -13 th June
My Husbands Nuts	Devon Williamson	Onewhero Society of Performing Arts	5 th -12 th June
To See The Stars	Cynthia Mercati	St Cuthberts College	9 th -11 th June
Proof	David Auburn	Elmwood Players	10 th -20 th June
A Chip In The Sugar	Alan Bennett	Phoenix Players Ltd	12 th -13 th June
The Picture of Dorian Gray	Oscar Wilde	Hamilton Playbox	12 th -27 th June
Pride and Prejudice	Helen Jerome	Carmel College	14 th -17 th June
Aracdia	Tom Stoppard	Kings College	16 th -18 th June
The 39 Steps	Patrick Barlow	Release The Actor Within	16 th -20 th June
Steel Magnolias	Robert Harling	Detour Theatre Company	17 th June – 4 th July
Wonderland!	James Devita	Newlands Intermediate	18 th June – 19 th July
Rosencrantz and Guildenstern Are Dead	Tom Stoppard	Point Blank Productions	19 th June – 4 th July
Twelve Angry Men	Sherman Sergal	Burnside High School	22 nd -23 rd June
Rainbow's Ending	Noel Greig	Whangarei Girls High School	24 th -26 th June
Spring Awakening	Frank Wederkind	UCOL	24 th -27 th June
The Farndale Avenue... Production of Macbeth	David McGillivray	Mana Little Theatre	24 th June – 4 th July
The 39 Steps	Patrick Barlow	Stagecraft Theatre Inc	24 th June - 4 th July
Holiday Snap	Michael Pertwee	Aubyn Live Theatre Inc	25 th June – 4 th July
The Complete Works of Wllm Shkspr (Abridged)	Adam Long	Hamilton Boys High School	26 th -27 th June
The Music Lovers	Georges Feydeau	Nelson Youth Theatre	29 th -30 th June
Reunion On Gallows Hill	Tim Kelly	Nelson Youth Theatre	29 th -30 th June
World Premiere	Charles Mander	Nelson Youth Theatre	29 th -30 th June
The Candle on the Table	Patricia Clapp	Katikati Theatre Inc	30 th June – 9 th July
The Trial	Steven Berkoff	Botony Downs Secondary College	30 th June – 1 st July
Brassed Off	Paul Allen	St Paul's Collegiate School	30 th June – 3 rd July

Last Panto In Little Grimley	David Tristram	Heretaunga Players	1 st -11 th July
Under Milk Wood	Dylan Thomas	Paraparaumu College	1 st -2 nd July
Vinegar Tom	Caryl Churchill	Mount Albert Grammar School	1 st -2 nd July
Last Tango in Little Grimley	David Tristram	Heretaunga Players	2 nd -11 th July
Heidi	June Walker Rogers	Harlequin Musical Theatre	2 nd -5 th July
Remember Me	Jean McConnell	Harlequin Theatre Inc	2 nd -11 th July
Cruise Missile	Jean McConnell	Harlequin Theatre Inc	2 nd -11 th July
Cupboard Love	Jean McConnell	Harlequin Theatre Inc	2 nd -11 th July
Us and Them	David Campton	Pilgrim Productions	5 th – 26 th July
Aladdin	William Glennon	Hutt Repertory Theatre	6 th -11 th July
Last Tango in Little Grimley	David Tristram	Inglewood Dramatic Society	10 th -14 th July
Hills Dark Materials	Philip Pullman	ACG Parnell College	14 th – 16 th July
The Bear	Anton Chekhov	Napier Repertory Players	15 – 16 July
The Complete Works of William Shakespeare Abd	Adam Long	Body in Space	14 – 18 July
The Bespoke Overcoat	Wolf Markowitz	Dannevirke Theatre Coy	16 July
'Allo 'Allo	Jeremy Lloys/David Croft	New Players Theatre	16 - 25 July
Back To The Land	Do Shaw	Drama Christie	16 – 26 July
Kindertransport	Diane Samuels	Epsom Girls Grammar	22- 23 July
Our Town	Thorton Wilder	Nortcote College	29 – 30 July
Murder by Misadventure	Edward Taylor	New Plymouth Little Theatre	29 July - 8 Aug
John Lennon and Me	Cherie Bennett	Woodford House School	30 July – 1 Aug
If Today is the First Day of the rest of your life	James I Seay	Sancta Maria College	31 July – 1 Aug
Charlie and the Chocolate Factory	Roald Dahl	St Matthews Collegiate School	Aug 3 - 4
Little Women	Louisa May Alcott	Wellington Repertory	Aug 12 - 22
The God of Carnage	Yasmina Reza	Whangarei Repertory Theatre	August 13 - 28
The Cripple Of Inishmaan	Martin McDonagh	Dunedin Repertory Soc	Aug 14 - Aug 22
All This Intimacy	Rajiv Joseph	Centre Stage (Taupo) Inc	Aug 15 - Aug 22
Alone It Stands	John Breen	Wellington Irish Society	Aug 19 - Aug 29
Clowns' Play	Reginald Bain	Phoenix Players Ltd	Aug 19 - Aug 22