



The Play Bureau Newsletter

October 2015

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Released Again

Calendar Girls

by Tim Firth

We have been given the go ahead for applications to licence this very popular play once again. If it is on your bucket list, find a spot for it and apply while it is available.

Charlie and the Chocolate Factory

by Roald Dahl

A favourite of many children, we are allowed to licence youth companies and schools for this play.

Penalties, Pints and Pirouettes

by Neil Troost

We welcome back this popular play which has been updated. A must for Rugby lovers. Read synopsis in the updated section

Welcome...

Spring has sprung, the daffodils blooming and many are well into rehearsal for their end of year productions and next years' programme is locked in. Others are still deciding and there are plenty of new and other well known plays making the choice difficult.

That word Christmas is creeping up on us. The Play Bureau will be closing for 3 weeks from December 18th. Just so you know, I will be away meeting a new grandchild.

Regards Helen

What's New?

HOT OFF THE PRESS!!

❖ *Muddy Cows* by John Godber

7 Females

Scarfield Ladies Rugby Union FC have a tough time attracting enough members to turn out a full team most weeks, despite the best efforts of their captain Maggie. Forced to use tyres and oil drums for training, there's not even enough money for their own team shirts, and when promised sponsorship doesn't come through it looks like the writing is on the wall for the women's rugby team. Even local fundraising efforts don't look capable of keeping the team alive much longer but just as the team are facing their darkest hour and Maggie considers throwing in the towel, the girls hit on the idea of entering a ladies rugby Sevens competition with thousands of pounds on offer to the winners.

A disastrous night camping to save money the night before the competition sees the team arrive in terrible shape to play, which is only compounded by the conditions of their changing room. Seeing off three teams in succession as conditions gradually worsen, they discover that their final match will be a playoff against an invited team of professional women's rugby players from New Zealand, Tonga and Samoa . . . what chance can the Scarfield Ladies possibly have to win the tournament against such fierce opposition?

❖ *My Man Godfrey* by Eric Hatch

8 Males 7 Female

In the depths of the Depression, Godfrey, a "forgotten man," is rescued from his packing-crate home by ditzy socialite Irene Bullock during the



course of a scavenger hunt. Irene offers Godfrey a job as butler to the banking family of Bullocks. Godfrey tolerates their eccentricities, alcoholism and general nuttiness. He cures hangovers, dodges missiles thrown by Irene's jealous sister, Cornelia, and charms matronly Angelica Bullock, who sees pixies every morning. Irene and Molly, the pert Irish maid, both fall in love with Godfrey, but for Irene it's serious and she's determined to get her man. Falsely accused by Cornelia of stealing the famous Bullock Pearls ("de bullock boils" according to the detective on the case), Godfrey uses the opportunity to recover his personal finances and, when the Bullocks end up going broke, he rescues them by getting them all (gasp!) jobs in The Dump, a new nightclub Godfrey has built to provide work for his friends and for the Bullocks, too. Finally, Irene weds her man Godfrey, and it all works out in the end..

❖ *Murder at the Prop Table* by Ed Bassett

3 Male, 2 Female 1 Extra

As the saying goes, "All the world's a stage," and it couldn't be more true of a group of actors living life as though it were part of a play & oh wait, it is & is that in the script? Did he really just do that?! Stars of the stage and screen, Alex and Lynn are unhappily married; Alex loves Jane, but Jane is Herbert's girlfriend; and Herbert wrote the play that Alex and Lynn are starring in with hopes of making a triumphant comeback to the stage. Add in a confused gardener and a stage manager trying to keep things in order, and you have a recipe for disaster with a dash of love, a sprinkle of loathing, a splash of suspicion and one dead body. And the critics are in the audience.

❖ *Last of the Duty Free* by Eric Chappell

4 Male 3 Females

Thirty years after the disastrous antics in the original *Duty Free*, Eric Chappell has reunited the couples at the Hotel San Remo in Marbella once again in another hugely entertaining adventure! When working class David and Amy met upper-middle class Robert and Linda whilst holidaying at the San Remo in Spain, their differences were immediately apparent. But, opposites were proven to attract, and a most unlikely romance developed, with hilarious consequences. And now they are back: David more lustful, Amy more cynical, Robert more dangerous and Linda more romantic than ever!

Updated and Ready To Go!

❖ *Cinderella – A Girl of Today* by Julia Banks

This very popular Pantomime has had a face lift and Cinderella has come into the modern era. This is a new 2015 version of the old, old story Written on two levels by New Zealander Julia Banks so that adults and children enjoy it at the same time All the basic elements of the tale have been left in, and some new situations and characters added and adapted This pantomime has been written for a New Zealand audience and will reflect this in some of the local comments and references which can be replaced or deleted if an alternative isn't appropriate One or more of the songs (which are suggestions only) may be omitted if the performance needs shortening Has been very successfully staged on a restricted budget and can be as big or small as you want it.

Cast – flexible 13 plus chorus

❖ *Penalties, Pints and Pirouettes* by Neil Troost

7 Males 1 Female

Rugby, beer and ... BALLET??? Well two out of three aint bad, especially if you are one of the no hopers from the Maungakaka Rugby Club. These guys reluctantly fumble their way into a PTA variety night, with the promise of a hot dance teacher called Kelly. Only problem is Kelly is actually a gay man, he can only teach ballet and it's too late to back out.

While stumbling through rehearsals and their personal lives our reluctant heroes finally work out that maybe Kelly and ballet are the best thing that's happen to them and their recession damaged town. But is it too late for them to pull things together without dropping the ball on opening night?



❖ *Cats of Ponsonby* by Gary Daverne

This was very popular with schools

A gang of hungry stray cats wait outside the back door of a Ponsonby restaurant, hoping for scraps of food. They are refused entry but watch in anger and frustration as three well-fed Burmese house cats are invited inside to be fed.

The Alley Cats kidnap the Burmese Kitten and for the ransom, they demand that her stepsisters steal food for them from the restaurant. All goes well until the Media (led by Kitten's boyfriend) think they are "on to something" and Kitten falls in love with Tiger.

Matters are further complicated when the Chef wrongly accuses Big Tom and his Gang of Thugs of stealing the food. The Thugs suspect the Media, the Media suspect the Alley Cats and the Alley Cats decide to go into hiding with all speed until the matter is forgotten - all except Tiger that is.

He stays behind to say goodbye to Kitten - to his cost!

He is caught and attacked by the Media who are in turn attacked by the Thugs.

A terrible catfight takes place.

However all's well that ends well and although the situation in Ponsonby remains unchanged - it does have its moments though and the Cats are still hungry.

Don't Forget These Popular Recent Releases

❖ *Ladies in Lavender* by Shaun McKeller

❖ *Twas' The Fight Before Christmas* by Devon Williamson

❖ *One Man, Two Guvnors* by Richard Bean

❖ *Central Otago Man* by Justin Eade

New Titles Others Have Enjoyed

❖ *Seven Year Twitch* by David Lewis 3 M 4 F

❖ *Sex Cells* by Anna Longretti 1 M 4 F

❖ *The Naked Truth* by Dave Simpson 6 F

Published but Waiting for Rights Release

❖ *The Boy in Striped Pyjamas* by John Boyne

❖ *Baskerville – A Sherlock Holmes Mystery* by Ken Ludwig

❖ *The Ladykillers* by Graham Lineham (available July 2016)

1 Act Plays:

❖ *Amethyst* by June Allen

Three Ladies take tea at an elegant department store in New Zealand in 1908. There's intrigue afoot - will Daphne take a lover? and there's sadness - Dolly has had a miscarriage. Maybe someone will help her escape a life of Drudgery, all centers around a beautiful Amethyst ring 5 Females

❖ *Desperate and Dateless* by Neil Troost

They say opposites attract. That is definitely not the case when Roger stumbles into Camilla's place of business.

Or is it? In this 25-30min comic play we learn that outward appearances are quite often misleading and that common ground can be found between the least likely people. Join the comic journey as each of our two characters reveal a bit more about themselves than expected.

1 Female 1 Male

❖ *Skid Marks 2 – Are We There Yet?* by Lindsay Price

2 Males 5 Females

"Everybody should take a road trip. How do you know where you are if you don't know where you're from?"

Drive across country to change your life when you've never actually driven farther than the next block. Drive all night for one last fling at the beach. And get completely, totally lost.

Drive your obnoxious brother and your doubly obnoxious sister because... because Mom said!

The road trip. Ever take one? Ever want to? Ever spent hours trapped in a car with your obnoxious brother eating double double burgers and your doubly obnoxious sister whining, "Are we there yet?" Who let those two in the car?!

Musicals/Plays with Music

❖ *All I Really Need To Know I Learned in Kindergarten* by Ernest Zulia

Based on Robert Fulghum's best-selling books, KINDERGARTEN takes a funny, insightful and heart warming look at what is profound in everyday life. It is an evening of theatrical storytelling that utilizes a revue format, with monologues, dialogues, and multiple voice narration. It can be performed as a play or as a musical with up to seven original songs. These stories are about all of us and celebrate our very existence, from the whimsy of childhood to the wisdom of old age.

KINDERGARTEN is a sure hit for almost any theatre, including professional, community, church and high school groups 3 Males 2 Females 1 Pianist

❖ *Charlotte's Web* by Joseph Robinette

This exciting, musical version of CHARLOTTE'S WEB brings a new dimension to E B White's beloved classic. With music and lyrics by Charles Strouse ('Annie' and 'Bye Bye Birdie') and book by Joseph Robinette your audiences will thrill to a musical score which includes 'Eating', Wilbur the pig's humorous yet poignant song about growing up; 'Who Says We Can't Be Friends,' and enchanting duet between Wilbur and his new-found companion Charlotte; and 'Welcome to the Zuckerman Barn,' featuring all the story's unforgettable animals in a hand-clapping, toe-tapping hoedown.

Flexible Cast 11 + extra's

What's on around the Country

<i>Play</i>	<i>Author</i>	<i>Group</i>	<i>Dates</i>
Punk Rock	Simon Stephens	Black Box Creative	Nov 03 - Nov 07
Biting The Bullet	Frank Vickery	New Plymouth Repertory	Nov 04 - Nov 13
Don't Blame It On The Boots	N.J. Warburton	Serendipidy Players	Nov 05 - Nov 07
Easy Stages	N.J. Warburton	Serendipidy Players	Nov 05 - Nov 07
Distracted Globe	N.J. Warburton	Serendipidy Players	Nov 05 - Nov 07
Cash On Delivery	Michael Cooney	Te Aroha Dramatic Society	Nov 05 - Nov 14
Arabian Nights	Dominic Cooke	Pacific Institute of Performing Arts	Nov 05 - Nov 07
Improbable Ficton	Alan Ayckbourn	Rotorua Little Theatre Society Inc	Nov 06 - Nov 21
Calendar Girls	Tim Firth	Playhouse Theatre Inc	Nov 07 - Nov 21
Who's Afraid Of Virginia Woolf? - (Definitive Edition.)	Edward Albee	Wanganui AMDRAM Musical Society	Nov 07 - Nov 21
Under Milk Wood	Dylan Thomas	Paeroa Little Theatre	Nov 08 - Nov 14
The Wardrobe	Sam Holcroft	Waikato Diocesan School For Girls	Nov 09 - Nov 12
Seasons Greetings	Alan Ayckbourn	Mana Little Theatre	Nov 11 - Nov 21
Blue Stockings	Jessica Swale	Carving In Ice	Nov 11 - Nov 14
The Naked Truth	Dave Simpson	New Plymouth Little Theatre Society	Nov 11 - Dec 05
Shirley Valentine	Willy Russell	Gisborne Unity Theatre	Nov 13 - Nov 21
A Little Princess	June Walker Rogers	Nelson Youth Theatre Company	Nov 14 - Nov 15
Last Of The Summer Wine	Roy Clarke	Dolphin Theatre Inc	Nov 14 - Dec 05
Seven Year Twitch	David Lewis	Howick Little Theatre	Nov 14 - Dec 05
Don't Dress For Dinner	Marc Camoletti	Company Theatre	Nov 14 - Nov 28
Love And Information	Caryl Churchill	The Actors Programme	Nov 17 - Nov 21
Widows	Ariel Dorfman	UCOL	Nov 18 - Nov 21
Duets	Peter Quilter	Te Puke Repertory Society	Nov 18 - Nov 28
Allo 'Allo	Jeremy Lloyd	Papakura Theatre Co. Inc	Nov 19 - Dec 28

Charlie And The Chocolate Factory	Roald Dahl	Theatre Cats - Sandra Timlin	Dec 9
Clowns' Play	Reginald Bain	Phoenix Players Ltd	Nov 21 - Nov 27
Closer	Patrick Marber	Masked Productions	Nov 21 - Nov 27
The Twits	Roald Dahl	Burnside High School	Nov 23 - Nov 25
Life And Beth	Alan Ayckbourn	Titirangi Theatre Inc	Nov 24 - Dec 05
Seasons Greetings	Alan Ayckbourn	Centre Stage (Taupo) Inc	Nov 24 - Nov 29
Alice In Wonderland	Brainerd Duffield	Hobsonville Point Secondary School	Nov 26 - Nov 28
Bullshot Crummond	Ron House	Friends of the Globe Theatre	Nov 26 - Dec 05
The Pied Piper	Adrian Mitchell	Onewhero Society of Performing Arts	Nov 27 - Dec 05
A Christmas Carol	Karen Louise Hebden	Otamatea Repertory Theatre Inc	Nov 27 - Dec 13
Posh	Laura Wade	Carving In Ice	Dec 01 - Dec 02
Twas The Fight Before Christmas !	Devon Williamson	Harlequin Theatre Inc	Dec 02 - Dec 12
One Flew Over The Cuckoo's Nest	Dale Wasserman	Julian Harrison Productions	Dec 03 - Dec 18
Steel Magnolias	Robert Harling	Otaki Players Society Inc	Dec 03 - Dec 12
The Witches	Roald Dahl	Waiheke Theatre Company	Dec 03 - Dec 19
Jack And The Beanstalk	John Morley	Mairangi Players Inc	Dec 04 - Dec 13
Narnia	Jules Tasca	Carries Drama Group	Dec 18 - Dec 20

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