



# *The Play Bureau Newsletter*

## *February 2016*

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### Royalties:

The process for securing Royalties has changed for Samuel French and it may take a little longer to get permission.

Remember, you cannot advertise auditions or do anything else until you have the rights approved. If you apply through our web site then you know we will have all the information we require to put in your application straight away.

Remember to let us know if you cancel your production as we need to take your application out of the system and inform the rights holders.

### *Welcome...*

2016 has started and we are gearing up for a busy year ahead. Lots of new plays out there - something for everyone. A few new musicals as well, happy reading.

Regards Helen

### *What's New?*

#### **HOT OFF THE PRESS!!**

##### ❖ **The Mushroom Pickers** by Jaki McCarrick

4 M 2 F

Set in the border bandit country of County Monaghan, The Mushroom Pickers tells the story of Laura, an accomplished actor who leaves her career in London when her life unexpectedly changes course. A self-confessed square peg in a round hole, she returns home to join her father, Philip, to work in the local mushroom tunnels. Here Frank McElroy, manager of the family-run business and proponent of the wilder variety of mushroom, takes a shine to Laura and shares with her his dream of wooing the restaurateurs of Ireland and beyond. But Frank has a secret and so does Laura.

##### ❖ **"67 off 52"** by Justin Eade

5 M 1 voice

A play about cricket! World Cup Final, the Blackcaps are playing Australia. New Zealand need 67 runs off 52 balls and they have a world class batsman at the crease with a bowler who bats a bit, Add in a sledging wicketkeeper and a Sri Lankan umpire and the game is set. A treat for all cricket fans. From the author of Central Otago Man.

##### ❖ **Murder at Cafe Noir** by David Landau

4 M 3 F

This forties detective story come to life features Rick Archer, P.I., out to find a curvaceous runaway on the forgotten island of Mustique, a place stuck in a black and white era. The owner of the Cafe Noir has washed ashore, murdered, and Rick's quarry was the last person seen with him. He employs his hard boiled talents to find the killer. Was it the French Madame and club manager, the voodoo priestess, the shyster British attorney, the black marketeer or the femme fatale? The audience votes twice on what they want Rick to do next and these decisions change the flow of this comic tribute to the Bogart era. A very popular mystery dinner show.



❖ *Bugle Boy* by Den Stevenson

10 M some doubling 3 F Chorus 10 – 16 band players

Ever wondered what made Glenn Miller's unique sound? Well, Bugle Boy reveals all...

Written by English playwright Den Stevenson, this new play charts the life of the American bandleader from his high school days in Iowa to his disappearance over the English Channel in 1944.

Not only does Den bring Glenn Miller to life in a sometimes funny, sometimes poignant and moving production, but we get Miller's music too, played live on stage by a 16-piece big band.

In this labour of love, which has already played Broadway, we accompany Miller on his journey as a small town trombonist to arranging and playing in different orchestras until, after 20 years, he realises his lifelong dream and finds his own unique sound.

With original footage from the life and times of Miller, and his wonderful music it will certainly leave you 'In the Mood'

[The Bugle Boy](#)

❖ *The Great Houdini Musical* by Geoff and David Willis

14 M 8 F

World-famous illusionist and escapologist Harry Houdini is torn between the love of his Mama, his wife and his obsession to escape from handcuffs, chains and prison cells. Can this legendary mortal accomplish his greatest feat of all by escaping death itself?

## *Updated and Ready To Go!*

❖ *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*

❖ *Muddy Cows* by John Godber

❖ *My Man Godfrey* by Eric Hatch

❖ *Last of the Duty Free* by Eric Chappell

❖ *Seven Year Twitch* by David Lewis

❖ *Death by Golf* by Gregg Kreutz



## *Looking for something new to try*

- ❖ *The Hen Night Epiphany* by Jimmy Murphy 5 F
- ❖ *Sex Cells* by Anna Longretti 1 M 4 F
- ❖ *The Naked Truth* by Dave Simpson 6 F
- ❖ *Twas' The Fight Before Christmas* by Devon Williamson 2 M 4 F

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

## 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*

## *Plays with a War Theme:*

- ❖ *Heroes*
- ❖ *I Never Saw Another Butterfly*
- ❖ *Lillies of the Land*
- ❖ *Privates on Parade*
- ❖ *Remember My Name*
- ❖ *Blue Remembered Hills*
- ❖ *The Machine Gunners*
- ❖ *Journey's End*
- ❖ *Angel in the Night*
- ❖ *Dad's Army*
- ❖ *'Allo 'Allo*

# *What's on around the Country*

<i><b>Play</b></i>	<i><b>Author</b></i>	<i><b>Group</b></i>	<i><b>Dates</b></i>
Equus	Peter Shaffer	Invercargill Repertory	Mar 02 - Mar 05
A Tale Of Two Cities	Terence Rattigan	South Canterbury Drama League Inc	Mar 04 - Mar 12
The Glass Menagerie	Tennessee Williams	Mairangi Players Inc	Mar 04 - Mar 12
Murder at Cafe Noir	David Landau	Otamatea Repertory Theatre Inc	Mar 04 - Mar 19
Mixed Doubles	Various Authors	Tauranga Repertory Society	Mar 16 - Mar 24
Kafka's Dick	Alan Bennett	Stagecraft Theatre Inc	Mar 16 - Mar 26
That Face	Polly Stenham	Howick Little Theatre	Mar 23 - Mar 26
Nana's Naughty Knickers	Katherine Disavino	Detour Theatre Company	Mar 30 - Apr 16
The Fox On The Fairway	Ken Ludwig	Inglewood Dramatic Soc	Apr 02 - Apr 17
The Snow Queen	Ron Nicol	Nelson Youth Theatre Company	Apr 03 - Apr 04
Heidi	June Walker Rogers	Nelson Youth Theatre Company	Apr 03 - Apr 04
Calendar Girls	Tim Firth	Kapiti Playhouse Inc	Apr 06 - Apr 16
Under Milk Wood	Dylan Thomas	Mana Little Theatre	Apr 06 - Apr 16
Ladies' Day	Amanda Whittington	Te Puke Repertory Society	Apr 06 - Apr 16
Quartet	Ronald Harwood	Te Aroha Dramatic Society	Apr 07 - Apr 16
Treasure Island	Stuart Paterson	Gisborne Unity Theatre	Apr 07 - Apr 16
Charlie And The Chocolate Factory	Roald Dahl	Hamilton Playbox	Apr 08 - Apr 23
The Old People Are Revolting!	Devon Williamson	Foxton Little Theatre Soc Inc	Apr 08 - Apr 23
Noises Off	Michael Frayn	Clyde Theatre Group	Apr 09 - Apr 16
Calendar Girls	Tim Firth	On-Stage Te Kuiti Inc	Apr 12 - Apr 16
A Kiss On The Bottom	Frank Vickery	Hutt Repertory Theatre	Apr 13 - Apr 23
Duets	Peter Quilter	Hawera Repertory Society	Apr 15 - Jul 23
Charlie And The Chocolate Factory	Roald Dahl	Marlborough Childrens and Youth Theatre	Apr 16 - Apr 24
The Fox On The Fairway	Ken Ludwig	Matamata Dramatic	Apr 16 - Apr 25
Jumpy	April De Angelis	Elmwood Players	Apr 20 - Apr 30
Third Week In August	Peter Gordon	Theatre Hawkes Bay	Apr 21 - Apr 30

Gaslight	Patrick Hamilton	Torbay Drama Society	Apr 22 - Apr 30
Bedroom Farce	Alan Ayckbourn	Rotorua Little Theatre Society Inc	Apr 22 - May 07
Bothered and Bewildered	Gail Young	Coromandel Players	Apr 28 - May 07
Les Miserables	Tim Kelly	Youth Theatreworks Trust	Apr 28 - Apr 30
How The Other Half Loves	Alan Ayckbourn	New Plymouth Repertory	May 03 - May 14
The Hound Of The Baskervilles	Steven Canny	Antics Theatre Company	May 04 - May 07
The Games Afoot or Holmes For The Holidays	Ken Ludwig	Waihi Drama Society	May 05 - May 14
The Perfect Murder	Peter James	Howick Little Theatre	May 07 - May 28
Remote	Amanda Whittington	Waikato Diocesan School For Girls	May 09 - May 12
A Streetcar Named Desire	Tennessee Williams	Canterbury Repertory Soc	May 11 - May 28
Same Time, Next Year	Bernard Slade	Tadpole Productions	May 12 - May 22
Heroes	Gerald Sibleyras	South Canterbury Drama League Inc	May 13 - May 21
Duets	Peter Quilter	Waiuku Theatre Group	May 13 - May 28
Inspector Drake And The Time Machine	David Tristram	Country Players Inc	May 13 - May 21
Steel Magnolias	Robert Harling	Stagecraft Theatre Inc	May 18 - May 28
Allo 'Allo	Jeremy Lloyd	Kerikeri Players	May 18 - May 21
Funny Business	Derek Benfield	Pahiatua Repertory Society	May 19 - May 28
The Graduate	Terry Johnson	Ellerslie Theatrical Soc	May 19 - May 28
Move Over Mrs Markham	Ray Cooney	Phoenix Theatre Incorporated	May 19 - May 28
Far Away	Caryl Churchill	Bender Spring Ltd	May 24 - Jun 04

Love And Information	Caryl Churchill	Botany Downs Secondary College	May 25 - May 27
The Jungle Book	John Hartoch	Howick Childrens & Youth Theatre Inc	May 26 - May 29
The Gingerbread House In The Forest	Anne Coulter Martens	Howick Childrens & Youth Theatre Inc	May 27 - May 28
Amateur Girl	Amanda Whittington	A Little Box At The Top Of The Stairs Productions	Jun 01 - Jun 04
Last Of The Summer Wine	Roy Clarke	Feilding Little Theatre Players Inc	Jun 03 - Jun 18
Messiah on the Frigidaire	John Culbertson	Titirangi Theatre Inc	Jun 07 - Jun 18
Bouncers (1990's Remix)	John Godber	Elmwood Players	Jun 08 - Jun 18
Curtain Up!	Peter Quilter	Nelson Repertory Theatre	Jun 10 - Jun 18
A Murder Is Announced	Agatha Christie	Detour Theatre Company	Jun 15 - Jul 02
Principal Principle	Joe Zarrow	Dolphin Theatre Inc	Jun 17 - Jul 02
Calendar Girls	Tim Firth	Centre Stage ( Taupo) Inc	Jun 22 - Jul 02
The History Boys	Alan Bennett	Stagecraft Theatre Inc	Jun 29 - Jul 09