



# *The Play Bureau Newsletter*

## *May 2016*

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### Royalties:

Remember to leave plenty of time to secure these.

A reminder that 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 required to complete your application straight away.

It is important 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.

Last minute applications put everyone under pressure!

### *Welcome...*

We have lots of news plays that we have been notified of recently, here are a few for you to think about for your future planning.

Regards Helen

### *What's New?*

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

##### ❖ **Nell Gwynn** by Jessica Swale

7M 5 F

London, 1660. King Charles II has exploded onto the scene with a love of all things loud, extravagant and sexy. And at Drury Lane, a young Nell Gwynn is causing stirrings amongst the theatregoers.

Nell Gwynn charts the rise of an unlikely heroine, from her roots in Coal Yard Alley to her success as Britain's most celebrated actress, and her hard-won place in the heart of the King. But at a time when women are second-class citizens, can her charm and spirit protect her from the dangers of the Court?

'An absolute treat and a bawdy, witty, engaging romp'

##### ❖ **The Supermarket Sisterhood** by Devon Williamson

2 M 5 F

Just released and finished a hugely successful debut season!

As if the daily skirmishes with farcical customers and the dim-witted men in their lives, wasn't enough, the women who operate the checkouts at the Discount Co supermarket are now facing a new boss and the prospect of losing their jobs due to newly installed automated checkout aisles. If the women are going to endure these challenges they're going to have to fight together and take things to a whole new level. Hilarious, madcap humour to tickle your funny bone and stir your heart.

Devon's plays continue to be very popular and a good choice for community theatre.

##### ❖ **A Weekend Near Madison** by Kathleen Tolan

2 M 3 F

A Weekend Near Madison takes place during a reunion of college friends now in their early thirties. The occasion is the visit of Vanessa, the "star" of the group and the leader of a lesbian/feminist rock band. Vanessa arrives at the home of an old friend, a psychiatrist, hand in hand with her younger lover who plays in the band. Also on hand are the psychiatrist's wife, a novelist suffering from writer's block and his brother, who was once Vanessa's lover and loves her still. In the course of the weekend, Vanessa announces that she and her lover desperately want a child and attempts to persuade her former lover to be the father...



❖ ***Whodunnit, Darling?*** by Charles Pogue/Larry Drake

5 M 2 F

"A matter of life and death!" reads the telegram that urgently summons Damocles Cole, gentleman sleuth, to a dude ranch. It was death & Dam's client, Horace Crenshaw, has been both stabbed and shot. But Dam notices the telegram was sent after Crenshaw was already dead. Dam's ex-wife, Daphne, sent it. They're divorced because spunky Daph wrote a lurid murder mystery based on one of Dam's exploits. She even fashioned her detective hero on him. Dam was not flattered. Daph has lured him to the scene of the crime because she desperately needs a little inspiration for a sequel & and there's another reason she's still in love with him. But Dam plays it close to the chest, both with Daph and the eccentric array of suspects: Lomax, Crenshaw's partner, whose voluptuous wife, Vera, was making a play for the deceased; Tex, the crusty cowboy owner of the dude ranch, heavily mortgaged to Crenshaw and Lomax; and, not least of all, Tommy Delbert, Crenshaw's playboy nephew, who blithely admits he hated his uncle's guts. And when Dam finds that Daph is Tommy's weekend date, he spares her neither his suspicions nor the third degree. Dam wades through clues, alibis, Daphne's helpful interference and a meddling country sheriff, Elmo "Moose" Lodge, with his own theories. But without spilling his cocktail or ruffling his tuxedo, Dam finally gathers all the suspects in a room for the final solution to both the mystery and his oddball romance with his ex-wife. If you love the wisecracks and witty repartee of The Thin Man films, you'll love Whodunnit, Darling? The play is set in the 1930s, the era of the sophisticated sleuth.

❖ ***Poppy + George*** by Diane Samuels

2 M 2 F

It is 1919. The Great War is over and Poppy Wright arrives in London from the north of England to make her mark in the world. Deep in the heart of the East End she finds work in Smith's tailor and costumiers workshop, where she meets dashing chauffeur George, and falls in love.

This is a time of change and opportunity, emerging from the losses of war, when all are questioning who they are and what roles they can play in forging a new, modern era. It's time to ditch the corset and discover who really wears the trousers. Poppy + George is a beguiling romance that draws on a world of female impersonators, popular song and double entendre. A romantic drama with music inspired by the days of music hall and beyond, from the author of the modern classic Kindertransport.

❖ ***Tiny Tim's Christmas Carol*** by Ken & Jack Ludwig

5 M 3 F

Tiny Tim is determined to have his father home for Christmas day even if it means teaching Ebenezer Scrooge a lesson in Christmas cheer! Adapted from the classic Charles Dickens' novel, Tony award winner Ken Ludwig writes a heartwarming Christmas tale full of family fun!

Tiny Tim hatches a plan to get his father home for Christmas day. With the help of some kindly sellers at the market and his friend Charlotte, Tiny Tim stages a spectacle filled with ghosts and Christmas cheer to convince Scrooge to give his father the day off. It all seems to be going according to plan until a little bit of real Christmas magic catches everyone by surprise . .

*Ken Ludwig's plays continue to be very popular! I get rave reviews from people who have produced 'Fox on the Fairway' in the past year. If you are looking for a crowd pleaser, this is one!*

*For Fans of Michael Parker ! He wrote popular comedies 'The Amorous Ambassador' 'Sex Please We're Sixty' 'Who's in Bed With the Butler?' We have some more perusals of his loved plays*

❖ ***Never Kiss a Naughty Nanny*** by Michael Parker

4 M 3 F

Mr. Broadbent, a developer and builder, has created "THE HOUSE OF THE FUTURE". He has filled it with gadgets such as: self lighting fire places, a self cleaning bathroom, central trash disposal units, automatic closets, hidden telephones, and his masterpiece "The Personal Ion Chamber". The house, however, has remained unsold for four years, probably because, as we see in the course of the play, most of the innovations of the future fail to work properly.



He has, at last found prospective buyers, Fred and Gladys McNicoll, and invites them to stay in the house. He is determined to offload this huge "White Elephant". He bribes two members of his staff, Casey Cody and Ben Adams, to pose as a married couple, who are renting the house. They are to extol its virtues and explain how everything works. He is pulling out all the stops. The fridge is full of expensive wine and he has hired a chef to prepare a gourmet meal. Unknown to the McNicolls', he even has his maintenance man Eddie Cott on hand to make running repairs. He thinks he has all the bases covered. When Gladys hears Casey refer to Mr. Cott by name, the cat seems to be out of the bag, but Casey quickly recovers by saying she didn't say "Mister Cott" but "Ms Turcotte", the children's nanny. Eddie Cott now spends the rest of the play as Nanny Turcotte. A surprise visitor, Mr. Brooks, takes an almost insane fancy to "Nanny" who now has to defend 'her' honor, as well as fix the gadgets, all of which, without exception, misbehave.

❖ **What Is Susan's Secret** by Michael & Susan Parker

3 M 3 F

The Cider Mill Inn is an old, rustic and somewhat run down country inn owned and operated by an endearing elderly couple, Michael and Susan Edwards. At first they appear to be bordering on senility. We quickly learn however that they are very clever con artists, preying on their unsuspecting guests, by advertising huge discounts to various tradesmen. Using an elaborate check-in form with duplicate copies, guests are, in fact, signing a work contract, requiring them to perform various tasks and improvements at the inn. Over the course of three weekends, plumbers, tile layers, carpenters and electricians are recruited to do work they never expected.

his unique play offers theatres the opportunity for the other twelve characters (Besides Susan and Michael) to be played by either two males and two females, or twelve different actors, or any number in between. The characters vary from the world's most boring man, (his wife says he's had charisma bypass surgery), to a young couple on their honeymoon. Audiences will fall in love with each of these distinctive characters, but especially the loving relationship between the two main characters, Michael and Susan, so touching that this play might be called a love story, if it wasn't first and foremost a farce.

So, what is Susan's secret? On this subject the authors remain silent, preferring instead to let the audience decide on the truth, which of course, in a Parker play, is only revealed in the last few seconds of the show.

## *New version Recent Releases*

❖ ***Treasure Island*** by Bryony Lavery

16 M 7 F

It's a dark and stormy night. Jim, the inn-keeper's granddaughter, opens the door to a terrifying stranger. At the old sailor's feet sits a huge sea-chest, full of secrets. Jim invites him in - and her dangerous voyage begins.

❖ ***The Wind in the Willows*** by Glyn Maxwell

9 M 6 F

A spot of spring cleaning on a sunny English riverbank so begins the adventures of four beloved friends. Follow Mole, Ratty, Toad and Badger on their journey through riverside picnics, wild woods, jailbreaks, car chases and cross-dressing amphibians to save Toad Hall from disaster and get little Mole home.

❖ ***The Emperor's New Clothes*** by Max Bush

2 M 1 F 1 extra

The two weavers in this adaptation are two actors, a mother and son; their acting talents come into play as they pretend to weave the "magic" cloth. As they improvise their plot, the hilarious results reveal to the audience, and finally the emperor himself, the extent of the emperor's self-absorbed vanity. Excellent four-actor touring piece.



# Monologues

## ❖ *The Unremarkable Death of Marilyn Monroe* by Elton Townend Jones

1 F

The Unremarkable Death of Marilyn Monroe, recognises and investigates the truth behind the make-up to reveal a Marilyn never before seen: alone in only her dressing gown; no glitz, no glamour, no masks. Overdosed on pills, the woman behind the icon drifts back through her life and the memories of those she loved the most. Revealing a frustrated intelligence, she exposes the truth behind her legend, leading us, in real time, to the centre of her psyche, the truth of her being, and the moment of her demise.

## ❖ *Private Peaceful* by Michael Morpurgo

1 M

Private Peaceful relives the life of Private Tommo Peaceful, a young First World War soldier awaiting the firing squad at dawn. During the night, he looks back at his short but joyful past growing up in rural Devon: his exciting first days at school; the accident in the forest that killed his father; his adventures with Molly, the love of his life; and the battles and injustices of war that brought him to the front line. An ensemble version also available

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

# Musicals/Plays with Music

## ❖ *Death by Design – A Comedy with songs and Murder* by Rob Urbinati/Peter Mills

4 M 4 F

What happens when you mix the brilliant wit of Noel Coward with the intricate plotting of Agatha Christie? Set during a weekend in an English country manor in 1932, Death by Design is a delightful and mysterious “mash-up” of two of the greatest English writers of all time. Edward Bennett, a playwright, and his wife Sorel Bennett, an actress, flee London and head to Cookham after a disastrous opening night. But various guests arrive unexpectedly – a conservative politician, a fiery socialist, a nearsighted ingenue, a zany modern dancer – each with a long-held secret. When one of the guests is murdered, it's left to Bridgit, the feisty Irish maid with a macabre interest in homicide, to solve the crime. This musical version of Rob Urbinati's Death by Design is more than homage – it's a new classic, with a terrific musical theatre score that kills!

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

3 M 2 F 1 Pianist

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.

## ❖ *Charlotte's Web* by Joseph Robinette

Flexible Cast 11+ extras

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.



## ❖ *The Wind in The Willows* by Alan Bennett

*Flexible cast up to 24*

The characters of Ratty, Mole, Toad and Badger have delighted generations of readers. Alan Bennett's version is true to the original and yet carries the distinctive Bennett hallmark. It was first performed at the Royal National Theatre in 1990 and subsequently at the old Vic Theatre, London, in a shortened version adapted for proscenium staging. This is the version given here. The music by Jeremy Sams is available in a separate songbook. Very popular play with music.

## *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*
- ❖ *Over Paid Over Sexed and Over Here*
- ❖ *Ted's Bottle*
- ❖ *Poppy Day*

# *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>
Remote	Amanda Whittington	Waikato Diocesan School For Girls	May 09 - May 10
Blue Stockings	Jessica Swale	Orewa College	May 10 - May 11
A Streetcar Named Desire	Tennessee Williams	Canterbury Repertory Theatre	May 11 - May 21
Same Time, Next Year	Bernard Slade	Tadpole Productions	May 12 - May 22
Duets	Peter Quilter	Waiuku Theatre Group	May 13 - May 28
Heroes	Gerald Sibleyras	South Canterbury Drama League Inc	May 13 - May 21
Inspector Drake And The Time Machine	David Tristram	Country Players Inc	May 13 - May 21
Oz!	Tim Kelly	Alexandra Musical Society	May 13 - May 15
Bouncers (1990's Remix)	John Godber	Putaruru Theatre Players	May 16 - 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
Move Over Mrs Markham	Ray Cooney	Phoenix Theatre Incorporated	May 19 - May 28
The Graduate	Terry Johnson	Ellerslie Theatrical Soc	May 19 - May 28
Far Away	Caryl Churchill	Bender Spring Ltd	May 19 - Jun 04
Love And Information	Caryl Churchill	Bender Spring Ltd	May 19 - Jun 04
Rosencrantz And Guildenstern Are Dead	Tom Stoppard	Titirangi Rudolf Steiner School	May 19 - May 20
Inspector Drake And The Perfekt Crime	David Tristram	Opunake Players	May 22 - May 28
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
Top Girls	Caryl Churchill	Villa Maria College	Jun 06 - Jun 07

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
Extraordinary Revelations Of Orca The Goldfish	David Tristram	Hutt Repertory Theatre	Jun 08 - Jun 11
A Night of Dark Intent	L. Don Swartz	Riverlea Theatre & Arts Centre	Jun 10 - Jun 18
Bothered and Bewildered	Gail Young	Coromandel Players	Jun 10 - Jun 19
Curtain Up!	Peter Quilter	Nelson Repertory Theatre	Jun 10 - Jun 18
Decade	Various	Waikato Diocesan School For Girls	Jun 14 - Jun 15
A Murder Is Announced	Agatha Christie	Detour Theatre Company	Jun 15 - Jul 02
Principal Principle	Joe Zarrow	Dolphin Theatre Inc	Jun 17 - Jul 02
The 39 Steps	Patrick Barlow	Cambridge Repertory Society	Jun 18 - Jul 02
Dracula, The Vampire Play	Tim Kelly	Rutherford College	Jun 22 - Jun 25
Love And Information	Caryl Churchill	Papanui High School	Jun 22 - Jun 23
Calendar Girls	Tim Firth	Centre Stage ( Taupo) Inc	Jun 22 - Jul 02
Curses, Foiled Again!	Evelyn Hood	Katikati Theatre Inc	Jun 23 - Jul 09
Last Post	Jean Mcconnell	Katikati Theatre Inc	Jun 23 - Jul 09
Image of an Unknown Young Woman	Elinor Cook	Hagley Community College & Theatre Company	Jun 24 - Jul 01
Stepping Out	Richard Harris	West Otago Theatrical	Jun 25 - Jul 02
Mad Forest	Caryl Churchill	Ara Institute of Canterbury	Jun 25 - Jul 01
The History Boys	Alan Bennett	Stagecraft Theatre Inc	Jun 29 - Jul 09
Bullshot Crummond	Ron House	Hamilton Playbox	Jul 01 - Jul 16
A Christmas Carol	Karen Louise Hebden	Nelson Youth Theatre Company	Jul 04 - Jul 06
The Secret Garden	Tim Kelly	Nelson Youth Theatre Company	Jul 04 - Jul 06
The Real Inspector Hound	Tom Stoppard	Ellesmere College	Jul 04 - Jul 05
The Matchmaker	Thornton Wilder	Taikura Rudolf Steiner School	Jul 06 - Jul 08
Don't Dress For Dinner	Marc Camoletti	Rangiora Players	Jul 06 - Jul 16
The Old People Are Revolting!	Devon Williamson	Aubyn Live Theatre Inc	Jul 06 - Jul 10
Charlotte's Web	Joseph Robinette	Howick Childrens & Youth Theatre Inc	Jul 07 - Jul 10

Looking	Norm Foster	Whangarei Repertory Society ( Octagon Theatre)	Jul 08 - Jul 24
Ladies in Lavender	Shaun McKenna	Howick Little Theatre	Jul 09 - Jul 30
Road	Jim Cartwright	The Loons Theatre Trust	Jul 13 - Jul 23
Forget-Me-Knot	David Tristram	Kapiti Playhouse Inc	Jul 20 - Jul 30
A Murder Is Announced	Agatha Christie	Stageworks Otago	Jul 20 - Jul 23
A Skull In Connemara	Martin Mcdonagh	Khandallah Arts Theatre	Jul 21 - Jul 30
Thumbelina	Vera Morris	Nelson Youth Theatre Charatable Trust	Jul 21 - Jul 24
The Cripple Of Inishmaan	Martin McDonagh	Waiheke Theatre Company	Jul 21 - Jul 30
Quartet	Ronald Harwood	Hawera Repertory Society	Jul 21 - Jul 30
The Hollow	Agatha Christie	Shoreside Theatre Inc	Jul 28 - Aug 06