



# The Play Bureau Newsletter

## December 2016

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### Season's Greetings...



### What's New?

#### HOT OFF THE PRESS!!

Folk

Drama

By Tom Wells

1 M 2 F

Winnie's no ordinary nun. She swears, she smokes, she drinks Guinness, and she loves a sing-song with Stephen. But soon everything's going to change. Stephen's lost his way. Finding solace in music, he knows he must start again... if only he knew how. Kayleigh is a teenager, unsure of herself. But when unexpected circumstances lead her to Winnie and Stephen, she starts to find her voice. Surprising and poignant, Folk is a hilarious and not-so-holy story of hope, coming together and finding your feet when your world is turned upside down.

Echo's End

Drama

by Barney Norris

4 m 2 F

As the shadow of war falls over the Wiltshire landscape, a young couple finds itself caught up in the turmoil of troubled times. For generations, John and Anna's families have made a living by working the land. Growing up in back-to-back cottages, everyone expects them to marry. Now, however, with nearly half a million young soldiers pouring into the country, the world seems so much bigger than they had ever imagined and the future feels far from certain.

The Clean House

Comedy

by Sarah Ruhl

1 M 4 F

After its acclaimed run at Yale Repertory Theatre, this extraordinary play by an exciting voice in the American drama was done to equal acclaim at

The Play Bureau will be closing for the holiday season on December 15<sup>th</sup> and reopening on January 15<sup>th</sup>. The PO Box will be cleared occasionally, phone messages checked and emails will be answered if necessary.

Here at Play Bureau we wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy and Prosperous New Year. We look forward to working with you in 2018.

Regards Helen and the Play Bureau team.



several major theatres coast to coast before winding up Off-Broadway at Lincoln Center, where it had an extended run. The play takes place in what the author describes as "metaphysical Connecticut," mostly in the home of a married couple who are both doctors. They have hired a housekeeper named Matilde, an aspiring comedian from Brazil who's more interested in coming up with the perfect joke than in house-cleaning. Lane, the lady of the house, has an eccentric sister named Virginia who's just nuts about house-cleaning. She and Matilde become fast friends, and Virginia takes over the cleaning while Matilde works on her jokes. Trouble comes when Lane's husband Charles reveals that he has found his soul mate, or "bashert" in a cancer patient named Anna, on whom he has operated. The actors who play Charles and Anna also play Matilde's parents in a series of dream-like memories, as we learn the story about how they literally killed each other with laughter, giving new meaning to the phrase, "I almost died laughing." This theatrical and wildly funny play is a whimsical and poignant look at class, comedy and the true nature of love.

## *Cry It Out*

by Molly Smith Metzler

Comedy

1 M 3 F

Four months ago, Jessie was a corporate lawyer with a glamorous Manhattan life. Today, she is in dirty yoga pants, covered in breast milk, trying to comfort a screaming newborn. Isolated in a sleepy Long Island suburb while her commuter husband works long hours, Jessie is desperate to talk to anyone besides Food Network. So when she spies a fellow new mom and neighbour, Lina, at the local Stop & Shop, she vaults over the cantaloupe to introduce herself. Happy to have found each other, the two moms agree to meet for coffee during naptime in the sweet spot behind their adjoining yards where both their baby monitors get reception, and a fast friendship is born. Jessie and Lina may be from vastly different financial backgrounds—Jessie is Ivy-educated and of the manor born; Lina has a night-school nursing degree and terrible credit—but they have one huge thing in common: they've been cracked open by the love they feel for their newborns. One coffee quickly becomes a daily coffee, as Jessie and Lina laugh through the highs and lows of motherhood. But their intimacy is punctured when a stranger who lives in the mansion up on the cliff appears in the yard, asking if they would include his wife, a new mom who is having "a hard time," in their coffee klatch. Reluctantly, the duo tries to become a trio, but with very mixed—and surprising—results. After all, this is a town where the haves and the have-nots live in very close company; up on the cliff is Sands Point, one of the most expensive Great Gatsby-esque neighborhoods in the whole country. How could that woman possibly be having a "hard time"? A comedy with dark edges, *Cry it Out* takes an honest look at the absurdities of being home with a baby, the power of female friendship, the dilemma of going back to work, and the effect class has on parenthood in America.

## Pitcairn

By Richard Bean

Drama

9 M 6 F

In the southern Pacific Ocean on the remote island of Pitcairn, the infamous mutineers of *The Bounty*, led by Fletcher Christian (or should it be Titreano?) begin to establish a new society alongside their Tahitian followers. Tensions quickly swell as the British settlers refuse to relinquish the vices of their past. Social, racial and sexual schisms render the once paradisiac island into a hotbed of discord and bloody violence. *Pitcairn* vividly explores the conflict between personal freedoms and public responsibilities. *Pitcairn* is Richard Bean's brutal telling of the colonisation of the remote island of Pitcairn by Fletcher Christian and the *Bounty* mutineers. The play charts - with salty humour and growing horror - the spiralling descent of the colony from a new Eden of freedom and equality to a brutal dystopia.

## Girl From the North Country

By Connor McPherson songs by Bob Dylan

Drama

7 – 9 M 5 – 9 F

Duluth, Minnesota. 1934. A community living on a knife-edge. Lost and lonely people huddle together in the local guesthouse.



The owner, Nick, owes more money than he can ever repay, his wife Elizabeth is losing her mind and their daughter Marianne is carrying a child no one will account for.

So, when a preacher selling bibles and a boxer looking for a comeback turn up in the middle of the night, things spiral beyond the point of no return...

In *Girl from the North Country*, Conor McPherson beautifully weaves the iconic songbook of Bob Dylan into a show full of hope, heartbreak and soul.

## Most Popular Plays this Year for Play Bureau:

1. Calendar Girls by Tim Firth
2. Love and Information by Caryl Churchill
3. Earthquakes in London by Mike Bartlett
4. The 39 Steps by Patrick Barlow
5. Fear and Misery of the Third Reich by Bertolt Brecht
6. Twelve Angry Men by Reginald Rose/ Sherman Sergal
7. Nell Gwynn by Jessica Swale
8. Animal Farm by Ian Woolridge
9. Under Milk Wood by Dylan Thomas
10. The Supermarket Sisterhood by Devon Williamson

## Most Popular Authors Produced in NZ 2017 at Play Bureau

1. David Tristram
2. Tim Firth
3. Caryl Churchill
4. Agatha Christie
5. Tim Kelly
6. Mike Bartlett
7. Devon Williamson
8. Alan Ayckbourn
9. Willy Russell
10. Ken Ludwig

## 2017 New Plays – Play Bureau Picks

The Wedding of the Century by Devon Williamson

Sleighed to Death by Peter Gordon

Ben Hur - Patrick Barlow

Mother Christmas by David Lewis

The Kitchen Witches by Caroline Smith

Goodnight Mister Tom by David Wood

Mrs Pat by Anton Burge

All the best for your 2018 productions