

# The Play Bureau Newsletter

## February 2018

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### Belated Happy New Year !

*Greetings All! Welcome to the first issue of Play Bureau newsletter for 2018*

*In this issue:*

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Kind Regards

Helen

Remember you must secure the rights before you advertise or call for auditions!

You are not allowed to change a word in the script without permission!

Always ask permission about recording a performance, some plays you can and some you can't.

## What's New?

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

**A Bunch of Amateurs -** ( very popular in the UK )

By Nick Newman & Ian Hislop

Comedy

3 m 4 F

Keen to boost his flagging career, fading Hollywood action hero Jefferson Steele arrives in England to play King Lear in Stratford – only to find that this is not the birthplace of the Bard, but a sleepy Suffolk village.

And instead of Kenneth Branagh and Dame Judi Dench, the cast are a bunch of amateurs trying to save their theatre from developers. Jefferson's monstrous ego, vanity and insecurity are tested to the limit by the enthusiastic am-dram thespians. As acting worlds collide and Jefferson's career implodes, he discovers some truths about himself – along with his inner Lear!

"Deliciously stuffed with Shakespeare...a laugh-a-minute" \*\*\*\* - Mail on Sunday

### **Mother Christmas**

by David Lewis

Comedy Christmas

2M 3 F

Christmas past, Christmas present and Christmas future are all very familiar. But in the hands of a dysfunctional family intent on throwing annual fancy dress parties on Christmas Eve under the watchful eye of their matriarch Maggie, seasonal festivities are destined to spiral out of control. Over the course of three Christmases, Maggie, her children Davina and Ben and her granddaughter Grace attempt to have themselves a merry little Christmas but past resentments and recriminations inevitably rise to the surface each time. Surely one year will be full of peace and love and the true spirit of Christmas? Don't bet on it . . .

### **Dracula: The Bloody Truth**

by John Nicholson & Le Navet Bete

Comedy

4 M

Travelling across Europe, from the dark and sinister Transylvanian mountains to the charming seaside town of Whitby, Professor Van Helsing and his three amateur actors stage a life-changing, theatrical production of Dracula hoping to establish, once and for all, the bloody truth.

The result is a delightfully silly, fast-paced and faithful (-ish) adaptation by John Nicholson (Hound of the Baskervilles, Peepolykus) of Bram Stoker's novel, originally performed by physical-comedy theatre company Le Navet Bete on a UK tour in 2017.

Performed by four actors playing forty characters. Dracula: The Bloody Truth is a full-blooded adaptation offering abundant opportunities for any theatre company or drama group to sink their teeth into.



## The Three Musketeers

by Ken Ludwig

Drama

8 M 4 F

This adaptation is based on the timeless swashbuckler by Alexandre Dumas, a tale of heroism, treachery, close escapes and above all, honour. The story, set in 1625, begins with d'Artagnan who sets off for Paris in search of adventure. Along with d'Artagnan goes Sabine, his sister, the quintessential tomboy. Sent with d'Artagnan to attend a convent school in Paris, she poses as a young man – d'Artagnan's servant – and quickly becomes entangled in her brother's adventures. Soon after reaching Paris, d'Artagnan encounters the greatest heroes of the day, Athos, Porthos and Aramis, the famous musketeers, and he joins forces with his heroes to defend the honour of the Queen of France. In so doing, he finds himself in opposition to the most dangerous man in Europe, Cardinal Richelieu. Even more deadly is the infamous Countess de Winter, known as Milady, who will stop at nothing to revenge herself on d'Artagnan – and Sabine – for their meddling behaviour. Little does Milady know that the young girl she scorns, Sabine, will ultimately save the day.

## Project Murder – The Elimination Challenge

by Don Zollis

Comedy

3 M 3 F 2 either

The police are tipped off that a murder is about to take place on the live TV show *Project Design*. Detective Carol-Ann Perkins wants a shot to catch the culprit and become a famous star. To do that, she not only has to overcome her own bumbling tendencies; she has to go undercover and compete against some of the top designers around. At the end of the first act audiences are polled to see who they think committed the crime, and with seven different endings, you'll never know who is the real source of the Elimination Challenge.

## Bouncing Back

by Gail Young

Dramatic Comedy

3 M 10 F

Bouncing Back' follows a group of women returners to the game of Netball, the trials and tribulations of their training sessions, group bonding, getting sponsorship, tough coaching, and the stress of organising 'me time'. Will the team get fitter? Will they ever win a game? Will the coach ever find true love? And why do they all worship someone called Tracey?

The play follows a diverse group of women with different stories and reasons for coming back to Netball. The characters are brilliant - funny and endearing. They support each other and voice concerns that we can all relate to.....the audience quickly gets behind the team and their wonderful coach as they begin to train and look forward to their first match. We see the difficulties of getting to training and securing funding, along with heartache and newfound happiness. The ladies idolise Manchester Thunder and the England Coach Tracey Neville, and it is their passion for the sport that unites the audience and the characters. There are thousands of women across the country who have gone back to Netball, passionately supporting each other and their favourite teams.

## Twiststorm

by Chris England

Comedy

5 M 1 F

Guy Manton is a national treasure, the much-loved host of a caustic television panel show, until a throwaway remark is inadvertently shared with the whole world, and before Guy knows what is happening he is being battered by the Twiststorm.

Twiststorm is a hilarious exploration of what can happen when the self righteousness of social media gets out of hand.

## Top New Plays 2017:

Wedding of the Century by Devon Williamson

Sleighed to Death by Peter Gordon

Stop The Play by David Spicer

Girl From the North Country by Connor McPherson music Bob Dylan

Pitcairn by Richard Bean



Sunday on the Rocks by Theresa Rebeck  
Paperless by Shona M Wilson  
The Nether by Jennifer Haley  
Four Weddings and a Elvis by Nancy Frick  
Folk by Tom Wells  
The Kitchen Witches by Caroline Smith  
Goodnight Mister Tom  
Ben Hur by Patrick Barlow  
Mother Christmas by David Lewis  
You by Mark Wilson

### Thrillers:

Death Knell by James Cawood  
Sleighed To Death by Peter Gordon  
Anagram of Murder by Seymour Matthews  
Curtain Up On Murder by Bettine Manktelow  
Stone Cold Murder by James Cawood  
Murdered To Death by Peter Gordon  
Dial M For Murder by Frederick Knott  
Deathtrap by Ira Levin  
I'll Be Back Before Midnight by Peter Colley  
Murder in Company by Philip King  
A Murder is Announced by Agatha Christie  
Bloody Murder by Ed Sala  
The Perfect Murder by Peter James  
Murder on the Nile by Agatha Christie

### War Themed Plays:

Journeys End by R C Sherriff  
Our Boys by Jonathan Lewis  
A Few Good Men by Aaron Sorkin  
Lilies of the Land by The Lions Part  
Bugle Boy by Den Stevenson  
Privates on Parade by Peter Nichols  
Over Paid, Over Sexed & Over Here! By Devon Williamson  
Blue Remembered Hills by Dennis Potter  
Ted's Bottle by Bryan Aitken  
Poppy Day by Val Franklin

### One Act Plays you may like:

Jessica's Will by Kent R Brown  
In The Tank by Rosemary Frisino Toohey  
Shady Meadows by Lisa Dillman  
Breakfast With Willie by Karen Schiff  
Twitch by Stephen Gregg  
Bags by Anne Mcgravie  
Rest in Peace by Pat Cook

## ***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>
The Insect Play	Josef And Karel Capek	Howick Childrens & Youth Theatre Inc	Mar 01 - Mar 04
A Bench In The Sun	Ron Clark	Harlequin Theatre Inc	Mar 01 - Mar 07
Winnie-The-Pooh	Glyn Robbins	Howick Childrens & Youth Theatre Inc	Mar 03 - Mar 04
The Perfect Murder	Peter James	Tauranga Repertory Society	Mar 09 - Mar 24
Twelve Angry Men	Reginald Rose	Cambridge Repertory Society	Mar 11 - Mar 25
Outside Edge	Richard Harris	Shoreside Theatre Inc	Mar 14 - Mar 24
Snake In The Grass	Alan Ayckbourn	Te Aroha Dramatic Society	Mar 14 - Mar 23
The Butler Did It	Tim Kelly	South Otago Theatrical Society	Mar 15 - Mar 18
Moonfleece	Philip Ridley	University of Canterbury Dramatic Society Inc	Mar 15 - Mar 24
The Witches	Roald Dahl	Ellerslie Theatrical Soc	Mar 15 - Mar 24
Goodbye To All That	Luke Norris	Theatre Hawkes Bay	Mar 15 - Mar 24
Perfect Wedding	Robin Hawdon	Mairangi Players Inc	Mar 16 - Mar 24
The Diary Of Anne Frank	Frances Goodrich	Nayland College	Mar 21 - Mar 23
The Amorous Ambassador	Michael Parker	South Canterbury Drama League Inc	Mar 23 - Mar 29
The Visit	Friedrich Durrenmatt	Mount Albert Grammar School	Mar 28 - Mar 29
The Woman In Black	Stephen Mallatratt	No Productions Theatre Collective	Mar 28 - Apr 01
Seminar	Theresa Rebeck	TAT Productions	Apr 03 - Apr 07
Our Country's Good	Timberlake Wertenbaker	Wellington Repertory Theatre	Apr 04 - Apr 14
Educating Rita	Willy Russell	Greytown Little Theatre	Apr 04 - Apr 14
Noughts And Crosses	Dominic Cooke	Mount Roskill Grammar School	Apr 05 - Apr 07
Habeas Corpus	Alan Bennett	Feilding Little Theatre Players Inc	Apr 06 - Apr 21
Curtain Up!	Peter Quilter	Whangarei Repertory Society ( Octagon Theatre)	Apr 06 - Apr 21
A Murder Is Announced	Agatha Christie	Whangaparaoa College	Apr 10 - Apr 11
The Memory Of Water	Shelagh Stephenson	Kapiti Playhouse Inc	Apr 11 - Apr 21
The Lion, The Witch And The Wardrobe	Joseph Robinette	Emmanuel Christian School	Apr 11 - Apr 12
The Dresser	Ronald Harwood	Hutt Repertory Theatre	Apr 11 - Apr 21
A Tale Of Two Cities	Mark Fitzgibbons	Taikura Rudolf Steiner School	Apr 12 - Apr 13
Popcorn	Ben Elton	Gisborne Unity Theatre	Apr 13 - Apr 20
I Never Saw Another Butterfly	Celeste Raspanti	Otamatea Repertory Theatre Inc	Apr 13 - Apr 15

Spirit Level	Pam Valentine	Waiuku Theatre Group	Apr 13 - May 05
Aesop's Fables	Ed Graczyk	Nelson Youth Theatre Company	Apr 15 - Apr 16
Holy Moses!	Bob Kolsby	Nelson Youth Theatre Company	Apr 15 - Apr 16
Calendar Girls	Tim Firth	Elmwood Players	Apr 17 - Apr 27
Spoonface Steinberg	Lee Hall	The Loons Theatre Trust	Apr 18 - Apr 28
The Beverly Hillbillies	David Rogers	Casnova Productions	Apr 19 - Apr 28
One Man, Two Guvnors	Richard Bean	Big Little Theatre Company	Apr 20 - Apr 22
Boeing Boeing	Marc Camoletti	Inglewood Dramatic Soc	Apr 25 - May 05
You ( full Length )	Mark Wilson	A Little Box At The Top Of The Stairs Productions	Apr 26 - Apr 28
The Nether	Jennifer Haley	Manawatu Theatre Society	Apr 26 - May 13
The Fat Lady Sings In Little Grimley	David Tristram	Heretaunga Players	Apr 26 - May 05
A Few Good Men	Aaron Sorkin	Geraldine Academy of Performance and Arts	Apr 27 - May 06
Roots And Wings	Frank Vickery	New Plymouth Repertory Society	May 01 - May 12
One Man, Two Guvnors	Richard Bean	Iona College	May 02 - May 03
Spygame	Bettine Manktelow	Warkworth Theatre Group	May 03 - May 05
The Darling Buds Of May	H. E. Bates	South Canterbury Drama League Inc	May 03 - May 11
Business Affairs	John Chapman	Pukekohe Performing Arts Inc	May 04 - May 19
The House By The Lake	Hugh Mills	Howick Little Theatre	May 05 - Jun 02
Popcorn	Ben Elton	Company Theatre	May 12 - May 26
One Man, Two Guvnors	Richard Bean	Papakura Theatre Co. Inc	May 12 - May 26
Our Town	Thornton Wilder	Victoria University Theatre Programme	May 14 - May 18
Peter Pan - Pantomime	John Morley	Glenfield College	May 15 - May 24
Relatively Speaking	Alan Ayckbourn	Tadpole Productions	May 17 - May 27
Tom Sawyer	Sara Spencer	Howick Childrens & Youth Theatre Inc	May 17 - May 20
Charlie And The Chocolate Factory	Roald Dahl	Mackenzie Theatre Group	May 19 - May 26
Precious Little	Madeleine George	Navi Collaborative	May 22 - May 26
The Nifty Fifties	Tim Kelly	Oxford Area School	May 23 - May 26
Bronte	Polly Teale	Stagecraft Theatre Inc	May 23 - Jun 01
Curtain Up!	Peter Quilter	Waihi Drama Society	May 24 - Jun 03
Dara	Shahid Nadeem	Prayas Theatre	May 26 - Jun 04