



# The Play Bureau Newsletter

## May 2018

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*Hello Everyone - some new exciting plays released in this issue and welcome to Kate Spencer, a new kiwi playwright with a great comedy!*

*In this issue:*

- *What's New*
- *Youth Musicals*
- *Plays for aged to perfection performers*
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- *What's on around the country*

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!!

#### The Revlon Girls

By Neil Anthony Docking

Drama

5 F

Set eight months following Aberfan Disaster of 1966 (in which 144 people were killed; 116 of them children) *The Revlon Girl* tells the real life story of a group of bereaved mothers who met every week above a local hotel to talk, cry and even laugh without feeling guilty.

At one of their meetings, the women looked at each other and admitted how much they felt they'd let themselves go. So afraid that people would think them frivolous, they secretly arranged for a representative from Revlon to come and give them a talk on beauty tips. Very moving!

#### The Desperate Hours

By Joseph Hayes

Drama

11 m 3 F

A smash hit on Broadway and winner of the Tony Award for best play. *DESPERATE HOURS* has been simplified to employ a less complicated set. This is the story of a home invaded by three escaped criminals and of civilized people being driven to violence. The Hilliard's are a typical family living on the outskirts of Indianapolis; abruptly, their pleasant home becomes a jungle full of cunning and violence. Mr Hilliard and 19-year-old Cindy are allowed to go to work while Mrs Hilliard and 10-year-old Ralphie remain in the house as hostages. Meanwhile, the police search closes in inexorably, conducted by a deputy sheriff who has his own reasons for wanting to kill. The Hilliards are helpless. A murder occurs almost accidentally. The police move closer...

#### The Spider

Mystery

by Fulton Oursler & Lowell Brentano

21M 3 F

A magician and his assistant are doing a trick on the stage. Suddenly the lights go out. When they go on again, a man, Carrington, is found murdered in the audience. Other characters in the play pop out of the audience: doctors and policemen. Carrington turns out to be an unsavoury character and head of a narcotic ring. Suspicion falls on the magician, his assistant and others. Theatrical devices abound. House lights go on and off and at last the guilty scoundrel is discovered in the audience.

## Lotty's War

Drama

by Giuliano Crispini

Rights now released

2 M 1 F

With the last boat to England gone, Lotty is housed in close quarters with the enemy. As loyalties waver amidst the temptations of forbidden love and the politics of war, does Lotty dare to tread a passionate and dangerous path to save a friend? A mesmerising story of passion, courage, and sacrifice, Lotty's War is set on the enemy occupied Channel Islands during World War Two.



## William Shakespeare's Long Lost Final Play (abridged)

Comedy

By Martin Reed & Austen Tichenor

3 M

Discovered in a treasure-filled parking lot in Leicester (next to a pile of bones that didn't look that important), an ancient manuscript proves to be the long-lost first play written by none other than seventeen-year-old William Shakespeare from Stratford. William Shakespeare's Long Lost First Play (abridged) is the literary holy grail: an actual manuscript in Shakespeare's own hand showing all his most famous characters and familiar speeches in a brand-new story. An ancient grudge pits Puck (from *Midsummer Night's Dream*) against Ariel (from *The Tempest*) and turns Shakespeare's canon upside-down, creating such strange bedfellows as Hamlet and that master motivator Lady Macbeth, Viola and Richard III, King Lear and the Weird Sisters, and (of course) Dromio and Juliet.

Using questionable scholarship and street-performer smarts, playwrights Reed Martin and Austin Tichenor weave together most of the famous speeches and plot devices of Shakespeare's thirty-nine plays to create a fast, funny and fictional fortieth, filled with witty wordplay, vaudevillian variety and twins, twins, twins!

## Ward 7

Comedy

By Kate Moira Spencer

5 F

In a modern-day hospital setting, a mix of patients, staff and visitors meander their way through a troubled day. Under the iron-fisted control of Staff Nurse and the hapless incompetence of trainee Nurse Gabby, who would have much preferred to be a firefighter, characters confess their personal hang-ups. With deep secrets exposed, general confusion reigns and things are revealed to not always be as they might appear in the unpredictable Ward 7

## A Slice of the Blarney

Dark Comedy

by Kitty Burns

3 M 4 F

Shannon O'Leary is on his death bed. He is a multi-millionaire who knows that his family is just waiting for him to die to see who inherits his fortune. One by one the "faithful" relatives show up and circle like vultures. Shannon knows this, but still hopes that there is at least one of them who really loves him. His last request is for an authentic Irish wake, a wish that gets fulfilled in Act Two – sort of.

## Splitting Heirs

Farce

by Freyda Thomas

4 M 3 F

Eraste is in love with Isabelle, but the only way her mother will let her marry him is if his uncle Geronte names him heir to his fortune, which the miserly old man is doubtful to do. It's up to the help of the two servants, Lisette and Crispin, to don disguises and scheme those around them to wed the young lovers, and even have a chance at love themselves. Loosely based on the eighteenth-century farce by Jean-François Regnard, Freyda Thomas gives even more life to this lesser-known French farce.



## Drop Dead

Comedy

By Billy Van Zandt

7 M 3 F

A cast of has-been actors plan to revive their careers in "Drop Dead!," a potboiler murder mystery directed by "Wonder Child of the Broadway Stage" Victor Le Pewe (a psychotic eye twitching megalomaniac). At the dress rehearsal the set falls, props break, and the producer and an actor are murdered. During the opening night performance, the murders continue. The remaining thespians must save the show and their careers, solve the mystery and stay alive for curtain calls.

## Jack of Diamonds

Farce

by Marcia Kash Douglas E Hughes

3 M 4 F

Jack is a former jeweller who made his living buying and selling diamonds via late-night TV ads. He lives in a rather luxurious, privately-owned retirement home along with his fellow residents: the visually challenged techno-wizard Rose, the artistically gifted but forgetful Flora, and the narcoleptic beauty Blanche. Unbeknownst to the four of them, however, the man to whom they've entrusted their life savings - a smooth-talking financial advisor named Barney Effward - has been arrested for bilking his clients out of their savings through a Ponzi scheme. Faced with financial ruin, the four suddenly find themselves confronting the author of their miserable fate when Effward is unexpectedly delivered among them - along with several million dollars in diamonds. Pandemonium ensues as the four retirees try to find a way to exact their revenge, recoup their losses, and keep the authorities from discovering their plans. (parts for mature actors)

### Don't Forget about these recent releases:

A Bunch Of Amateurs by Nick Herman & Ian Hislop 3 M 4 F

The Jailhouse Frocks by Devon Williamson 2 M 3 F

Goodnight Mr. Tom By David Wood 7 M 6 F

Bouncing Back by Gail Young 3 M 10 F

The Three Musketeers by Ken Ludwig

Twitstorm by Chris England

### Plays for the Aged to Perfection Performer:

The Old People Are Revolting by Devon Williamson

The Sunshine Boys by Neil Simon

The Wedding of the Century by Devon Williamson

The Final Test by Chris Paling

Grow Up Grandad by Gordon Steel

The Ladykillers by Graham Lineham

Quartet by Ronald Harwood

The Cemetery Club by Ivan Menchell

Heroes by Gerald Sibleyras

Geezers by Tommy Lee Johnston

A Bench in the Sun by Ron Clark

Nana's Naughty Knickers by Katherine Disavino

Sex Please We're Sixty! by Michael Parker

Last of the Summer Wine by Roy Clarke

Death by Golf by Gregg Kreutz

Last of the Duty Free by Eric Chappell

Dad's Army by Jimmy Perry & David Croft

Ladies in Lavender by Shaun McKenna



## Youth Musicals :

Happy Valley High  
Little Luncheonette of Terror  
Little Miss Christie  
The Owl and the Pussycat Went To See  
Lucky Dollar – Private Eye  
Quixote  
Time and Time Again  
Toad of Toad Hall  
Oz!  
Charlotte's Web  
I'm Sorry the Bridge is Out. You'll have to Stay the Night  
Stuart Little  
The Creepy Creeps of Pilgrim Road  
Groovy!  
The Wind in the Willows  
Shake, Ripple & Roll  
The Nifty Fifties  
Flapper!  
You Ain't Nothing But a Werewolf  
Fortyfive Minutes From Broadway  
Blue Suede Paws

## Play Bureau Picks - Other Plays you may like:

The Jailhouse Frocks by Devon Williamson  
Goodnight Mister Tom by David Wood  
A Bunch of Amateurs by Nick Newman  
Bouncing Back – Gail Young

## Ladies Only!

Love Me Slender- 7  
Chalet Lines – 7  
Muddy Cows – 7  
Top Girls - 7  
Steel Magnolias - 6  
Be My Baby – 6  
A Kiss on the Bottom – 5  
Belfast Girls – 5  
Curtain Up! – 5  
Hen Night Epiphany – 5  
Principal, Principle -5  
The Revlon Girl – 5  
Ward 7 - 5  
Bold Girls – 4  
Catholic School Girls – 4  
Ladies Day – 4  
Lilies on the Land – 4  
Momologues – 4  
Shakers – Restired – 4

## *What's On around the Country*

Title	Author	Group	Date
One Man, Two Guvnors	Richard Bean	Papakura Theatre Co. Inc	May 12 - May 26
Popcorn	Ben Elton	Company Theatre	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
Hidden in this Picture	Aaron Sorkin	Dolphin Theatre Inc	May 16 - May 20
Caucasian Chalk Circle	Bertolt Brecht	Lincoln High School	May 16 - May 17
Tom Sawyer	Sara Spencer	Howick Childrens & Youth Theatre Inc	May 17 - May 20
A Taste Of Honey	Shelagh Delaney	Torbay Drama Society	May 18 - Jun 09
Charlie And The Chocolate Factory	Roald Dahl	Mackenzie Theatre Group	May 19 - May 26
Precious Little	Madeleine George	Navi Collaborative	May 22 - May 26
Bronte	Polly Teale	Stagecraft Theatre Inc	May 23 - Jun 01
The Nifty Fifties	Tim Kelly	Oxford Area School	May 23 - May 26
Radium Girls	D.W. Gregory	Mana Little Theatre	May 23 - Jun 02
Curtain Up!	Peter Quilter	Waihi Drama Society	May 24 - Jun 03
Dara	Shahid Nadeem	Prayas Theatre	May 26 - Jun 04
The Elephant's Graveyard ( Full Length Version )	George Brant	Middleton Grange School	Jun 04 - Jun 05
Dead Man's Cell Phone	Sarah Ruhl	Titirangi Theatre Inc	Jun 05 - Jun 16
The Pillowman	Martin Mcdonagh	Milford Creative	Jun 06 - Jun 09
A Murder Is Announced	Agatha Christie	Whangaparaoa College	Jun 06 - Jun 07
Blood Wedding	James Graham Lujan	St. Peters School	Jun 07 - Jun 08
A Talk In The Park	Alan Ayckbourn	Country Players Inc	Jun 08 - Jun 09
Holy Moses!	Bob Kolsby	Nelson Youth Theatre Company	Jun 08 - Jun 16
KickAss Plays For Women	Jane Shepard	Nelson Youth Theatre Company	Jun 08 - Jun 16
This Is A Test	Stephen Gregg	Nelson Youth Theatre Company	Jun 08 - Jun 16
Wake-Up Call	Stephen Gregg	Nelson Youth Theatre Company	Jun 08 - Jun 16
The Music Lovers	Georges Feydeau	Nelson Youth Theatre Company	Jun 08 - Jun 16
Steel Magnolias	Robert Harling	Palmerston North Girls High School	Jun 11 - Jun 12

The Perfect Murder	Peter James	Centre Stage ( Taupo) Inc	Jun 13 - Jun 23
The Visit	Friedrich Durrenmatt	Toi Whakaari - NZ Drama School	Jun 13 - Jun 20
Noises Off	Michael Frayn	New Plymouth Little Theatre Society	Jun 13 - Jun 30
The Wolves	Sarah Delappe	Toi Whakaari - NZ Drama School	Jun 13 - Jun 20
Leaves of Glass	Philip Ridley	Elmwood Players	Jun 13 - Jun 23
The Naked Truth	Dave Simpson	Nelson Repertory Theatre	Jun 13 - Jun 16
Kindly Leave The Stage	John Chapman	Offbeat Theatre Company	Jun 15 - Jun 23
Entertaining Angels	Richard Everett	Napier Repertory Players	Jun 18 - Jun 30
Blithe Spirit	Noel Coward	Detour Theatre Company	Jun 20 - Jul 07
Animal Farm	Peter Hall	Howick College	Jun 20 - Jun 22
The Lion In Winter	James Goldman	Greytown Little Theatre	Jun 20 - Jun 30
Private Peaceful (Ensemble version)	Michael Morpurgo	Christ's College	Jun 20 - Jun 22
Art'	Yasmina Reza	Porirua Little Theatre Inc	Jun 20 - Jun 30
Love And Information	Caryl Churchill	Palmerston North Girls High School	Jun 20 - Jun 21
Noises Off	Michael Frayn	Theatre Hawkes Bay	Jun 21 - Jun 30
An Inspector Calls	J.B. Priestley	Dolphin Theatre Inc	Jun 22 - Jul 07
The Lion, The Witch And The Wardrobe	Glyn Robbins	Hawera Repertory Society	Jun 22 - Jun 30
The Government Inspector	Nikolai Gogol	Saint Kentigern College	Jun 25 - Jun 26
The Real Inspector Hound	Tom Stoppard	Waiuku College	Jun 25 - Jun 26
The Ash Girl	Timberlake Wertenbaker	Botany Downs Secondary College	Jun 27 - Jun 30
Radium Girls	D.W. Gregory	St. Cuthberts College	Jun 27 - Jun 28
Bouncers (1990's Remix)	John Godber	Marlborough Boy's College	Jun 28 - Jun 29
Vernon God Little	DBC Pierre	The Court Theatre	Jun 28 - Jul 01
Split	Bradley Haywood	Invercargill Repertory	Jun 29 - Jun 30
Pool ( No Water )	Mark Ravenhill	Saint Kentigern College	Jun 30 - Jul 01
A Tomb With A View	Norman Robbins	Ruapehu College	Jun 30 - Jul 03
Rosencrantz And Guildenstern Are Dead	Tom Stoppard	Saint Kentigern College	Jul 02 - Jul 03
Arabian Nights	Dominic Cooke	Medbury School	Jul 03 - Jul 04
The Real Inspector Hound	Tom Stoppard	Onehunga High School	Jul 04 - Jul 05

Drop Dead	Billy Van Zandt	Hokitika Dramatic Society	Jul 05 - Jul 14
The Big Noise At Fort-Issimo	Bernard Goss	Howick Childrens & Youth Theatre Inc	Jul 05 - Jul 08
Allo 'Allo	Jeremy Lloyd	Fine Thyme Theatre Co.	Jul 06 - Jul 14
Winnie-The-Pooh	Glyn Robbins	Oamaru Repertory Society Inc	Jul 07 - Jul 14
Noises Off	Michael Frayn	Ghost Light Theatre Ltd	Jul 13 - Jul 21
My Name Is Rachel Corrie	Alan Rickman	Shape Shift Collective	Jul 17 - Jul 21
Penny Blue	Vanessa Brooks	Whangarei Repertory Society ( Octagon Theatre)	Jul 20 - Aug 05
The Lieutenant Of Inishmore	Martin McDonagh	Arcade	Jul 25 - Jul 29
Towards Zero	Agatha Christie	Shoreside Theatre Inc	Jul 25 - Aug 04
The Complete Works Of Wllm Shkspr (Abridged)	Adam Long	One Duck Productions	Jul 25 - Jul 28
Metamorphosis	Steven Berkoff	Botany Downs Secondary College	Jul 26 - Jul 27
A-Haunting We Will Go	Tim Kelly	Riccarton High School	Jul 26 - Jul 27
Blood Brothers	Willy Russell	Botany Downs Secondary College	Jul 26 - Jul 27
Green Eyes , or No Sight Would Be Worth Seeing	Tennessee Williams	Greytown Little Theatre	Jul 28 - Jul 29
I Bring You Flowers	William Lang	Greytown Little Theatre	Jul 28 - Jul 29