



The Play Bureau Newsletter

February 2019

PO Box 9013, St. Clair
Dunedin 9047

Tel: +64 3 4559959

info@playbureau.com | www.playbureau.com

Correct Billing: Reminder

Most scripts we handle have Billing and Credit requirements which are usually stated in the first few pages. When the title of the play appears for advertising, the name of the author must appear in conjunction with the title, on a separate line with no other name. The size of the type used for the authors name must not be less than 50% in size to the type used for the Title. Check the front pages of the scripts in case there are more requirements than this.

It must be clearly stated that in all advertising that the audience will witness an amateur performance or community theatre performance, the names of the author (s) of the play shall be included in all announcements and on all programmes and advertising and the integrity of the authors work will be preserved.

If unsure please ask.

Warm Regards Helen

Welcome to 2019.

I hope everyone had a great break and is rearing to go in 2019 with a year packed full of exciting theatre productions.

Play Bureau Picks from Last Year:

We get many new scripts each year and these are the ones that we feel have good appeal to the right audience:

Drama:

The Revlon Girl: by Neil Antony Docking 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. A bit of a tearjerker!

Comedy:

A Bunch of Amateurs: by Nick Newman and Ian Hyslop 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!

Play with Music:

The Jailhouse Frocks: by Devon Williamson 2 M 3 F

Dim-witted officer Dwayne's tranquil evening at the Birchwood County Police Station is shattered with the arrest of three unlikely women; the Mayor's wife, the local mad cat-lady, and a dangerous looking New Yorker. The already chaotic situation descends into mayhem with the arrival of a New York gangster, disguised as a FBI agent, hell-bent on exacting revenge on his wife.



By the end of the night, the ladies have formed a gang, sung some songs, escaped from jail and locked the gangster up in their place, leaving Officer Dwayne wondering how on earth he managed to make the arrest of a lifetime. *Great for Dinner Theatre and small groups*

What's New?

HOT OFF THE PRESS!!

❖ Trial By Laughter

By Nick Newman & Ian Hislop
6M 2 F

William Hone, the forgotten hero of free speech, was a bookseller, publisher and satirist. In 1817, he stood trial for 'impious blasphemy and seditious libel'. The only crime he had committed was to be funny. Worse than that he was funny by parodying religious texts. And worst of all, he was funny about the despotic government and the libidinous monarchy. Script available and eagerly await the rights release.

❖ Collective Rage: A Play in 5 Betties

By Jen Silvean
5 F

Betty is rich; Betty is lonely; Betty's busy working on her truck; Betty wants to talk about love, but Betty needs to hit something. And Betty keeps using a small hand mirror to stare into parts of herself she's never examined. Five different women named Betty collide at the intersection of anger, sex, and the "Thea-Tah."

❖ Decision Height

By Meredith Dayna Levy
9 F

From the winner of the 2013 Kennedy Centre American College Theatre Festival, comes a story about friendship and the complex though essential role of women in wartime. Virginia Hascall has left her home and fiancée to become a Women Airforce Service Pilot and do her part to help defeat the Axis powers in the Second World War. Through triumph and tragedy, she and her sisters in flight suits learn as much about themselves as they do about airplanes. As the war rages over there, the women form a sisterhood that cannot be broken, and Virginia must make a decision that will change her life forever. With a cast of nine vibrant female characters, Decision Height offers a look into an underrecognized subset of American hero's and revises history into herstory.

❖ Rubber Ring

By James McDermott
1 M

'Where can I 'explore' by the coast? Rock pools. I can't get onto Grindr and Tinder: there's no 4G in Norfolk. The whole world is a singles bar now, but I can't get in. I am sick of feeling like a story that will never get told.' Jimmy is sixteen, sexually confused and stuck in the seaside town they forgot to bomb. He's screwed. Well he isn't actually: that's the problem... When pop icon Morrissey comes to London, Jimmy flees to the big city to find his hero and himself. *Rubber Ring* is a coming of age comedy solo play about growing up queer in a rural community, learning to love yourself, love your roots and love without labels.



❖ **Cuckoo**

by Lisa Carroll

2 F 2 M 1 either

Texas Fried Chicken, abject misery and a one-way Ryanair ticket.

Everyone hates Iona. Everyone except Pingu. Fitting in is hard when one of you can't shut up and your silent best friend wears a tuxedo to school every day. Sick of the ceaseless bullying and despair, Iona and Pingu decide to get the hell out of Dublin.

Turns out that emigrating is a great way to get noticed by the cool kids. Loving the attention, Iona is drunk on her new-found popularity until she discovers she's messed with the wrong crowd. In a world where reputation must be defended tooth and nail, this can only end in disaster for all involved.

From Kylie Jenner lip kits to Lucozade, this is a fresh, modern look at what it means to be young in Ireland today. Shortlisted for the Papatango New Writing Prize, Lisa Carroll's sharp and sparkling debut di.

❖ **Bullet Hole**

By Gloria Williams

3 F

Young Londoner Cleo was given her 'gift' at age seven – except that 'gift' left her with type 3 Female Mutilation.

How can Cleo love her body, when her husband brutally sexually assaults her? Finding strength after this hideous act, Cleo resolves to go against her family's wishes and seek reversal surgery. On her journey of healing, she's sent to live with Aunt Winnie and meets Eve, a fellow FGM survivor who is instantly drawn to her. Will Cleo set an example and empower Eve to stand against this practice, or will she give in to family pressure and finally embrace Aunt Winnie's deeply embedded traditional beliefs?

A fight for love, hope and acceptance in a culture where a 'gift' can bear the ultimate price.

1 ACT PLAYS FOR SMALL CASTS:

❖ **Bang, You're Dead**

By Paul Reakes

3 M 2 F

Having recently graduated from a major conservatory, and with a rocker boyfriend on the brink of stardom, aspiring composer Amanda Blue's "extraordinary life" seems to be all mapped out. But when she's called home to answer her mother's distress call about a [marriage in crisis/marital crisis], Amanda's grand plan starts to unravel. A Feminine Ending is a bittersweet new play about dreams deferred, loves lost and learning to trust a woman's voice in a man's world.

❖ **A Cut in The Rates**

By Alan Ayckbourn

1 M 3 F

When Miss Pickhart visits Ratchet, an illusionist, at his home she discovers some dark, sinister secrets from his past. She is asked for help by Rosalinda's ghost, who died when they performed the saw-the-woman-in-half trick, but this means Miss Pickhart reliving that fateful night. Will she also meet a grim death?



❖ Extraordinary Revelations of Orca The Goldfish

By David Tristram

1 M 1 F

For Henry Smith life was rarely dull. For Alice Smith life was rarely anything else. Enter Michel - French waiter - tall, dark, and available. Exactly what happened next, no-one's quite sure.... A virtuoso piece for two talented and versatile actors - one female and one male - requiring minimal props and scenery and therefore ideal for festivals.

❖ Eminent Visitor

By Richard C Harris

4 M 2 F

Barry and Colleen run a small guest house in England's Derbyshire Peak District. Their web site states that a distinguished guest, Picasso, stayed there in nineteen fifty. They are delighted to find it actually attracts the occasional curious visitor. But a certain number are not all they seem. When Darren, a New Zealand art dealer and Hastings a London competitor both arrive at the same time, it is not a coincidence. Both have a different agenda than a peaceful stay in the country, and what of Barry and Colleen, simple country folk?

A delightful light-hearted play that is sure to please!

❖ A Jolly Sinister Jape

By Elliot Strange

2 M 2 F

Lord Stubbs, Biffy Trubshaw and his actress wife Ophelia are stranded by a collapsed bridge in a mysterious house in a thunderstorm. As romance blossoms, someone locks the front door, trapping the three unfortunates. Who else is in the house? A fast-moving, madcap comedy set in the 1920s with a liberal sprinkling of hilarious period slang, along with mystery and thrills.

❖ Anyone For Tennis?

By Gwyn Clark

2M 2 F

Amanda and George have an arrangement by which on alternative Wednesdays each leaves the other to indulge in his or her private dalliance. All goes well until an unfortunate circumstance upsets the timetable. As a result, the Wednesdays clash. Henry and Jane, the other partners, arrive on the same day. Keeping them apart causes complications. When Henry is concussed in the bathroom and finds himself on the bed clad only in a towel and attended to by both ladies, a convenient lapse of memory seems providential in saving a situation rendered even more tricky by the revelation that Jane and Henry are married. Just how genuine the lapse is may be questioned, but everything is carried off with perfect aplomb.

Comedy's you may like:

Par For The Course

By Peter Gordon

3 M 3 F

Captain's Day at the Seven Lakes Golf Club gets off to a bad start when the men's Captain is indisposed. Club secretary, Simon, relishes the chance to take over but is soon thwarted by the arrival of Vice Captain, Nick, and his girlfriend, Tiffany. Lady Captain, Fran, and enthusiastic but hopeless Barry add to the confusion as a series of disasters mount. With the unexpected arrival of Simon's wife, Laura, tensions build and things go from bad to worse.



Oh Clarence!

By John Chapman

8 M 5 F

A hilarious comedy based on one of P G Wodehouse's most famous characters Lord Emsworth, the dreamy peer of Blandings Castle. The delightful earl, as vague as ever, wants nothing more than to be allowed to potter around Blandings tending his roses and prize pig, the Empress. But his sister, Lady Constance, has other ideas and arranges a house party into which bursts Dame Daphne Winkworth, whom the Earl is urged, much against his will, to marry. He is further plagued by his vacuous son Freddie Threepwood, Rupert Bingham, a clumsy love-lorn curate and his arch enemy Sir Gregory Parsloe-Parsloe from whom Lord Emsworth unwittingly steals a priceless Egyptian scarab.

Up Pompeii

By Miles Tredinnick

6 M 5 F

Based on the original characters devised by Talbot Rothwell and Sid Colin for the Frankie Howerd BBC comedy, this hilarious romp through ancient Pompeii brings back all the television favourites in this full-length play seen on a national tour in 2011 starring Damian Williams as Lurcio, Senator Ludicrus Sextus's slave. As Lurcio attempts to deliver his prologue and begin proceedings, he's quickly caught up in the myriad of sexual liaisons in all quarters of his master's house. Why does Ludicrus not leave for the Senate meeting in Rome? Why does his wife return so quickly from the country? Who will take care of the escaped slave girl, Voluptua, and will Nausius's love poetry improve? Whilst growing chaos ensues, an increasing rumbling is heard in the distance - what could that possibly be? A riot from start to finish.

A Bunch of Amateurs

By Nick Newman

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"

Jail House Frocks

By Devon Williamson

2M 3 F

Dim-witted officer Dwayne's tranquil evening at the Birchwood County Police Station is shattered with the arrest of three unlikely women; the Mayor's wife, the local mad cat-lady, and a dangerous looking New Yorker. The already chaotic situation descends into mayhem with the arrival of a New York gangster, disguised as a FBI agent, hell-bent on exacting revenge on his wife. By the end of the night, the ladies have formed a gang, sung some songs, escaped from jail and locked the gangster up in their place, leaving Officer Dwayne wondering how on earth he managed to make the arrest of a lifetime.

Dracula: The Bloody Truth

By John Nicholson

4

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.

Sporting Plays:

Rugby League: Up and Under 1 & 2 by John Godber

Rugby: Penalties, Pints and Pirouettes by Neil Troost

Muddy Cows by John Godber

Cricket: The Final Test by Chris Paling

Outside Edge by Richard Harris

Netball: Bouncing Back by Gail Young

Golf: Fox on the Fairway by Ken Ludwig

Par for the Course by Peter Gordon

Death by Golf by Greg Kreutz

Getting Fit : Cheshire Cats by Gail Young

What's on around the Country

Title	Author	Group	Date
The Woman In Black	Stephen Mallatratt	Limelight Theatre Company	Feb 27 - Mar 09
Melancholy Play	Sarah Ruhl	Stagecraft Theatre Inc	Feb 27 - Mar 09
A Woman Alone	Dario Fo	Tauranga Repertory Society	Mar 08 - Mar 09
A Bunch of Amateurs	Nick Newman	Titirangi Theatre Inc	Mar 12 - Mar 23
Allo 'Allo	Jeremy Lloyd	Nelson Repertory Theatre	Mar 13 - Mar 16
The 39 Steps	Patrick Barlow	Theatre Hawkes Bay	Mar 21 - Mar 28
Dealer's Choice	Patrick Marber	R.O.B" D Productions	Mar 21 - Mar 30
Agnes Of God	John Pielmeier	Kat Glass Creative	Mar 21 - Mar 23
Watcher In The Shadow	Norman Holland	Te Aroha Dramatic Society	Mar 21 - Mar 30
Closure	Ron Blicq	Cambridge Repertory Society	Mar 23 - Apr 06
Punk Rock	Simon Stephens	Wellington High School	Mar 25 - Mar 28
5 Lesbians Eating a Quiche	Evan Linder	University of Canterbury Dramatic Society Inc	Mar 27 - Apr 06
The Irish Curse	Martin Casella	University of Canterbury Dramatic Society Inc	Mar 27 - Apr 06
The Lover	Harold Pinter	Oamaru Repertory Society Inc	Mar 28 - Mar 31
Ladies' Day	Amanda Whittington	Tauranga Repertory Society	Mar 29 - Apr 13
Frankenstein	Bo List	Hamilton Playbox	Mar 30 - Apr 13
To Kill A Mockingbird	Christopher Sergel	Mount Albert Grammar School	Apr 01 - Apr 04
Last Panto In Little Grimley	David Tristram	On-Stage Te Kuiti Inc	Apr 02 - Apr 06
Bookends	Scott Perry	Tokoroa Little Theatre	Apr 03 - Apr 07
The Gift Shop	Shona M Wilson	New Plymouth Little Theatre Society	Apr 03 - Apr 13
Sideways	Rex Pickett	Mana Little Theatre	Apr 03 - Apr 13
The Royal Hunt Of The Sun	Peter Shaffer	Wellington Repertory Theatre	Apr 03 - Apr 13
Stones In His Pockets	Marie Jones	Company Theatre	Apr 04 - Apr 13
Under Milk Wood	Dylan Thomas	New Plymouth Girls High School	Apr 04 - Apr 05

The God Of Carnage	Yasmina Reza	Bold Theatre	Apr 05 - Apr 13
Butterflies Are Free	Leonard Gershe	Foxton Little Theatre Soc Inc	Apr 05 - Apr 20
Snow White And The Seven Dwarfs	Tim Kelly	Alexandra Musical Society	Apr 09 - Apr 14
Muddy Cows	John Godber	Howick College	Apr 09 - Apr 12
A Servant To Two Masters	Lee Hall	Kristin School	Apr 09 - Apr 10
George's Marvellous Medicine	Roald Dahl	Clarence Street Theatre Trust	Apr 13 - Apr 18
The Ladykillers	Graham Lineham	Inglewood Dramatic Soc	Apr 15 - May 15
Calendar Girls	Tim Firth	Elmwood Players	Apr 17 - Apr 27
The Caucasian Chalk Circle	Alistair Beaton	Sacred Heart College	Apr 22 - Apr 27
See How They Run	Philip King	Whangarei Repertory Society (Octagon Theatre)	Apr 25 - May 12
Last Tango In Little Grimley	David Tristram	On-Stage Te Kuiti Inc	Apr 30 - May 04
Party Time	Harold Pinter	Carving in Ice	May 02 - May 07
Mountain Language	Harold Pinter	Carving in Ice	May 02 - May 07
Passing Strangers	Eric Chappel	Waiuku Theatre Group	May 03 - Jun 25
Black Coffee	Agatha Christie	Carmel College	May 04 - May 09
A Chorus Of Disapproval	Alan Ayckbourn	Canterbury Repertory Theatre	May 08 - May 18
The Father	Christopher Hampton	Otaki Players Society Inc	May 09 - May 18
Allo 'Allo	Jeremy Lloyd	Warkworth Theatre Group	May 15 - May 18
The Arsonists	Max Frisch	Christ's College	May 15 - May 17
Unoriginal Sin	David Tristram	Heather Giles (Brick Rd Productions)	May 22 - May 25
Beauty And The Beast	Vera Morris	Howick Childrens & Youth Theatre Inc	May 23 - May 26
Snow White And The Seven Dwarfs Of The Black Forest	June Walker Rogers	Howick Childrens & Youth Theatre Inc	May 25 - May 26