



# The Play Bureau Newsletter

## June 2019

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*Hello Everyone - some new exciting plays released in this issue and welcome to Trish Palmer, a new kiwi playwright and the latest Devon Williamson play – Murder on the Menu*

*In this issue:*

- *What's New*
- *New 1 act Plays*
- *Play Recommended*
- *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!!

#### Flemming – An American Thriller

By Sam Bobrick

Thriller

5 M 3 F

Bored by his privileged, but mundane life, Henry Flemming sells his lucrative brokerage firm to become a detective.

On his very first case, and to the horror of his wife, Karen, and his two crazy neighbours, Suzy and Stan, the Flemming living room begins to fill up with dead bodies. Karen is further annoyed when one of them turns out to be her father. Even though Henry keeps showing up at home every day more dishevelled and beaten up, he couldn't be happier. Henry is convinced he's found his life's work and Westport, Connecticut is safer for it.

#### Mockingbird

By Julie Jensen

Drama

3 M 3 F 3 either

Caitlin is an 11-year-old girl on the autism spectrum. Not all things make sense to her. Emotions are mysterious and voices are almost always too loud. Suddenly, she must grapple with the unthinkable: a mass shooting has taken her brother away. He was the one person who helped her cope. Now she is alone with her grieving father and a cacophony of children at school. She struggles to understand empathy, what facial expressions mean and why a drawing might have more than one colour. We see the world from Caitlin's point of view. We struggle as she does. We also take comfort in the times when she finds a friend, draws a multicoloured mockingbird and can finally cry for her brother.

#### As She Likes It

Drama

Edited by Karen Ruch

4 – 18 F

As She Likes It is an anthology of short plays that features women from Shakespeare's canon. The characters step outside of the male-dominated context of their original works, sometimes into another time and place. These familiar women from classic stories may have had muted voices in Shakespeare's plays, but here they take center stage to discuss the choices they have made and navigate the power structures that have controlled their lives. These plays offer great roles for women, opportunities for thoughtful scene study, educational exploration and a larger conversation about how these women's stories resonate in our current era.



## Murder on The Menu

Comedy

by Devon Williamson

3 M 5 F

Sophia has been conned into buying a derelict theatre. Now with crushing bank loan payments to make and no money, the jobless Sophia decides to defy the odds and dig her way out of her financial mess by reopening the theatre as a cafe. Her already dire situation worsens, when she soon discovers that the theatre is inhabited by the pompous ghosts of dead Shakespearean characters who are hell bent on keeping their home just as it is. By chance, Sophia discovers that the only way to get rid of the ghosts is to murder them as they were killed in their original plays. At Sophia's cafe, Murder is now on the menu.

## Writers' Runaround

Comedy

By Thomas Hischak

2 – 9 M 2- 9 F

The literary world is turned upside down in this funny and clever program of six comic playlets that allows for a wide variety of casting. Jane Austen, Ernest Hemingway, Dorothy Parker and Oscar Wilde argue about Star Wars and Harry Potter in a sports bar; Homer confronts his agent about his new epic poem; Edgar Allan Poe and Emily Dickinson meet through a computer dating service; a contemporary couple encounters literary nonsense in a library; and some historians learn details about Shakespeare's life by going through his trash.

## Ravenscroft

Mystery

By Don Nigro

1 m 5 F

This psychological drama is a thinking person's Gothic thriller, a dark comedy that is both funny and frightening. On a snowy night, Inspector Ruffing is called to a remote house to investigate the headlong plunge of Patrick Roarke down the main staircase. He becomes involved in the lives of five alluring and dangerous women: Marcy, the beautiful Viennese governess with a past; Mrs. Ravenscroft, the flirtatious lady of the manor; Gillian, her charming but possibly demented daughter; Mrs. French, the formidable and passionate cook, and Dolly, a terrified maid. They lead him through a bewildering labyrinth of contradictory versions of Patrick's demise and that of the late Mr. Ravenscroft. There are ghosts on the staircase, skeletons in the closet, and much more than the Inspector bargained for. His investigation leads into own tortured soul and the nature of truth itself. You will not guess the ending, but you will be teased, seduced, bewildered, amused, frightened and led to a dark encounter with truth or something even stranger

## Mary Page Marlowe

Drama

By Tracy Letts

6M 1 F 1 Girl

Mary Page Marlowe leads an unremarkable life. As an accountant in Ohio with two children, few would expect her life to be inordinately intricate or moving. In this sweeping but intimate play, Tracy Letts gives us a haunting portrait of a complex woman, demonstrating how a series of forgotten moments can add up to one memorable life.

Six actors portray the title character as she moves from age 12 to 69. Just as a family quilt is assembled piecemeal over time, "Mary Page Marlowe" is stitched together haphazardly as the story unfolds, leaving us to fill in the gaps and to try to ferret out connections that Mr. Letts intends us to infer.

## Amy and the Orphans

Dramatic Comedy

By Lindsey Ferrantino

4 M 2 F

A crowded car, 100 miles, three newly orphaned siblings, a chatty stranger, and a whopper of a family secret make for an extraordinarily uncomfortable road trip.

When their eighty-five-year-old father dies, sparring siblings Maggie and Jake must face a question: How to break the bad news to their sister Amy, who has Down syndrome and has lived in a state home for years? Along the way, the pair find out just how much they don't know about their family and each other. It seems only Amy knows who she really is.

## All The Fine Boys

Dramatic Comedy

By Erica Schmidt

2 M 2 F

Emily and Jenny, two fourteen-year-olds in suburban South Carolina in the eighties, are interested in exploring everything from junk food to sex. Their explorations lead them to two older men: Emily to Adam, a high school senior, and Jenny to Joseph, her father's twenty-eight-year-old friend from church. All the Fine Boys takes a hard look at the often painful and confusing transition into adulthood.

## The Outsiders

Drama

Adapted by Christopher Sergel

10 M 8 F

This entirely practical stage adaptation of S E Hinton's modern classic deals with real people, seen through the eyes of young Ponyboy, a Greaser on the wrong side of life, caught up in territorial battles between the have-it-made rich kids - the Socs - and his tough, underprivileged 'greaser' family and friends. Cherry, a beautiful Soc, comes to share a special sensitivity with Ponyboy as she discovers that he remembers poems and likes to watch sunsets. While the Socs appear to have everything, the only thing a Greaser has is his friends. As the sadness of sophistication begins to reach them and their battles and relationships reach a resolution, Ponyboy's dying friend, Johnny, sends him a last message...

## 1 Act Plays

### Sarah-Jane

Drama

By Trish Palmer

1 M 1 F

Sarah-Jane involves an elderly gentleman (EG) and a young woman (Sarah-Jane) relating the same story, each from their own perspective. The play takes the audience on a journey, covering contemporary issues, including adoption, society's view of relationships between elderly men and young girls, and the desire for connection.

A reclusive grandfather figure, a girl searching for her biological mother, their friendship, building a boat and a happy ending.

### The Dentist Bill

Drama

by June Allen

1 M 2 F ( can be all female)

It's a very expensive business going to the dentist. Imagine if your thoughts could be heard, while the Dentist has a conversation with you while they are working on your teeth. Imagine if you could get one back on the Dentists Bill!

### Ghosts in the Machine

Comedy

by Eric Coble

7 either

It begins after lunch on Melissa's phone. Someone she doesn't know is texting her looking for a drug hook-up. Soon, eight very different high-school kids are getting bizarre texts from numbers they don't recognize—budding romances, bitter rivalries, even violent threats. What's going on? And what if it's not people connecting with other people via their phones ... but phones trying to connect with other phones via their people? A one-act digital mystery for the mind and heart of the savvy texter.

### Swagger

Comedy

By Eric Coble

3 either

A momentary act of violence caught on camera destroys the lives of three people. Now they need to tell us their version of how it really went down. Jordan is a quiet, nerdy, almost eighth-grade graduate. Leela, bubbling and following her passion, has just opened her own clothing boutique near Jordan's school. And Daniel is an awkwardly sweet police officer on foot patrol in the neighbourhood. The three of them lead us through their lives, dreams and the snap decisions that led them to that fateful moment.



## Don't Forget about these recent releases:

Waiting For God by Michael Aitkens 4 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 8 M 4 F

Twitstorm by Chris England 5 M 1 F

The Revlon Girl by Neil Anthony Docking 5 F

A Bunch of Amateurs by Nick Newman/Ian Hislop 3 M 4 F

Dracula – the bloody truth by John Nicholson 4 M

## *What's On around the Country*

Title	Author	Group	Date
The Complete Works Of Wllm Shkspr (Abridged)	Adam Long	Nayland College	Jul 02 - Jul 04
Confusions	Alan Ayckbourn	Burnside High School	Jul 03 - Jul 04
Love And Information	Caryl Churchill	Burnside High School	Jul 03 - Jul 04
Art'	Yasmina Reza	Waiheke Theatre Company	Jul 04 - Jul 13
The Pied Piper	Anne Coulter Martens	Howick Childrens & Youth Theatre Inc	Jul 04 - Jul 07
The Glass Menagerie	Tennessee Williams	Cheeky Pukeko Productions	Jul 04 - Jul 06
Noddy	Enid Blyton	Mairangi Players Inc	Jul 05 - Jul 13
The Lion, The Witch And The Wardrobe	Joseph Robinette	Hamilton Playbox	Jul 05 - Jul 20
Twelve Angry Men	Sherman Sergal	Scots College	Jul 05 - Jul 06
Fin & Euba	Audrey Cefaly	Riccarton Players	Jul 08 - Jul 28
James And The Giant Peach	Roald Dahl/David Wood	Marlborough Childrens' and Youth Theatre	Jul 08 - Jul 11
Pinocchio	William Glennon	Hutt Repertory Theatre	Jul 08 - Jul 13
A Kind Of Alaska	Harold Pinter	New Plymouth Little Theatre Society	Jul 12 - Jul 20
The Dumb Waiter	Harold Pinter	New Plymouth Little Theatre Society	Jul 12 - Jul 20
Victoria Station	Harold Pinter	New Plymouth Little Theatre Society	Jul 12 - Jul 20
Albert Nobbs	Gordon Steel	Katikati Theatre Inc	Jul 20 - Jul 27

Relatively Speaking	Alan Ayckbourn	Te Aroha Dramatic Society	Jul 21 - Aug 03
The Wolves	Sarah Delappe	Cambridge High School	Jul 24 - Jul 25
Murder On The Nile	Agatha Christie	Shoreside Theatre Inc	Jul 25 - Aug 04
Steel Magnolias	Robert Harling	Whangarei Repertory Society (Octagon Theatre)	Jul 26 - Aug 10
Little Grimley Presents Strictly Sex Factor (On Ice)	David Tristram	Whangarei Repertory Society (Octagon Theatre)	Jul 26 - Aug 10
Haywire	Eric Chappell	Ashhurst Drama	Jul 26 - Jul 28
Deathtrap	Ira Levin	Evolution Theatre Company	Jul 26 - Aug 10
First Person Shooter	Don Zolidis	Otamatea Repertory Theatre Inc	Jul 27 - Jul 28
Death And The Maiden	Ariel Dorfman	The Real Theatre Company	Jul 31 - Aug 04
Calendar Girls	Tim Firth	The Stagedoor	Jul 31 - Aug 03
Moonlight and Magnolias	Ron Hutchison	Dolphin Theatre Inc	Aug 01 - Aug 17
And Then There Were None	Agatha Christie	The Butterfly Creek Theatre Troupe Inc	Aug 01 - Aug 10
Lux in Tenebris	Bertolt Brecht	University of Otago- Theatre Studies	Aug 01 - Aug 02
Haunted Through Lounge And Recessed Dining Nook At Farndale Castle	David McGillivray	Feilding Little Theatre Players Inc	Aug 02 - Aug 17
Fifteen Minute Hamlet	Tom Stoppard	Logan Park High School	Aug 03 - Aug 04
Black Comedy	Peter Shaffer	Wellington Repertory Theatre	Aug 06 - Aug 10
Spring Storm	Tennessee Williams	Waiuku College	Aug 07 - Aug 08
Is The Real You Really You?	John Tobias	Elmwood Players	Aug 08 - Aug 17
When The Wind Blows	Raymond Briggs	Tauranga Repertory Society	Aug 09 - Aug 10
The Murder Room	Jack Sharkey	Waipukurau Dramatic Soc - Little Theatre	Aug 12 - Aug 24
The Night Shift	Mark Murphy	Suitcase Theatre	Aug 14 - Aug 17
Steel Magnolias	Robert Harling	Company Theatre	Aug 17 - Aug 31
Art'	Yasmina Reza	Titirangi Theatre Inc	Aug 20 - Aug 31
Love And Information	Caryl Churchill	Marcellin College	Aug 21 - Aug 22
Our Town ( 2013 version)	Thornton Wilder	John Paul College	Aug 26 - Aug 27

The Lion, The Witch And The Wardrobe	Glyn Robbins	Aimee Goddard	Aug 30 - Sep 02
Allo 'Allo	Jeremy Lloyd	Matamata Dramatic	Sep 01 - Sep 14
Neighbourhood Watch	Alan Ayckbourn	Howick Little Theatre	Sep 07 - Sep 28
The Ladykillers	Graham Lineham	Rosmini College	Sep 10 - Sep 12
An Inspector Calls	J.B. Priestley	St Kevins College	Sep 12 - Sep 13
One Man, Two Guvnors	Richard Bean	Remarkable Theatre	Sep 12 - Sep 21
Twelve Angry Men	Reginald Rose	Mairangi Players Inc	Sep 13 - Sep 21
Last Panto In Little Grimley	David Tristram	Whangarei Repertory Society (Octagon Theatre)	Sep 13 - Sep 28
Orpheus Descending	Tennessee Williams	Unitec New Zealand	Sep 13 - Sep 21
The Resistible Rise Of Arturo Ui	Bertolt Brecht	Freyberg High School	Sep 13 - Sep 14
Go Back For Murder	Agatha Christie	Dolphin Theatre Inc	Sep 19 - Oct 05
Find Me	Olwen Wymark	Burnside High School	Sep 25 - Sep 26
The Pillowman	Martin Mcdonagh	Invercargill Repertory	Oct 02 - Oct 05
Be My Baby	Amanda Whittington	Elmwood Players	Oct 02 - Oct 12
M*A*S*H	Tim Kelly	Casnova Productions	Oct 03 - Oct 12
Once In A Lifetime	Moss Hart	Howick Childrens & Youth Theatre Inc	Oct 04 - Oct 07
Extremities	William Mastrosimone	Mana Little Theatre	Oct 09 - Oct 19
Good Morning Bill	P G Wodehouse	Khandallah Arts Theatre	Oct 10 - Oct 19
Dial M For Murder	Frederick Knott	Hamilton Playbox	Oct 12 - Oct 26
Vernon God Little	DBC Pierre	Basement Company	Oct 22 - Oct 26
Lemons Lemons Lemons Lemons Lemons	Sam Steiner	Odyssey Productions	Oct 22 - Oct 26
DNA	Dennis Kelly	Mount Aspiring College	Oct 23 - Oct 24
Animal Farm	Nelson Bond	Macleans College	Oct 30 - Nov 01