



The Play Bureau Newsletter

February 2021

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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 you also need to advertise that you have the rights by acknowledging the principal License holder and our agency.

If unsure, please ask.

Warm Regards Helen

Welcome to 2021

I hope everyone had a great break and is rearing to go in 2021 Covid willing! Lots of great plays booked as we all press on with bated breath. Well done everyone for last year, a real challenge and an organisational nightmare to keep up to date with the constant changes. If you still have a postponed booking from last year, and decide not to carry on, please let us know as we need to cancel further up the line.

HOT OFF THE PRESS!!

What's new:

Puffs (One and 2 act versions) by Matt Cox 5 M 5 F 1 either
The New York Times proclaims PUFFS, "A FAST-PACED ROMP through the 'Seven Increasingly Eventful Years at a Certain School of Magic and Magic.' For POTTERphiliacs who grew up alongside Potter and are eager to revisit that world, 'PUFFS' exudes a jovial, winking fondness for all things Harry!"

This clever and inventive play "never goes more than a minute without a laugh" (Nerdist) giving you a new look at a familiar adventure from the perspective of three potential heroes just trying to make it through a magic school that proves to be very dangerous for children. Alongside them are the Puffs, a group of well-meaning, loyal outsiders with a thing for badgers "who are so lovable and relatable, you'll leave the theatre wishing they were in the stories all along" (Hollywood Life). Their "hilariously heartfelt!" (Metro) and epic journey takes the classic story to new places and reimagines what a boy wizard hero can be.

Treasure Island by LeNavet Bete / John Nicholson 4 M

Fourteen-year-old Jim Hawkins is serving ale in The Admiral Benbow Inn when suddenly the door slams open and in strides Billy Bones, the infamous pirate, to change Jim's life forever&

Soon, Jim finds himself on board The Jolly Todger and setting sail on the high seas. Alongside him, the crew includes Captain Birdseye, Black Dog, Blue Peter, the one-legged Long John Silver, and a parrot called Alexa and their destination: a mysterious tropical paradise in the Caribbean named Treasure Island. Or Skeleton Island. Depends who you ask.

This riotously chaotic adaptation of Robert Louis Stevenson's beloved Treasure Island is a collaboration between John Nicholson (The Hound of the Baskervilles) and the physical-comedy theatre company Le Navet Bete, with their four actors playing dozens of characters.



Fury by Phoebe Éclair-Powell

2 M 3 F

A chilling and powerful modern Medea about motherhood and class, taking an unapologetic look at the single young mum, the one already judged before she's even opened her mouth.

This is Sam. Young, impulsive, single mum. Londoner born and bred and never ever left. Sam makes her mistakes, but who can blame her?

Tom rents the flat above, the one Sam cleans. If they can come to 'an arrangement' he won't call the Social on her. You might think Tom is a monster. You might think Sam's kids would be better off without her. Someone needs to make a decision.

The Worst Witch by Emma Reeves, Jill Murphy, Luke Potter 10 F

Mildred Hubble is an ordinary girl who found herself in an extraordinary place: a school for witches. Now in her final year at Miss Cackle's Academy, accident prone Mildred and her fellow pupils are about to embark on their biggest adventure yet...

When Mildred and her friends decide to put on a play about their experiences as witches in training, mayhem inevitably ensues. Jealous Ethel Hallow is always out to spoil Mildred's fun. Stern Miss Hardbroom is opposed to all fun in general. Worst of all, an old enemy returns with a plan for revenge that could threaten not just the Academy, but the whole world

Night Witches by Rachel Bublitz 10 – 18 F

The Night Witches of the 588th Night Bomber Regiment flew in planes made of canvas and wood, and they dropped bombs on Germans every 15 minutes through the night to keep their enemy from sleeping. They were constantly being shuffled and moved to perform new duties; mechanics became navigators, navigators became pilots, and pilots became commanders. Nina and Vera have just finished their training as navigators and are moments away from their first combat mission. As they fight their nerves, the women around them use different means of bolstering their spirits, some more successfully than others. But when the time comes, to the sky they must go. Tonight, however, is different than any night they've faced before—their enemy has employed a new tactic taking them completely by surprise. Using movement, song and lyrically styled dialogue, we follow these brave women through one fateful evening during the war.

Cries in the Night by Paul Elliott 3 f 3 M

Vickie and Neal are starting over again after the death of their 5-year-old son, Bobby, in a drowning accident. Moving to a new town and a new home, they try to rebuild their lives. But at night, Vickie begins hearing a child crying in the darkness. Is she having a nervous breakdown again, is Bobby trying to reach her, or is some other child actually trapped within the walls of their house? What she finds is even more terrifying than anyone could imagine. Cries in the Night deals with the impact of early childhood experiences on our lives and afterlives, all couched in a ghost story for the stage that should chill even the most stalwart audience member.

UPDATED:

Cinderella – A Girl of Today by Julia Banks cast 13 +

This delightful pantomime has been updated again to the year 2021. The classic story with a modern twist, this panto has been very popular and ready for another outing. Adults and Children love it, can be done on a restricted budget, add your own songs

My Husbands Nuts – by Devon Williamson 2 m 3F

Barbara's husband is missing on the family farm. When Jack finally returns he is a nervous wreck and will not leave the house... he is suffering from Agriphobia (the fear of agriculture)... and is convinced that he is Hiroo Onoda - a Japanese soldier holding out on an island after World War Two. Barbara's husband is nuts. The only people she can trust with this information is the new vet and the village idiot. How will they restore Jack's mind without the help of the medical profession ...or common sense?

This is a great rural kiwiana play, fits well especially for smaller groups

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:

Remember these Ones:

Thriller:

The Revival by James Cawood 5 M 3 F

The cast of Lucian O'Keefe's 1946 classic ghost play Scared to Death are gathered and ready for their final dress rehearsal before opening night but all is not going smoothly. Actors are bickering, one of them can't learn their lines, the director is on the edge of a nervous breakdown and to top it all off, the ghostly happenings of the play seem to be encroaching onto the real world.

Slowly but surely fear takes hold as tales of the play's curse seem to hold true and the cast find themselves caught up in an all too real, spine-tingling and terrifying ghost story.

Monologue:

My Left Nut by Michael Patrick & Oisín Kearney 1 M

400 millilitres. That's how much liquid was drained from Michael's left testicle when he was a teenager. That's more than a can of coke. He should have told someone sooner, but who could he turn to? His dad died ten years ago and besides, school is full of rumours about what the giant bulge in his trousers actually is. Who wants to stop that?


A true coming of age comedic play about Belfast, masculinity, friendship, family, love, grief and testicles.

Dark Comedy

The Cat's Mother: by Erica Murray 3 F

Ciara's younger sister, Sinead, arrives at her door on Friday evening all set for what Ciara thinks will be a weekend of respite from caring for their mother, Eileen. However, unbeknownst to Ciara, Sinead has alternative ideas about how the weekend will pan out. And it is not what Ciara expected...





Over the long weekend, the sisters are forced to make a choice that will affect their lives forever. Ciara seeks guidance from a variety of other characters often gaining hilarious insight, but does it help them reach their final decision?

Oh, and there's also the small matter of the family cat...

The Cat's Mother is a laugh-out-loud dark Irish comedy asking how far are you willing to go for your own family? And what happens when you have to care for the person who should be caring for you?

Comedy

Silver Lining by Sandi Toksvig

6 F 1 M

On one dark and stormy night in the upper day room of the Silver Retirement Home, five elderly women are trading stories of their remarkable (or sometimes unremarkable) lives. With the storm floods rising and no rescue team in sight, the ladies are faced with the sudden realisation that in order to survive they are going to have to do what they have done for their entire lives - do it themselves!

Silver Lining is a hilarious comedy by Sandi Toksvig. It tells the tale of a group of extraordinary yet forgotten women, who come together one treacherous night to recreate The Great Escape - senior-citizen style.

Comedy

Native Gardens by Karen Zacarias

2 M 2 F

Pablo, a high-powered lawyer, and doctoral candidate Tania, his very pregnant wife, are realizing the American dream when they purchase a house next door to community stalwarts Virginia and Frank. But a disagreement over a long-standing fence line soon spirals into an all-out war of taste, class, privilege, and entitlement. The hilarious results guarantee no one comes out smelling like a rose.

1 ACT PLAYS FOR SMALL CASTS:

❖ **Bang, You're Dead**

By Paul Reakes

3 M 2 F

Lydia and her boyfriend Marcus rehearse the murder of Theo, Lydia's husband, which they are to commit that evening. When the victim and 'perfect witness' arrive all goes according to plan except that Marcus kills Lydia. A ghastly mistake - or are there some deviations from the original plot? In reality Marcus is Theo's boyfriend and Lydia the intended victim all along.

❖ **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.

❖ Distinguished Guest

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.

❖ The Dentist Bill

By June Allen

1 m 2 F

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!

What's on around the Country – Covid Permitting!

Title	Author	Group	Date
The Cagebirds	David Campton	Waihi Drama Society	Mar 04 - Mar 07
Witness For The Prosecution	Agatha Christie	South Canterbury Drama League Inc	Mar 05 - Mar 12
Fantastic Mr Fox	Roald Dahl	Performing Arts Taumarunui	Mar 11 - Mar 14
Love From A Stranger	Agatha Christie / Frank Vosper	Cambridge Repertory Society	Mar 13 - Mar 27
Get Smart	Mel Brooks	Hamilton Playbox	Mar 13 - Mar 27
The Glass Menagerie	Tennessee Williams	Friends of the Globe Theatre	Mar 17 - Mar 27
Love on the Beach	Raymond Hopkins	Inglewood Dramatic Soc	Mar 17 - Mar 27
Iron	Rona Munro	A Little Box At The Top Of The Stairs Productions	Mar 18 - Mar 20
Pool (No Water)	Mark Ravenhill	One Question Theatre	Mar 18 - Mar 20
The Father	Christopher Hampton	Country Players Inc	Mar 19 - Mar 27
Two	Jim Cartwright	Sahara Breeze Ltd	Mar 22 - Mar 26
My Husbands Nuts	Devon Williamson	Theatre Hawkes Bay	Mar 24 - Apr 03
Captain Corelli's Mandolin	Louis de Bernieres/ Munro	Wellington Repertory Theatre	Mar 31 - Apr 10
Wait Until Dark	Frederick Knott	Foxton Little Theatre Soc Inc	Apr 02 - Apr 17
Girls Like That	Evan Placey	Rotorua Girls High School	Apr 07 - Apr 08
Little Women	Emma Reeves	St. Marys College	Apr 12 - Apr 13
Puffs (Two Act for Young Wizards)	Matt Cox	Birkenhead College	Apr 14 - Apr 17
Brassed Off	Paul Allen	Porirua Little Theatre Inc	Apr 14 - Apr 24
Melancholy Play	Sarah Ruhl	University of Otago- Theatre Studies Programme	Apr 15 - Apr 16
Steel Magnolias	Robert Harling	Evolution Theatre Company	Apr 15 - Apr 25
Love And Information	Caryl Churchill	Taieri College	Apr 15 - Apr 16
Calendar Girls	Tim Firth	Levin Little Theatre	Apr 16 - May 01

The Crazy Cowgirls of Pemberley Ranch	Jon Jury	Whangarei Repertory Society (Octagon Theatre)	Apr 16 - May 02
Last Tango In Little Grimley	David Tristram	Cambridge Repertory Society	Apr 17 - Apr 18
T/V Thriller	Phoebe M Rees	Cambridge Repertory Society	Apr 17 - Apr 18
The Boys In The Band	Mart Crowley	Riccarton Players	Apr 21 - May 01
No Sex Please, We're British	Anthony Marriott	Casnova Productions	Apr 22 - May 01
Witches Of Prestwick	Joe Graham	Opunake Players	Apr 22 - May 01
Equus	Peter Shaffer	Napier Theatre Company	Apr 23 - May 01
I'Li Be Back Before Midnight	Peter Colley	Thames Music & Drama Inc.	Apr 24 - May 01
A Kind Of Justice	Margaret Wood	Friends of the Globe Theatre	May 06 - May 16
Menopause Made Me Do It	Devon Williamson	Morrinsville Little Theatre	May 06 - May 15
Blue Stockings	Jessica Swale	Howick Childrens & Youth Theatre Inc	May 06 - May 09
Death By Golf	Gregg Kreutz	Taieri Dramatic Society Inc	May 07 - May 16
The Girl On The Train	Rachel Wagstaff & Duncan Abel	Howick Little Theatre	May 08 - May 29
The Gingerbread House In The Forest	Anne Coulter Martens	Howick Childrens & Youth Theatre Inc	May 08 - May 09
The Flint Street Nativity	Tim Firth	Mount Roskill Grammar School	May 12 - May 15
A Respectable Wedding	Bertolt Brecht	Friends of the Globe Theatre	May 13 - May 16
Cat On A Hot Tin Roof	Tennessee Williams	Company Theatre	May 14 - May 29
Love And Information	Caryl Churchill	University of Canterbury Dramatic Society Inc	May 14 - May 15
Find Me	Olwen Wymark	Rutherford College	May 19 - May 21
The Revival	James Cawood	Dolphin Theatre Inc	May 28 - Jun 12