



The Play Bureau Newsletter

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Hello Everyone - some exciting new plays released in this newsletter.

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Kind Regards

Helen

'The Mousetrap' is available to License once again and celebrates 70 years next year!

What's New?

HOT OFF THE PRESS!!

(For Devon Williamson fans)

Mad Sisters

By Devon Williamson

Comedy

6 F

Daphne adores her sister Anne. To Daphne, Anne is beautiful, successful and smart - all the things Daphne longs to be. Anne on the other hand wants nothing to do with her sister and is intent on working her way into a small clique of indulgent and pretentious wealthy women. When Daphne's wacky friends convince her she can be like Anne if she tries, Daphne sets off on a madcap adventure to do the impossible and win her sister's acceptance

Art Heist

Poltergeist Theatre

Comedy/Thriller

Three Thieves break into the same gallery on the same night.

They're all intent on stealing the same extremely valuable painting.

They're bound to meet, and it's bound to get messy.

15 Heroines (15 monologues from Ovid)

By Various

Drama

15 F

Two thousand years ago, the Roman poet Ovid gave voice to a group of inspirational women – queens, sorcerers, pioneers, poets and politicians – in a series of fictional letters called The Heroines. They were the women left in the wake of those swaggering heroes of classical mythology: Theseus, Hercules, Ulysses, Jason, Achilles...

Now, drawing inspiration from Ovid, fifteen leading female and non-binary British playwrights dramatise the lives of these fifteen heroines in a series of new monologues for the twenty-first century.

This volume contains 15 monologues in three complementary groups (The War, The Desert, The Labyrinth) - enough material for three complete productions. The monologues can also be performed individually, or in any combination.

Swive (Elizabeth)

By Ella Hickson

Period Drama

2 F 2 M (specified Doubling)

Elizabeth I is the only unmarried woman to have ever ruled England. And she reigned for forty-four years. Mastermind. Seductress. Survivor.

Created by award-winning writer Ella Hickson and director Natalie Abrahami, *Swive [Elizabeth]* shines a light on the ways and means by which women in power negotiate patriarchal pressure in order to get their way.

Little Wars

By Steven Carl McCasland

Drama

7 F

A dinner party during the Second World War unites celebrated writers Agatha Christie, Lillian Hellman, Dorothy Parker, Gertrude Stein and Alice B. Toklas – with a mysterious guest. With copious booze flowing, acid-tongued barbs flying, and the threat of global conflict looming, the guests – and the world around them – are close to boiling point. Everyone has a confession. Someone has a secret. Set in the French Alps in 1940, Steven Carl McCasland's *Little Wars* is an enthralling, entertaining and ultimately moving portrait of seven exceptional women – and a thrilling fiction based on truth.

The Welkin (rights now available)

By Lucy Kirkwood

Period Drama

13 – 16 F 2 – 4 M

Rural Suffolk, 1759. As the country waits for Halley's Comet, Sally Poppy is sentenced to hang for a heinous murder. When she claims to be pregnant, a jury of twelve matrons are taken from their housework to decide whether she's telling the truth, or simply trying to escape the noose.

With only midwife Lizzy Luke prepared to defend the girl, and a mob baying for blood outside, the matrons wrestle with their new authority, and the devil in their midst.

YOUTH PLAYS

(Marvel Spotlight Plays)

Squirrel Girl Goes To College

By Karen Zacarias

Adventure

1 m 3F 14 either

Doreen Green secretly possesses the powers of a squirrel... and the powers of a girl! She uses her amazing abilities to fight crime and to be as awesome as possible! You know her as the Unbeatable Squirrel Girl!

Hammered: A Thor and Loki Play

by Christian Borle

Adventure

9 M 6 F 5 either

One is the Norse God of Thunder, Master of the Storm, Lord of the Living Lightning, and heir to the throne of eternal Asgard. The other born of a Frost Giant, but now the Norse God of Mischief. Yet they are brothers, and together they are... The Mighty Thor and Loki.

Mirror of Most Value: A Ms Marvel Play

By Masi Asare

Adventure

8 F 4 M 10 either

When a strange Terrigen Mist descended upon Jersey City, Kamala Khan was imbued with polymorphic powers. Her life was changed forever and so were the lives of her family and friends. Using her newfound abilities to fight evil and protect Jersey City, she became the all new Ms. Marvel!

Among The Thugs


by Tom Szentgyorgyi

Drama

10 M

Among the Thugs follows the adventures of Bill, an American writer in England, as he explores the world of soccer hooligans, 'the lads,' whose explosions of violence have fascinated and shocked onlookers for years. Setting himself the task of understanding why young men in England riot and pillage in the name of sports fandom, Bill Travels deep into a culture both horrific and hilarious. His journey takes him from the pubs of





London to the stadiums of northern England and the streets of Europe Along the way Bill gets to know the lads - Steamin' Sammy: Roy Downes, recently out of prison, who surveys an assemblage of thugs 'like a general inspecting his troops' and Mick, Bill's first guide to hooliganism, an epic drinker and 'quite simply the most repellent human being I'd ever seen in my life 'In their company, Bill witnesses acts of violence so brutal and senseless they seem like real-life examples of the ultraviolence practiced by Alex and his droogs in A clockwork Orange But rather than being repelled by the thugs' casual viciousness, Bill is fascinated, and; his investigation draws him ever further into the hooligan's world Weeks of research turn into months, and then years The act of observing begins to turn into something more sinister, as Bill begins to uncover some dark truths about the lads and himself.

The Night Witches

By Rachel Bublitz

Drama

11 – 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.

Bright. Young. Things.

By Georgia Christou

Dramatic Comedy

7 F 8 either

On a reality television show, six remarkable – and remarkably young – geniuses are competing for the coveted Golden Brain trophy and the title 'Britain's Brainiest Child'. As the contestants battle it out round after round, the pressure mounts, the spotlight gets harsher, and each is faced with questions they were never expecting. Who will win and who will lose – and what exactly does winning mean anyway?

Stuff

By Tom Wells

Drama

5 F 4 M

Vinny's organising a surprise birthday party for his mate, Anita. It's not going well: his choice of venue is a bit misguided, Anita's not keen on leaving the house, and everyone else has their own stuff going on. Maybe a surprise party wasn't the best idea?

Tom Wells's Stuff is a play about friendship and loss – and the way people try to do the right thing for their mates when there isn't really a right thing to do.

Written specifically for young people, the play formed part of the 2019 National Theatre Connections Festival and was premiered by youth theatres across the UK. It offers rich opportunities for an ensemble cast of teenagers.

Skungpoomery

By Ken Campbell adapted Anita Page

Romp

5 M 3 F

From the imaginative, inordinately clever mind of one of London's most highly regarded fringe playwrights comes this delightful play which gained overwhelming acclaim when presented at the celebrated Emperimenta Funf festival in Frankfurt, Germany.

"Skungpoomery, which means 'thinking up words and doing them,' is a manic, anarchic, iconoclastic romp whose humour is buttressed with pratfall's, wild chases, absurd disguises, and split-second gymnastics, and whose more or less serious point - that conventional language stifles invention and creativity - is made easily digestible by liberal helpings of gut-busting laughter."

Other Youth Plays:

The Bomb-itty of Errors

By Jordan Allen-Dutton & Jason Catalano

Comedy with Music

4 m or 4 F

The Bomb-itty of Errors is an award-winning Ad-Rap-Tation, hip-hop theatre retelling of Shakespeare's The Comedy of Errors. The show lasts one hour and thirty minutes and is part play and part rap concert. Refreshingly current but retaining the integrity of the original.

Puffs (1 act and 2 act available for young Wizards)

by Matt Cox

Comedy

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. ‘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!’

Chaos

by Laura Lomas

Drama

Flexible

A girl is locked in a room. A boy brings another boy flowers. A girl has tied herself to a railing. A boy doesn't know who he is. A girl worries about impending catastrophe. A woman jumps in front of a train. A boy's heart falls out his chest. A butterfly has a broken wing. Laura Lomas's play *Chaos* is a symphony of dislocated and interconnected scenes. A series of characters search for meaning in a complicated and unstable world. Bouncing through physics, the cosmos, love and violence, they find order in the disorder of each other.

Written specifically for young people, the play formed part of the 2019 National Theatre Connections Festival and was premiered by youth theatres across the UK. It offers opportunities for a large, flexible cast of any size or mix of genders, and can incorporate chorus work, movement and music.

When They Go Low

by Natalie Mitchell

Drama

3- 4 M 6 – 10 F

When social media goes into a frenzy over pictures of a girl at a party, Louise's teacher lectures all the schoolgirls on taking more responsibility for their actions. Enraged that it's them getting reprimanded – and not the boys who took the pictures – Louise wages war on the school's systemic misogyny. But when she threatens popular boy Scott, risking his claim to the School Captain title, things escalate horribly; a website appears, objectifying the girls and shaming them for their actions.

Natalie Mitchell's play *When They Go Low* explores everyday feminism, consent and the changing face of teenage sexuality in an online world. Is it always true that 'when they go low', we should go high?

Sparkleshark

By Philip Ridley

Drama

6 M 3 F

The play opens with fourteen year old Jake taking refuge on the roof of a tower block in order to write his stories. He is a victim, the classroom 'geek'; bullied by the other boys and avoided by the girls. Before long seven other young people join him and an eighth can be heard offstage. These young people are the natural stereotypes that any group of people, particularly in school, tends to produce - the bully, the geek, Mr Cool, the Victim, the 'wannabes'. As soon as they discover Jake, the taunting begins and although at first he endeavours to hide he learns to fight back in the only way he knows how - storytelling. Soon the whole group is enmeshed in the story, enacting a fantastic tale that resonates with the dynamics of their own friendships and enmities.





Great for the Blokes:

Treasure Island

By John Nicholson & Le Navet Bete

Comedy

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.

Dracula: The Bloody Truth

By John Nicholson & Le Navet Bete

Comedy

4M

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 Mystery of Irma Vep

By Charles Ludlam

Comedy

2 M

The definitive Gothic melodrama written to be performed as a quick-change act in which two actors perform all the roles. A sympathetic werewolf, a vampire and an Egyptian Princess brought to life when they open her tomb make this the play that has everything. This American award-winning romp was cited by 'Time' magazine and 'New York Times' as one of the best plays of its year.

Queers: Eight Monologues (new)

by Mark Gatiss and Various

Drama LGBT

6 M 2 F

A young soldier returning from the trenches of the First World War recalls a love that dare not speak its name. Almost one hundred years later, a groom-to-be prepares for his gay wedding. *Queers* celebrates a century of evolving social attitudes and political milestones in British gay history, as seen through the eyes of eight individuals.

Poignant and personal, funny, tragic and riotous, these eight monologues for male and female performers cover major events – such as the Wolfenden Report of 1957, the HIV/AIDS crisis, and the debate over the age of consent – through deeply affecting and personal rites-of-passage stories.

These eight monologues can be licensed for performance together as a full-length show, individually, or in any combination.

Dear Lupin

By Roger and Charlie Mortimer

Drama

2 M

Michael Simkins' immensely charming stage adaptation of Dear Lupin, the witty and touching collection of letters from a father to his son that became a huge bestseller, winner of The Sunday Times Humour Book of the Year.

Roger Mortimer's hilarious, touching, and always generous letters to his son, Charlie, are packed with crisp anecdotes and sharp observations. Spanning twenty-five years, their correspondence forms a memoir of their relationship, and an affectionate portrait of a time gone by.

Neville's Island

By Tim Firth

Comedy

4 M

Four out-of-condition, middle aged businessmen sent off on a team building exercise in the Lake District succeed in being the first people ever to get shipwrecked on an island on Derwentwater. Bound in by fog, menaced by the wildlife and cut off from the world, this perfunctory middle-class exercise turns into a carnival of recrimination, French cricket and sausages. What should have been a bonding process for Gordon, Angus, Roy and Neville turns into a muddy, bloody fight for survival.

Play Bureau Picks - Other Plays you may like:

The Revlon Girl by Neil Anthony Docking

Tiny Beautiful Things by Nia Vardalos

Native Gardens by Karen Zacarias

Waiting For God by Michael Aiken



What's On around the Country

Title	Author	Group	Date
The Revival	James Cawood	Dolphin Theatre Inc	Jun 03 - Jun 19
Popcorn	Ben Elton	Wellington Repertory Theatre	Jun 09 - Jun 19
This Is A Test	Stephen Gregg	Palmerston North Girls High School	Jun 10 - Jun 11
Ernie's Incredible Illucinations	Alan Ayckbourn	New Plymouth Girls High School	Jun 10 - Jun 11
Move Over Mrs Markham	Ray Cooney	Hamilton Playbox	Jun 12 - Jun 26
Duets	Peter Quilter	Cambridge Repertory Society	Jun 12 - Jun 26
Between Mouthfuls	Alan Ayckbourn	Katikati Theatre Inc	Jun 15 - Jun 20
The Fat Lady Sings In Little Grimley	David Tristram	On-Stage Te Kuiti Inc	Jun 15 - Jun 19
Lockdown in Little Grimley	David Tristram	On-Stage Te Kuiti Inc	Jun 15 - Jun 19
Remember Me	Jean Mc Connell	Katikati Theatre Inc	Jun 15 - Jun 20
Murdered To Death	Peter Gordon	Mana Little Theatre	Jun 16 - Jun 26
DNA	Dennis Kelly	Saint Kentigern College	Jun 21 - Jun 22
Witness For The Prosecution	Agatha Christie	Rotorua Little Theatre Society Inc	Jun 23 - Jul 03
Temptation Sordid Or Virtue Rewarded	Winifred Phelps	Matamata Dramatic Society	Jun 23 - Jun 27
It Runs In The Family	Ray Cooney	The Butterfly Creek Theatre Troupe Inc	Jun 24 - Jul 03
Shirley Valentine	Willy Russell	Oamaru Repertory Society Inc	Jun 25 - Jul 10
Poppy Day	Val Franklin	Saint Patrick's College	Jun 29 - Jun 30
The Trial	Steven Berkoff	Botany Downs Secondary College	Jun 29 - Jun 30
Rhinoceros	Eugene Ionesco	FOPS Theatre - Massey University	Jun 30 - Jul 03
The Glass Menagerie	Tennessee Williams	Evolution Theatre Company	Jul 01 - Jul 11
She Kills Monsters	Qui Nguyen	Stagecraft Theatre Inc	Jul 01 - Jul 10
Girls Like That	Evan Placey	Christchurch Girls High School	Jul 01 - Jul 02
Alice In Wonderland	Anne Coulter Martens	Rangitoto College	Jul 01 - Jul 03
Private Lives	Noel Coward	South Canterbury Drama League Inc	Jul 02 - Jul 09
Under Milk Wood (The Definitive Edition)	Dylan Thomas	Whangarei Repertory Society (Octagon Theatre)	Jul 02 - Jul 18
The Bespoke Overcoat	Wolf Mankowitz	Havelock Theatre Company Inc	Jul 03 - Jul 04

DNA	Dennis Kelly	Cambridge High School	Jul 05 - Jul 08
Decade	Various	Saint Kentigern College	Jul 05 - Jul 06
Sparkleshark	Philip Ridley	Rangitoto College	Jul 07 - Jul 08
Twelve Angry Men	Reginald Rose	Burnside High School	Jul 07 - Jul 08
The Skin Of Our Teeth	Thornton Wilder	Ara Institute of Canterbury	Jul 07 - Jul 10
Hidden Meanings	Michael Snelgrove	Reefton ROARS	Jul 08 - Jul 17
Neighbourhood Watch	Alan Ayckbourn	Tauranga Repertory Society	Jul 09 - Jul 24
Twelve Angry Women	Sherman Sergal	Stage Centre Drama School	Jul 12 - Jul 13
The Hound Of The Baskervilles	Steven Canny	Porirua Little Theatre Inc	Jul 14 - Jul 24
Popcorn	Ben Elton	Offbeat Theatre Company	Jul 15 - Jul 25
Hi-De-Hi!	Paul Carpenter	Casnova Productions	Jul 15 - Jul 24
100	Christopher Heinmann	Napier Repertory Players	Jul 16 - Jul 31
Charlotte's Web	Joseph Robinette	Howick Childrens & Youth Theatre Inc	Jul 22 - Jul 25
The Jailhouse Frocks	Devon Williamson	Aubyn Live Theatre Inc	Jul 22 - Jul 31
Party Time	Harold Pinter	Northcote College	Jul 23 - Jul 29
Twelve Angry Women	Sherman Sergal	Waikato Diocesan School For Girls	Jul 27 - Jul 28
Blood Brothers	Willy Russell	Burnside High School	Jul 28 - Jul 29
The Mousetrap	Agatha Christie	Shoreside Theatre Inc	Jul 29 - Aug 08
The Complete Works of William Shakespeare (abridged) (Revised)	Adam Long Daniel Singer Jess Winfield	Manukau Performing Arts	Jul 30 - Aug 07
Lockdown in Little Grimley	David Tristram	Clyde Theatre Group	Jul 31 - Aug 01
The Government Inspector	Nikolai Gogol	Mount Albert Grammar School	Aug 02 - Aug 06
The Pillowman	Martin McDonagh	TAT Productions	Aug 03 - Aug 07
Tiny Beautiful Things	Nia Vardalos	Howick Little Theatre	Aug 04 - Aug 07
Cacophony	Molly Taylor	John Paul College	Aug 05 - Aug 06
Spider's Web	Agatha Christie	Dolphin Theatre Inc	Aug 06 - Aug 21
The Roses Of Eyam	Don Taylor	Botany Downs Secondary College	Aug 11 - Aug 14
Forward To The Right	Lily Ann Green	Napier Repertory Players	Aug 11 - Aug 21
Life And Beth	Alan Ayckbourn	Torbay Drama Society	Aug 12 - Aug 21
Neville's Island	Tim Firth	Company Theatre	Aug 14 - Aug 28

Steel Magnolias	Robert Harling	Papakura Theatre Co. Inc	Aug 14 - Aug 28
DNA (School Edition)	Dennis Kelly	Wellington High School	Aug 16 - Aug 19
Among The Thugs	Tom Szentgyorgyi	Rosmini College	Aug 17 - Aug 19
The Mousetrap	Agatha Christie	Invercargill Repertory	Aug 17 - Aug 21
All I Really Need To Know I Learned By Being In A Bad Play	Werner Trieschmann	Elmwood Players	Aug 18 - Aug 21
What's For Pudding	David Tristram	Elmwood Players	Aug 18 - Aug 21
Sequence Of Events	George Macewan Green	Elmwood Players	Aug 18 - Aug 21
Love Begins At Fifty	Raymond Hopkins	Hawera Repertory Society	Aug 20 - Aug 28
Murder On The Menu	Devon Williamson	New Players Theatre	Aug 25 - Sep 04
Suddenly Last Summer	Tennessee Williams	Wellington Repertory Theatre	Aug 25 - Sep 04
Our Man In Havana	Clive Francis	Ellerslie Theatrical Soc	Aug 26 - Sep 04
Steel Magnolias	Robert Harling	Wright Rohde Theatre	Aug 27 - Aug 28
Miss Holmes	Christopher M Walsh	Sacred Heart College Lower Hutt	Aug 31 - Sep 04
The Mousetrap	Agatha Christie	Evolution Theatre Company	Sep 02 - Sep 12
A Streetcar Named Desire	Tennessee Williams	Centrestage Theatre Co. (Orewa) Inc	Sep 03 - Sep 11
The Adventure Of The Speckled Band	Tim Kelly	Detour Theatre Company	Sep 07 - Sep 25
Animal Farm	Nelson Bond	Music & Performing Arts Department WINTEC	Sep 09 - Sep 11
Funny Money	Ray Cooney	Cambridge Repertory Society	Sep 11 - Sep 25
Relatively Speaking	Alan Ayckbourn	Marlborough Repertory Soc Inc	Sep 15 - Sep 25
The Jailhouse Frocks	Devon Williamson	Onewhero Society of Performing Arts	Sep 16 - Sep 25
And Then There Were None	Agatha Christie	Friends of the Globe Theatre	Sep 23 - Oct 02
Hangmen	Martin McDonagh	Stagecraft Theatre Inc	Sep 29 - Oct 09
On The Razzle	Tom Stoppard	Howick Childrens & Youth Theatre Inc	Sep 30 - Oct 03
The Lion, The Witch And The Wardrobe	Joseph Robinette	Howick Childrens & Youth Theatre Inc	Sep 30 - Oct 03