

Merry Christmas



The Play Bureau will be closing for the holiday season on December 17th and reopening on January 10th. The PO Box will be cleared occasionally, and emails will be answered occasionally.

Here at Play Bureau we wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy and Prosperous New Year. We look forward to working with you in 2022.

Regards Helen



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Season's Greetings...

So, 2021, it could be said had a great start and then a challenging last four months! I know many of you had to postpone a number of times or cancel completely, upsetting your programme. It can be all about mitigating the risk and so I have added some monologues which will make it easier to rehearse and can be ready to perform when Covid allows.

What's New?

HOT OFF THE PRESS!!

The Good Life Adp by Jeremy Sams from J Esmonde & B Larby

Comedy

M 3 – 6, F 3-6 & 1 goat

When Tom and Barbara Good decide to exchange the pressures of the rat race for an alternative, more sustainable way of living, they set about turning their suburban home in Surbiton into a model of self-sufficiency. They grow their own fruit and veg, keep livestock in the garden, make their own clothes, and even generate their own electricity from manure. It's the good life for them – but not for Margo and Jerry Leadbetter, who live next door, and are desperately trying to maintain the Surbiton status quo.

Jeremy Sams' stage play, based on the hugely popular sitcom by John Esmonde and Bob Larbey, reunites the well-loved characters (not forgetting Geraldine the goat) as they get themselves into and out of scrapes – some old, some new, all hilarious.

Maggie May by Frances Poet

Drama

2 M, 3 F

Maggie and Gordon first met, dancing to Rod Stewart songs, in 1971. Now in their sixties, and still very much in love, they've been finishing each other's songs all their marriage.

But now Maggie is feeling foggy and some days the songs are all she can remember. Her son and his new girlfriend are coming to dinner, and her best friend is asking questions.

Frances Poet's play Maggie May is an extraordinary drama about an ordinary family who must balance the challenges of daily life whilst living with dementia.



The Book Club Play

by Karen Zacarias

Dramatic Comedy

3 M, 3 F

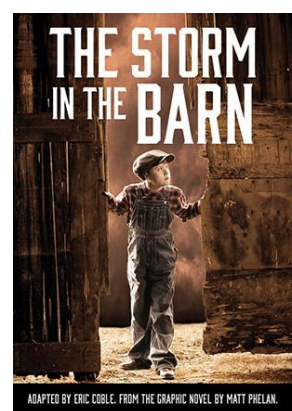
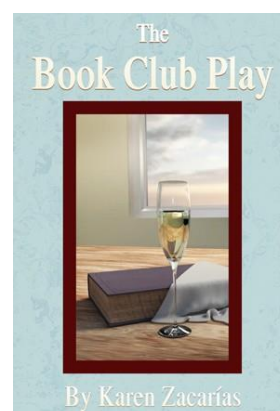
Loads of laughter and literature collide in this smart hit comedy about books and the people who love them. Ana is a Type A personality who lives in a letter-perfect world with an adoring husband, the perfect job and her greatest passion: Book Club. But when her cherished group becomes the focus of a documentary film, their intimate discussions about life and literature take a turn for the hilarious in front of the inescapable camera lens. Add a provocative new member along with some surprising new book titles, and these six friends are bound for pandemonium. Sprinkled with fun theatrical references to documentaries and novels galore from *Moby Dick* and *Age of Innocence* to *Twilight* and *The Da Vinci Code*, this buoyant comedy on contemporary culture will have everyone laughing ... and reflecting. *The Book Club Play* is a delightful new play about life, love, literature, and the side-splitting results when friends start reading between the lines.

The Storm In The Barn By Eric Coble

Drama

7 – 20 either

In 1937 Kansas, 11-year-old Jack Clark faces many challenges: local bullies, his father's desperate attempts to keep his family intact, an older sister getting sicker by the day, and a little sister with an eye for trouble. But he's also facing the epic disaster of the Dust Bowl—which means families disappearing overnight, tempers flaring in his small town, and the steady spread of the mysterious illness "Dust Dementia." So can Jack even trust his own eyes when he makes a terrifying discovery in the abandoned barn next door? Is the sinister shadow with a face like rain—a creature with a plan to deprive humans of water forever—real? This uniquely American fable uses haunting music and startling imagery to ask: When everyone says you're too small to be the hero of any story, where do you find the strength to save your family ... and the world?



Monologues:

Eight: by Ella Hickson

Eight compelling monologues offering a state-of-the-nation group portrait for the stage.

From Millie, the jolly-hockey-sticks prostitute who mourns the loss of the good old British class system, to Miles, a 7/7 survivor, and Danny, an ex-squaddie who makes friends in morgues, *Eight* looks at what has happened to a generation that have grown up in a world where everything has become acceptable.

Queers: Eight Monologues by Mark Gatiss & Various

A young soldier returning from the trenches of the First World War recollects 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.

Snatches: by Vicky Featherstone and Various

A young actress meets a powerful film producer in his hotel suite. A revolutionary leads an attack on a colonial club in India. A bereaved mother defends herself against charges of infanticide.

Snatches: Moments from 100 Years of Women's Lives documents, remembers and bears witness to a century of struggle for progress and equality for women in the United Kingdom.

Moving, funny, tragic, and empowering, these eight monologues address the constant efforts of women to carve out their rights both in domestic and public spheres – from the criminalisation of marital rape to the first Reclaim the Night march – proclaiming a history of perseverance and resilience shown by women's rights activists in this country.

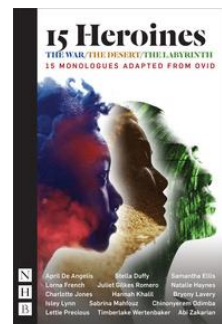
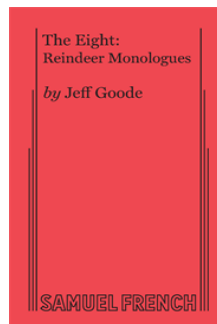
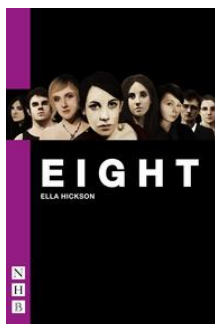
The Eight: Reindeer Monologues by Jeff Goode (adult only)

Are you looking for something different for Christmas? Well, this is the script for you: eight reindeer dishing about the real Santa. All those rumours you've heard about him and the elves? About Rudolph's little secret? About Vixen's story that was leaked to the press? All true. Yes, the reindeer finally speak up and - believe us - they do not hold back!

15 Heroines: 15 Monologues adapted from Ovid by Various

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

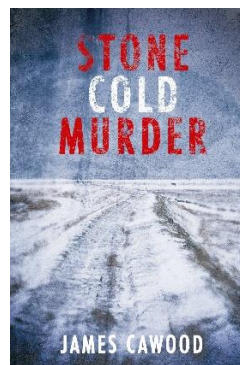
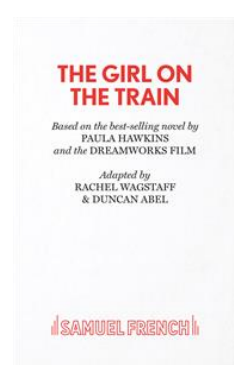
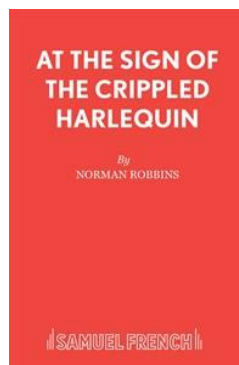
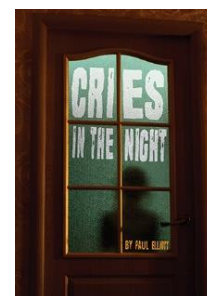
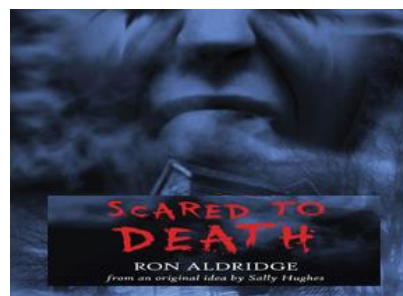
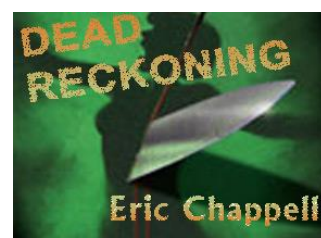
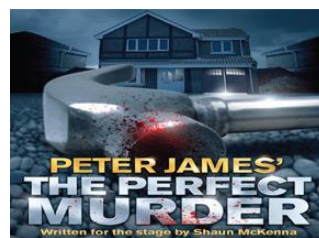
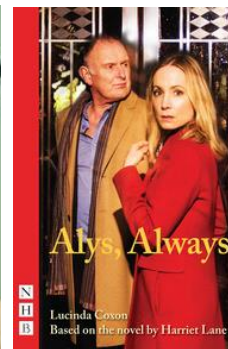
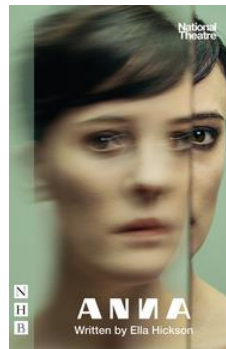
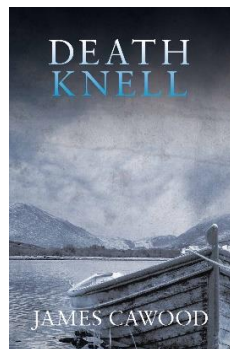
Now, drawing inspiration from Ovid, fifteen leading female and non-binary British playwrights dramatise the lives of these fifteen heroines in a series of new monologues for the twenty-first century. This volume contains 15 monologues in three complementary groups (The War, The Desert, The Labyrinth) - enough material for three complete productions. The monologues can also be performed individually, or in any combination.





Looking For a thriller

- ❖ 2:22 A Ghost Story by Danny Robins 3 M 3 F
- ❖ Death Knell by James Cawood 3 m 1 F
- ❖ Anna by Ella Hickson 5 m 5 F
- ❖ Alys, Always by Harriet lane adp by Lucinda Coxon 6 m 8 F +
- ❖ Intent to Murder by Leslie Sands 3M 3 F
- ❖ The Perfect Murder by Peter James 3 M 2 F
- ❖ The Revival by James Cawood 5 M 3 F
- ❖ Scared To Death by Ron Aldridge 4 M 1 F
- ❖ At The Sign of the Crippled Harlequin by Norman Robbins 3 M 5 F
- ❖ The girl On the Train by Rachel Wagstaff & Duncan Abel 4 M 3 F
- ❖ Stone Cold Murder by James Cawood 3 M 1 F
- ❖ The Weir by Conor McPherson 4 M 1 F
- ❖ Dead Reckoning by Eric Chappell 3 m 1 F
- ❖ Cries in the Night by Paul Elliott 3 m 2 F 1 girl



Mainly Female Only Plays:

- ❖ Be My Baby by Amanda Whittington F 6
- ❖ The Night Witches by Rachel Bublitz F 11 - 18
- ❖ The Wolves by Sarah DeLappe F 10
- ❖ Lilies on the Land by The Lions Part F 4
- ❖ Chalet Lines by Neil Mattinson F 7
- ❖ The Revlon Girl by Neil Anthony Docking F 6
- ❖ Steel Magnolias by Robert Harling F 6
- ❖ Ladies Day by Amanda Whittington F 4
- ❖ Murder By membership Only by Thomas Hischak 9 F
- ❖ Silver Lining by Sandi Toksvig 6F 1 M
- ❖ Love Me Slender by Vanessa Brooks F 7
- ❖ The Morris by Helen Blakeman F 5
- ❖ The Naked Truth by David Simpson F 6
- ❖ Muddy Cows by John Godber F 7
- ❖ Stepping Out by Richard Harris F 9 1 M
- ❖ Cheshire Cats by Gail Young F 6 – 10 +

