



Happy Belated New Year!

The year has started with a hiss and a roar and Covid. I feel that we will have a bumpy ride again and then start to even out and get back to theatre with less restrictions.

Please remember if you are ordering scripts that the overseas post is still very affected by the lack of planes coming into the country, so leave plenty of time, it often takes a couple of months rather than weeks.

Follow the government guidelines and stay safe out there.

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Warm Regards

Helen

The Play Bureau Newsletter

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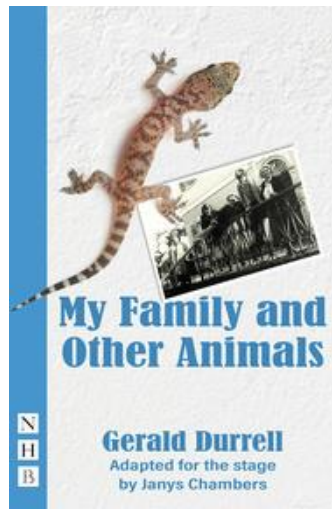
Hot Off The Press

New Plays:

My Family and Other Animals

By Janys Chambers adapted
from Gerald Durrell

7 M 3 F 1 either



Drama

It's 1935, and an eccentric English family – four children, their widowed mother, and Roger the dog – arrives on the sun-soaked shores of Corfu to start a new life.

For eleven-year-old Gerry Durrell, the extraordinary landscape provides the perfect playground. Its exotic fauna inspires a life-long fascination with the animal kingdom – and his much-loved memoir *My Family and Other Animals*.

The Libertine by Stephen Jeffreys

Comedy

8 M 5 F

This 'intriguing new comedy of sexual manners' (Evening Standard), is based on the life of Rochester, the famous Restoration poet and rake, 'bubbles and fizzes like champagne... and the dialogue drips with wonderful witticisms'

Murder in Little Grimley by David Tristram **Comedy**

New in the Little Grimley Series

2 M 2 F 1 either

MURDER! is the sixth play in the hugely popular Little Grimley series, which follows the antic of a hapless Amateur Dramatic Society desperate for audiences.

Anxious to cash in on the public's appetite for detective dramas, the Chairman Gordon writes a whodunnit. But in a bizarre twist he then finds himself embroiled in a real-life murder mystery that threatens to put him behind bars. The quarrelsome quartet have been in some sticky situations over the years. But can they possibly get away with murder?



Real Women Have Curves by Josefina Lopez

Comedy

5 F

Set in a tiny sewing factory in East L.A., this is the outrageously funny story of five full-figured Mexican-American women who are racing to meet nearly impossible production deadlines in order to keep their tiny factory from going under. And while they work, hiding from the INS (Immigration and Naturalization Service), they talk... about their husbands and lovers, their children, their dreams for the future. The story is told from the point of view of Ana, the youngest among them. Just graduated from high school, Ana dreams of getting out of the barrio and going off to college and becoming a famous writer. Although she needs the money, Ana doesn't like working at the factory and has little respect for the co-workers, who make fun of her ambitions and what they consider her idealistic feminist philosophies. However, Ana keeps coming to her job and chronicling her experiences in a journal. As the summer unfolds, she slowly gains an understanding and appreciation of the work and the women, eventually writing an essay that wins her a journalism fellowship which will take her to New York City. This play, a microcosm of the Latina immigrant experience, celebrates real women's bodies, the power of women, and the incredible bond that happens when women work together.

One Spotlight Town by Paul Freed

Drama

1 M 4 F 23 either

One Spotlight Town is a story about people from a town so small that you might drive through without taking a second look. But if you stopped for just a moment, you might see a young boy and girl fall in love, a cantankerous grocery store owner coping with change, a son returning home while a daughter thinks about leaving, a beauty queen and a drum major striking up a friendship, and a handyman taking it all in while he fixes what is broken. These stories and more are filled with fun characters, lots of humour, plenty of heart and the theme that change comes for us all, whether we are ready or not. Available in a 1 act version also

The Nightingales by Morgan Lloyd Malcolm

Drama

3 M 3 F

A motley crew of four friends gather every week in their village hall to practise their acapella singing, under the watchful eye of their choirmaster. Whatever their differences, whatever the problems they may have at home, they are happily bound together in their shared love of music. Until one day Maggie knocks on the door...

Soon she is urging them to enter *Talentfest*, a potentially life-changing route to *Britain's Got Talent*. In the weeks that follow, loyalties will be tested, tempers will fray and lives will indeed be changed – but not in the way that any of them had quite anticipated.

The Book of Dust – La belle Sauvage

Drama

By Phillip Pullman adapted Bryony Lavery

8 M 8 F large cast

Two young people and their demons, with everything at stake, find themselves at the centre of a terrifying manhunt. In their care is a tiny child called Lyra Belacqua, and in that child lies the fate of the future.

As the waters rise around them, powerful adversaries conspire for mastery of Dust: salvation to some, the source of infinite corruption to others.



Funeral Flowers by Emma Dennis-Edwards

Drama

1 F 1 act

Funeral Flowers follows the story of Angelique, a seventeen-year-old whose dreams of being a florist are a refuge from a complicated adolescence. With her mum in prison, Angelique faces bullying, abuse and growing up in the care system.

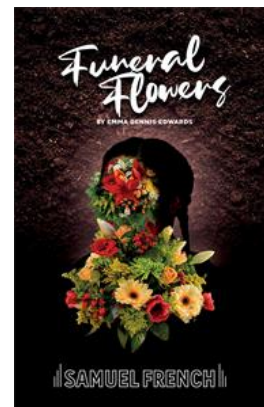
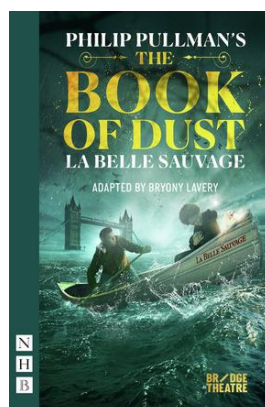
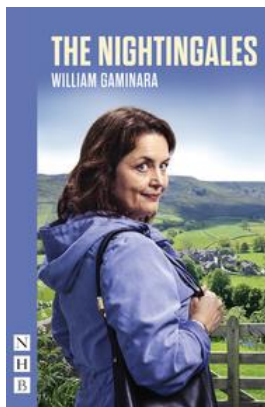
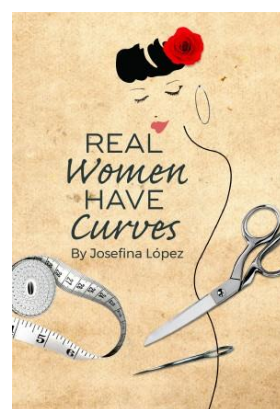
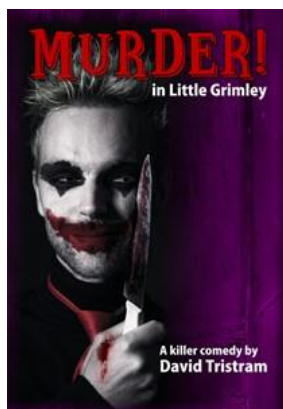
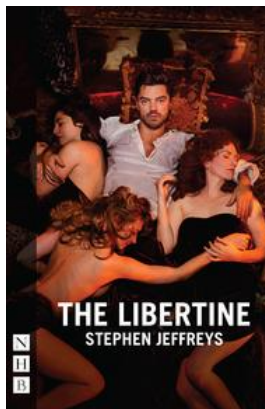
Ballad of Maria Marten by Beth Flintoff

Drama

2 m 10 F or 6 F doubling

Summer, 1827. In a red barn in Suffolk, Maria Marten awaits her lover. A year later, hidden in a grain sack under the floor of the barn, Maria's body is found, barely identifiable - and the manhunt begins. The Red Barn Murder had all the hallmarks of a classic crime drama: a missing body, a country location, a disreputable squire and a village stuck in its age-old traditions. But whilst sending shockwaves throughout the country, Maria's own story was lost.

The Ballad of Maria Marten rediscovers her story, bringing it back to vivid, urgent life. Beth Flintoff's thrilling play was first performed by an all-female cast in a production by Eastern Angles in July 2018.



What's on around the Country

Title	Author	Group	Date
The Secret Garden	Jessica Swale	Evolution Theatre Company	Mar 17 - Mar 27
The Ghost Train	Arnold Ridley	Rangiora Players	Mar 19 - Apr 02
5 Lesbians Eating a Quiche	Evan Linder	Wish Theatre Collective	Mar 21 - Mar 23
Bold Girls	Rona Munro	A Little Box At The Top Of The Stairs Productions	Mar 24 - Mar 26
Geezers	Tommy Lee Johnston	Hamilton Playbox	Mar 26 - Apr 09
The Thrill Of Love	Amanda Whittington	New Plymouth Little Theatre Society	Mar 30 - Apr 09
Title And Deed	Will Eno	Raycorp Productions	Mar 31 - Apr 02
Out At Sea	Nicholas Bethell	University of Otago- Theatre Studies Programme	Mar 31 - Apr 02
The 39 Steps	Patrick Barlow	Levin Little Theatre	Mar 31 - Apr 10
A Skull In Connemara	Martin McDonagh	Gisborne Unity Theatre	Apr 01 - Apr 09
A Streetcar Named Desire	Tennessee Williams	Centrestage Theatre Co. (Orewa) Inc	Apr 02 - Apr 09
Jekyll & Hyde	Evan Placey	Botany Downs Secondary College	Apr 05 - Apr 06
Wanted - One Body	Charles Dyer	Invercargill Repertory	Apr 05 - Apr 09
The Old People Are Revolting!	Devon Williamson	Waipukurau Dramatic Soc - Little Theatre	Apr 06 - Apr 16
Arcadia	Tom Stoppard	Dolphin Theatre Inc	Apr 07 - Apr 23
The Storm in the Barn	Eric Coble	Waikato Institute of Technology Ltd	Apr 12 - Apr 14
Decade	Various	Baradene College	Apr 12 - Apr 13
M*A*S*H	Tim Kelly	Playhouse Theatre Inc	Apr 16 - Apr 30

Silly Cow	Ben Elton	Elmwood Players	Apr 20 - Apr 30
The Father	Christopher Hampton	Hutt Repertory Theatre	Apr 20 - Apr 30
Pride and Prejudice	Jane Austen/S Pascoe	Cambridge High School	May 04 - May 06
Translations	Brian Friel	Stagecraft Theatre Inc	May 04 - May 15
The Mousetrap	Agatha Christie	Dunedin Repertory Soc	May 05 - May 28
The Royal Hunt Of The Sun	Peter Shaffer	Takaka Drama Society Inc	May 05 - May 21
Waiting For God	Michael Aitkens	Rotorua Little Theatre Society Inc	May 11 - May 21
Noughts & Crosses	Dominic Cooke	Mount Albert Grammar School	May 17 - May 18
The God of Carnage	Yasmina Reza	Company Theatre	May 20 - Jun 04
Clara's On The Curtains!	Arthur Lovegrove	Samuel Marsden Collegiate School	May 25 - May 26
Matt & Ben	Mindy Kaling Brenda Withers	Toybox	May 26 - May 28