

All-Women Plays

Short Pieces, One-Act, Religious,
Seasonal and Full-Length Plays

May 2013

Cresselles Publishing Company Limited
10 Station Road Industrial Estate, Colwall, WR13 6RN
Telephone: 01684 540154
www.cresselles.co.uk

Duologues, Mimes, Monologues and Sketches

Code AS applies unless otherwise indicated.

The Boys and the Girls Ten Sketches

These three books of sketches contain 1 sketch for 3 women, 1 for 1w and 2 for 2w, and 1 for 2w respectively. The sketches are for all age groups and have been professionally produced.

Books: £5.00

More Sketches David Campton

Bedside Manner

Two comedies for 6 women: **Bedside Manner** - with such friendly visitors, what patient needs enemies?; **Oh! Romeo!** - the comic send-up of an amateur production of *Romeo and Juliet*.

Joan Brampton

Charade Number One

Charade Number Two

Two books of three comedy sketches, which can be played separately or as a whole entertainment. **Book I:** *The First Syllable* - Lady Bumperstone dismisses her maid, but Phyllis has the last laugh (**5w**); *The Second Syllable* - who gets the biggest surprise - the crooks or the women who find the swag? (**6w**); *The Whole Word* - "Ladies' Leisure Tours" are now more like commando courses - but much funnier (**6w**). **Book II:** *Drawing The Line* - the committee chairman learns that the rules can be bent (**4w**); *Paying the Piper* - a trans-Atlantic visitor believes that everything has its price (**5w**); *Ill-Feted* - Gypsy Roma is a bogus fortune teller, but hits the nail on the head (**4w**).

Stella Wyn James

A Click of the Heels

A Book of Monologues and Sketches

A collection of four sketches which includes two monologues for a woman. In *A Click of the Heels* (**1w**) an unappreciated, overweight woman finally finds fulfillment after a chance encounter with a man at the swimming baths. *Where Are You, Then?* (**1w**) sees a mother trying to cope with the death of her son.

Eleanor Fossey

1w

£5.25

Code BS

The Close: Seven Monologues for Women

Doris M. Day

Seven women observe their neighbours, relive the past and worry about the future. Each monologue is complete in itself. The final one forms a link and should be presented last in any series. The fee is £20 when 3 or more monologues are performed, or £7 per monologue.

7w

Code BS

The Elephant Girl

Maxine Kay

Maidens of the Chorus - three ancient chorus girls deplore their fate, in rhyme (**Comedy 3w**); *The Voice of Conscience* - two women contemplate murder with macabre light-heartedness (**Thriller 3w**); *Elephant Girl* - the prospect of danger money is no consolation to Mum (**Comedy 5w**).

Eventide

Rob Wise

Wednesday is clinic day and a welcome break from routine. Mary has only recently moved into Eventide House, but the others are old hands at exploiting the system - nights out in the pub, bingo! Easy to stage with chairs as the bus seats. A comedy. (Included in *A Bit of Three by One*.)

4w

Code BS

Five Short Sketches

Peggy Halifax

Comedies for **3** women: *Beside the Seaside* - two solitary holidaymakers are persuaded to join the "set"; and **4** women: *What A Place* - the downfall of an uppity waitress; *Hang Aunt Emily* - an amusing series of misunderstandings over "Aunt Emily"; *Mother And Me* - a humorous demonstration of the nuisance value of interfering strangers; *Anyone Can Make A Mistake* - two quarrelling crooks lose their loot.

Book: £5.00

Full Circle

Ros Moruzzi

Modern life monologues and a sketch for **3** women.

"The laughter keeps flowing in these sharply-observed pieces."

- Scott Marshall, GODA.

Varied Cast

£5.25

Code BS

the terrible task of entertaining ill-assorted people **(12w)**. **Book II:** *Tennis* - typical Victorian ladies play tennis, watched by a third **(3w)**; *Washing Day* - a bright and cheerful mime of washer-women, set to music **(7w)**; *The News* - a group of women wait for news of their men. Music interprets their moods **(15w or more)**.

Octet

Maxine Kay

Eight comedy and thriller monologues: *Wet Paint* - Chaotic preparations for a stage performance; *Programme Sellers* - A shy new member fails dismally, whilst the brisk one shows what salesmanship can do; *Floral Tribute* - Death might have been accidental but a vital clue is forgotten; *Unaccustomed* - Complete ignorance, and innocence, can fool a Customs Officer; *Committed* - With a committee-mad husband immobilised, his wife may see more of him; *Hi! Dudgeon* - A short rhyme about a worm who turns; *Heart Cry* - The "cri de couer" of an author who turns to revolt; *Critics* - A small-part actress objects to critics who ignore her role, whilst an hoity-toity actress objects to the same in another manner.

Phoebe's Shining Knight

Joyce Williams

A comedy needing little rehearsal or scenery.
6-10w

Quintet

Three monologues: *Hairpin Bend* - the hazards of motoring with a pushy wife or a wife pushing; *Dear George* - Ten minutes to 8! In her last moments Ellen writes a letter; *While the Going Is Good* - Mrs Bigott enjoys ill-health with Henry in attendance. But where is Henry? And two sketches for 2 women: *Night Caller* - Eileen telephones a friend from her lonely cottage, but the call is never finished; *Rabbits and Hares* - Rival hostesses quarrel over the date of their parties. Each is in for a surprise.

Seven Monologues For Women

Jean Garstang

Seven comedy and thriller monologues. *Television Topic* - Friends invited to watch a TV play are deluged with conversation; *The Luncheon* - Taking a deaf Grandma for a meal proves harassing; *A Day At the Fair* - A frantic mother attempts to control over-excited children; *The Gift* - Entranced by a visitor, a lonely woman becomes

garrulous; *Nightcap* - Even a cup of chocolate can have terrible consequences; *Holiday* - It's exciting to contemplate a holiday abroad - if you have the cash!; *Breaking Point* - Is a distraught wife contemplating murder?

Sextet

Two monologues: *When Did You Last See Your Father?* - It's astonishing what you can mislay on holiday; *Between Me 'N' U* - A Cockney waitress advises customers what *not* to eat. Two sketches for **2w**: *Hat Trick* - The millinery assistant helps her customer to get her own back; *The Last Chapter* - A terrible revenge that boomerangs. 1 for **4** or **5w**: *Time Lapse* - Will nutriment ever take the place of food? And 1 for **16** women: *Misguided* - Pity the poor guide on a coach tour!

Ten-Minute Sketches

Peggy Halifax

Comedy sketches: *Trouble In A Train* - five women crowd into a compartment - the wrong one (**6w**); *Allotment No. 51* - there can be more fun in starting an allotment - if you know which plants are weeds (**3w**); *A Nice Rest* - if you think a stay in hospital can be restful, you had better read this (**5w**).

Three in Hand

Beatrix Carter

Comedy sketches - two for **2** women: *Your Affectionate Cousin* - a tale of misunderstanding with an unusual twist; *Self-Portrait Of An Artist* - finally, an artist faces the truth about herself; and 1 for **5**: *A Modern Fairy Story* - a Narrator fills in the gaps in the tale of Mother's triumph.

Treble Chance

Luella Walsh

Two comedies for **2** women: *Housewife's Choice* - a rhapsody in rhyme of a modern wife and Mrs Beeton; *Silver Lining* - an imminent death sounds tragic until the final lines; and 1 for **5**: *Many A Skip* - the kind of chaos that can't happen in hospital. Or can it?.

Trio

Peggy Halifax

Comedy sketches: *Two For Tea* - can a tea shop owner be bulldozed into serving tea against her will? (**4w + voice off**); *"Murder!!" She Cried* - the reaction of three women to the possibility of murder (**4w**); *Take A Pair Of Larking Spies* - who wants to belong to the not-very-Secret Service called C.O.W.S.S? (**6w**).

Two For A Laugh

Barbara van Kampen

Comedy sketches: *Char-Char* - an employment exchange for cleaners (**3w**); *Going Places* - the brochures claim travel broadens the mind (**5w**).

Two In One

Two comedy sketches for **6** older women: *Poor Fred* - Fred's hospital visitors find him disconcertingly silent, but he still manages to achieve the last laugh; *The Winning Post* - escape is not what is expected from retired old ladies, but there is always an exception.

Wait For It

Peggy Halifax

Comedy sketches: *Full Up* - pity the poor conductress with a belligerent passenger (**2w**); *Two Into One Won't Go* - the tale of a terrible wedding present that almost caused a disaster (**4w**); *Wait For It* - a wryly amusing study of NHS patients (**5w**); *Tea In the Garden* - with her muddled, gossipy neighbours, Mrs Butler could cry - or laugh (**5w**).

When the Cat's Away

Gwen Pierce

Two elderly spinsters get rid of their maid, but can't cope without her cat.
3w

Script-Held Comedies

*Scripts may be carried as part of the performance.
No Scenery Required.*

Code A1 applies unless otherwise indicated.

Acting Peculiar

Naomi Sinclair

In this riotous comedy the ladies of the village decide to tackle method-acting. But, as Shakespeare might have said, "there's madness in their method"!

4w

All Right on the Night

Stella Wyn James

A dress rehearsal where everything goes wrong. This play can be put on in a few days and be assured of a warm reception.

6w

Hurrah for Mrs Hickson

Roy Plomley

That loveable radio serial, *The Mrs Hickson Story*, is on air. But if only the eager listeners could see what goes on behind the mike!

6w

The Little Foundling

Kay Macauliffe

Hilarious sequel to the hugely successful *The Little Heir*.

6w

The Little Heir

Kay Macauliffe

The producer of an amateur drama group has written a play. She is delighted when they offer to give it a reading - until they start!

6w

Matty

Naomi Sinclair

What is the brilliant but eccentric Professor's mysterious legacy? *Matty*, his latest invention, soon proves a mixed blessing!

5w

Party Time

Eileen Brandon

See entry in main section of this catalogue.

6w

Code B1

The Right Spirit

Stella Wyn James

A hilarious comedy, which will delight all the hundreds of drama groups that had such success with *All Right on the Night* and *The Show Must Go On*.

6w

The Show Must Go On

Stella Wyn James

The programme boasts a fairytale extravaganza and a cast of hundreds. But when the cast and scenery fail to turn up, the Upper Popshaw Players are undaunted – “the show must go on”!

6w

The Star Dusters

Naomi Sinclair

Six cleaners are let loose on a West End stage - so its down buckets and on with the show!

6w

There's A Fortune In It

Roy Plomley

An aspiring playwright cajoles a perspiring publisher and staff into a read-through of her masterpiece. Her friend ensures fair play.

5w

One-Act Plays

Code A1 applies unless otherwise indicated

After the Picnic

David Foxton

Three girls and a teacher had a picnic at Australia's Hanging Rock, only one girl returned - in a state of hysteria and amnesia. The others have never been found. Later, the bodies of the Head and a girl were found buried in the college - neither had been on the picnic. This powerful and gripping play is based on one of the great mysteries of the twentieth century and offers a fascinating solution. Winner of *The George Taylor Memorial Award*.

"Tremendous dramatic intensity and atmosphere ... tremendous impact in performance, roles of outstanding challenge and reward." - Amateur Stage.

8w

Afternoon Theatre

Beatrix Carter

A heart-warming blend of humour and compassion. Drama.

5w

All Concerned

Peter Assinder

A Townswomen's Guild's Golden Jubilee - the problems they face in adapting to progress and how they triumph over them. Drama.

7 or 5w + Choir

All My Juliets

William Dinner and William Morum

Hopeful beneficiaries to the will of an actor, each of whom played Juliet to his Romeo, react badly to the conditions attached to his will!

7w

All Right on the Night

Michael Lambe

Grand Magna WI are rehearsing their festival play under the misdirection of the imperious author. The cast rebel. A delightful farce first performed in 1989. Highly recommended.

5w

All Risks

Margaret Moffatt

Newly widowed Ruth is being comforted by her sister, when they are visited by Paula, the dead husband's first wife, concerning an odd bequest in his will. The quartet is completed with the arrival of Liz, the dead man's secretary.

4w

All This and Jumble Too **William Dinner and William Morum**

The local busy-body creates a macabre situation, involving absent husbands and the hangman. A huge leg-pull ending in a free-for-all.

6w

The Approaching Storm

Evelyn Lamb

Set in 1899, the title accurately evokes the mounting tension that ends in a double climax on the very last line. Costume Drama.

7w

Arthur's Big Day

Brian Austin

On the morning of Arthur's funeral, his family are visited by the Department of Social Security and a hoover specialist from Domestic Unliberated. The action and the delightfully unpredictable dialogue have a zany logic. Winner of the 1983 *George Taylor Memorial Award*.

"Black comedy written with technical competence ... played with absolute seriousness should make an hilarious entertainment." - *Amateur Stage*

5w

Baby Talk

Eileen Nelson

Mrs Reid and her daughter call the NSPCC when they hear a baby crying in the home of an old lady. The inspector persuades Mrs Carter to fetch her baby. There is a struggle and the baby is revealed.

4w

The Bare Facts

Janet Munroe

A gruesome Camp Manageress, nicknamed Madame Dracula, moves this play to a funny finale. Men are heard but not seen. Farce.

5w

Be My Guest!

Kay Macauliffe

A best-selling, zany comedy. Farce
6w (Middle-aged)

Behind the Curtain

Kay Macauliffe

A behind the scenes play full of suspense and intrigue. Drama
5w (1 young, 4 middle-aged)

The Bell

N. M. Carroll

A widow alienates her servants and her remaining relative. When her past catches up with her, the scene becomes macabre; a hair-raising final curtain. Thriller.

5w

Bella Bella

Sylvia Vaughan

Bella is old and lives alone, whiling away her days by making up fantasies about her family. She is visited by her daughter and the widow of her much-loved and apparently faultless son. They are unable to sort out fact from fiction. Bella discovers an unexpected flaw in her son's character, or is she still being the story-teller?

4w

Better Halves

Alan Ogden

Eunice's husband runs the family business, so when his brother arrives with a new wife, Eunice is aghast. The new wife's family run a rival concern, and a take-over seems imminent. The reunion becomes a vigorous business conference where the husbands - created for the audience entirely by the dialogue and reactions of their wives - battle it out to the end.

4w

Beyond the Mirror

P. Chown

An orphan comes to live with her aunts and domineering gran. One aunt tells Mary she can bring her childhood sweetheart from beyond the mirror. Mary watches terrified as her aunt dances with her lover only to collapse and die, but not before giving Mary a valuable way of escape!

4w

Bird Songs at Eventide

Donald Kuhn

In a retirement home, the ladies are reminiscing - from suffragettes to sit-ins. A lively, whimsical and realistic dissection of the generation gap. Comedy.

11w

Blush Pink

Jean McConnell

Well-meaning ladies re-decorate an elderly lady's home. After a variety of mishaps, the old lady drops a bombshell which puts them back to square one.

6w

Bonny Earl O' Moray

Stuart Ready

Middle-aged Alice finds her plan to marry Benny opposed by her family due to confusion over the groom's social status. Comedy.

6w

A Bowl of Roses

Beatrix Carter

Conscience can make friends, as well as cowards, of us all. Drama.

4w

Bowled Over

Kay Macauliffe

The trials and triumphs of the Ladies' Bowling Club. Comedy.

5w

Bricks and Clay

Eileen Brandon

A thought-provoking play from the author of *The Paradox*. Sensitively written with a moving curtain. Ideal for festivals. Drama.

9w

By Whose Hand?

Jack Booth

In the late 1940s the women leave the men to their after-dinner drinks. The tranquillity is broken by the arrival of a German woman seeking revenge for her sister's murder during the war. One of the men is the killer. Amidst revelations and rising tension the question is . . . by whose hand?

5w

Code B1

Cabbages and Roses

Beatrix Carter

Secrets kept and told can both cast shadows - but the telling of this one brings the sunlight back into three lives. Drama.

4w (Middle-aged)

Can the Leopard?

M. E. Atkinson

Unworldly spinsters decide to act and dress as they think the niece they have never met does. But she imagines they will expect a decorous young lady. Farce.

6w

Caroline

Edward Murch

Hetty discusses her friends. Caroline, feeling touchy, makes mischief with comic and dramatic results. A fine, festival winning play.

5w

Celestial Error

Patricia Brooks

Five women are called to Judgement, each thinking she is keeping an appointment. Two of them should not be there - but they have to prove it! Comedy.

5w

A Change of Name

J. Leather

Mother, 42, poor and from the Rhondda Valley meets her smart daughter Mary for the first time since she was adopted by an English middle-class couple. This drama exposes the defensive fears and tentative longing which characterise this mother/daughter situation.

2w

The Charmer

Charles Hatten

A wife, suspicious of her husband's appointments, enlists his lady-friends to turn the tables.

3w

Cherry Brandy

Stuart Ready

At their last reunion, one friend died. A sinister situation develops with the appearance of a strange neighbour. Thriller.

7w

Chez Claudine

Roy Russell

On the surface, a simple day trip to Dieppe, but one tripper does not return to England. Festival Winner. Romantic drama.

5w

The Choristers

John Reason

Four women, all ex-members of a church choir, are having a reunion. Two of them, including the hostess, can only be described as tarts, but their long-lost friends are now highly respectable housewives and the meeting is hilarious. This popular comedy has won several festivals.

4w

Come Back Tomorrow

David Campton

A critic attends the dress rehearsal of a new play - an unlikely costume melodrama involving the imprisoned Marie Antoinette and Madame Defarge bringing messages from Robespierre!

6w

Command Performance

Anton Delmar

All visitors are special on a 100th birthday! But only a miracle could bring the one visitor the old lady really longs for. Strange things can happen though. Drama.

4w

Continental Customs

Leonard de Francquen

Held at the Border for no apparent reason, each traveller has something to hide. Panic spreads when the Captain of the Guard demands to see them.

6w

Contrary to Belief

John H. Newmeir

After an abusive marriage, Ruth tries a blind date. Naively expecting to meet Mr Right, she meets Doreen, a feminist, who uses men to get what she wants. She tries to convert Ruth to her view. Ruth is not the pushover she seems and both find their views challenged by the other. Drama.

2 or 3w

Code B1

Cove Cottage

Elma Verity and Jack Last

True to their nautical, even piratical, ancestry, three women take to smuggling with honours!

4w

Crime at the Cedars

Aubrey Feist

Old ladies gather for tea. A peaceful scene for a drama that erupts like a bursting dam, gaining momentum as it sweeps inexorably to the final curtain. Thriller.

6w

The Crooked Courtship

G. E. Bollans

A widow suddenly becomes juvenile in taste and appearance. The reason is not hard to find - a new man! Comedy thriller.

5w

A Cuckoo For Christmas

Kay Macauliffe

Beryl invites her friend Alice to the country for Christmas. But as Alice has a pathological fear of birds in any shape or form, even stuffed and cooked, there can be no turkey! Unfortunately, a neighbour asks Beryl to look after Birdie who eventually escapes. Even worse there are two other escaped birds around! Alice's kindness comes to the fore and she loses her fear of birds completely.

"An ideal choice for any all-women group, especially for the festive season when its warmth, fun and seasonal nature will prove particularly apt." - Amateur Stage.

4w

Curtsey to the King

Roy Plomley

Excellent festival play. Set in Paris in 1903. Edwardian Drama.

6w

The Day It Rained

Phyllis Demaine

The story of Noah's Ark through the eyes of the women. Noah's wife and their eldest daughter support him, Adah is sceptical and Leah only interested in her latest piece of jewellery. But when the villagers declare Noah to be mad, his family close ranks. Then it rains! With humour and pathos.

7w

Day of Reckoning

Norman Holland

Elizabeth I anxiously awaits a plea for intervention from the Earl of Essex, who is condemned to death. Oddly, the Queen receives a handkerchief given to Queen Mary's executioner 14 years before.

6w

Dead Nice

Andrea MacPhail

When Sonia dies, the last person she wants to meet in Heaven is her rival Trish. The last person Trish wants to meet is the woman who murdered her. Or did she? A few revelations unite the women in their struggle to put things right and punish the guilty party. Hilarious black comedy.

2w

Code B1

Dead Secret

Jack Whitfield

When two ladies come to view her cottage, Mrs Lessing, deaf and senile, realises that her home is to be sold. She tells of the murder of her husband. Although the tale is dismissed as the ramblings of an old lady by her guilty daughter Bertha, she ensures that the story is never told again!

5w

The Dipper

Edward Murch

An escapee from Holloway Prison, with an extraordinary view of life, turns up at the Honourable Patricia Chavering's flat one morning to her sister's discomfort and finds ... the dipper!

4w

The Do-Gooders

Frank Bryce

A neat, wry black comedy.

5w

The Dream

Phoebe M. Rees

A WI member at a lecture on life in a castle dreams she is a medieval princess, and finds that life was not as romantic as she thought.

7w + extras

The Driver's Seat

Eileen Brandon

A doctor has to decide whether her responsibility is always to save life, whatever the issues at stake. Compelling and thought-provoking. Drama.

6w

Druid's Ring

T. B. Morris

A farmer's widow wants her son to marry the neighbour's daughter to join their lands. The conflict is heightened by a background of ancient cruelty and superstition about the grim Druid's Ring that dominates the farm.

8w

The Economists

Anton Delmar

A niece encourages her aunts to expand their cottage-industry of selling home-grown veg. But can they afford to be rich? Comedy.

4w + Narrator

The Edge of Doom

Margaret Abernethy

Women from a village threatened by floods take refuge in the cliff top cottage of a recluse. Here they are involved in a new danger.

8w

Escape to Fear

Sam Bate

Mrs Howard and her daughters live under an assumed name since the youngest daughter was sentenced to life imprisonment. She escapes and her family is torn between loyalty and fear. A gripping play. Drama.

5w

Fact or Fiction

Sheila Barnsdale

Miss Elsie's Tearoom is where the ladies of Burton Rising gossip - local flooding has been overshadowed by the discovery of a body in the grounds of Fosse Cottage!

6w

Fall Out

Joyce Dennys

A compelling mix of drama and comedy in this short play by the author of Joanna and the Candles, The Lawn etc. Drama.

5w

Fast - and Lose

Jane Robertson

Both the cast and audience will be reduced to laughter, and a sympathetic tear, by this ingenious comedy drama.

6w

Female Jungle

Sylvia Conway

After a hairdresser's funeral, five women discuss her flamboyant life and loves, as well as their own complicated and interwoven affairs, centring on the offstage husband.

5w

A First Time for Everything

Jean Garstang

Mrs Darby is ambitious for her daughter and tries to find her a wealthy husband. The girl's aunts have their own plan for her.

6w

Fitting Finish

Margaret Bower

Social-climbing Mrs Crawley needs a new dress at the cheapest price but of the best quality. How her bullying turns to humiliation makes an enjoyable social comedy.

5w

Code B1

Five Freaks A' Fiddling

Stuart Ready

The cleaners impersonate influential customers to help Miss Bilston climb the greasy pole. Riotously funny.

8w (Middle-aged)

The 500th WAC

Frank Bryce

Three witches, seeking inspiration for the 500th Witches' Convention, will cause hilarity with their plans for advertising and hemlock tea!

5w

Five Minutes from the Sea

Edward Murch

A comic tale of poverty-stricken actors and well-heeled industrialists. Convincingly written with a sound insight into human nature.

7w

Flora MacDonald's Mission

Sam Bate

Lady MacDonald's guests include loyal Scots and English redcoats. Flora seeks sanctuary for the hunted Prince. A dramatic situation develops. Historical drama.

7w

For Fear of Strangers

Peter Assinder

Clare, threatened with death, anxiously awaits her cousin in a cliff-top chalet. Rosina arrives and murder is done. But who is the murderer - and who the victim? Festival Winner 1995. Suspense.

2w

Friendly Affair

Jack Booth

Pregnant and highly strung, Glenda panics when she finds lipstick on her husband's collar. She summons help from her elder sister, her man-loving best friend and the dominant wife of Martin's best friend and confidante. Misunderstandings follow and accusations are made before the denouement leaves Glenda embarrassed.

5w

Code B1

Funeral Dance

David Campton

Returning from her husband's funeral, Ida is accosted by a stranger whose knowledge of her past threatens Ida's future. Comedy drama.

5w (older)

Gaiety Girls

Barbara Van Kempen

At a reunion of theatre stars, the great-grand-daughter of the hostess, a modern miss, thinks she can teach the old girls a thing or two!

7w

Georgian

Mary Komlosy

Three respectable sisters try to con American tourists into buying "Georgian" antiques.

7w

Get Well Soon, Darling

R. Blomfield

A patient is visited by her friends. She is soon convinced that her impending operation for varicose veins is the least of her troubles!

7w

Girl On an Empty Swing

Alanna Knight

A mother and young daughter come to look after an ageing aunt. The girl plays outside the aunt's room and the old lady, seeing her for the first time, sees a child who sat on the swing 40 years before and who vanished before she could chase her away.

"Makes first class theatre." - Amateur Stage.

3w

Going Home

David Campton

An old school matron is upset at retiring and resents her young successor. But she is heartened by the offer of another post.

4f

Good Form

Barbara Van Kempen

A new girls' school has a Principal and teachers but no pupils! The staff think that life is perfect until the arrival of a prospective parent and a school inspector!

7w

Gossip

E. Tait-Read

The biggest gossips often see themselves as the souls of discretion.

3w

Granny Takes the Helm

Sam Bate

Lady Fitzbede is slowly sinking, until she learns of her granddaughter's distress at the necessity of marrying "Pimply Percy". Trouble is her tonic and she bounds back to life!

5w

The Grey Monk Walks

Graham Reed

A crime writer is determined to expose the truth behind her friend's death, despite ghostly happenings. Thriller.

7w

Ground Plans

J. B. Cooper

Land inherited by two young sisters has been sold to a pharmaceutical company intent on building animal research laboratories. Although the play addresses the serious question of animal rights and experimentation, there is much humour.

4w

The Guinea Pigs

R. F. Delderfield

Forced to accept a lunch invitation, the WI delegation is faced with a huge meal. How they dispose of the meal and their hostess is pure genius.

7w

Happy Families

F. E. M. Agnew

On the eve of her marriage to a local farmer, April Day is receiving mysterious letters from a strange man in London.

8w

Happy Haunting

Freda Cookson

Two ghosts are losing their talent for haunting - drastic measures are taken to regain their re - spectre - bility!!

5w

Harry Simpson, Where Are You?

Colin Lawrence

Harry Simpson has disappeared. Out of spite, his neighbour tells the police that Harry's wife has killed him. As it turns out, she might not have been far from the truth! A *Beverly Baxter Award* winner and a successful festival play.

3w

The Help Committee

Peter Assinder

Old Mrs Coot is just settling down when the WI Help Committee arrive to "take her out of herself" - with riotous results! Farce.

4w

The Help Committee Try Again

Peter Assinder

The ladies of Muggleswick Parva work on a haunted rectory. Farce. Sequel to the ever popular *The Help Committee*.

5w

Her Husband's Harem

Sam Bate

Mrs Bloggs, her daughter and Granny Bloggs are reluctantly living in the Harem of a Baghdad Palace bequeathed to Mr Bloggs. Sequel to *Legacy of Ladies*.

6w

Her Majesty's Pleasure

Barbara Van Kempen

Queen Elizabeth I helps a young girl avoid an unsuitable marriage.

5w

Here Lies Matilda

M. E. Atkinson

Matilda is almost 99 but she is so desperate to celebrate her 100th birthday that she adds a year to her age! A party is prepared but her conscience doesn't lie easy.

7w

Here We Go Again

T. Piggott

Ma Colby has a back street shop. In the cellar, her son-in-law is literally trying to make money! His forged notes are almost ready for distribution by Sheila - a showpiece in every way. Ma is not impressed: she reminisces about her dead husband, who was in and out of prison for burglary. Some boxes are delivered to the shop, one of which is full of fake notes - apparently they have a rival. A police-woman becomes suspicious and Sheila is arrested. Witty dialogue.

6w

Hit or a Miss

Sam Bate

A Welsh holiday home has been double-booked. The four occupants find just one bedroom, oil-lamps and a temperamental stove.

5w

Home At Last!

Eileen Brandon

Innocents are abroad in Transylvania! A deliciously black comedy.

8-9w

Honeymoon for One

Sam Bate

A broad comedy of not-very-solemn-matrimony! He may have given her a ring - but has she got his number?

5w

The Horrible Thing in the Garden

Mary Nield

Rose staggers in faint with shock. Should the police be called? The explanation is far from simple and leads to laughs and a startling climax. Festival winner 1994.

4w

How Pleasant To Know Mrs Lear

Charles Causley

Her daughters are frustrated by the "old dragon". But what does Mrs Lear think of her children? Satire on the Victorian family theme.

5w

The Hunter Home

Peter Sonley

It is nine years since the men left for the Trojan War. Beauty is feeling the pinch, until Damaris arrives offering an intriguing alternative. Homecoming sails are spotted just in time. Festival winner.

6w

Idols

Phoebe M. Rees

A woman, jealous of her daughter-in-law, tries to send her to the guillotine. This popular play has won numerous awards.

6w

The Impromptu Magazine

Juanita Hayes

The daughters of a Victorian vicar want freedom. Three succeed. The eldest remains and lightens her loneliness by editing a magazine.

7w

In the Morning

Winifride Trentham

A tragic situation - the love of a peasant girl for her sister's husband - ends when the whole hamlet is destroyed by an avalanche.

7w

Incident

David Campton

At an almost empty hotel, Dora is told that there is no room for her. In an atmosphere which develops into near-nightmare, she comes face to face with the fears and frustrations behind discrimination.

5w

Inside Story

Michael Parkes

Humour and pathos inside a women's prison.

6w

The Japanese Doll

Jean Garstang

Mrs Ashford has died leaving her companion her entire estate. The late Mrs Ashford's cousin, a nurse, arrives unexpectedly and becomes suspicious. A Japanese doll is the key to the mystery. Thriller.

5w

A Jinx at the Johnson's

Luella Walsh

Mrs Johnson finds a box of Magic Capsules in her lodger's room. She and her neighbours experiment with hilarious results!

5w + extras

Just the Job

Agnes Kennett

There's something for everyone at *Carol's Agency* - if you can take it.

8w

The King's Daughters

Juanita Hayes

A moving insight into the frustrated lives of George III's daughters.

7w

The Last Time

Colin Lawrence

Years ago, four teenagers were involved in a tragic accident - Alan, Jane's brother, died in hospital. As Jane and Helen recall past events, they discover that more than one life was destroyed.

3w

The Lawn

Joyce Dennys

Refusing to honour her father's gentleman's agreement, Lady Edith tries to evict Ruth. Ghostly ancestors support Ruth's claim. Imaginative and powerful. Fantasy drama.

6w

Legacy of Ladies

Sam Bate

Bill inherits a Baghdad palace for saving an Emir's life. Some of the contents arrive in England - to Mrs Bloggs immense displeasure!

7w

Light O' My Life

Ruby Hill

Mrs Newberry is looking forward to retiring to Spain with her devoted husband, but when friends call to wish her well, the future seems not to be what she expected.

5w

A Loop of String

Maxine Kay

Mrs Ramsay is found gassed. She lived alone and it seems she was careless. A neighbour gives good reason to suspect murder. Thrills and excitement. Thriller.

6w

Lovers and Ladies

Jennifer Curry

Elizabeth's new book, *Lovers and Ladies*, is causing a stir. She visits a women's group and says that women should be brave enough to indulge their passionate and sensuous side instead of being tamed by domesticity. Will she feel the same when Debbie, who gave up everything for love, reveals that her lover is Elizabeth's husband!

7w

Lumbered

Don Carroll

Nora is looking forward to moving away from Lena, her nosy neighbour. She finally completes the sale and then Lena announces that she too has bought a new house - next door to Nora's new home!

6w

Mad Hatters in Mayfair

Barbara Van Kempen

In a millinery shop we meet the owner, two cleaners, an apprentice, a Duchess, an American and a variety artiste. Very lively and funny.

7w

Maids to Measure

John Lee and Ida Steele

Wealthy Aunt Kate is coming to stay and insists on staff. A magic ring provides them - with hilarious results.

7w

Make Mine Mayfair

Barbara Van Kempen

A fashion show looks like being cancelled when the model sprains her ankle. Two cleaners step into the breach and the comedy turns into farce!

8w

Margaret

Eve Banister

Clare, aware of her late husband's infidelity, has tried to preserve his reputation by bringing up the girl she believed was his as her own.

4w

Marriage à la Mode

Yvonne Bednorczyk

If you enjoyed *Upstairs, Downstairs* then this is for you! Set in 1921.

6w

Marriages Are Made in Heaven

Phoebe M. Rees

Elizabeth, in love with Sir Francis Drake, is forced into a loveless marriage. But a cannon ball (still to be seen) makes her mother relent.

6w

Matron Takes an Early Bath

Jack Last

A black farce from this well-known author.

6w (Middle-aged)

Men!

Anthony Booth

A farcical version of *Lysistrata*. The wives strike from their marital duties! Enthusiasm wanes, especially amongst the younger wives!

6w

The Midnight Tide

June Medley

It is 1800 - Mrs Courtland and her daughter typify the nastier characteristics of the age. Julia, a penniless niece, has more sympathy with the "lower orders", particularly when a servant faces deportation. Scottish Finals 1989. Costume drama.

5w

Monday's Washing Day

Sam Bate

The launderette supervisor, about to go on holiday, attempts to show the relief manageress the ropes. The relief, an ex-ATS sergeant decides to run the business on Army lines!

6w

Morning on the Pier

Alison McMaster

Without Maureen's interference, Madame Gena would have refused bribes large enough to keep her from being evicted from her fortune-telling kiosk. Interesting plot with an unexpected ending.

7w

Mourning for 'Little Nestings'

Robert G. Newton

Little Nestings has been plagued by disasters, a sudden death confirms fear of supernatural events.

7w

Mrs Dooley's Table

Sam Bate

With her sister away on holiday, Agnes decides to make changes to the cafe. A series of incidents leads to an uproarious climax.

7w

Mrs Tyler's Rival

Stuart Ready

When her reputation as the most revered villager is threatened, Mrs Tyler weighs up her bombastic rival and gives her a good roasting.

6w

Murder at the WI

S. N. Kaye

The unpopular president of a WI is found murdered. The crime has obviously been committed by one of the members, but as Mrs Neames is a not-so dear departed, there are many suspects.

7w

Nearly Four

Enid Coles

An unusual theme, good roles and a compelling denouement.

3w

The Night Is Far Spent

Cecil Davies

In Ravensbrück concentration camp, a Russian nun takes the place of a young girl condemned to death.

4w

Nightwatch

Colin and Jennifer Lawrence

Time becomes blurred in this neatly devised scene of daylight haunting. Ideal for schools and festivals. Drama.

7w

Not to Worry

Barbara Van Kempen

Mrs Bloom is feckless and charming but deep in debt - her debtors send their wives to collect, but even they are hood-winked.

7w

Now We Shall Never Know

Joyce Dennys

The telly-mad Bates and Potters almost miss their favourite programme through forced politeness. They are saved by old Mrs Bates - for a fee!

5w

Nuclear Family

J. Liddiard

Disillusioned, Anna returns from Greenham Common and persuades her family to build their own nuclear shelter. During a real war, her sister questions the morality of their survival and tries to persuade them to leave the shelter. Anna will stop her by any means necessary.

5w

OAP Rules, OK!

Marion Whybrow

Mrs Rogers seeks a respite from her grandchildren in the Senior Citizen's Centre. Used to her independence, she rebels against the petty restrictions of the domineering Volunteer. Her lead is followed by the regulars who engineer the Volunteer's retirement party a decade or two early! The male role can be a voice-off or merged into Mrs Dando's reminiscences. 30 minutes.

5w 1m (4 retired)

Code B1

Oh, Mother!

Andrew Perkins

Susan is discomfited by her Mother and Aunt Mildred's refusal to pass over to the afterlife and continued meddling in her affairs. But her invisible presence proves a boon when a bogus Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator visits Susan. Whilst Susan is distracted, an accomplice steals her valuables. Mother and Aunt have to regain the stolen silver to protect a family secret. Three women are 30-50 years old, two are 70+. Festival winner in 2001.

5w

Code B1

On TV

Myra Williams

Light comedy about a TV programme, *Eternal Eve*, run by a widow and her secretary who, unknown to her boss, is a successful novelist.

6w

Open Today

Beatrice Adamson

A glimpse behind the scenes of a stately home.

8w

Or Was He Pushed?

Jack Booth

Paul died in the South of France. The police having made no progress, Mother comes from California to find his killer. His widow, Julia, suggests suicide. Connie refutes this and hints that Julia killed him. An unexpected mistress appears, supplying a motive for

murder, which Connie thinks new evidence will prove. But it does not work out quite as she hoped.

5w

Code B1

The Other Door

Peter Assinder

Two sisters caretake for two stars whilst they are abroad. It seemed such an easy job. But the tension rises with the curtain! Comedy.

5w

Our Emmie

Sylvia Davidson

Where does Emmie go every day? When her secret is divulged the audience will be as amazed as her family.

5w

Our James

Ros Moruzzi

Iris is devastated to learn that she is a test-tube baby! As she traces her father the possible candidates become ever more alarming! Deftly-drawn characters, a serious message and an hilarious climax have made this black comedy a festival winner, best actress winner and runner-up in a national play-writing competition in 2001.

3 or 5w

Code B1

Paradise Park

Ros Moruzzi

A group of disparate women face personality clashes on holiday in Italy, especially Pearl and her over-bearing daughter. Pearl gets her way, but there is a twist in this bitter-sweet romantic comedy.

6w (Two elderly)

Code B1

The Paradox

Eileen Brandon

A festival-winning play, in which a topical problem is handled with perception and humour. Drama.

5w

Parish Pump

Eleanor D. Glaser

When a house is allocated to outsiders, feelings run high. But even the bitterest opponents of the newcomers come to welcome them.

7w

Park Hotel

Ros Moruzzi

Two elderly bag-ladies seek refuge in a smart hotel, where two gushing socialites are having a liquid lunch. An old classmate causes the lives of the four women to converge, resulting in sweet retribution for the tramps on the uncaring socialites. Festival winner.

6w

Code B1

Party Piece

Jessica Fraser

Granny Miles finds living with her daughter-in-law frustrating and difficult, especially as she can't have a good gossip with friends, tell fortunes or play cards. However, Mrs Lang, the Vicar's wife, makes a proposal which Granny realises will solve all her problems.

7w

Party Plan

Patricia May

Paula thinks she has everything ready for her *Party Plan* evening. Her sister accuses her of being a Madam, having mistaken the advert for marital aids as aid for marital. All is revealed in this pacey comedy!

6w

Party Time

Eileen Brandon

The Committee is arranging the annual Christmas party for local grandfathers. The clash of personalities is skilfully exploited. Can be used as a script-held play. Minimal scenery required.

6w

Code B1

The Paying Guest

Peter Assinder

Who is Ann Rathbone? Novelist or murderer? Susan takes her as a paying guest and finds out - but it nearly costs her life! Comic thriller.

4w

Pearls of the Poor

Arthur Hessayon

Four drop-outs are isolated in a derelict house. One of them is nearing the end and her companions seek help. A moving drama.

4w

Perfect Casting

Phyl Steven

With only one good role in the new play, competition is fierce.

5w

Peril at the Post Office

Stuart Ready

The Postmistress receives a coded telegram implying an imminent attack on the village. Frantic preparations are made. Farce.

7w

Pictures at an Exhibition

Margaret Bower

Molly is stuck at home looking after her mother. Her wealthy sister visits rarely and has no sympathy for her. She begins to paint and an exhibition is arranged, funded by her sister, which is a success. Molly leaves her mother and finds that she was faking her heart condition.

6w

A Point of View

David Campton

Bed-ridden Auntie surveys the world from her window. A crisis arises when the landlady and her nieces try to evict her.

5w

Poisonous Miss Zephyr

William Dinner and William Morum

Miss Jones, housekeeper to a recently dead woman, turns up at the Bottle Sale in a flap. The ladies are convinced of foul play when Miss Jones demands back the bottle she donated. Did it contain poison?

9w

Poles Apart

Derek Parkes

Sandra insists on being taken to her granddad's funeral in a bleak northern town. Despite Norma's fears about Sandra's reaction to the town and her odd relationship with her mother, the trip is more successful than envisaged, as Sandra helps heal the rift between the two older women.

3w

Poor George

Beatrix Carter

Aunt Maud is an agony aunt. But trouble on her own doorstep has to be settled by less orthodox methods.

5w

A Popular Move

Margaret Dobbs

There is no lack of takers when this house is put up for sale.

7w

Post Mortems

Jill Hyem

Eight months of grief and isolation have driven Gerda to a total breakdown and Jan is to be part of her macabre suicide plot. Performed on TV and radio. A marvellous play by the talented author of the TV series, Tenko.

2w

Prisoners

Mike Wells

An interrogator pushes for a confession. The scientist almost caves in, but realises that her arrest has been concocted to force her to research chemical warfare. She gains moral ascendancy and feels free from fear - the interrogator is now the real prisoner.

2w

Proof of the Pudding

Peter Assinder

Miss Willows writes romances, but her cook is a secret author too. A telegram arrives and is opened in error - and the fun begins!

6w

Queen's Night

C. Neilson Gattey and Jordan Lawrence

Sleeping at the salon to be early for Queen Elizabeth II's Coronation, two young hairdressers dream that five past Queens of England visit - but was it a dream?

8w

Queen's Token

Norman Holland

Two years on, the Queen learns from the Countess of Nottingham why Essex's plea for clemency never arrived. Sequel to *Day of Reckoning*.

6w

Queenie

Ros Moruzzi

It is Golden Jubilee Year and a harassed social worker meets two elderly, yet fiercely independent sisters, one of whom has always been treated like a queen because of her resemblance to the Queen. Annie, Queenie's biker-daughter, becomes reluctantly involved in the social worker's plans to meet Queenie's care needs. 30-35 minutes.

4w

Code B1

The Querulous Queens

Madge Pemberton

Agnes Strickland wrote historical novels in the nineteenth century, which were favourites of Queen Victoria. This play shows the possible reactions of the dead queens to her pen portraits.

11w

Quick Return

K. Giddins

The caretaker of an empty mansion turns it into a guest house. The owners return sooner than expected and the ensuing chaos is in the best traditions of farce, but all ends well - for some! Delightful characters.

6w

The Quiet Places

Sam Bate

It takes a Czech servant to remind a group of English ladies to value their freedom enough to challenge authority.

7w

R.I.P.

Kathlyn Selby

Heaven knows what happens to us when we die - but unfortunately Hell wants a hand in it too! Fortunately there is a third alternative.

7w

Raven's Retreat

Mary Wheeler

A charming family of amiable villains meet their match!

6w

Right of Way

Sam Bate

Mrs Swann is utterly bewildered when perfect strangers wander through her new bungalow without explanation.

7w

A Ripple in the Pool

David Campton

Miss Cooper is the terror of the typing pool - maintaining discipline with her acid tongue.

4w

The Rocking Chair

George Taylor

If Mary had bought a headstone for the grave of her unlamented husband, then his empty rocking chair might not seem so strange.

4w

Romance

John Reason

Skilful writing weaves together the three ages of an anonymous woman with sensitivity, beauty and a true sense of theatre. A lyrical play which is compelling and highly recommended.

3w

Romantic Journey

Betty Quin

On the eve of her secret flight to be with Robert Browning, Elizabeth Barrett is almost prevented by the unexpected return of her domineering father. Victorian drama.

6w

The Room

Graham Jones

Four elderly tourists are shut in a room and addressed over a loudspeaker. Things are not what they expected - until they are reassured by the offer of dinner. But is everything as it seems?

6w

Roses and Rue

Winifred Fraser

Contrasts one woman, cherishing memories of her lover who died in the war, and a second woman, who is warped and disillusioned. In Scots dialect.

5w

The Royal Carpet

Sam Bate

A domineering, dress shop manageress tries to bulldoze her staff into line. But the Shop Steward organises a humiliating defeat for her. Priceless situations.

6w

Royal Ructions

Michael Lambe

Grand Magna WI is ready for a royal visit. But Emily struggles to retain her sanity as the Duchess, Mopsie the eccentric artist, clumsy Doris and Akelah seem set to ruin the day. Hilarious and highly recommended if you want your audience to laugh the roof down!

6w

Rugs and Pewter

Sam Bate

Sisters squabble over who will inherit Mother's treasures, even though Mother is alive and well! She out-manoeuvres them in the end.

5w

Ruins

Doris M. Day

Three girls visit the birthplace of their school's Founder. Twenty-five years later they go again. As adults they are very different people.

7w

Running Past

Margaret Bower

Four gold medal-winning members of an Olympic running team are reunited. Amid old (one girl stole another's fiancé) and new rivalries (two of their daughters are running against each other, one for Britain and one for America) they come to terms with the past and present in this well-written and moving play for four women in their fifties.

4w

Sabbatical

Maureen Nield

Simone, a novice from a convent, falls ill and is taken to a brothel to recover. Her growing awareness of her surroundings and the occupants is told with strength and truthful characterisation.

5w

The Sad Affair in Mangel Street

Mabel Constanduros

Mrs Todger's shop is the centre of gossip in this cockney comedy and from it rumour spreads of a supposed sad affair in Mangel Street.

6w

Sailors Beware

R. F. Delderfield

The wives of the officers of the Fleet, awaiting news of the Armada at Plymouth, are left to languish in the Mermaid Inn. They plan a raid on the Bowling Green, but a masked lady persuades them to adopt her more devious scheme!

6w

Salestalk

Kathleen Craig

Margaret thinks she will make lots of money working from home. But other people have the same idea too. A hilarious free-for-all ensues.

6w

Sanctuary

Phoebe Rees

A convent is the setting for a plot to assassinate Napoleon in 1801.

7w

Costume Drama

Sauce for the Goose

Linda Beard

A highly original and entertaining comedy with a superb curtain.

7w

Second Wedding

Phoebe M. Rees

John's first wife, whom he divorced because of insanity, escapes from the asylum and awaits the arrival of his new bride. Festival winner.

5w

Seconds Out

Eileen Brandon

Crisp dialogue, an ingenious plot and an excellent curtain.

5w

September Storm

Glyn Partos

During the French Revolution a group of aristocrats are imprisoned. In this taut drama, surprising revelations are made and the least deserving of the aristocrats is sacrificed to the mob, giving time for the others to escape.

10w

The Sermon

Beatrix Carter

An eccentric, but loveable, spinster takes the Vicar's sermon too literally - and wins the Pools!

5w

Seven For Sylvia

Lydia Havers

A film star rests in the country. But her visit has far-reaching effects on her hosts. Humour and pathos are skilfully blended.

7w

Seven Shoppers Snooping

Stuart Ready

At a garden party, a WPC searches for a thief who has stolen from a local store. Speedy action and inspired detection.

10w

Shadow of Fear

G. E. Bollans

Four people play bridge, a young widow talks to an old lady. It seems so innocent - yet when the conversation turns to the recent crimes in the neighbour-hood, it becomes clear that one of those present is guilty. But which one? Thriller.

7w

Ship's Company

Nancy Gaffikin

The vigours and rigours of a luxury holiday cruise - but there is still room for the unexpected.

7w

The Showdown

Anthony Booth

The wives of some union members wait for the results of an election. One man wants to regenerate the union. The result is triumph - and disaster. Drama.

6w

Silence On the Battlefield

David Campton

Three impoverished sisters constantly try to break their dependence on each other and especially on Brenda, the organising sister. But is either of the others trying to murder her?

4w

Sitting in with Nellie

A. Aldrich

Sarah's arrival at *Baxter's* heralds computerisation. Nellie and Doreen, long-standing rivals, learn that Doreen is to be made redundant. A tragedy for Doreen, but Nellie welcomes it. She tries to persuade her boss to alter his decision, but her plans are foiled.

3w

Six Maids A' Mopping

Stuart Ready

Mrs Cartwright seeks a new cleaner after not hearing from Mrs Agley for weeks. Mrs Agley turns up and, as her owner is out, seizes the chance to interview her prospective successors!

8w

South Seas Sighting

Sam Bate

Women on a world cruise on a luxury cruise find the answers to some of their problems!

7w

Split Down the Middle

David Campton

Josie and Fran believe their boat is sinking, so they confess to the nasty things they have done to each other and beg forgiveness.

3w

Spring Flowers For Marguerite

Edward Murch

Mother awaits a visit from her dead son's wife, refusing to accept poisonous small-town gossip. The boy's Godmother is less generous - until a prophetic gypsy calls. A charming, unusual tale with a strange ending. Occult drama.

4w

Storm in a Cauldron

Beatrice Plant

Alice's hens hatch out as ducklings! Witchcraft seems the obvious reason and Alice's life is in danger. Medieval comedy.

9w

Strawberry Jam

Bruce Fisk

Father dies with appalling timing! His daughters' efforts to rectify his mistake provide a genuinely macabre comedy.

4w + Voice Off

Stretch-A-Point

Naomi Sinclair

You need a patient to practise First Aid, but the class is bound to get so tied up in their work that a volunteer is hard to come by!

6w

Such a Jolly Christmas

Margaret Bower

It's Christmas Eve and Agnes, a humourless widow, awaits her equally miserable sister and their ex-sister-in-law. No food is forthcoming and in desperation Milly, Agnes's cousin, is sent out to buy some festive fare. And something really festive is what Milly buys! A beauty of a finish. The characters are well-defined and the tension delicately handled.

5w

Suicide Deferred

Hilda Bayley

An emotional woman is made to remember her husband and forget her failed romance.

3w

The Summons

Phoebe M. Rees

The policeman's wife is anxious to find out who issued a summons against her husband after their chimney caught fire.

6w

Surprise Packet

Nora Clare

A cafe is failing when a surprise packet arrives out of the blue.

5w

Tarzan's Mother

Sam Bate

Casting Tarzan for a new TV series is no easy matter. The choice for Tarzan's Mother is a delight.

5w

Tea, Set and Match

Sean Street

The Narrator sees a conversation between two Welsh ladies as a game of tennis. Each player tries to score points off her opponent by revealing new gossip. When it comes to scandal, it is two match points in no time ... !

3w

Code B1

Tea Time Gossip

S. L. Bensusan

A rural comedy of gossip with well-drawn characters. Essex dialect.

5w

Teatime Tactics

Barbara Van Kampen

Six of one v. half a dozen of the other makes an explosive comedy.

6w

Tell Mother - the Butterflies

Phoebe M. Rees

A young woman who has lost her husband and son receives comfort in unusual circumstances.

5w

That Old Black Magic

Andrea MacPhail

The Great Majestica fails to show-up at a magic show which could save him from financial ruin. His long-suffering wife and his scatty assistant step into the breach! Black comedy at its most macabre.

3w

Code B1

They Came To A Cottage

Mary Nield

Five women on a bleak moor shelter in a desolate cottage. Will their good humour see them through the horrifying situation that develops? Thriller.

5w

This Isn't My Scene Man!

Anthony Booth

This excellent play contrasts four well-established women with the youthful tearaway, Rip. At Rip's entrance, wounded, frightened but defiantly tough, the play enters the realm of true drama.

5w

To See Ourselves

Beatrix Carter

The entire village is astir after a novel is published guying the residents. But who is the author, and how does she know so much?

5w

Too Much of a Good Thing

Don Carroll

When two elderly sisters find the proceeds of a bank robbery, they think their problems are solved - but many more are created, especially when their niece, a policewoman, comes to visit them.

5w

A Touch of the East

Barbara Clift

The Lady Mayor entertains Japanese VIPs to attract investment to the area. The wife of a local building contractor gate-crashes and disrupts the party with her own brand of diplomacy.

6w

A Touch of Whitewash

Albert Dobson

Louise holds a party to welcome her future sister-in-law, but rumour has it that Virginia is West Indian and Aunt Mabel is adamant that they don't want "someone like that in the family". Having built the suspense, there is a twist when Virginia turns out to be very different.

7w

Treasure From France C. Neilson Gattey and Z. Bramley-Moore

It is 1793 and an exiled French Viscount is lodging with an English widow and her daughter. How do the local ladies react to tales of the Viscount's treasures? Costume comedy.

10w

The Twisted Mirror

Josephine Carter

Louise, lonely and alone following the death of her father, is urged by her "friend" Lulu to be more adventurous. But who is this friend who knows her so well and where is she leading her? Finally, it seems to lead to an end that neither of them really sought.

2w

Two Leaves and a Stalk

David Campton

One old lady is obsessed with her dying plant; the other tries to persuade her to take an interest in something more permanent - like brass rubbings, as living things always die on you.

2w

Waltzing Matilda

Barbara Van Kampen

Having misled her son about the luxury of her guesthouse, Mrs Wells dreads her daughter-in-law's visit. Her fuddy-duddy guests pretend to be members of the jet set! Chaos reigns supreme.

7w

Washing Day Welcome

Sam Bate

On her last day as relief supervisor, the clients of the launderette plan a party - to welcome back Mrs Foster! Their revenge on the unpopular relief is a scream.

7w

Way To A Man's Heart

Barbara van Kampen

Dora, an ex-nurse, marries a diabetic widower. The Doctor's and Dora's ways of helping him totally clash. Laughs and shocks.

4w

The Way To His Heart

Vera Arlett

Primrose starts a cookery class to ease her financial difficulties.

6w

We're All Equal, Aren't We?

Eleanor D. Zonik

A girl is offered a scholarship. But her mother and sister think it unfair to support her. Gran gets a job and a home to support her.

5w

A Weapon in Wax

A. J. Bradbury

Five historical characters are on show at a waxworks. But the waxy assistants are dissatisfied with their share of the takings and threaten to blow the whistle. Farce.

6w

The Wedding at Pemberley

Anne and Arthur Russell

A footnote to Jane Austen's *Pride and Prejudice*, set a few years later.

7w

Wedding Bells for Clara

G. E. Bollans

Clara awaits the arrival of a pen friend that she hopes to marry. Joyful anticipation turns to despair when his wife arrives.

6w

Wedding Crisis

Sam Bate

Her groom's absence casts Gloria's wedding plans into chaos.

7w

Wedding Days

Sylvia Vaughan

It is Barbara's wedding day, but she has been living with the groom for some time. She is having a white wedding for her mother's sake. Her aunt, gran and a neighbour drop hints which lead Barbara to ask her mother about her wedding day - and she gets quite a shock.

6w

The Weekend

Graham Jones

Five middle-aged friends, take an annual weekend break at a posh hotel. This time, however, things do not run smoothly. Is one of them having an affair with another's husband?

5w

What A Sell

Barbara Van Kampen

Sisters plan to make money from their home where Charles II slept.

9w

What is to Become of Mama?

Margaret Bower

Imagined sequel to *Pride and Prejudice*. The girls are reunited by Father's death and try to decide who shall look after Mrs. Bennett when the house passes to their cousin. Lydia, the black sheep, returns as the mistress of a wealthy tradesman who has left her a fortune and a house in Brighton.

7w

White Satin

Audrey Evans

Harriet orders a gown which she hopes will make her the belle of the ball and win her a wealthy husband. A husband is not forthcoming and when the dressmaker's assistant is found dead from over-work, Harriet tries to make amends. Winner of the *Scottish Community Drama Association's 1981 Playwriting Competition*.

5w

Who Cares?

John Chambers

Jane and Angie, persistent offenders, share a cell. They learn each other's story and develop a rapport, but there is no repentance for their crimes and no improvement in their behaviour - for who cares?

3w

Whose Deal?

Eric Roberts

Two naive sisters sell their beloved prints to a dealer. But are they as innocent as they seem?

6w

A Wife For Mr Watts

David Coe

According to Mrs Stanhope's daughters, Mr Watts is wooing each of them but, in spite of his wealth, each has her doubts. Then Mr Watts finally proposes - to Mama, an attractive, young widow!

"A play of great delicacy and charm." - Amateur Stage.

5w

Wilfred Slept Here

Don Carroll

A wife expects to inherit her husband's estate, but what a surprise to learn that he was a bigamist and his real wife comes to claim it all instead!

5w

Wine In A Venetian Goblet

Jean McConnell

In the days of Galileo, Venice was a dissolute city of schemers and cruelty. This stark, beautifully written drama, breathtaking and gripping, makes an ideal choice. Festival final 1989. Historical drama.

8w

Wives Play

John Reason

Three women escape from reality - for a time.

3w

The Woman at the Well

Margaret Franks

At the monthly meeting of the village women's group, a sophisticated visitor forces them to re-examine the roles they have been happy to play in their limited but self-satisfied society. But who is pretending to whom? And is anyone taken in by it all?

7w

You Gotta Be Dynamic . . . !

Mary Bryan

You have to be up early to be an office cleaner - and earlier still to put one over on this lot! Full-blooded, fast-moving and hilarious.

6w

Young Victoria Reigns

Norman Holland

Queen Victoria effectively asserts her authority for the first time.

5w

Zoe White and the Ugly Queen

Bruce McLaren

The Queen has set up an elaborate spy system to ensure that no woman ever outshines her. A mirror in every household is linked to a central computer which answers any questions put to it. A clever play for adults based on the popular story of *Snow White*.

4w

Religious Plays

Code A1 applies unless otherwise indicated.

Christmas

The Angels At Bethlehem

Freda Collins

A Nativity suitable for children or adults.
16w + extras

The Beggars of Bordeaux

Edward Murch

Set in a French inn on Christmas Eve, this play shows how the events of the Nativity affected the lives of the people staying there.
7w (or 3m 4w)

Bethlehem Boy

Edward Murch

Four variations on the Christmas theme. The cast can be large or smaller or of any age.
7w

The Gifts

Mollie Clarke

The Holy Family is befriended during their flight into Egypt - but their meeting is prophetic, casting the shadow of the Cross.
7w

The Journey of the Star

Edward Murch

A touching play relating present-day refugee problems to the Nativity and the Three Kings who cannot believe the Saviour could be born in such a lowly place.
7w

No Room

Freda Collins and Alison Graham-Campbell

The reactions of a group of women when confronted by the problem of "no room at the inn". 20 minutes.
8w + 1 child

Saint Germaine

Edward Murch

In the French village of Pibrac, Germaine's humanity is tested on Christmas Eve by the arrival of a Duchess seeking a new horse and a beggar seeking food and shelter. Her devout Christianity causes her to give away her only possession - her horse - and to steal a loaf of bread from her domineering sister-in-law. When confronted for the theft, the beggar reveals herself to be the Madonna and Germaine is recognised as the saint she is.

5w

Tell It to the Wind

Edward Murch

An unusual treatment of the Nativity with rewarding parts. The action passes smoothly between the present to the past and back again. Very spiritual and a festival winner.

7w

Two Nativities

Peter Assinder

The Bright Star - with music -**10w + 1boy**

The Light of the World - **Mixed cast of 10 + Choir**

Without Candles

Manuel Straub

Even the Welfare State finds that there's "no room at the inn".

11w+ Choir

The Women of Bethlehem

Carol Woollcombe

A realistic approach to the background into which Christ was born. Has real atmosphere.

6w + Extras

Easter

Mary's Son

Sylvia Davidson

A modern story of a mother who shows great fortitude throughout the trial of her son, his betrayal, release and subsequent death. It reflects the poignancy of the first Easter with dignity and realism.

4w

On the Hill

Edward Murch

An original and unusual aspect of the Crucifixion portrayed with reverence and dignity.

7w

Sorrow Into Joy

Dorothy Myring

Simply and sincerely portrays the lives of the women close to Jesus after darkness has fallen over the land on that first Good Friday -and shows how their sorrow was turned into joy.

5w

Stranger On The Road

Beatrix Carter

A family living on the road to Emmaus are asked for a night's lodging by three travellers.

3w

General

The Answer

Phoebe M. Rees

Jerusalem AD 44. Peter is in prison and the women who love him are praying for his release. Are their prayers answered?

6w

Godstow Nunnery

Laurence Binyon

Verse drama about the visit of Queen Eleanor, widow of Henry II, to the nunnery where her rival, Rosamund, ended her days.

7w

Joanna and the Candles

Joyce Dennys

A mother and daughter take refuge in a convent. Henry VIII breaks his promise to protect them and allows unscrupulous relatives to claim her. The prioress saves her, but has to face the consequences.

9w

Costume Drama

Mine Enemy My Friend

T. B. Morris

This festival-winning play supposes a meeting between Queen Vashti and Esther, at which Esther asks for help to save her people.

7w

The New Jerusalem

Phoebe M. Rees

Commissioned for the *Somerset Federation of WI's Golden Jubilee* in 1966. Compares the varying Ages of Faith, Reason and Science and concludes that Faith is the unifying theme. Inspired by Blake's poem and ends with a stirring rendition of *Jerusalem*.

12w+

The Trumpet Shall Sound

Phoebe M. Rees

Reconstruction of the events which led to the escape of Saul of Tarsus from Damascus in AD 34.

5w + extras

Seasonal Plays

See our separate Pantomime list for further plays.

Code A1 applies unless otherwise indicated.

Aladdin **Jean Griffiths**
Easy to stage - easy to cast. Ten simple scenes, so no scenery to build - the ideal last-minute pantomime! 60 minutes. Pantomime.
17w **Code A2**

Charity Begins at Christmas **Florence Edwards**
A seasonal homecoming brings two sisters together - but it is the guests who work the miracle. A heart-warming play. Drama.
7w (Middle-aged)

Christmas Cheer **Sam Bate**
Christmas is a time of extra work and cost but with a spirit that makes it all worthwhile. The rehearsal of an ageing fairy queen is stunning!
6w

Christmas Crackers **Sam Bate**
The caterwauling from next door ruins Mrs Carter's Christmas preparations and she calls the *RSPCA*. But no ordinary cat is making the ear-splitting noise.
6w

Christmas Spirit **Sam Bate**
An authoress seeks peace over Christmas to finish her book - but her kind neighbours disrupt her. She persuades a nervous ghost to return to its native haunt, which causes the neighbours to return to theirs!
7w

Do You Believe in Fairy Tales? **Margaret Bower**
Cinderella and Co have a re-union thirty years after *Happily Ever After*. They are due for a new set of happy endings.
7w

Double Bill

Kay Macauliffe

Cinderella - A Potted panto - **11w** ;

A Christmas Carol - Adaptation - **2w, mime parts + 15 extras.**

Fag-Ash Ellie

Pat Ograms

With Cinders as a punk Princess, this hilarious anti-panto is suitable for any time of the year. Easy to stage. Cast can be of either gender.

9w

Code AS

Anti-Panto

A Happy Christmas

Beatrix Carter

Seasonal gifts, merrily wrapped, unwrapped and re-wrapped.

4w

Happy Christmas, Dear Edward

Jean Garstang

With a guilty secret locked in the guestroom, Christmas is no time for guests! As they fear, curiosity almost kills the cousin!

5w

A Very Small Turkey

Jan Rockliffe

Mrs Blake's unusual Christmas presents bring great joy to her guests, but there's an excellent reason for that very small turkey.

7w

Collections of One-act Plays

Ladies' Night

David Campton

Incident - *The Manipulator* - *Silence on the Battlefield* - *Two Leaves and a Stalk.*

The Miraculous Year and Other Plays

Phoebe M. Rees

The Incorruptible - *The Miraculous Year* - *New Jerusalem* - *Tell Mother, The Butterflies.*

Six One-Act Plays for Women

Phoebe M. Rees

The Answer - *The Dream* - *Idols* - *Marriages Are Made in Heaven* - *Second Wedding* - *The Trumpet Shall Sound.*

Two-Act Plays

Code A2 applies unless otherwise indicated.

Aladdin

Jean Griffiths

Easy to stage - easy to cast. Ten simple scenes, so no scenery to build - the ideal last-minute pantomime! 60 minutes. Pantomime.

17w

Dear Diary

Kay McManus

An author seeks solitude in a remote cottage to finish her book. But her unexpectedly close neighbour is keen to befriend her! As they try to adjust to each other, the author discovers that her relationship with her boyfriend is shaky, to say the least! When it all proves too much for her, she flees back to London where she can seek anonymity in the crowded streets. A final shock lies in store for her! Premiered on *BBC Radio* to much acclaim. Drama.

2w

Code B2

The Manipulator

David Campton

Bed-ridden Auntie likes to get her own way. When her landlady and nieces join forces to evict her from her room, she needs all her ingenuity to defeat them. See *Point of View* for one-act version.

7w

The Miraculous Year or Dorothy Wordsworth in Somerset

Phoebe M. Rees

Coleridge seen through the eyes of seven women. Two questions are answered: why did Wordsworth say he did not know they had been suspected of spying for Napoleon? Without Dorothy, would Coleridge have written *The Ancient Mariner*? The scenes are linked by extracts from Dorothy's *Alfoxden Journal*.

7w

Possession Is . . .

Doris M. Day

After their father's death, his daughters and sister disagree over who should live in his house. As the protagonists try to reach a solution, a surprise revelation settles the matter. Well-balanced roles allow the actors full scope to use their skills. Comedy.

6w

Code B2

Three-Act Plays

Code A3 applies unless otherwise indicated.

The Amanda Story

Elma Verity

Amanda, an Australian girl, is loveable and independent, but in the background there is an intriguing mystery. A spell-binder! Drama.

7w

Bride Unknown

Joan Brampton

Based on the belief that Mary Queen of Scots gave birth to a daughter, this is a vivid and moving tale of conflicting loyalties and Mary's ultimate sacrifice. Historical drama.

7w

By Whose Hand . . . ?

Dorothy Underwood

A thriller full of light touches and flashes of humour.

9w

Find the Tiger

Patricia Brooks

Danger is the last thing one expects in a Health Clinic. But it is there, menacing, behind the smooth exterior of efficiency! Tense, dramatic and highly entertaining. Thriller.

10w

Hidden Frontiers

Peter Assinder

Enlivened by the humour of real-life people facing danger with courage, this fine adventure offers excellent acting opportunities.

5w

Holiday Haunts

Sam Bate

Weird events convince holidaymakers that there must be supernatural goings-on. Why does a non-existent telephone ring?

9w

Farce

House of Women

Sheila Barnsdale

Emma has managed to keep up appearances, despite the increasing violence of her insane sister-in-law, Lucy, towards Anna, the youngest member of the family. Life is over-shadowed by past events, which are taboo subjects in the house. Distraught, Anna disappears amid fears for her safety!

8w

Ladies at Sea

Stuart Ready

Despite its maritime title and setting near the sea, the tale concerns landlubbers immersed in plots and counter-plots, old maps and buried treasure. A truly comical climax.

10w

The Last Act

Myra Williams

A playwright pretends to be a bigamist in order to record the reactions of his "wives". He is murdered and all six women in his life had both the opportunity and motive to commit the crime. Which of them is guilty?

6w

Man Maid Mischief

Barbara van Kampen

Mary is forced to face the truth of the adage: if you wish youngsters to go in one direction, push them the opposite way!

8w

Motive For Murder

Sam Bate

A woman driven by obsessive ambition is bound to make enemies. She is murdered - several suspects have strong motives. A spell-binding who-dunnit.

5w

The Only Prison

Patricia Brooks

In an atmosphere of horror, the underlying characteristics of the female inmates of a WWII Japanese prison camp shine through: courage, kindness, even humour. Drama.

5w

The Return of the Rat

Patricia Brooks

Set in the year 2100, one hundred years after a cataclysmic atomic war, a small community has escaped annihilation. An unusual, thought-provoking play. Scientific fable.

9w

Someone Else's Pretty Toys

Sam Bate

Courage, pathos and drama are found in this tale of blackmail, murder and insanity. A mother's heartbreaking dilemma leads to a shattering climax. Drama.

7w

Something To Celebrate

Kay Macauliffe

If you have not tried a full-length play before, this one with its easy setting and lively dialogue is worth trying.

9w (7 middle-aged, 2 younger)

Tangled Web

Patricia Gordon

The prospect of retirement is impossibly dreary to the Headmistress - until ex-pupils interest her in their gang and make her the leader. Ludicrous and mirthful.

6w

Well! Well!

Sam Bate

Faced with ruin, a hotel owner is helped by a mysterious visitor, plus incantations to the Health-cum-Wishing Well. Written with zest and vitality, this is sheer, glorious fun.

9w

Readi-Games No. Two

Seven instant party games for all age groups, the active and the less mobile.

The order suggested starts with an ice-breaker and builds to a grand finale.

Me'n'U - Ideal ice-breaker, especially for new members as they must pair up; **What Does Your Garden Grow?** - Tests garden knowledge but gives non-gardeners a sporting chance; **Charade** - Three short sketches; **Getting the Bird** - A wall-chart game; **Notable Numbers** - you don't have to be good with numbers!; **Double Act** - an acting game for everyone or for a drama group to show off their skills; **Pierrot - Pierette** - a sing-along of old favourites.

Price: £6.00 including VAT and postage