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# New Mixed Casts Plays

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J. Garnet Miller

Kenyon-Deane

New Playwrights' Network

## **Aladdin**

**Joe Graham**

An hilarious version of the classic story including all the usual elements and characters but written in a contemporary style. Aladdin, Wishee Washee, Widow Twanky and the beautiful Princess thwart the evil Abanazar's plans with a little help from the Genie and the incompetent police double-act of Ping and Pong!

*Premiered in 2007 by the Watford Palace Theatre for their annual pantomime, directed by Joyce Branagh. Running time: 100 minutes.*

**10m 4w + Children's Chorus + Extras**

**Code B2**

## **All Washed Up!**

**David Valentine**

Tensions rise during the local repertory company's rehearsals of Jack and the Beanstalk. But technical and emotional problems ensure that the dress rehearsal runs far from smoothly: the Stage Manager is the Health and Safety Representative; the leading man's wandering hands get him into trouble with his wealthy wife; whilst the Director is on the verge of a nervous breakdown! Can Jasmine, the leading lady, persuade an "old flame" to grant them a stay of execution?

*Premiered by the East Bridgford Drama Group in 2012 to sell-out audiences. Running time: 100 minutes.*

**5m 5w**

**Part Mayhem/Part Panto**

**Code B2**

## **Bingo Royale**

**Nicholas Corder**

Daniel Craig is nothing compared to the sexy spy, Jane Blond! Our incompetent heroine must pitch her peerless talents against Ernst Stavro Postlethwaite and his evil sausage, black pudding and meat-pie empire! Whilst Blond is hindered by Queue's often useless and lethal gadgets, Postlethwaite disposes of his enemies through his pie shops - watch out for the odd thumb in your pasty!

*Great fun for children of all ages. Running time: 90 minutes. A minimum of 25 speaking parts with most parts playable by either males or females.*

**Varied**

**Code B2**

## **Both Sides**

**Sue Welch**

Following the breakdown of his marriage, Bill turns to Peter, a counsellor, to help him come to terms with his loss. Meanwhile, his wife Louise, has a new boyfriend and has asked him to move in with her and her teenage daughter, who is already struggling to come to terms with her parents' splitting up. But why is Louise's sister pleased with this turn of events and what is her secret? A poignant and powerful drama with a surprise ending.

*Won Best Original Play and Best Actor and was nominated for Best Supporting Actress and Most Promising Youth in 2003. Running time: 50 minutes.*

**3m 3w**

**Code B1**

## **Cinderella**

**Joe Graham**

A wonderful, magical pantomime including all the usual elements and characters but with up-to-date and highly original touches. Fairy Godmothers R Us save Cinderella from her servitude to her wicked stepmother, Sadista, and the two very ugly sisters, Adorabella and Fruitella. Will Cinders get her Prince Charming? Oh, no, she won't! Oh, yes, she will! - with a little help from Buttons and her Fairy Godmother!

*Premiered in 2006 by the Watford Palace Theatre for their annual panto, directed by Joyce Branagh. Running time: 100 minutes.*

**5m 6w + Children's Chorus + Extras**

**Code B2**

## **A Click of the Heels: A Book of Monologues and Sketches**

**Eleanor Fossey**

A collection of four sketches, including two mixed cast sketches. *Poetry Wars* (2m + 2 of either sex + 2b or g) is a comic battle of wits between Percy Shelley and John Keats in a tennis-like poetry championship. *Questioning Jimbo* (2m 2w) is a dark comedy in which a game of trivia exposes the divides in a relationship as events take a sinister twist.

*Semi-finalist in the 2007 Melbourne Short and Sweet Competition.*

**Varied**

**Code BS**

## **Common Denominator**

**Sue Welch**

What exactly goes on in the Ladies' toilets of a nightclub on a Saturday night? Various groups of women on a night out are beset by problems from cheating boyfriends, tiresome mothers to a baby who insists on being born! Brilliant physical comedy combines with moments of poignant drama, resulting in a thoroughly entertaining night.

*Won Best Original Play, Best Actress and was nominated for Best Supporting Actress and Best Stage Presentation at Thameside Theatre. Runner-up at the 2007 Thurrock Drama Festival. Running time: 50 minutes.*

**2m 15w**

**Code B1**

## **Dancing to the Sound of Crunching Snails**

**Joe Graham**

We all remember events differently. Katy is nervous about meeting her estranged father for the first time since he abandoned the family. An uncomfortable evening ensues and, as memories are stirred, it reaches a head over a remarkable game of *Monopoly!*

*Won Best Play awards at both the 2008 Oxford Drama Network and Wallingford Corn Exchange Drama Festivals. Running time: 55 minutes.*

**2m 2w**

**Code B1**

## **Driving Force**

**Sue Welch**

A tense drama about the consequences that follow a hit-and-run incident. As the victim's family struggle with their emotions, the driver fights his own demons whilst trying to prevent his wife discovering the secrets that threaten their marriage. The plot twists and turns, leading to a devastating final twist. This drama holds the audience spellbound right up to the final curtain. It provides an excellent opportunity for actors to explore the full range of emotions and leaves them exhausted at the end.

*Won Best Original Play and Best Actor at the 2001 Thurrock Drama Festival, and was also nominated for Best Actress and Most Promising Youth Actress at Thameside Theatre, Essex. Running time: 45 minutes.*

**3m 3w or 2m 4w**

**Code B1**

## **Duckability South of Runcorn**

**Scott Marshall**

The loquacious Headmaster of a rundown boys' boarding school interviews two young teachers. They are very different in personality and appearance but, this being a two-hander, must be played by the same actor - a very versatile one! Fatal cricket matches, extreme pranks on vulnerable teachers and misuse of staff by the Governors make for a riotous comedy. Fortunately, blown fuses are not uncommon, leading to an hilarious ending with all THREE characters on stage. *Running time: 45 minutes.*

**2m**

**Code B1**

## **Eating the Lino**

**Scott Marshall**

Two ageing couples, the assertive Len and the quieter Bert with their wives, have a few night-caps in their hotel lounge. The conversation ranges far and wide as they discuss many matters, few of any great significance. But when left alone with Bert, Len recalls childhood memories. A warm, gentle comedy, with shrewdly accurate dialogue and character observation. *Running time: 50 minutes.*

**2m 2w**

**Code B1**

## **The Entrepreneur**

**Beryl Beare**

A cast reunion of a school production of *A Midsummer Night's Dream* gives Angie the chance to reveal some truths. Kevin was the school bully who now makes a living as the "entrepreneur". Angie's secret is that Ben made her pregnant then abandoned her and their child. Sixteen years have passed and their daughter died a few weeks before. Kevin assumes she organised the reunion to take her mind off things. Nothing could be further from the truth. A well-paced play, the dialogue is contemporary, funny and rings true. The twist is truly unexpected and dramatic.

*Short-listed for the Drama Association of Wales Playwriting Competition in 2010. Running time: 40 minutes.*

**1m 1w**

**Code B1**

## **Fallen Angels**

**Sue Welch**

Five angels have been sentenced to an all-female Celestial Punishment Centre to reform after their halos have slipped! As they squabble over who is best resisting their temptations, a mysterious man appears in their midst. Who is he and why is he there? An hilarious battle of the sexes develops as the angels unite to show the man the error of his sexist ways! *Running time: 40 minutes.*

*Popular with audiences and actors alike, winning several festival awards.*

**1m 5w**

**Code B1**

## **Fit To Drop**

**John Waterhouse**

Dora is ageing and trying to get fit, Julia sees the gym as a dating opportunity, especially with Brian, the hunky instructor. They gossip and bitch over the exercise machines. *Running time: 40 minutes.*

**1m 3w 2m extras + 1w voice off**

**Code B1**

## **A Fistful Of Mondays**

**Joe Graham**

The disparate members of a line-dancing class form the basis of this romantic comedy. Annie has moved the Monday Night All-Star Line-Dancing Club class to a bar to drum up some extra students, whilst Barry the bar manager is hoping the class will boost his takings! As the bar regular gets used to the dancers, a romance blossoms between Tom and Annie, but Tom's emotional baggage threatens to derail them. Can he put his past behind him and find true love to the tune of "Achy Breaky Heart"? The varying abilities of the dancers provide great opportunities for humour.

*Winner of the 2001 Oxfordshire Drama Network Playwriting Competition. The play was revised after a professional tour of a musical version, as Rhinestone Mondays, in 2010/11. Running time: 115 minutes.*

**4m 4w**

**Code B1**

## **For A Few Mondays More**

**Joe Graham**

The Warbesley Sports and Social Club is still as deserted as ever, but now it is under threat from an unscrupulous property developer! The dancers have to contend with the threat to their beloved dance nights, the death of Mary and the car wreck that seems to be Tom and Annie's relationship! Will the group stand firm? Can Tom win Annie back from the baddie? Will Carol *ever* remember the steps? The hilarious sequel to *A Fistful of Mondays*. Running time: 130 minutes.

**5m 3w**

**Code B1**

## **Getting Dark**

**Joe Graham**

Karen is going blind, but she is only 6 so she doesn't really understand. The adult Karen does, however, and it is she who tells the story. Karen's parents have to decide what is best for a child they feel they are no longer able to care for. Their decision is one that haunts Karen still. Based on the true story, *The Ribbon of Truth*, by Kal Gibson.

*Won awards at the 2003 Oxford Drama Network and Wallingford Corn Exchange Drama Festivals. Running time: 40 minutes.*

**1m 2w**

**Code B1**

## **The Goldfish Bowl**

**Joe Graham**

The latest hit reality TV show is the Goldfish Bowl in which the twenty-something contestants must successfully care for the fish or lose the prize money. As the fish disappear, one by one, they suspect each other of trying to hide the fish's deaths. A satire on the vacuity of reality TV and those people desperate for their fifteen minutes of fame.

*Commissioned by the Sixth Sense Theatre Company for an educational tour in 2006-7. Running time: 25 minutes.*

**2m 2w + Voice Off**

**Code B1**

## **Hell and Damnation**

**Leonard Morley**

The taxman has run out of patience with Rear-Admiral Lord Charles and arrives at Summerville House with the bailiffs. But the Admiral refuses to give in. He takes the taxman hostage and barricades the House against the bailiffs. Salvation comes from an unlikely source once this hugely entertaining romp has run its course! Sequel to the ever-popular *Hell and Highwater*.

**5m 1w**

**Code B1**

## **Hunchback of Notre Dame**

**Joe Graham**

Quasimodo must hide his true identity from his beloved Esmerelda or she too will be doomed to an ugly fate! But, aided by Esmerelda, some lively Gargoyles and a tuneless minstrel, Quasimodo is able to thwart the evil Mayor's plans and restore order to Paris. *Running time: 120 minutes.*

**5m 4w, 3 of either sex + Chorus**

**Code B2**

## **Intervals**

**Eleanor Fossey**

Three linked sketches set during different intervals during a pantomime production of *Goldilocks and the Three Bears*. Two sketches are set backstage in the dressing rooms of two of the bears and of the principal boy and expose the tensions in the cast. The third features two refreshment sellers as they gossip about the cast. All-women cast with male voices off. Running time of each is 20 minutes. The three can be presented together as a whole one-act play or separately as sketches.

**Varied**

**Code BS**

## **The Last Group**

**Alison Gilmour**

The art therapy group meet in a spooky, deserted psychiatric hospital, earmarked for redevelopment. The cat is set among the pigeons when the therapist is strangely late and a newcomer joins the four regulars. Feisty Stella upsets their fragile equilibrium with her confrontational approach, but is a breath of fresh air just what they need? Will she find help from this tight-knit group? A drama with much humour and ghostly goings-on.

*Premiered at the AETF Nidderdale Festival 2010 where it won Best Actor, Most Original Script and Runner-Up. Running time: 40 minutes.*

**2m 4w**

**Code B1**

## **Love's Young Dream**

**Ros Moruzzi**

A delightful comedy which explores the complications of modern family relationships. Jill's parents anxiously await the arrival of her future in-laws. Peter's parents have new partners and aren't on speaking terms: Bridget is with "Loadsamoney" Dave and Stan brings his tarty, young fiancée. The mothers clash over the wedding plans, class rears its ugly head and old animosities flare up! When Jill fails to turn up, the wedding seems to be off! But ... *Scene Two* is set in a maternity ward! Over the no-man's land of Jill's bed, the new grandmothers fight over baby names, childcare and who will be called Nana! The young couple, despairing of the older generation, find their own way to cope. Then they drop another bombshell and it's back to square one! *Running time: 40 minutes.*

**4m 4w**

**Code B1**



## **The Martha Syndrome**

**Scott Marshall**

The police find a middle-aged woman wandering in the park in the early morning with blood-stained hands. She is questioned by a brusque DI and a more sympathetic female colleague. The detectives disagree on their approach and tension rises between the old style policeman and his more politically correct junior. As they slowly drag information from the Woman, they have to discover the whereabouts of her two children, who is her abusive husband and what has happened to him? This is a very well-paced, strongly written drama, with three excellent roles.

*Premiered by the Hereford Players in March 2011. Northern Ireland Finalist at the 83rd British Final of One-Act Plays 2016. Running time: 50 minutes.*

**1m 2w**

**Code B1**

## **Mother Came Too**

**John Waterhouse**

When the newly-weds move into their new home they are horrified to find that Raymond's domineering Mother has no intention of letting him escape her apron strings and is moving in with them! However, Raymond's long-absent Father arrives intent on making up for abandoning his son when he escaped his wife. A large cheque allows them to escape Mother's grasping clutches! Based on the author's television play, which starred Peggy Mount as Mother and Graham Stark as Raymond. The excellent script allowed them to showcase their talents to the full.

**2m 2w + 3 non-speaking extras**

**Code B1**

## **Moving On**

**Scott Marshall**

Gordon is a newcomer to Silverdale Residential Home. It is run by the efficient widow, Mrs Beauregard; Amy is the 15 year old new cleaner, whilst Miss Leinster is a long-term resident. Gordon finds it difficult to settle in to his new surroundings as his frequent recollections of his family show. But this elegiac piece has a surprise twist in its tail as it moves to a startling revelation! A delightful, yet deceptive drama.

**1m 3w 1 girl**

**Code B1**

## **Never A Cross Word**

**Ros Moruzzi**

Julia and Bernard have always got along pretty well, but Bernard is retiring and ill-prepared for it. At a loss for a new purpose in life, he re-organises Julia's routines, driving her crazy. She escapes into a series of romantic fantasies. Tensions increase to crisis point but, eventually, Julia recognises the tragedy of Bernard's situation and, little by little, they manage to adjust to this new phase in their lives. A delightfully funny but poignant observational comedy. *Running time: 45 minutes.*

*“The sweet and sour dialogue holds such pain, fear and loss. We really do get a sense of a man fighting for his dignity and the effect the fight has on his wife, who needs to escape from the reality of him. There are some great things in this play ... - Ian Rowlands, Drama Association of Wales*

**2-6m 1w**

**Code B1**

## **Old Dogs**

**Steve Raw**

The residents of an old people's home are left to their own devices when the miserly owner goes on holiday. Ron, the newest inmate, revels in their freedom, but Sid and Eric are reluctant converts. As they settle down to their first illicit drink, a scantily clad woman bursts in, pursued by her pimp! Murder swiftly follows, and they must now dispose of a corpse, a car and re-home a gaggle of prostitutes!

In this black comedy with more than a hint of farce, our three heroes soon come to love their re-found purpose, as they run a successful brothel from the care home! All this could be endangered by a Council inspection! *Running time: 85 minutes.*

**7m 3-4w**

**Code B2**

## **One Little Duck**

**Mark Green**

Some pupils are preparing a time capsule at a 1960s school - what can they include which will have meaning to children in 50 years time? As their modern day counterparts open the capsule, they discover that most of the contents have rotted away, but a cryptic clue leads one girl on a hunt for a lost diary, which proves to be deeply moving and causes the modern day children to re-evaluate their comparatively pampered lives.

*Premiered by the St Philip's Junior Workshop at the 2010 Greater Manchester Federation One-Act Festival where it won Best Play, Best Performance by Ryan Pilling and Most Original Play.*

*“A well-constructed and crafted play ... a delightful mixture of humour and pathos and the play concluded quite unpredictably on a most moving note ... an award-winning play and one which I commend to young performers.” - Meg Bray, GODA Adjudicator.*

**5m 7w + extras**

**Code B1**

### **Outward Bound**

**Mark Green**

Fifteen school children are on a camping trip to the Lake District and have to contend with mountain climbing, formidable teachers, a terrible storm, soggy food and sleeping bags and the inevitable rivalry between the boys and the girls! But in the true spirit of team-building exercises, open warfare is imminent, but then they find that working together brings the best result.

*Won Certificate of Merit in Section A (U14) of the 2007 Greater Manchester Drama Federation One-act Festival. Running time: 30 minutes.*

**6m 9w (aged 8-14)**

**Code B1**

### **The Pelican Pilgrimage**

**Beryl Beare**

A homeless young man and a wealthy older woman share a bench in St James' Park. Both are waiting for the pelicans to be fed, but for different reasons. She is reliving the occasion on which her husband, now ex-, proposed to her; he is hoping to cadge a fish from the keeper. The young man recognises her as someone who passed him on the street but pretended not to see him. He accepts her contempt amiably, but when a jogger has a heart attack and collapses, their roles are reversed. *Running time: 25 minutes.*

**2m 1w**

**Code B1**

### **Primates**

**Scott Marshall**

Wilfie runs a stationery business with his amorous PA, Miss Blenkinsop. When he is visited at work by a neighbour, her revelations cause more than a few ripples. Wilfie is prone to stress, but his PA is ever-ready to relieve him, leaving Eunice to display, among other things, her remarkable knowledge of trivia. A non-stop verbal and physical comedy, guaranteed to raise laughter. *40 minutes.*

**1m 2w**

**Code B1**

## **Quotations on the Margin**

**Scott Marshall**

In a setting left to the director's imagination, Duffy, an actor, is being questioned indirectly by the persistent Johnson. With echoes of Pinter, an atmosphere of mystery and menace hovers over this black comedy, as Duffy displays his professional dexterity. But who are these men? Where are they? And, most importantly, where is Duffy's wife?

*"I don't think I've enjoyed reading a one-act as much as this in years."* - Jeremy Lewis, Riverside Theatre

**2m 1w**

**Code B1**

## **The Replacement**

**Scott Marshall**

This hilarious, frenetically paced one-act seems to be set in a Doctor's surgery. But quickly the Doctor and patient swap identities. An invisible nurse is addressed as the tension between the men increases menacingly.

The denouement explains all, with one of them revealing a shocking piece of information. Two first-class roles for versatile actors in their twenties to forties.

**2m**

**Code B1**

## **A Tale of Two Cities**

**Andrew Perkins and Peter Denman**

Would you be prepared to die in order to ensure someone else's happiness? That is the dilemma facing Sydney Carton in this fast-paced adaptation of Charles Dickens' classic tale set amidst the tumult of the French Revolution. This faithful adaptation sweeps us from Paris to London and back again, supported all the way by colourful Dickensian characters, from the cheerful Cruncher to the bloodthirsty and vengeful Therese Defarge. A tempestuous tale of love, intrigue and treachery leading to its poignant and tragic end in a Parisian courtyard, where Mme Guillotine awaits!

In two acts. Running time: approximately 105 minutes. A large varied cast makes this play ideal for schools, much scope for doubling.

**8m 4w (Principles + many extras)**

**Code B2**

### **There Just Has To Be A Better Way**      **Derek and Paula Clifford**

Written to commemorate life in the trenches of World War One and back home in England for those waiting for the return of their loved ones. This drama touches on domestic political struggles, such as the fight for Workers' and Womens' rights, as well as the war with Germany. The strong anti-war message is underlined by the choice of music from different twentieth-century conflicts. Running time: 50 minutes.

*Premiered at the Harold Jolliffe One-Act Play Festival, it won The Swindon Advertiser Award for an Original Production. It also received nominations for The June Thompson Memorial Cup for Dramatic Endeavour; The Matthew Herring Award for Originality or Achievement in Technical Theatre; and The Audrey Suter Trophy for Best Adult Performance by an Actor - for all three actors.*

**3m 4w + 6 extra male roles which can be doubled or tripled Code B1**

### **A Tiding Of Magpies**      **Susan Pierce**

This one-act drama is set in 1950s Britain. The Cold War between the Western Powers and the Soviet Bloc has become a major preoccupation of the British Intelligence Services as the sense of hostility and mistrust deepens. John, a new British cipher clerk, finds that his progressive political views make him vulnerable to entrapment by Soviet spies. As his handlers' demands increase, John desperately tries to find a way out. Flashbacks to his childhood upbringing in Wales point out significant moments in his "political" development. Running time approximately 50 minutes.

*Winner of the 2018 Geoffrey Whitworth Playwriting Competition as part of the Final Festival of One-act Plays as well as winning awards for Best Actress, Best Cameo, Best Staging, Best Production, the Audience Award and the Adjudicator's Special Award for Musical Direction at the Saltburn One-Act Festival.*

**14m, 12w and 6 children (scope for doubling) Code B1**

### **To Ebay Or Not To Ebay?**      **Billy Roberts**

This one-act drama is a topical play about the trials and tribulations of being a seller on Ebay! Jim has been made redundant, so takes up selling on Ebay as a means of making a little money and keeping himself occupied. At first, Jim enjoys turning old junk into cash, but soon the listings take over his life, with ominous results! *Running time: approximately 40 minutes.*

**2m 2w + 3 of either sex Code B1**

## **Top of the Mourning**

**Scott Marshall**

An hilarious Irish romp in which a dozen relatives and well-wishers/hangers-on gather at the Wake of the Widow Quinlan. All twelve will seem familiar to fans of modern Irish theatre: the two Dubliners, Major Doyle and his faithful sidekick, Corporal Duddy; Crikey Macklin and Finoola Glavin, who swap ways of disposing of unwanted parents! Fast and furious fun, with a show-stopping end that will have audiences reeling in the aisle!

**5m 7w**

**Code B1**

## **Uncle Mick**

**H Connolly**

Mick is conned into looking after his 15 year old niece for a week, whilst her mother goes on holiday. Initially, they are both wary of spending time with each other, but they soon develop a close bond. As they enjoy a thrilling week of new experiences, we learn why Mick failed to realise his youthful promise: he stayed at home to protect his Mother from his abusive Father.

A challenging one-act drama, with great humour and pathos. Running time: 45 minutes.

**2m 3w**

**Code B1**

## **Underwritten**

**Joe Graham**

Mr De'Ath is distraught when his bank manager unexpectedly turns down the mortgage application which he thinks is the only way to save his marriage. Rather than accept this rejection, De'Ath decides to take desperate measures to secure his loan - he takes the bank manager and his secretary hostage at gunpoint! When the senior "underwriter", Mr Gogently, arrives to negotiate, the outcome is far from gentle! A very black farce. *Running time: 50 minutes.*

**3m 1w**

**Code B1**

## **A Walk in the Park**

**Mark Green**

This coming of age comedy takes a light-hearted look at four teenagers as they prepare to enter the unknown and frightening world of adulthood. Four distinct personalities, with four distinct outlooks on life, stroll through their local park pondering their childhoods, life and love. One year later, they meet up again in the park - have they learnt anything from their experiences? *Running time: 40 minutes.*

**2m 2w (aged 15-20)**

**Code B1**

## **Who's Afraid of the Big Bad Wolf?**

**Joe Graham**

The Big Bad Wolf is cast in a good light as he finds love with a wolf in lamb's clothing. He is aided by a brand new superhero double-act: Red Riding Hood and Hazel the Wonder Squirrel! The three pigs are out to save their own bacon. A rasher of evil is provided by the witches from Hansel and Gretel, Sleeping Beauty and Snow White in a Macbeth tribute act! And you've never seen Hansel and Gretel played like this before! Oh, no, you haven't! Great fun for all the family. *Original music and lyrics available.*

**3m 7w, 4 of either sex + Chorus**

**Code B3**

## **The Wish**

**Mark Green**

A surreal look at what happens when four people are granted a life-changing wish! The contract stipulates that every ten years they have to account for how they have used their wish, with the person being deemed least worthy having to remain in limbo as the Judge until the next session in ten years time! Naturally, the present Judge is eager to return to her dream of being Chancellor of the Exchequer! Will the new boys and girl be able to match her guile?

*Won the Nan Nuttall Trophy and the Bertram Holland Trophy in Section B (15-20 year group) of the 2007 Greater Manchester Drama Federation One-Act Play Festival. Running time: 30 minutes.*

**2m 2w (aged 15-20)**

**Code B1**

