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# New Mixed Casts Plays

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J. Garnet Miller

Kenyon-Deane

New Playwrights' Network

## **Ballyhoo Circus**

**Mark Green**

Well-to-do young Henrietta sets off to visit the travelling circus, only to discover that all the men have been conscripted to fight in World War One; and some of the women have had to take work in the fields and in munitions factories. When the landowner threatens to evict the Circus unless they can pay the rent, how will the children manage? Henrietta persuades the circus children to showcase their talents by taking on their parents' acts.

*First performed in 2018 at the Greater Manchester Drama Federation's One-Act Play Festival by St Philip's Junior Workshop. It won four awards in its class, including the coveted Playwrights' Workshop Trophy for Best Original Play. Running time: 45 minutes.*

**5b 6g (9-14 years)**

**!!NEW 2019!!**

**Code B1**

## **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, enjoy a few night-caps in the bar. 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**

## **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**

## **Friday's Child**

**Austin Hawkins**

Whilst walking home from the office one Friday evening, Alan is stopped by a young prostitute, Sharon. Impulsively, Alan accompanies her to her nearby flat. But all is not what it seems. Alan reveals his motive for going back with her. Sharon finds herself in an unfamiliar situation and is feisty and defiant. In the ensuing encounter, they both reveal something of the culture that has shaped

their lives and find that they have something in common. Running time: 40 minutes. First performed at the Carlton Theatre, Teignmouth Devon by Teignmouth Players in 2013. Runner-up in the 2013 *George Taylor Memorial Award*.

*Friday's Child can also be performed as the first act of the three-act play, Friday's Child, along with Vulnerable and Faking Genuine. The three-act version was performed by Teignmouth Operatic and Dramatic Society at the Ice Factory in Teignmouth in 2018 to great success.*

**1m 1w**

**!!New 2019!!**

**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**

## **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**

## **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**

## **9 Months BC**

**David Rounce**

A comic two-act retelling of the Nativity Story. Angels Islington and Delight take the audience on a trip through the trials and tribulations of Mary and Joseph's unorthodox pregnancy: from Archangel Gabriel's appearance before the (surprised) virgin mother, to their quest for Festive accommodation in Bethlehem, to press-ganging the Wise Men and Shepherds to witness and give presents, right up to the Holy Birth itself.

**9 Months BC** is an irreverent take on the traditional, school Nativity Play, in the vein of Monty Python's *Life of Brian*. As such, it can be performed by both youth and adult groups. There is ample scope for doubling of parts to suit a smaller cast. Most roles can be played by either sex. Running time: 90 minutes.

**15m 5w**

**!!NEW 2019!!**

**Code B2**

## **On False Premises**

**Keith Burton**

A one-act comedy set in New York. Jake is showing off his plush apartment to Mary after their first date. But he has "borrowed" the apartment to impress her - courtesy of his friend, Sam, at "VacationSwappers.com"! Mary becomes wise to him but, just as she is about to walk out, Dan and Rose turn up - the real vacation swappers! Jake and Mary are forced to try and pass themselves off as the owners - but then a surprise is sprung on them all!

**On False Premises** was the runner-up in the 2018 Geoffrey Whitworth New Writing Cup and a Finalist, placed 5th out of 1,200 entries, in the 2019 Tennessee Williams One-Act Play Contest, New Orleans Literary Festival - a real honour for Keith as the only British writer! Running time: 45 minutes.

**2m 2w, plus 1 Voice off**

**!!NEW 2019!!**

**Code B1**

## **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**

### **A Penny For Them**

**Keith Burton**

Twenty-five years after getting four girls accepted for Oxford, Freddie hopes the story of the two that graduated will save the High School from becoming an Academy. However, Louise, the third surviving member, has made a shocking

discovery about the death of Alison, the fourth candidate, and she is determined to expose the truth.

Winner of the 2019 **Geoffrey Whitworth Cup**, presented by the *UK Community Drama Festivals Federation* for the *Best Original Play* debuted at any preliminary round festival organised by the *All-England Theatre Festival*, the *Association of Ulster Drama Festivals*, the *Drama Association of Wales* or the *Scottish Community Drama Association*.

*“A cleverly layered story. Beautifully judged pace.” - Chris Baglin, GODA*

**3m 3w**

**!!NEW!!**

**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 20s-40s.

**2m**

**Code B1**

### **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**

## **Vulnerable**

**Austin Hawkins**

Middle-class insurance executive Alan is at home practicing some jazz music on the flute. His wife Mary returns so Alan hastily puts his music away. In conversation, Mary asks Alan what his friend Mike, editor of the local newspaper, wanted when he phoned earlier in the day. Alan reluctantly reveals that Mike wants to run a story that Alan had been seen with a young prostitute. He insists that his meeting with Sharon was for innocent reasons, but Mary has her doubts and is challenging. What follows is a tense and bitter exchange, with recrimination following revelation, as Alan and Mary face up to the fault lines in their outwardly stable marriage, and the probability that Alan's tryst with Sharon will become front page news. Running time: 40 minutes.

*Vulnerable* can also be performed as the second act of the three-act play, *Friday's Child*.

**1m 1w**

**!! NEW 2019 !!**

**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**

### **We Are Stronger Together Matthew Fisher**

Unity, a home-grown terrorist group, has taken the country by storm. We follow Letum as his confrontations with prisoners, his best friend and The Commander, the Messianic leader of Unity, cause him to question his allegiance. Is Unity really the best solution or has he committed horrific crimes?

Winner of the 2019 **Crawshay Cup**, presented by *The Drama Association of Wales* for the *Best Original Play* debuted in the *Wales One-Act Play Festival*.

**4m 3w**

**!!NEW!!**

**Code B1**

### **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**

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