

Plays for Youth Groups

October 2011

J. Garnet Miller

Kenyon-Deane

New Playwrights' Network

Sketches

Code AS applies unless indicated otherwise

C'Est Genial

Glenise

Three short plays using role-play, mime and drama to create a relaxed atmosphere, humour and a sense of involvement which are essential to build confidence in senior student in speaking French. The use of slang and colloquialisms enhance the learning of spoken French. A simultaneous English translation accompanies the French text. Sequel to *Zut Alors!*

Varied Cast

Code BS

Georgiana

Kenneth Rose

7 sketches inspired by paintings: *Mrs Kitty Clive; The Royal Button-Maker; Boswell Meets Johnson; A Winter's Tale; Death of a Hero; The First of the Dandies; The Tragic Muse; The Pilot Who Weathered the Storm.*

Varied Cast

Alison and Others

The Boys and the Girls

More Sketches

Ten Sketches

David Campton

The sketches are for all age-groups, with mixed, all-women and all-male casts. All have been professionally produced: *Table Talk* in the revue *On the Brighter Side* with Betty Marsden and Ronnie Barker; *Service* with Sheila Hancock, in the revue *Over the Eight*.

Varied Cast

£5.00 per book

Willie Conker's Windfall

Les Walker

Four twenty-minute, rhyming, music hall melodramas. Few requirements for scenery or lighting.

4m 4w



Zut Alors!

Glenise

Glenise's first selection of short plays with the text printed in both English and French for use by senior schools. The lively format, using acting, gesture, mime and drama, ensure an entertaining class.

Varied Cast

Code BS



One-Act Plays

Code A1 applies unless indicated otherwise.

Adventure of Sir Gawain and the Green Knight

Michael Herzog and Kenneth Pickering

A comic version of Sir Gawain's battle with the Green Knight for children or puppets. Gawain accepts the Knight's challenge, but his relief at decapitating him is tempered when the Knight picks up his head and reminds Gawain that he has a free blow in a year's time! Despite facing certain death, Gawain honours his promise. On his journey to face the Knight he meets many dangers and temptations!

6m 3w

Code B1

Alex in Blunderland

Patricia Freer

Alex, whilst dreaming of the rat-race, disco-dancers and the dole-monster, realises the importance of study and good examination results. A modern morality tale. Features choral speaking in Rap.

6m 5w

Cabbages and Culture

Edith Saunders

What happens in a small French town when its illiterate mayor, who depends on his daughter, is faced with her threat to seek a life of her own. Translation of the Eugene Labiche classic.

4m 1w

A Day for Killing Daffodils

Lynn Bains

Liz, a drama teacher, is determined to get through to her arrogant, vicious pupils. She tries to bring colour and excitement into their lives, despite opposition from her colleagues for whom the strap is the only authority. In a confrontation with Margaret, the gang leader, Liz almost uses the strap, but by refusing to use it, she gains the children's respect.

"A striking play - in every sense - and a highly topical one . . . great scope for imaginative creative drama." - Amateur Stage.

3m 11w

The Day They Lost Raggety Ruth

Tony Edwards

Mandy's family are moving home. The toys are looking forward to the day, but their pleasure is spoilt by a new toy who locks Mandy's doll, Raggety Ruth, in a cupboard. Raggety escapes and, with the help of some unlikely characters, including pompous Traffic Lights and a signpost with no sense of direction, finds her friends again.

4m 3w

Donalbain

Soinbhe Lally

A companion piece for students of *Macbeth* and an excellent play for adults. Donalbain, King Duncan's youngest son, is appalled by the violent verbal imagery and obsession with death and blood in *Macbeth*. In despair, he seeks refuge in the Irish classic, *The Playboy of the Western World!* Successful at 12 major festivals in 1989, including performances by the prestigious *Dublin Shakespeare Society*.

6m 4w

Code B1

Eldorado

Jose Harris

Young actors are getting into character for their play. As animals, they protest against Man's cruelty and disregard for the environment. They retreat to a far off planet, Eldorado, only to find that Man is already there. Can Man and animals live in harmony? Highly topical.

16 mixed

From Whence He Came

Steven Blandford

If the death penalty for murder was restored, what could happen to our soldiers? Michael is a Catholic serving in Northern Ireland. He is framed for the murder of a loyalist paramilitary and we see his and his family's despair as the death sentence is passed. No turgid, political drama but a charming look at Michael's relationships. *The Independent's "Pick of the Fringe"* at the 1990 *Edinburgh Fringe Festival*.

"The harsh conclusion, with its stark economy of means to convey the hanging, was most effective." - The Stage.

1m 4w

Code B1

Harlequin's Revenge & Other Plays for Puppets

Margaret Stanley-Wrench

Harlequin's Revenge - 4 puppets; *The Three Tasks* - 10 puppets; *Princess of Araby* - 10 puppets; *The Dryad and the Woodcutter* - 12 ppts.

Hewers of Coal

Joe Corrie

An intense dramatic situation develops between four men and a boy trapped at the coal face in a mine.

5m

Jam Session

Ivory Brides

A runaway borstal boy takes refuge in a youth club. Club members help him and persuade him to return voluntarily to the approved school but promise to keep in touch with him.

8m 3w

Landlord

Steven Blandford

A satire which contrasts the rise and fall of Georgina, a property developer, with Margaret Thatcher's betrayal. A fast-moving, blackly comic, ensemble piece which requires the actors to perform in multiple rôles and as the chorus. *The Independent's "Pick of the Fringe"* in 1991.

"Cleverly constructed and tightly written . . . a highly entertaining and acutely perceptive satire on the Thatcher years." - The Stage.

1w 5-9 of either sex

Code B1

Lashings of Ginger Ale

Stuart Smith

The "Sensational Six" are so busy planning a spiffing adventure for their holidays that they fail to notice the bewildering array of incredible things happening right under their noses! Fast-moving comedy.

7m 6w

The Man With a Newspaper

A. M. Liddiard

Comedy thriller. Some city lads find their bomb-site playground being used by strangers. One carries a newspaper, another seems more sinister. They decide to investigate, but are hampered by a group of younger boys, who are always present when not wanted.

12 characters

Masterpiece and Other Plays

E. S. Powe

Plays based on stories by well-known authors - for ages 11+. In one volume, with production notes, improvisation exercises, or 3 separate books:

Part I: *Los Vecinos* (Neighbours) based on "The Account Book" by Pedro A. de Alaron - 12 + extras; *What Men Live By* adapted from Leo Tolstoy - 11 roles; *The Gentle Rain* suggested by an anecdote of Oliver Goldsmith - 21 +.

Part II: *Masterpiece* suggested by "The Violin" by Richard O'Monroy - 14; *Eve's Other Children* suggested by "Eve and the Poor" by Vicente Ibanez - 14 + extras; *Pity the Sinner of a Lesser Land* based on the Tolstoy/Maupassant story "Too Dear" - 20 + extras.

Part III: *And Who Shall Teach?* based on "The Three Hermits" by Leo Tolstoy - 10 + extras; *The Devil's Journeyman* about Gianni Schicci - 18 roles; *The Distorting Mirror* based on "The Great Scene" by Maurice Level - 14 + extras.

Collected Volume: £8.00, each Part: £4.00

One Little Duck

Mark Green

Some pupils are preparing to bury 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 find that most of the contents have rotted away, but a cryptic clue leads one girl on a hunt for a hidden diary. The contents of which prove to be extremely moving and cause them to contemplate their own mortality and their comparatively pampered lives.

Premiered by the *St Philip's Junior Workshop* at the 2010 *Greater Manchester Federation One-Act Play Festival* where it won *Best Production, Best Performance 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

Othello - The A4 Edition

Soinbhe Lally

A mock-scholarly attempt to create a politically-correct edition of *Othello*. Professor Stratford's attempts to resolve the problems of race, gender and animal rights in the light of contemporary thinking, flounder on the issue of Desdemona's handkerchief. This clears the way for a feminist liberation of the text by his secretary. As Shakespeare's grand tragedy is reduced to the level of farce, some of the loftier theories of contemporary literary criticism are exposed as absurdities. Ideal companion piece to *Donalbain*.

5m 4w

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 storm, soggy food and sleeping bags and the inevitable rivalry between the boys and girls! But in the true spirit of team-building exercises, open warfare is imminent until they find that working together brings the best results. Won a *Certificate of Merit in Section A (Under 14)* of the 2007 *Greater Manchester Drama Federation One-act Festival*. Running time: 30 minutes.

6m 9w (aged 8-14)

Code B1

Ozymandias The King

Dorothy Hewlett

Power does not bring happiness. A mighty king is isolated in his court - spoilt by early success, suspicious. A Little Man appears to him in the midst of his splendour - and this Little Man is the symbol of his inner disharmony.

9m or 9w + extras

Palace Footman

T. L. Crawhall

Music by Michael Vickers

A love tangle involving Princess Valerie's childhood attachment to Anthony, her ex-governess who is the new Prime Minister, and the young King John of Appluvia. After many complications King John, disguised as a Footman, is recognised as none other than Anthony.

3m 3w

The Passing of Cleverclogs

Maureen Nield

It is time for Cleverclogs, a miserly industrialist, to die. Given one last chance to repent, he tries to persuade someone else to die in his place. His wife agrees, so long as he asks as if he were proposing again. In doing so, he recalls the good old days when they were poor but happy, and decides that it is his time to die after all - but has he man-aged to redeem himself?

4m 2w

Playscripts: A series of dramas, containing notes on cross-curricular activities linked to the plays:

Junior Playscripts for 9-12 year olds:

Legends of the Seasons and *Powers of the Earth* by Pauline Edwardes - The former deals with the magic of sunrise to the rituals of rainmakers; the latter moves from natural powers such as a seed splitting a rock, to Man's power to master mountains and survive the Ice Age. *Seaventures* by Derek Bowskill - The sea provides the link between stories as varied as Scylla and Charybdis and Punch & Judy.

Senior Playscripts for 11-14 year olds:

Gilgamesh - Hero of Babylon by Derek Bowskill - a dramatic depiction of this legendary figure's meeting with Enkidu and his battles with the Giants of the Cedar Forest; *Horizons - The Saga of Captain Cook* by John Boylan - An account of Cook's life from his apprenticeship in a Whitby colliery to his violent death in Hawaii.

Portrait of a Mother

Alfred Emmet and Barbara Hutchins

Leonardo da Vinci was the illegitimate son of a Florentine lawyer and a peasant girl, Caterina, and was brought up by his father. Eighteen years later, Caterina meets her son for the first time since infancy.

2m 2w

Radical Will

Claudia Leaf

Devised to meet National Curriculum requirements for Shakespeare and to show pupils how to appreciate what they might see as irrelevant and dull. Leanne is learning Helena's lines in *A Midsummer Night's Dream* but, as she cannot understand the language, she feels

no connection with the character. By comparing Leanne's feelings for Danny, Will shows her what Helena feels for Demetrius. Similar connections are made between Leanne's life and pertinent scenes from *Julius Caesar* and *Romeo and Juliet*. Thus, scenes from the three most-studied texts are used to enable students to find the depth of emotion in Shakespeare's plays.

1m 1w

Code B1

Spacennapped

Pat Bisson

Only Sebastian, his aunt and a vagrant realise that a vicious alien has invaded Earth! When the Mayor's fiery daughter is spacennapped, Sebastian comes to the rescue! An exciting, fast-moving show with plenty of OTT characters.

13+

Code B1

Take A Leaf Out of Gregory's Book

Jack Bingham

A proposed bypass will destroy an old tree. Gregory holds a sit-in in the tree in protest. The issue becomes muddled as everyone, including the Church, profits.

5m 5w

Their Town

Steven Blandford

Contrasting starkly with the warm, small-town life of its inspiration, Thornton Wilder's *Our Town*, this play portrays a bleakness at the heart of our cities, where the employed turn their backs on the less fortunate and everyone is looking out for themselves. A down-and-out couple take us on a tour of Anyville, on Election Day, 1987 - a seething pit of hatred, greed and violence. Will they find any warmth in their town? Though serious in intent, the tone is lively and varied, using humour and the music of the 1980s.

"It pre-eminently conjures up the nastier personæ of Thatcherland. Yet this is no crudely didactic, political theatre but telling entertainment with a sharp eye on contemporary Britain." - The Stage.

1m 1w + 5-12 extras

Code B1

Waiting for Nesbitt

N. Warburton

The actors take on various rôles: a new boy tries to find his way; teacher spells out a few home truths to the wrong parent; two boys chat up a schoolgirl.

2m 1w

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 disparate outlooks on life, stroll through their local park pondering their childhood, 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

What Does Peace Mean?

Bob Scanlon

Four German children, separated from their parents by the Nazis, are kept in a house next to a Nazi concentration camp. What is the sinister reason for their imprisonment?

3m 3w

William and the Artist’s Model

Richmal Crompton

Featuring the well-known character of the *Just William* books.

6m 2w

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 deemed least worthy having to remain in limbo as the Judge for the next ten years! 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 old group) of the 2007 *Greater Manchester Federation One-Act Play Festival*. Running time: 30 minutes.

2m 2w

Code B1

Two Act Plays

Code A2 applies unless otherwise indicated.

Alice in Wonderland

Don Carroll

A delightful adaptation of Lewis Carroll's immortal story with suggestions for songs. A novel panto or an ideal children's show.

15m 4w or 4m 4w

Barnji and the Bear

Ken Pearson

Barnji, a simple Icelander, leaves his bear, Treasure, with King Svein of Denmark and goes on a pilgrimage to Rome. He rescues the lovely Helena, but is tricked and returns to Denmark a beggar. But all ends happily, thanks to Treasure. Narrated by the Skald, Snorri.

8m 5w

Beauty and the Beast

Susan Sachon

The spirit of the original is retained, and offers great theatrical scope with dances; mime; humour; and enchanted servants who come to life at night with stunning effect! Magical family show, offering a good alternative to panto. Suitable for mixed age or youth groups.

8m 5w + extras

Code B2

The Beauty of the Dreaming Wood

Marian Jonson

An adaptation of *Sleeping Beauty* for modern children.

8 or 11m 10 or 11w + extras

Bingo Royale

Nicholas Corder

Daniel Craig has nothing on Jane Blond, sexy secret agent! 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 usually useless and often potentially 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! A minimum of 25 speaking parts with most playable by either sex. Running time: 90 minutes.

Varied

Code B2

Clumpeter and the Dragon

Ron Betts

Professor Klimper and his secretary, on a mission in darkest Cogarlari, stumble upon cave-dwellers Blog, Droga and a baby dragon. They are caught by wicked Clona who intends to fatten them up for sacrifice. Her plans are thwarted by the dragon. A comedy.

10m 3w

Crystal and the Golden Heart

Christine Dearden

Princess Crystal, on her 18th birthday, inherits the magical Golden Heart, making her Queen. Witch Nastelia steals the Heart, causing Good Fairynuff to challenge her. The Heart is broken into three pieces and scattered throughout the realm. Crystal must find the m first!

12m 7w

Ferlippity's Folly

Melvin Warhurst

When Simon and Sarah visit Santa's workshop, they begin a thrilling adventure as they and Ferlippity cross the enchanted forest to rescue Santa from the Wicked Witch. With the help of the Good Witch all ends happily. A charming Christmas play.

10m 6w

Gran Webster's War

Keith Williams

Commissioned in 1994 by *Longbenton Community College* as a play which would involve pupils from all year groups in a project to meet the demands of the *National Curriculum* on World War II and to contrast today's experiences of school days with those of 50 years ago. The drama charts the war years as they affect a community and contrasts the actions of the school-bully with those of Hitler.

14m 15w + extras

Code B2

The Inside Story

Kenneth Pickering

A delightful, zoological musical, full of humour and drama as it considers the plight of animals in our mean world. In Act One, humans are watching the zoo animals, but in Act Two the tables are turned when the animals study the humans. The moving, final song provides a focus for all who care about the future of this planet. Imaginative costuming can point out the similarities between humans and animals. Approximately 60 minutes, but can be cut to a one-act.

Flexible - 15+ mainly of any age or sex

Code B2

Island of the Winds

Marion Jonson

About the building of the statues on Easter Island and why they were suddenly abandoned. An award-winning play in the *Honolulu Theatre for Youth Competition*.

6m 4w + extras

The Magic Christmas Tree

Melvin Warhurst

When two zany inventors create a robot look-a-like of the King, everyone is confused, including the wicked Baroness and her bumbling henchmen. However, her evil plans to seize power and steal the magic Christmas Tree are thwarted by the Queen, two children, a band of loyal gnomes and some rather unusual technology!

9m 3w

The Magic Snowflake

Jo Brooks

A girl longs for a white Christmas. When she falls asleep, she is transported to a magical, wintry world. The King, under a witch's spell, has promised his daughter's hand in marriage to an evil duke, but the girl and the good fairy work together to put things to rights.

9m 8w

The Magic Snowman

Angela Lanyon

Why did the reindeer run away and who will help Santa recapture them? Plenty of audience participation for younger children as they help Mother Christmas with her spells and deliver the presents.

4m 2w

The Magic Tractor

Pat Bond

Baron Grabalott is about to evict Widow Lackpenny. Fairy Gardenia gives Tinny a Magic Tractor to replace his plough. Bill and Ben steal the Thingumajig. Tom and the Baron's daughter save the day and all ends happily with the Widow and Baron setting up a co-operative!

8m 13w + extras

A Midsummer Night's Travesty - A Romantic Comedy Without the Slushy Bits!

Nicholas Corder

Welcome to the Greek holiday island paradise of Domestos. Enter Norman and Donna who've eloped. It should be a romantic week, but enter Duane, Donna's jilted lover, eager for Norman's blood! Oberon and Titania, King and Queen of the Fairies, have fallen out. A group of amateur actors, led by Peter Quince, are rehearsing a play for the Festival of the Sacred Goatherd. It's a shambles. Things go from bad to worse when the mischievous Puck, tourist guide and ripper-off of tourists, gets going. Soon everyone's in love with the wrong person and the Domestos Players' production is a fiasco. This comedy is a great introduction to Shakespeare. Although much has been changed from *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, the basic plot remains and the play-within-a-play is easily recognisable. Approximately 100 minutes.

27 main roles + extras (Doubling possible)

Code B2

Moon On Your Back

Linda Smith

A hamster is accidentally left behind in an empty house. He starts off as a pathetic pet but, with the help of a spider, a tap-dancing beetle and others, he flees the gangster rats and sets out on an eventful journey. Something completely different!

30 players (Doubling possible)

Mrs Shakespeare - The Poet's Wife

Avril Rowlands

Have the debates over who really wrote Shakespeare's plays got it all wrong? Forget Marlowe, the true author was none other than Anne Hathaway! Following Shakespeare's funeral, Anne is left alone with her memories of their life together and a document signed by Will attesting that she was the true author! Through a series of flashbacks we glimpse key moments in their romance: their first meeting; Will's failure as a playwright in London; Anne's proposal that he pretend he wrote her plays as in those times educated women were regarded as witches; the success of their con; the sudden death of Hamnet; and finally Will's death. A fun alternative to the school Shakespeare play! Approximately 120 minutes. A 1-woman monologue is also available.

7m 5w (8 players with doubling)

Code B2

Musical Tails and Dirty Deeds

Jo Eagle

A delightful fantasy about a gang of cats being chased by the evil Dirty Deeds who wants them for gloves! Befriended by the likeable, yet fearsome, Terrodactyl and some circus performers, the cats triumph and are free to use their musical talents. The animals are well-observed and can be easily portrayed with basic costumes. With original music and songs, offers highly original family entertainment.

15m 3w (Interchangeable)

The Old Rust Bucket

Ron Betts

Trying to escape the clutches of a prim and domineering mother, two girls stow aboard a steamer. But to no avail as mother catches them. When the drunken, misogynist Captain and the crew of the Old Rust Bucket sail with them on board, hilarious and farcical conflicts erupt.

4m 3w

Code B2

One Child at a Time

Kenneth Pickering

To escape poverty, some families in the developing world sell their children into 'tourist industries' - the slave and sex industries. A teacher's efforts to save a child through *Plan International's* sponsorship programme are contrasted with the failure of the United Nations to define a child, let alone define abuse. With music. Very poignant.

Flexible cast of 12+

Code B2

Peter and the Princess

Melvin Warhurst

Contains some elements of pantomime. There are several catchy songs and the play can easily be performed on a small stage.

6m 4w + extras

The Pied Piper of Hamelin

Geoffrey Thornber

Hamelin Town Council refuses to pay the Piper for ridding them of rats, so he takes the children away. The exploits of brave Hans to find the children, return them safely and win the hand of his beloved Gretchen are the main ingredients. An excellent adaptation.

1m 5w

Pinocchio

A. Wall

Geppetto, a poor toy-maker, creates a puppet, wishing he had a son to care for and love. A good fairy gives life to the puppet who must remain a wooden boy until he earns the right to a final transformation. Lots of scope for fun and pathos.

28 players

Quest for a Golden Key

Geoffrey Thornber

Witch Sybil hates happy children, so she stops production at the Toy Factory. The Queen's Magician and her cat thwart the Witch. A popular, magical adventure which captivates all ages.

6m 7w

Right Royal Pack of Nonsense

V. Wilkes

A light-hearted fantasy of playing cards enacting their own game of life. Written in panto-style with the Joker as Principal Boy and the Queen of Diamonds as the Dame. Scope for audience participation and simple or elaborate special effects.

9m 9w + extras

Rumplestiltskin

Judith Shone

Mayor Larf overhears Tom the Miller's latest outrageous claim and reports back to greedy King Flumblum, who summons Tom's daughter Maria to the palace for her to spin straw into gold. Maria is helped by evil Rumplestiltskin but at a terrible price.

12m 3w + extras

Sir Gawain and the Green Knight **Mike Herzog & Ken Pickering**

A dramatisation of the C14th story of the Green Knight's challenge to the Court of King Arthur. Sir Gawain, the bravest of Arthur's knights, picks up the gauntlet. The challenge is for Gawain to take an unopposed swing at the Green Knight's neck in return for the Knight doing the same to Gawain a year later. Gawain thinks he is safe when he severs the Knight's head, but is terrified when the headless knight reminds him not to miss the re-match next New Year's Eve! How can Gawain face such a foe? Is his honour proved to be true?

6-7m 4w + extras

Code B2

Star Struck

Nicholas Corder

Meet Captain Jane T. Klunk, the incompetent Captain of the *Star-ship Enteritis*, on its journey to seek out new worlds! Her crew are no better: Lt Urge is a nymphomaniac, Snotty the Engineer has a perpetual cold and Mr Checkout could bore for the universe! Klunk is sent by the diminutive Admiral Half-Nelson to represent the Federation at the wedding of Tang the Tasty. Alas, with Diamond Lil and her pirates trafficking in humans for spare-part surgery, it's not going to be plain-sailing. Add in the wealthy Tarquin and his spoilt sister, several robots with minds of their own and a bunch of escaped slaves and it's a recipe for bungling misadventures. This spoof is incredibly cheap to perform - in fact, the cheaper the set, the better! Running time: 90 minutes.

23 rôles + extras (Scope for doubling)

Code B2

The Story Maker

Christine Dearden

Tired of being themselves, Cinderella, Aladdin, a witch and a fairy throw away their traditional trademarks - the slipper, lamp, spells and wand. Next day, when they go to work, they find an angry note from the Storymaker. He orders them to perform two good deeds in order to win back their props. Music available.

8m 7w

The Tasks of Ming Lo

I. and J. Russell

Daughter Number Three of the Chinese royal family wishes to marry a simple man. The Prince who loves her is a perfect match for her.

11m 5w + extras

Troilus and Criseyde **Kenneth Pickering and Mike Herzog**

A dramatisation of Geoffrey Chaucer's poem. It tells how the cynical Troilus, a great Trojan warrior-prince, fell in love with the beautiful widow, Criseyde. Troilus enlists the help of his best friend, Pandarus to win her love. Pandarus manipulates Criseyde's feelings and almost forces the two into bed, where they discover passion in each other's arms. Their love affair seems to be developing perfectly until, in a cruel turn of Fortune's wheel, disaster strikes. Criseyde is used as a pawn in an exchange with the Greek army. Troilus, fearing that their love will die, begs Criseyde to elope with him. She refuses, promising to return as soon as she can. But the faithless woman immediately falls for a Greek soldier. Once Troilus learns of his lover's fickleness, he swears bloody revenge on the Greek and launches himself into battle with a death wish. The play requires a single, multi-focus set. There is a series of beautiful songs for both Troilus and Criseyde. A delight to stage.

2m 1w

Code B2

The Witch and the Wiffler **Geoffrey Thornber**

An unusual and exciting adventure. A maid wants better roles. A modern school-girl wanders into Fairyland and meets the Wiffler. The cast includes a member of the audience who helps the plot along.

5m 10w

Wuthering Heights **Gill Hiscott**

This adaptation of Emily Brönte's popular classic was professionally premiered by the Millstone Grit Theatre Company in 1996. Gillian has pared the cast down to a minimum and simplified the staging, making it ideal for schools and touring companies. All the main characters are retained and the love affair between Heathcliff and Cathy has all the passion of the original.

4m 4w

Code B2

Full Length Plays

Code A3 applies unless indicated otherwise.

The Adventures of Mr Pickwick

Anthony Hinds

This witty dramatisation of the popular Dickens' classic is especially suitable for groups with limited facilities (e.g. schools) as no actual sets are required. All the visual production values come from colourful costumes and effective lighting. It is particularly apt at Christmas.

16m 8w

The Adventures of Tom Sawyer

Charlotte Chorpenning

An adaptation of Mark Twain's famous novel which retains all the favourite characters and scenes.

14m 6w

Army of Innocents

Keith Williams

A British fighter pilot has been shot down during the First Gulf War and is being hunted by the Iraqis. Feverish, he hallucinates about the sufferings of Stephen and his "army of innocents" - thousands of children who marched to the Holy Land to persuade the Muslims to return Jerusalem to the Pope - the Children's Crusade of 1212. This is a story of cruelty and danger, mystery and superstition, courage and cowardice, cunning and stupidity, humour and tragedy but, above all, of a group of ordinary children on an incredible journey. As they face bandits and swindlers their initial high spirits wane. They are on a suicide mission unless someone stops them. A moving dramatisation of one of the saddest episodes in the Crusades.

24m 15w + 5 of either sex

Code B3

Brontes of Haworth Parsonage

John Davison

It is 1835 and Branwell Bronte's star is waning, whilst Charlotte's is rising. Excellent characterisation with plenty of humour.

3m 6w

An Italian Straw Hat

Thomas Walton

This adaptation of Labiche's comic masterpiece has been successfully produced in Dublin, Birmingham, Bristol and London, and was made into an outstanding film by René Clair.

"By now almost a classic example of fantastic farce. It has been extremely well adapted from the original French."

- Higher Educational Journal.

13m 8w

Jane Eyre

Constance Cox

Based on the successful television serial.

"It preserves the spirit of the original whilst keeping the action swift-moving and dramatic and is recommended." - Drama

5m 9w

Legend of the Crockford Treasure

Charles Evans

Two boys shelter at Crockford Castle. They meet the sinister butler who covets the famous Crockford Chimes. Determined to foil him, they are aided by the clock fingers which are animated when anyone sits on their pillar. Amid argument, domestic divisions and bumbling young Frank, the butler looks set to triumph - but all ends well!

8m 4w

The Magic Horn

Charlotte Chorpenning and Anne Nicholson

In the 9th century, Roland, Charlemagne's nephew, seeks to recover the Emperor's famous sword, Durandal, from the evil Falerina.

7m 5w

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6m + Chorus

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