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Full Length Plays For Mixed Casts

J. Garnet Miller Kenyon-Deane New Playwrights' Network

April 2011

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Two Act Plays

Code A2 applies unless otherwise indicated.

Actually Moving

Joe Graham

Martin and Sharon have been trying unsuccessfully for two years to conceive a baby by IVF treatment. The play takes place as they are packing up to move to a new home, apparently in acceptance of their fate to be childless. Memories, hopes and resentments are stirred by Sharon's position as counsellor to other childless couples undergoing IVF treatment and by the associations with some of their possessions. Sequel to *Sherbet Lemon*. Running time: 90 minutes.

1m 1w Code B2

Bachelors of Art

Georgina Reid

A fascinating play depicting the early struggles and romances of the pre--Raphaelites.

"Beautifully written." - Amateur Stage.

4m 5w

Beauty and the Beast

Susan Sachon

Retains the spirit of the original and has great theatrical scope: dance; mime; humour and enchanted servants who only come to life at night with stunning effect. Alternative to pantomime. A magical family show for mixed age or youth groups.

5m 5w + extras Code B2

Best Man Faller Joe Graham

James's insistence on honouring his childhood promise that his brother Daniel be his best man despite him being totally paralysed causes tension in the family and forces them to re-evaluate their faith: James's faith that his brother will recover; their mother's faith that all things serve God's plan; their father regains faith in his son. Only the sister's faith in her brother remains constant. Professionally premiered at the *Everyman Theatre*, Cheltenham in 2003. 100 minutes.

4m 2w Code B2

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Ψ

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 meatpie 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. Running time: 90 minutes. A minimum of 25 speaking parts with most parts playable by either males or females.

Varied Code B2

The Cactus Garden

David Campton

The relationship between a selfish young woman and her elder sister on whom she depends.

2m 4w

Calling In

Monica Sharrocks

As well as having to prettify the Ladies' Loo in case of a "Royal Baptism" during the opening of the Community Centre, Francie also has to plan her daughter's wedding and decide the fate of her own marriage. Her problems collide, building to a frantic conclusion on Open Day.

3m 5w Code B2

Carmilla

David Campton

Adapted from Sheridan Le Fanu's pre-Stoker vampire story. Beautiful Carmilla forms a strong attachment to Laura. But it is not just Laura's friendship that she wants, Carmilla wants her life too!

4m 3w Gothic Thriller

Cottage Pie Peter Curing

Nigel and Alex have booked *Valley View* for a fortnight. But so have Arthur and Audrey! Nigel's ex and her husband arrive, as their cottage has been burnt down by Welsh Nationalists. They fan the flames of a different sort of conflagration!

4m 2w

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Crying Out Loud

Don Woods

Years after abandoning her baby, her adult son, who has cystic fibrosis, confronts Kay. There is a personality clash and he threatens legal action. Their lives, however, are to become inextricably linked. **3m 2w**

Cuckoo Jane Beeson

Thomas has a stroke and hands control of the farm to his daughters and a farm hand. Simon, an agricultural graduate, appears and things are never the same again. Good opportunities for character acting.

3m 2w

Dead and Alive

David Campton

A comic whodunnit. Four of the Collops family all drop dead at the same time. Only the au pair knows how and why. She uses these clues to entrap D.S. Barnes who is unable to solve the case! **3m 3w**

Death Threat Don Woods

A glamorous actress, poisoned champagne, a hidden antidote, blackmail, a jinxed house, a dead parrot and a hypochondriac policeman make a hilarious and sure-fire success from this talented writer. **3m 3w**

Dumb Husbands

John Shephard

When John is accused of having an affair with his friend's wife, he turns the tables and throws suspicion on the accuser. A well written and amusing play.

6m 3w

Everything Under the Sun

Keith Spoor

Galileo defends his theory that the Earth orbits the Sun despite opposition from the Catholic Church and Inquisition. Written in verse, with a clear plot and opportunities for strong characterisation.

7m 2w

Code B2

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Ψ-

Fingers

Ward Rutherford

Stephen books an isolated cottage despite his wife's fears as an artist was murdered nearby. Their arrival is followed by a second, similar murder. The tension rises, fuelled by the mystery surrounding Stephen's sister and her son who live nearby.

"Atmosphere dominates throughout ... one scene had the audience converting shrieks into slightly embarrassed coughs."

- Brighton Evening Argos.

3m 3w

Food For Thought

Rob Wise

Life for five girls sharing a flat is just work and mistreatment at the hands of men. In revenge, they set up a fake dating agency and date the likeliest candidates. But they are about to change their lives forever! The Ice Maiden is melted; the introvert released as a raging nymphomaniac; the cleaner, roped in as an extra, finds a husband and the rest all find romance. Great fun. By altering the men's speeches to narrative, this can be played by an all-women cast.

3m 6w Code B2

Frankenstein

David Campton

Trying to unravel the secret of life, Frankenstein gives life to a frightening creature. He rejects his creation and drives it away. The monster wreaks vengeance on Frankenstein's family and friends.

4m 3w

Gothic Thriller

Got to Get Away

D. Frankson

Grace and Jack are on holiday when old neighbours drop in. Their daughter seeks solace after a row with her boyfriend. Dennis hides some friends in the house, causing a neighbour to call the police. By the time this hilarious comedy ends, the audience will need a holiday to recover from the chaotic fun!

6m 5w

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In On the Act

Robert Briggs

Gerald's annual joy is understudying for the pantomime Dame. This year, however, his future son-in-law has usurped him. Gerald's pride in his costumes leads to suspicion that he is stealing neighbour's underwear. The police are called, but all comes right in the end and family peace is restored.

3m 2w

Ingoldsby Legends

Kenneth Pickering

Adaptation of the popular 19th century tales of Richard Barham who revelled in tales of derring-do, demonic deals, infidelity and impiety. Each tale is linked by the battle between Barham and the Devil for Barham's soul: the Devil picks tales which ridicule religious pom-posity; whilst Barham chooses tales which show his piety and the fate of sinners.

Flexible 7+

Code B2

The Inside Story of Dr Crippen

Jean Dallman

A psychological drama about the infamous murderer. Three facets of Crippen's personality - Darkside, Parent and Child - battle for control of his soul. Crippen's girlfriend is pregnant and his wife Belle has just found out. By morning she will be dead, but who is the murderer?

2m 2w + 2 of either sex + extras

Code B2

Jigsaw

Derek Hoddinott

A friend so successfully convinces a husband that he has killed his wife that he kills himself. But the wife and the friend devised the plan so they could live in luxury on his wealth. But his financial empire has collapsed and the truth shatters their relationship. Tense psychological thriller. Broadcast by the *BBC* in 1974.

3m 4w

Just a Loving Touch

Simon Bamford

Three weeks before his wedding, Tony's life falls apart - the bride changes her mind; his father wants to be Mayor; his mother's sanity is shaky; and there's wallpaper to be hung! Help comes from Heather, a young polio victim, and her father. A touching drama sprinkled with dry humour.

3m 3w

Code B2

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Just One Thing On Top of Another

Martha Robinson

An amusing comedy. The family of an unemployed man do not want to accompany him to his new job in Australia – but the pretty widow next door does! The frank discussions of two teenage daughters, though spicy, should not offend.

3m 6w

Ladies of Iniquity

David Appleford

Susan and Brian have been burgled. Uncle Herbert, their insurer, doubts the break-in. Susan forms a crime gang with her mother-in-law, Doris, and her cronies. When things go wrong, Susan blames a snooty neighbour, but the truth comes out eventually. Susan and her gang end up behind bars, except Doris, who feigns innocence but plans more crimes!

6m 7w

Last of the Good Guys

Shelley Frome

For Ben, a Manhattan cop, it's almost impossible to be a knight in shining armour – everyone's looking for a hand-out or an edge; and the dames won't admit to needing help. But Ben must now find the damsel in distress in time, or she will be harmed and Ben will lose his job and his grip on reality.

3m 4w

Memory and Patience

Ray Jones

Police investigate the disappearance of Ken's wife. Ken, a retired hypnotist and memory-man, suffers from amnesia. Is his sister-in-law all that she seems? Is his memory loss genuine or a ruse?

3m 2w

Midsummer Night's Travesty

Nicholas Corder

Norman and Donna have eloped to the holiday island paradise of Domestos, but enter Duane, Donna's jilted boyfriend, eager for Norman's blood! Oberon and Titania have fallen out. A group of actors are rehearsing a play – it's a shambles! It gets worse when Puck uses his love potion! Soon everyone's in love with the wrong person!

A great introduction to Shakespeare for youth groups as well as being great fun for the big kids in all of us! Running time: 100 mins. 27 main roles (scope for doubling) + extras Code B2

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Mr Ulysses

Georgina Reid

The hilarious experiences of some Greek soldiers after demobilisation from the Trojan War. Greek farce.

10 m 9w

Mrs Shakespeare - The Poet's Wife Avril Rowlands

Alone after William Shakespeare's funeral, Anne Hathaway is left to reminisce about their life together. Their marriage, their children, their love for each other, the fact that she was the genius playwright and poet not he! Yes, that's right, forget Bacon and Marlowe, Anne is the true Bard of Stratford! Great fun is to be had as Anne disguises herself as a man so she can see her plays staged and discovers Will in bed with two prostitutes! Running time: 120 minutes.

7m 5w (8 players with doubling) + extras

Code B2

Murder in Style

Derek Hoddinott

Henrietta has been tricked into marrying a philanderer, Willy, who wants to be a wealthy widower! Having discredited Henrietta's servants and financial adviser, he finally has only his wife to dispose of. She, in despair, takes an overdose of sleeping tablets while Willy, realising he loves her, frantically tries to save her. Based on a story by Jack Richie.

4m 3w

My Own, My Native Land

Norman Holland

A patriotic Englishman tries to stimulate a resurgence in national pride by parading in a Union Jack suit. He loses everything, except his fanatical beliefs.

4m 4w

A Night in October

Maurice Callard

Mabel borrows her sister's car and knocks a man down. She finds he staged the accident, mistaking her for her sister whose help he needs to save his son, serving a life sentence for murder. Her sister could have saved him, but her marriage and position were at stake. Taut and full of suspense, this popular play was broadcast by the *BBC*.

2m 3w

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Not Tonight, Josephine

Glyn Partos

Cliff and Lucy have been married for ten years. Lucy is bored. They both do am-dram - Cliff is playing a Frenchman, so copies Jacques' beard for authenticity. This causes confusion and Lucy gets involved!

3m 2w

Of Tea and Milk

Laurence Pickup

With her finishing school bankrupt, the headmistress retires to Morecambe, where she works in a cafe. A little courtesy soon reverses her fortunes, to the joy of her new friends. Delightful comedy.

4m 3w Code B2

Old Dogs Steve Raw

This black comedy has more than a hint of farce to it as the three male residents of an old people's home are left to their own devices. Ron, the new "inmate", is keen to enjoy their new freedoms, Sid and Eric are reluctant converts to the cause. No sooner have they poured themselves an illicit drink, than their comes a pounding at the door.

In bursts a scantily clad young woman pursued by her thuggish pimp! In no time at all, murder has been committed, a body and car must be disposed off and a gaggle of prostitutes must be re-homed! A spot council inspection adds confusion to the mayhem, as the innocent young novice finds himself in a "den of iniquity"! A riot of laughs. Running time: 85 minutes.

"... wonderful insight into growing old ... They say laughter takes years off you, so you should leave the theatre mere teenagers! ... this wonderful black comedy bears no resemblance to what is generally considered appropriate care for the elderly - but possibly the way they would like to live!"

- Mary Wonnacott, Director of the Teignmouth Players, following their successful run of the play in 2006.

7m 3-4w Code B2

The Old Rust Bucket

John Furse

To escape a prim and domineering mother, two girls stow away on board a ship. There is no escape as Mother catches them. When the drunken, misogynist captain and the oddball crew of the *Old Rust Bucket* are forced to sail with the women aboard, hilarious and farcical conflicts erupt.

4m 3w Code B2

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Oranges on the Brain

Joe Graham

A satsuma-sized brain tumour causes Duncan to be obsessed with making the perfect fruit smoothie. He is determined to leave his mark, due to his fear of what the 'monster' will do to him. His wife is haunted by the fear that she, somehow, created the monster. Together they face up to Duncan's fate and to what happens when you die and nobody knows that you were here. Running time: 90 minutes.

1m 1w Code B2

A Packet of Trouble

Ron Betts

Jim leaves a present for his Gran at Wally's shop. But a millionaire has it stolen by his henchmen, Al Dent and Harry Viderchi. The efforts to retrieve the parcel are hilarious. With music. 7m 5w

The Parting of Friends

Kenneth Pickering

The life of Cardinal Newman from his days as an Anglican priest, through his disillusionment with the subjugation of the Church to politics, to his conversion to Catholicism.

Varied - 11+

Code B2

Passport to Florence

David Campton

The problems of a woman who, after the marriage of her daughter, finds herself with time on her hands. As her new son-in-law has cause to point out "Satan finds some mischief still ..." Produced (as *Stranger in the Family*) at the *Library Theatre*, Scarborough. **3m 2w**

Path Through Intake Farm

John Riddall

Jim's battle to get an old footpath re-opened embroils a village and endangers his job. His battle with his impossible mother provides a humorous sub-plot. At the public enquiry for the path through Intake Farm, an unexpected result gives a cheerful climax. 6m 6w (Variable)

Pride and Prejudice

Constance Cox

Well-known dramatisation of Jane Austen's classic novel. **6m 8w**

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A Question of Identity

Jack Booth

Lance returns home after years abroad to claim his share of the inheritance left solely to his identical twin, Gyles. During a struggle, Gyles is killed and Lance assumes his identity. The headless corpse seems harmless, but a second body threatens Lance's new life.

3m 3w Code B2

The Removal Man

J. Cooper

A wife lived in the shadow of her distinguished husband and his glamorous sister for twenty years, then wrote a best-selling, intimate portrayal of torrid love between a middle-aged couple. This starts a chain of events, which changes their lives and ends in tragedy. **4m 4w**

Robin's Last Stand

Sonia Fellowes

The depleted band of Merry Men are trying to make provision for their retirement with one last inept scheme. The characters romp through a catastrophe-laden plot in this comedy with music. Simple to stage. Music score available.

Variable Code B2

Roses Round the Door

David Campton

A retired missionary's search for a country cottage could be ended if only her daughter would fall in love with the right man. However, the course of love not only fails to run smoothly, but takes unexpected turns. Produced at the *Library Theatre*, Scarborough.

4m 3w

Scorpio Simon Bamford

Bill, terminally ill, is discharged to die in his own home. What more could he want? Certainly not the unwelcome visitor who brutally forces his family to face the truth of their lives. A violent but moving drama with much humour.

3m 3w Code B2

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Seconds

Sally and Kirsty are long-term friends. Sally is married to ex-rebel Tony, but Kirsty has never settled down. Life is comfortable but dull, until a young artist enters Kirsty's life with disastrous consequences. By the end of the play one of them is dead, another is in prison. Everything changes in seconds.

2m 2w + extras Code B2

Sherbet Lemon Joe Graham

As Sharon teases Martin about his karaoke singing, the subject turns to children. Martin is keen to start a family, but Sharon reveals that a back-street abortion has left her unable to have children. She fears that she will disappoint him. In a roller-coaster ride of emotions, will their love for each other prove the strongest? A bitter-sweet romantic comedy. Running time: 80 minutes.

1m 1w Code B2

The Sherlock Holmes Solution Peter Hartley

Holmes and Watson travel north to unravel a double mystery that involves Irene Adler, the only woman to outwit Holmes. There is a murder, and Holmes realises with horror that the only suspect he cannot eliminate is himself!

4m 7w

Sir Gawain and the Green Knight

Michael Herzog and Kenneth Pickering

Mic Dover

Sir Gawain, the bravest knight, accepts the Green Knight's challenge to the Court of King Arthur to take an unopposed swing at the Green Knight's neck in return for the Knight having the same freedom a year later. Gawain thinks he is safe when he severs the Knight's head, but is terrified when the headless knight reminds him of next New Year's Eve! How can Gawain face such a foe? Is his honour proved to be true? We follow his adventures as he rides to meet his Doom!

6-7m 4w + extras Code B2

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Sleeping Arrangements

Hollywood star Kathleen is upset when, visiting England with prospective husband Number 3, she finds ex-husband Number 1 as her mother's guest. Her annoyance grows as the men hit it off and plan a film. When Kathleen's photographer-father arrives with a model in tow and ex-husband Number 2 appears, the tension increases with the sleeping arrangements being of great concern! 4m 3w

Snakes and Ladders

H. Connolly

Harry and Wilf's friendship survived the 1930s Depression. Not even Hitler could break them up, so how can a game of *Snakes and Ladders* unleash a dark secret that threatens to tear both men apart?

5m 4w

Code B2

Some Do - Some Don't

Rob Wise

Stan is a likeable con man who has grown rich by persuading elderly people to sell their homes cheaply. Florence seems fair game and he can't believe his luck when he hears of hidden treasure. But Stan has met his match!

4m 6w Code B2

Spare Prick

Joe Graham

Frank is married to Jo and desperate to start a family. Jo has fallen out of love with Frank but is unable to tell him, so pretends to go along with him. Their best friend, Russ, is single and a series of vignettes show his various attempts at dating - speed dating, over the internet, in the pub. Interspersed are a series of *Star Trek* cameos in which the actors true feelings are revealed. Russ and Jo are and always have been in love with each other. Can they tell Frank? Who will be the spare by the end of the play?

Contains strong adult language and imagery throughout. Running time: 90 minutes.

2m 1w Code B2

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Star Struck Nicholas Corder

Meet Captain Jane T. Klunk, Captain of the *Starship Enteritis*, and her incompetent crew: Lt. Urge is a nymphomaniac; Snotty the Engineer has a perpetual cold; and Mr Checkout could bore for the Universe! Klunk is to represent the Federation at the wedding of Emperor Tang the Tasty, but things are bound to go wrong.

Especially when Diamond Lil and her space pirates are trafficking in humans for spare-parts surgery and some seriously rebellious robots are on the loose! Incredibly easy and cheap to perform - in fact the cheaper and tackier the better! Ideal for youth groups also. Running time: 90 minutes.

23 roles (scope for doubling) + extras

Code B2

A Sweet Emotion Fred Partridge

An accountant's home is invaded by a beautiful, ethically dubious girl. His friends think he is infatuated, he thinks he is in love. A dramatic ending will thrill audiences. Winner of the 1987 *Doris Hughes Memorial Prize*.

3m 2w

Sweet Nellie Maurice Callard

A suspense play where all the cross-currents flow realistically towards the suspect becoming an unexpected executioner.

4m 5w

Tangled Web Jack Booth

Ian has heavy gambling debts, so blackmails Sir Robert with photos of his wife when she was Ian's lover. But Sir Robert also has a secret to hide and uses Ian, leading to a dramatic and unforeseen climax.

3m 3w Code B2

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Ψ-

Thanks for Having Me

Ros Moruzzi

Maureen tries to scale the social ladder by hosting a dinner party, but the Doctor's partner is not his wife, but the other guest is! Recently separated the wounds are still raw! When Chrissie, having scented wealth, starts flirting with Audrey's new man, salt is rubbed into the wounds. Further chaos is caused by the hypochondriac mother-in-law bringing her latest imagined disease to the table for diagnosis and by Dennis's botched electrical repairs! A shocking finale brings a riotous evening to a heart-warming conclusion! Running time: 90 minutes.

3m 4w Code B2

To Father With Love

Jack Bingham

A delightful comedy about modern relationships. A son's girl-friend longs for stability, which she finds in the arms of his divorced father!

4m 3w

Troilus and Criseyde Michael Herzog and Kenneth Pickering

Dramatisation of Geoffrey Chaucer's poem. Troilus, a great Trojan warrior-prince, falls in love with Criseyde. He enlists the help of Pandarus to win her love. Their romance 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 she immediately falls for a Greek soldier. Once Troilus learns of her fickleness, he swears bloody revenge on the Greek and launches himself into battle with a death wish.

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 Two Truths F. Child

Two professors of South American history believe that a Bolivian tribe, the Pacachas, made gold and jewels. They find possible confirmation and hire two archaeologists to uncover the truth. Tragedy befalls them.

5m 5w

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Vertical Relativity

H. Lees

George puts saving his firm above his marriage. His wife gets his ex-mistress and her fiancé to blackmail him into spending more time at home and less with his business and girlfriends! 5m 3w

Will You Take This Woman?

Maurice Callard

A former groom coming to claim his bride rescues a shotgun groom. Then the vicar disappears. This is only one of the complications in this hilarious farce of visual humour and brilliant verbal wit. **6m 5w**

Wuthering Heights

Gillian Hiscott

The small cast and simplified staging make this ideal for schools and touring companies. All the main characters are retained and the love affair between Heathcliffe and Cathy has all the passion of the original. Professionally premiered by the *Millstone Grit Theatre Company* in 1996.

4m 4w Code B2

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Code A3 applies unless otherwise indicated.

A-Hunting We Will Go!

Ray Barron

Masterly translation of Georges Feydeau's delightful farce - Monsieur Chasse. The hunting is, of course, an indoor activity of ancient vintage!

7m 3w

Richard Harris Abigail!

Greedy relatives are too obsessed with their inheritances to notice the strange goings-on about them. Until the visitor they all dreaded arrives, that is!

2m 5w Code B3

The Advancement of Mr Simpkin

Jack Last

One way of achieving promotion.

5m 5w

Comedy Thriller

The Adventures of Mr Pickwick

Anthony Hinds

This witty adaptation of the Dickens classic is ideal for groups with limited facilities, as no sets are required. All the visual values come from colourful costumes and effective lighting. Ideal for Christmas.

16m 8w

After You've Gone

Brian Stocks

Comedy in which an abandoned husband is consoled by his wife's lady friends!

2m⁵w

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All Change for Peterborough

Frank Sladen-Smith

The lights in a train station waiting-room flicker, everything seems to be the same, but slowly it is revealed that the room was destroyed by a bomb and the passengers realise that Peterborough is no longer their destination!

5m 5w

Fantasy

All Set For Murder

Beatrix Carter

In a quiet seaside hotel, a trusted guest turns out to be a blackmailer. One of the residents, acting for them all, removes the threat. But which one? This thriller really grips, like a novel you can't put down.

5m 3w

Comedy Thriller

And Yet I Live

Vera Arlett

An unusual and powerful play set in the turbulent reign of Henry VIII. A poignant romance of violence and self-sacrifice.

5m 2w

Any Body For Tennis?

Jack Last

Poltergeists, murder, even suicide, contribute thrills and a lot of laughter.

6m 5w

Comedy Thriller

Are You All Decent?

Derek Lomas

Maggie, an award-winning amateur actress, is upset by her husband's insistence on casting attractive leading ladies in his shows. Maggie envies Liz and Keith their seemingly perfect marriage. A closer look cures Maggie's jealousy and cracks Harry's self-esteem. **3m 4w**

As Black As She's Painted

Philip King

Herbert, against his late father's wish, is a theatrical producer. To deceive his sisters, an actress impersonates a coloured maid. A side-splitting finale.

4m 4w

Farce

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Barraclough's Bounty

Les Walker

Don Carroll

Charlie's invention of a super-fertiliser for his vegetables has deva-stating results. Further troubles arise as he and a neighbour dismantle an old house. A hilarious comedy with delightful characters. **4m 5w**

Bedwitchery

Charles and his wife win on the Pools. Not content with the new country house, Kate buys an antique, four-poster bed complete with Nell Gwyn's ghost. The dialogue is well written and the simple technical secrets of the bed allow the ghostly events to be executed with uncanny realism.

3m 4w

Bennetto - His Life and Crimes

Ron Betts

Bennetto, his steward Bedwell and Shygin Bosun Blackheart, leader of the press-gang, pursue the fair Hetty, a country maiden, who is defended by her parents and the hero, Ted Fatheringale. Suitably laced with blood and thunder, fights and fun and more than a soupçon of black comedy!

13m 4w

Bingo for Beginners

Charles Hatton

Sam Bate

Should the proceeds from gambling be donated to the Church Fund? The vicar's refusal to accept the ill-gotten gains offends his wife. Demonstrations, agitators and love make absorbing entertainment.

6m 2w

Black Tulip

A spine-chiller, with multiple murders.

4m 5w Thriller

Blackmail Charles Bennett

Alice Jarvis goes back with a cad to his studio and protects herself against his unwanted attentions with a knife. But does she kill him? The play on which Alfred Hitchcock based his popular pre-war suspense film.

7m 3w Thriller

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Bones of Contention

Terence Stygall

Anthropologists inspect a newly-discovered, prehistoric skull-but it is a hoax. A clash of personalities follows between an ageing Free-mason, a religious fanatic and a German woman whose command of English is a real source of hilarity. Excellent character parts. 6m 6w

The Brontes of Haworth Parsonage

John Davison

The play opens in 1835 and shows the decline and fall of Branwell Bronte and the rise and triumph of Charlotte.

3m 6w

Tragedy

The Castle of Deception

Peter Philip

Is there a point at which the bogus becomes authentic? The central character believes there is and seeks to prove it, furnishing his pseudo-Gothic castle with fake antiques and peopling it with human counterparts.

4m 2w

Bogus Verse

Cause and Effect

Peter Johnson

Martin's charity work has earned him a reputation for boundless energy. His home is central to this, as gifts and jumble are left there. His wife sees things differently. Martin's efforts hide his inadequacies and she finally leaves him for another man.

"Stylish writing. Thoroughly professional. A winner."
- Amateur Stage.

5m 4w

Champagne for Breakfast

Derek Benfield

An absent-minded estate agent lets the same house to three couples. Witty and light-hearted with fine dialogue and an ingenious plot.

3m 3w

Chance and Mrs Buffington

Joan Brampton

In 1793, Rodney Buffington wagers his wife in a game of chance.

3m 6w Costume Comedy

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Charades

A. Craig Bell

Celebrating Ackroyd's latest best-seller, the unsuccessful Hard-castle has a fatal stroke. His champion tries to promote his work, via attempted murders and a suicide. Intrigue and jealousy add to the dramatic tension.

6m 4w

Circe Clifford Bax

Odysseus cannot place his trust in anyone. He almost falls in love with the enchantress Circe, but at the last moment he doubts even her. Circe renounces him, rather than attempt to force him to go against his nature.

6m 4w Drama

The Come Back

Parnell Bradbury

Tricky situations are caused by recollections of previous incarnations. An excellent twist in the tail.

2m 5w

The Crooked Road

Janet Allen

Intense, realistic drama about a drug addict who finds release from a sadistic, possessive woman in the hardest, most honourable way.

3m 3w

Dangerous Silence

Albert Dobson

When Pam introduces her fiancé and his parents to her father, old memories and conflicts are revived, with tragic results.

"An absorbing drama ... completely engrossed in trying to unravel the tangled skein of human relations in this drama of blackmail."

- Manchester Evening News.

4m 2w

Dawson's Folly

Ron Betts

Joe's goal of inventing a perpetual motion engine causes conflict. Matters come to a head when Joe decides to convert The Folly into a tomb. Set during a heat wave, the touch of summer madness in this comedy culminates in an unexpected and bizarre dénouément. **6m 5w**

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Dead End Eileen Clark

A doctor and his wife arrive for a weekend at a friend's cottage and find a girl's body in the woodshed. Suspicion falls on the owner's son and then on the cleaner's son, but the culprit turns out to be the ...!

5m 3w

Design For Murder

Donald F. East

A faithless wife and a desperate husband plan murder.

2m 2w Thriller

Do Me a Favour Jean Garstang

Mrs Pilkington, resident of the estate show home, is bothered and bewildered by the prospective opening ceremony. Non-stop laughs. 5m 5w

Down Came a Blackbird

Peter Blackmore

This brilliantly successful West End play is not too ambitious for amateurs.

"A Cinderella story lapped in sunshine." - The Observer.

4m 4w

Down To Brass Tacks

Derek Benfield

Drastic measures are taken to improve the fish and chip shop's takings - one idea succeeds amazingly well!

4m 5w

End of the Honeymoon

Sam Bate

Matrimonial muddles multiplied by disappointed women equal hilarious entertainment in true Sam Bate-style. 4m 5w

Faithfully Yours ... ? Or The End of the Sea-Horse Sergio Pugliese Adapted by Robert Rietty

A sparkling comedy about two couples, one happy, the other torn by infidelity, and the eventual reversal of these conditions. First produced by the famous Italian theatre company of Sergio Tofano-Rissone and Vittorio de Sica and had a record-breaking run in Rome. 2m 5w

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Fool Among Foes

Charles Evans

British soldiers discover a mother and daughter hiding in a farm during the Seven Years War. From the horror of war emerges comradeship and hope for the future until a wounded cavalry officer intervenes and the bonds between them are shattered. Won the *Premier Award* in the *Amateur Stage New Play Competition*.

7m 3w

The Golden Girls

Dymphna Cusack

Exiled to Sydney, a snobbish father tries to entice suitors with his money. Excellent roles.

5m 5w

Victorian Drama

G. Armstrong

Handcuffs

Hilary almost broke off their engagement when Stephen insisted she be a housewife. But she agreed, they had twins and she ran the household efficiently. Now she must return to work if they are to avoid financial ruin!

3m 2w

Code B3

Harmony Sweet Harmony!

Doug Donald

Lady Una vainly tries to dominate her family, including elderly twins. Emma is kidnapped and made to become their "niece" as a peace-offering. Re-named Harmony, she is attracted by the prospect of financial and romantic reward. She never gets paid but escapes with her young man after a dramatic and crazy finale! 5m 2w

Haul For the Shore

Jean McConnell

A new type of ship-wrecker, a bogus Customs Officer and a well-meaning vicar contribute to the enormous fun in this stalwart of the amateur stage.

6m 4w

Honey-Pot

Helen and Edward Hoile

A squatter living in the barn adds to the Lambs' many difficulties. Finally he solves their problems - and his own.

4m 4w

Farcical Comedy

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The Hopeful Travellers Adapted by Andre Obey

G. M. Martens Translated by Iris Capell

This morality play relates the adventures in Hell and on the threshold of Heaven of two Flemish rascals who are finally given a second chance on earth. The French version ran for more than four hundred performances in Paris.

14 or 18m, 6w, 1 child + extras + optional chorus

How Now, Hecate?

Martyn Coleman

Can witchcraft help a dowdy woman to win her loved one from a rival? Hectically funny!

2m 3w

Flemish Comedy

Hound of the Baskervilles

Anthony Hinds

Simplified version with all the warmth of Baker Street and the stark drama of the moors. Lighting is used to create the effects. The hound is heard but never seen.

9m 4w

Hushed October

Douglas Sawyer

A daughter, blinded and shocked in an accident, is an amnesiac. Her possessive mother shields her from outside influences - including her estranged husband who infiltrates the household, under an assumed name, to win her back with the help of the doctor. A gripping drama.

3m 2w

Idvll in Ithaca

Russell Sherwin

Odysseus and Penelope live happily on the island of Ithaca, until Melenaus and Helen visit. Penelope is soon disillusioned by Helen's constant flirting and demands they leave immediately!

3m 2w

Immortal Garden

H. C. G. Stevens

A comforting fantasy about the afterlife. An old man tends a beautiful garden which is visited by all those who looked on it with dying eyes.

7m 4w + Voice

Drama

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Is Your Honeymoon Really Necessary?

E. V. Tidmarsh

Lawrence is on his second honeymoon. His first wife turns up to contest the validity of the divorce - keeping the two women apart tests his ingenuity. Fast-moving, witty dialogue. 998 performances at the *Duke of York's Theatre*, London.

5m 4w

Farcical Comedy

It Won't Be Long Now

Maurice McLoughlin

Sister Joanna's dire prediction of the end of the world sets the Brown family in a tizzy. Unlike Cassandra she is believed -temporarily.

4m 6w

An Italian Straw Hat Eugene Labiche and Marc Michel Adapted by Thomas Walton Music by Mark Lubbock

A comic masterpiece, which was made into a classic film by Rene Clair. A young man on his wedding morning accidentally allows his horse to eat a straw hat. He must find another exactly the same before going to his wedding.

13m 8w

C19th Comedy

Jane Eyre

Constance Cox

Dramatisation based on the successful television serial. Period 1847.

4m 7w

The Joy Ride

Georgina Reid

A novel view of Lady Godiva's household. A delightful entertainment with an unexpected touch of realism. A rewarding production. **3m 5w**

Kind Cousin Janet Allen

A lonely, unscrupulous girl becomes obsessed by her aunt's lovely house and determines to win it. A dramatic climax.

2m 5w Drama

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Last In - First Out

John Leyin

A play about labour unrest. A series of crazy situations, following in quick succession, are influenced by the intervention of militant wives.

8m 3w

Let's Kill Agatha Christie

Anthony Hinds

Prudence wants to be the new Agatha Christie. Sadly, all her crime stories are disasters - even the detective can't expose the murderer! She decides the only way to write a foolproof plot is to stage a murder. She invites her three worst enemies for a weekend and gives them all good reason to kill her. Excellent comedy-thriller. 5m 4w

Look Out For the Catch

Jean McConnell

Sequel to the smuggling story of Haul For the Shore and equally funny. Well-defined characters and a delirious curtain.

4m 5w

Love and Lunacy

Peter Philip

Set in the remote past, before the Moon came, the near present and the remote future, this play deals with the follies of humans. The arrival of the Moon brings love and lunacy and a constant struggle for the hand of Cleito, the central figure, who must chose between the love of power and the power of love.

4m 2w

Satirical Comedy

Love's a Luxury

Guy Paxton and Edward V. Hoile

Lively and amusing situations develop when a famous producer and an actor seek peace and anonymity in rural England. Perennial favourite. Professionally produced in Vienna in 2006.

5m 4w Farce

Love Locked Out

David Kirk

Strikers' wives leave their men hungry and penniless, but luck and a fandancer enliven things. The finale is pure farce.

4m 4w

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Ma's Bit of Brass

Ronald Gow

Old Lovejoy is convinced that Ma's gambling winnings will cause trouble. It does, but a lot of fun too!

8m 5w

Mad About Men

Peter Blackmore

Another adventure for Miranda, the provocative mermaid. Against the odds she arrives at a fishy finale. Successful on stage and screen. Sequel to *Miranda*.

5m 5w

Make It Murder

Jack Last

To safeguard their inheritance, the beneficiaries of a will try to make a suicide appear to be murder - without implicating themselves.

5m 5w

Farce

The Man Outside

Janet Allen

This tense, eventful play has an air of suspense from the start, for Miriam has just murdered her husband.

3m 3w

Thriller

March to a Different Drum

Albert Morton

Obsessional interest in a village gala causes trouble for a young couple. Suspected rape, murder, bitter recriminations between teenagers and parents and humour are woven into this drama with credible roles.

6m 8w

Martine

Jean-Jacques Bernard

Set in the late 19th century, this charming play tells of the love of a young girl thoughtlessly betrayed.

2m 3w

Tragi-romance

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The Midlands' Mysteries Kenneth Pickering & Douglas Sugano

This adaptation of the *N-Town Cycle* retains much of the style and character of the original. Many of the pageants are unique to this *Cycle* and it contains more ritual and music than any of the other medieval Mystery plays. Mystery plays are great dramatic treasures of European literature.

Despite their piety, the humanity of the author shines through: they are full of humour, music, dance, tension, joy and vulgarity. They vividly re-enact the major events of *The Bible*, the Creation, Nativity, Crucifixion and Resurrection, as seen through the eyes of medieval scribes.

Flexible cast Code B3

Miranda Peter Blackmore

The famous story of Miranda, the mermaid, who is brought home by a Harley Street specialist, with startling consequences. Exquisitely witty dialogue, and a favourite with drama groups.

3m 5w

Mock Orange Peter Blackmore

Appalled by her daughter's peasant husband, an intolerant widow makes life unbearable for everyone. Her son-in-law finds the answer.

4m 5w

Monkey Business

Glyn Partos

His mother-in-law bails out a penniless zookeeper. The family fret, love affairs go adrift with the arrival of an Italian footballer, but all comes right in the end - with the help of a monkey, of course. Excellent farce.

5m 5w

Monsieur Perrichon Goes Abroad

Eugene Labiche & Edouard Martin Translated by Thomas Walton

M. Perrichon and his family are going on holiday, but his troubles begin at the station when a friend wants to borrow money and two suitors for his daughter arrive intending to accompany him.

5m 3w + extras Four-acts C19th Comedy

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Moonshine

John Coates

Aunt Lucy uses her supernatural powers to sort everyone's affairs to her satisfaction. Even being run over does not deter her - she returns again to assure herself that all goes well! $3m\,5w$

Murder in the Asylum

Peter de Geesewell

Four patients have already died in accidents at Dr McLeod's asylum. Then Caesar shoots Hitler with an unloaded gun. Another accident or was it murder? The police are called to find the murderer, but Sherlock Holmes is needed to solve the mystery.

7m 7w

Code B3

A Murderous Concept

John Vose

Thomas, after years in a special hospital, is transferred to a medium security hospital. Sister Calvert is opposed to the move, but Nurse Johnson seems attracted to Thomas and his past. Thomas was framed by Johnson, so he commits a copy-cat murder to incriminate Johnson.

6m 4w

My Wife's Lodger

Dominic Roche

Willie is utterly disillusioned on his return to life as a civilian, but the arrival of his American pal changes everything - for the better. **5m 4w**

No Roses Around the Door

Simon Bamford

David is doing a jigsaw, Sally reads a paper, a young man undergoes life or death surgery at the local hospital. These three events become inextricably linked, leading David and Sally into an evening of tension and horror. A tense, adult comedy.

5m 1w + Voice Off

Code B3

Off the Rails

John Waterhouse

A resourceful stationmaster opposes, with varying success, the closure of his rural railway station. Hilarious comedy, highly successful and regularly performed. Professionally produced starring Roy Hudd.

5m 4w

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Officials Always Know Best

K. Giddins

Drama

Hester tries to adopt a child, but is refused because a spinster, the officials say, lacks a normal home. She adopts illegally. All is well until Belle is 15 and her biological mother claims her. The result is devastating, leading to a dramatic climax.

3m 10w

The Only Way

Reverend Freeman Wills & Reverend Canon Langbridge

Dramatisation of Charles Dickens's *A Tale of Two Cities* and Sir John Martin-Harvey's great success.

22m 4w Four-acts

Painted Sparrows

Guy Paxton & Edward V. Hoile

A farmer's guests are an odd bunch: one tries to control his kleptomaniac mother; and a warm-hearted Cockney tries to solve everyone else's problems.

5m 4w Mystery

The Patient in 4B

A. Frederick Daniels

A mysterious patient is admitted, heavily bandaged, and is suspected of murder. Hair-raising suspense.

2m 7w Thriller

The Philoctetes of Sophocles

Kathleen Freeman

An acting version, in English, suitable for schools and colleges. **6m and Chorus of sailors (6-14 players)**

The Pick of the Season

Jean McConnell

The arrival of the hop-pickers always brings bad luck to Fred's farm. He is dismayed to hear that his wife has invited two of them back. His dealings with them, their counter-attacks and an original ending make an entertaining play.

4m 4w

Pickle in Paradise

Sam Bate

Two spinsters develop a Robin Hood-style blackmailing system, but when their demands escalate they are rumbled by a French victim.

3m 5w

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Picnic Time J. Cooper

Ted leaves his wife, Chris, for a younger woman. Annie tries to help Chris by arranging disastrous, yet hilarious, blind dates. Very witty, with two excellent female roles. The ending will have the audience laughing through their tears. Like all good comedies, this play has deeper moments.

5m 3w

A Play For Ronnie

Warren Chetham-Strode

Forgers, a masquerade and an actor-knight make for fast-moving comedy.

4m 5w

The Poltergeist

Frank Harvey

A psychic investigator and a Cockney insurance man exorcise the vicarage poltergeist, but the wily spirit returns to afflict the maid. **5m 4w Semi-serious Comedy**

The Queen and the Axe

Barry Hillman

Explores the tumultuous affair between Queen Elizabeth I and the Earl of Essex. Essex is condemned to death but, despite their past, the now old and bitter Queen cannot grant a reprieve.

8m 6w

Quintet in A Flat

Basil Ashmore

Two student couples reflect on ideologies and their compatibility whilst sharing a flat with a young poet. Over time, the relationships change. A delightful play. Adapted from the Russian novel, *Squaring the Circle*, by Valentin Kataev.

3m 2w

Rab the Rhymer

Eric Crozier

It is a critical time in the life of Robbie Burns - spring to autumn 1786 was his most creative period, yet his circumstances were at their lowest ebb. Introduces 28 of his songs, both the well-known and lesser-known.

5m 2w

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Raising the Roof

Sam Bate

The Vicar thinks he has trouble enough trying to raise funds for the new church roof - until his actor brother comes to help. Complications ensue and there's enough laughter to raise the rafters before the job is done and the Vicar is left to count his new grey hairs in peace. **4m 4w**

The Redville Wanderer

David Stant

Spectral soldier Jimmy, reincarnated to fight in battle after battle, reports to the Afterlife Records Clerk in 2000. He learns that he has three children by different mothers in different parts of the world. Jimmy is allowed to return to the present where coincidence has brought the children together. An ingenious series of clues reveals their relationship and they set out to find their father. They catch up with him too late - the eternal wanderer is off on his travels again. 7m 7w + extras

Saloon Bar Frank Harvey

The customers of a pub decide they can solve a murder. The vivid dialogue raises it far above a run-of-the-mill murder mystery.

16m 9w

Thriller

Sea View and Balcony

Alan Griffiths

Janet and Robin share a holiday with friends. All goes well until infidelities threaten. Hilary enlists Frank's help to avert calamity. Confusion and disastrous revelations split the happy band. Fine comedy.

3m 3w

Shades of Reckoning

Steve Waterhouse

George steals some heroin for a gang-boss. Then George's flat is burgled and the heroin disappears. Frantic to regain the drugs, George falls into a trap set by his wife with the unwitting help of her policeman-lover, Alan. But things rarely go according to plan! 5m 3w + extras

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The Shaken Reed

Clifford Gray

Ernest is a homely, loving father and husband, but completely unambitious. A stranger shatters 25 years of marital bliss. Intrigue and harassment lead to an absorbing and credible climax. Set in the 1960s, the play has a strong story-line and interesting characters.

3m 5w Code B3

Six for the Charleston

Barry Hillman

This 1920s skit revolves crazily around mixed marital relationships! The dialogue is scintillating, witty and frank. Music available.

4m 6w

Sleepers Awake

Alan Griffiths

Ron and Jennie, a respectable, middle-aged couple, are preparing their daughter's wedding. Circumstances lead a KGB agent to believe they are part of a Russian spy ring. Hilarity and confusion spiral when a MI6 agent gets involved and the luckless pair graduate to double agents.

3m 3w

Something Attempted

Joan Brampton

An astute woman keeps ahead of her diabolical son-in-law's attempts at murder, until he falls into his own trap.

2m 4w

Storm In a Paintpot

Margaret Gibbs

The Council hits the roof when a tenant paints the front door orange. A splendid climax to this easy-to-act comedy. **5m 6w**

The Tasks of Ming Lo

Ivy and Jacquie Russell

Set in ancient China, Daughter No. Three of the Royal House wants to marry a simple man. The Prince who loves her is a match for her - in every sense. Ideal for schools and the young in heart.

11m 5w + Extras

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These Ghoulish Things

Sam Bate

Scott Farrar, a TV star in search of peace, hires a cottage under a false name. But well-meaning villagers and an incorrigible ghost drive him to distraction.

3m 5w

Improbable Comedy

This Happy Home

Michael Brett

Two families share a holiday home and inevitable discord arises until they are on the point of explosion - in the funniest way.

3m 4w

Too Soon For Daisies William Dinner and William Morum

Three elderly women runaways take over an empty house. The owner arrives - and drops dead! The runaways try to dispose of the body so they can stay on. Gruesome but compellingly funny!

4m 4w

Comedy Thriller

Towards Autumn

Barnett Hall

Romance with the young Shakespeare and his strolling players. $7m\,4w$

Tyndale's Dream

John Stuart Anderson

William Tyndale devoted his life to translating *The Bible* into English and was burnt at the stake for his pains. This dream took over his whole life and earned him mortal enemies.

17m + chorus + extras

Code B3

Usher David Campton

Based on Edgar Allen Poe's *The Fall of the House of Usher*. Madeleine Usher tries to escape her family's home and inherited madness. A life and death struggle for Madeleine, between her brother Roderick and her lover, culminates in her being buried alive in the family vault and the house being destroyed.

"... brilliantly exciting ... almost unbearable mounting tension." - The Daily Herald

5m 2w

Gothic Thriller

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Village Day Mary Rensten

Pottorogate is colobrating the 500th applyorsary of the church but

Pottersgate is celebrating the 500th anniversary of the church but the guest star can't make it. What better substitute than 19 year old Cara, local girl and model! The village is split: the festival is threatened, scores settled, old wounds re-opened, an engagement is broken and, inspired by Cara, Daisy emerges from the shadow of her bullying twin sister.

7m 10w + extras

Code B3

Waggon Load O' Monkeys

R. F. Delderfield

Sam and Taffy stop at an impoverished inn. They gleefully set out to put it on its feet and themselves too.

7m 3w

Farcical Comedy

Walk Into My Parlour

C. Armstrong

When terrorists discover that Susan has the same rare blood group as their dying leader, she is abducted and used as a pawn in the battle between terrorism and law. But pawns can become queens.

6m 4w

Weeds in the Wheat

Dennis Gardiner

Ted and Sybil return from their honeymoon to find that his mother's new farmhand was Sybil's lover. Ted is crippled in a drunken accident. Sybil resumes her affair with Bishop, but is murdered.

4m 3w

Code B3

What's Hatching?

Joan Brampton

Feeling that their husbands take them for granted, two girls go home to mother, enduring one comic disaster after another.

4m 7w

Farce

The Wild and the Hungry

Taylor Lovering

Set against the sombre back cloth of 1930s Liverpool, this play has great depth and power, providing actors with superb opportunities to stretch their skills. Warmth, love, humour, triumph, despair, confrontation and tragedy all figure.

3m 3w

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John Davison

Wuthering Heights

A popular acting version of the dramatic story. Professionally toured in 2006.

5m 4w

Four-acts

Drama

The Young in Heart

Derek Benfield

Constructed round a couple's silver wedding celebrations, spontaneity and sincerity are the keynotes. Fine parts for all age groups. 5m 5w

Young Mr Dickens

Marjorie Beech

Beautifully written with sensitive insights into the life of Charles Dickens from boyhood to his death. Illuminates the man behind the stories we all know so well. Ideal for presentation in the round. **5m 11w**

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