



CRESSRELLES PUBLISHING
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New All-Women Plays

Updated 21st April 2023

Garnet Miller

Kenyon-Deane

New Playwrights's Network

Arms Floating Like Seaweed

Scott Marshall

An emotional play filled with pain and laughter. Following the death of her husband, Bridie Concannon is unprepared for the momentous changes about to affect not only her life, but also her two very different daughters' lives.

Three superb female roles are drawn: the stoical Mother; her sophisticated, married daughter now living in America; and her younger, stay-at-home daughter. Is the family about to be torn apart or can they adjust to the challenges ahead? One simple, domestic interior make this an ideal festival play.

3w

Code B1

A Bit of Three by One

Rob Wise

Eventide - Wednesday is clinic day and a welcome break from routine - the long-term residents exploit the system to get visits to the pub or bingo! Easy to stage with chairs as the bus seats. Plus two mixed sketches.

4f

Code BS

Blood Ties

Eleanor Fossey

This compelling psychological drama starts off as a light comedy with a mother and daughter discussing the wedding they have just attended. The mood darkens when they consider the philandering father of the bride - but is he a wife-beater as well? When Maria turns up with a cut arm and in a distraught state, their worst fears seem confirmed. But has Maria harmed her husband? Commended by the judges for the 2006 *Geoffrey Whitworth Competition* and winner of several awards.

3w

Code B1

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

Eleanor Fossey

This collection includes two monologues for a woman. *In A Click of the Heels* (**1w**) an unappreciated, overweight woman finally finds fulfilment after a chance encounter with a man in the swimming baths. *Where Are You, Then?* (**1w**) sees a Mother having to cope with the death of her son.

Varied

Code BS

The Close - Seven Monologues for Women**Doris M. Day**

Seven women observe their cul-de-sac and relive the past, worry about the future and speculate about their neighbours. Each is complete in itself and can be played with just a chair. The final linking monologue (royalty free if played with others) should be the last in any series. When all 7 are performed the fee is as for a one-act play.

7w**Code BS or B1****Dead Nice****Andrea MacPhail**

When Sonia dies, the last person she wants to see in Heaven is Trish, her old rival. Trish is happy in Heaven and the last thing she wants is to meet the woman who murdered her! Or did she? A few home truths and revelations unite them in a quest to put things right. Two excellent characters and witty dialogue make this an irreverent comedy, in which the guilty party is punished in an hilarious way!

2w**Code B1****Dear Diary****Kay McManus**

An author seeks solitude to finish her book. But her unexpectedly close neighbour is keen to befriend her! The author learns that her relationship with her boyfriend is shaky to say the least! She returns to London and its anonymous streets only to find a final shock waiting for her! An acclaimed production on BBC Radio.

2w**Code B2****Faking Genuine****Austin Hawkins**

Mary Hurst has learned that her husband Alan has visited the room of a young sex worker, Sharon, and confronts him. Troubled by his version of the encounter, Mary decides to visit Sharon in her flat. What follows is a tense encounter, Sharon is feisty and defensive about her lifestyle and her cynicism shocks Mary. Sharon's allusions to Mary's marriage brings the two women to blows. Mary is equally determined and finally extracts from Sharon the dreadful secret that has shaped her young life. They part, both changed by the encounter. Running time: 40 minutes.

Faking Genuine can also be performed as the final act in the three-act play, Friday's Child.

2w**!!New 2019!!****Code B1**

Full Circle**Ros Moruzzi**

A new collection of sketches including two monologues and a sketch for three women. They run from 5 to 20 minutes.

“Ros’s wicked sense of humour is perceptive, contemporary and very funny. The laughter keeps flowing in these sharply observed pieces whilst the characterisations provide some splendid rôles for comedy actors. A new playwright to savour.” - Scott Marshall, GODA.

Varied**Code BS****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.

Varied**Code BS****Joined at the Hip****Joe Graham**

Sara is trying to cheer Becky up after a failed relationship. Not even chocolates, wine and her home-grown therapies of rose-coloured glasses or dancing whilst joined at the hip succeed. Progress is made when Becky reveals the real reason why they split up - he proposed and she came clean about her arthritis and painted an honest picture of how bad it could be - and frightened him off.

A subtle, touching study of female friendship with cracking humour, quirky business and drama. Professionally premiered in the *Bristol Old Vic’s 2002 Bare Faced Chic* season of new writing. Running time: approx. 40 mins.

2w**Code B1****Mind the Gap****Joe Graham**

Three girls in their early twenties have chosen very different paths. In this fast-paced play, they are forced to consider whether they are ready to make the leaps required to advance their lives. Won awards in the 2005 *Oxford Drama Network* and *Wallingford Corn Exchange Drama Festivals*. Running time: 40 minutes.

3w**Code B1**

OAP Rules, OK!**Marion Whybrow**

Mrs Rogers seeks a respite from her grandchildren in a Senior Citizens' Club. Accustomed to her independence, she rebels against the petty restrictions enforced by a despotic volunteer. Her example is followed by the cowed regulars, who engineer the volunteer's retirement party a decade or two early! The male rôle can be a voice off or merged into Mrs Dando's reminiscences. A comedy in 30 minutes.

5w (4 retired)**Code B1****Oh, Mother!****Andrew Perkins**

Susan is upset by her mother's refusal to pass over to the afterlife and continued meddling in her life. But Mother's invisible prescence is a boon when a bogus Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator calls. Whilst Susan is distracted, an accomplice steals her valuables. Mother and Aunt Mildred, also reluctantly deceased, must recover the stolen silver to protect their own murky pasts! 3 rôles are for 30-60 year olds, 2 for 70+. 2001 Festival winner.

5w**Code B1****Our James****Ros Moruzzi**

Iris is appalled to learn from her mother that she is a test-tube baby. 'Aided' by a series of well-intentioned professionals, she sets out to discover her father's identity. In a descent into ever blacker comedy, the candidates become ever more alarming!

A comedy with deftly-drawn characters, a serious message and an hilarious denouement. Festival winner, Best Actress winner and runner-up in a national play-writing competition in 2001.

5w**Code B1****Paradise Park****Ros Moruzzi**

A holiday in Italy leads to tension caused by personality clashes and agenda differences. Pearl and her overbearing daughter clash over Pearl's insistence on enjoying life to the full. Against the odds, Pearl triumphs. She knows she does not have much longer to live and it has been her dream to visit the home-country of her illicit wartime lover. A bitter-sweet comedy.

6w**Code B1**

Park Hotel**Ros Moruzzi**

Lottie and Gertie, two elderly bag-ladies, live in a park. Winter is coming and their attempts to keep their spirits up are failing. In a nearby hotel, two gushing socialites meet for a liquid lunch. An old classmate causes the four women's paths to cross, resulting in sweet revenge for the bag-ladies and the bullied classmate, but a nightmare scenario for the ladies that lunch! A comic morality tale about ambition and attitudes to the less fortunate.

6w**Code B1****Party Time****Eileen Brandon**

The Committee is arranging the Christmas Party for local grandfathers. The characters are sharply drawn and provide excellent opportunities for character acting. The clash of personalities are skilfully exploited in this award-winning comedy. Can be played as a script-held.

6w**Code B1****Playing With Daisy****Eleanor Fossey**

What if imaginary friends are simply invisible to others?

Whilst waiting in a park for her mother, Esther, a reserved, middle-aged woman, is reluctantly drawn into conversation by a stranger. A chance remark reveals that the stranger is Esther's sole childhood companion - her imaginary friend, Daisy. As they explore their past together, the relationship between Esther and her authoritarian mother, driven by religious fervour, is exposed. But why has Daisy reappeared after all these years? Is she there to forgive Esther or for revenge? For Esther, the answers are horrifying. Winner of the 2008 Teignmouth Festival. Running time: 45 minutes.

2w**Code B1****Queenie****Ros Moruzzi**

It is Golden Jubilee Year and Davinia, a harassed social worker, meets two elderly but independent sisters, one of whom has always been treated like royalty due to her resemblance to Her Majesty. Queenie's frailty gives her little to celebrate. Annie, her biker daughter, is reluctant to help her mother and aunt, but is there a white knight on the horizon? 30-35 minutes.

4w**Code B1**

Responsible Adults

Eleanor Fossey

Caro and Mel have always enjoyed a very close mother-daughter relationship, but the revelation that Caro has a new man puts it under intense strain. It is many years since her father, Fenn, died, but Mel hates the thought of Maurice replacing him in her Mother's affections and attacks her for changing her character and the family home for Maurice's sake. Caro counters with criticism of Mel's changing herself to meet the approval of her flat-mate, Helen, for whom she harbours more than just friendly feelings! In an emotional reconciliation, they both pledge to act like adults and take control of their own lives. Running time: approx. 40 minutes.

3w

Code B1

Splitting Hairs

Eleanor Fossey

Set in the staff room of a hair salon, we meet the staff as they chat about their lives, moan about work and bitch about their rude customers, incompetent colleagues and pushy salespeople!

This revised version was first performed in 2014 at the Teignmouth Drama Festival, where the Teignmouth Players won Best Actress and Overall Winner. From the pen of one of our most popular and award-winning new authors. A comedy with a running time of approximately 45 minutes.

9w

Code B1

That Old Black Magic

Andrea MacPhail

The Great Majestica, deep in debt, is too drunk to perform his magic act, so his long-suffering wife and bimbo assistant must takeover his act! Two excellent characters and hilarious dialogue make this a wickedly black comedy!

3w

Code B1

Visitors**Scott Marshall**

Charity, Grace and Patience know each other well. Their discussions of their visitors, relatives and neighbours are interspersed with tangential comments on historical, Biblical or literary figures.

The play is written in a fast-flowing, expressionistic style, heightening the fun and pace of the piece. It is a challenging play for three accomplished actresses and a skilful director. Ideal for festivals. Running time: 40 minutes

3w**Code B1****What Is It Now, Mother?****Andrew Perkins**

Mother and Aunt Mildred return for a second helping of ghostly goings-on to save the family name! This time Mother is trying to protect Aunt Mildred's secret. A pile of books donated by Phyllis, her new boss, to Susan's charity reveal the impressions of past romantic gestures written on envelopes - "ITALY" - I Treasure And Love You - from her father to her mother during the Second World War. Mildred is her mother, and Mother is trying to stop old wounds from being re-opened. Sequel to *Oh, Mother!*

5w**Code B1****Cressrelles Publishing Company Limited**

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