

Section 4: One-Act Plays for Adults

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Whilst these plays were written for adults, some of them may also appeal to children and teenagers. The quoted run-times are a guideline only; so much depends on an individual production.

22 Hardcastle Court

Author Gary Diamond

Roles Minimum Male roles = 2. Minimum Female roles = 3. Minimum total with doubling = 5. Minimum total without doubling = 6. No chorus.

Runtime Around 45 minutes.

Music None.

Style One-act comedy play. Two sets (with the neat conceit that in moving out of her mother's house, Emily takes her sofa with her!), one of which requires a practical door. Contains some bad language (and lots of good language) and mild adult themes.

Outline When Emily finally manages to move out of her Mother's house, she thinks her worries are over, but thanks to the flat's former owner, she has to contend with mysterious calls from Mr X as well as her mother's interruptions and an amorous pair of students wanting help with their play...

A Case of Good Intentions

Author Peter Stallard

Roles Minimum Male roles = 5. Minimum Female roles = 2. Minimum total with doubling = 7. Minimum total without doubling = 7. No chorus.

Runtime Around 30 minutes.

Music None.

Style One-act light comedy play, set in a Welsh pub on Christmas Eve. Simple props. Contains mild swearing.

Outline A motley group are assembled in the bar room of the Black Pig on Christmas Eve. They discuss Turkeys, drinking and Christmas, and then a mysterious stranger enters their lives, and subsequently leaves something behind which changes everything for everyone.

A Controlling Interest

Author D.S. Warner

Roles Minimum Male roles = 2. Minimum Female roles = 2. Minimum total with doubling = 4. Minimum total without doubling = 4. No chorus.

Runtime Around 35 minutes.

Music None.

Style One-act drama. Single interior set (could easily be done as a 'black box' presentation).

Outline Ryan brings his new girlfriend back to the house he shares with his university friends, James and Charlotte, setting off a chain of events with, ultimately, tragic consequences.

A Day in the Life

Author Gary Diamond & Ray Lawrence

Roles Minimum Male roles = 8. Minimum Female roles = 3. Minimum total with doubling = 11. Minimum total without doubling = 11. No chorus.

Runtime Around 65 minutes.

Music None.

Style A long one-act (or short full-length) farce. Single set. Contains a small amount of mild swearing and a large amount of fun!

Outline A family gather for the reading of a late, but not lamented, step-Father's will. Unsurprisingly, there are surprises in store for the whole bunch.

A Fairy Tale Adventure

Author Sophia Holder

Roles Minimum Male roles = 3. Minimum Female roles = 13. Minimum total with doubling = 16. Minimum total without doubling = 36. No chorus.

Runtime Around 65 minutes.

Music None.

Style Family show, an alternative to British Pantomime, including some similar elements such as audience interaction. (Either a long one-act play, or a short two-act!)

Outline The Wicked Witch has changed the endings to all the Fairy Tales so that evil will triumph, and she's kidnapped the Fairy Queen to stop her reversing the spell. Only Hansel, Gretel and Paddy the Gingerbread man can save the tales.

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A Frame That Fits

Author William Campbell

Roles Minimum Male roles = 4. Minimum Female roles = 2. Minimum total with doubling = 6. Minimum total without doubling = 6. No chorus.

Runtime Around 30 minutes.

Music None.

Style One-act detective story - not so much a 'whodunnit?' as a 'how do we prove that he dunnit?' Multiple locations, but intended to be represented minimally in a single composite set. Contains mild swearing.

Outline A family has been found murdered - apparently by their daughter, who then took her own life. The police suspect a frame-up, since the family's nephew stands to profit from their deaths, but they need to call on the unorthodox services of Private Investigator Richard Gloster to prove it.

A Life Sentence

Author Mark Seaman

Roles Minimum Male roles = 1. Minimum Female roles = 1. Minimum total with doubling = 2. Minimum total without doubling = 2. No chorus.

Runtime Around 35 minutes.

Music None.

Style An emotionally charged two-hander with a very simple, well-thought-out set and detailed descriptions.

Outline A wife talks about her struggle to cope with her husband's dementia, and the effect it had on their family in his final days.

A Little War in Wales

Author David Adland

Roles Minimum Male roles = 5. Minimum Female roles = 4. Minimum total with doubling = 9. Minimum total without doubling = 9. No chorus.

Runtime Around 35 minutes.

Music None.

Style One-act play - a light romantic drama, with strong period detail. Single set (with separate areas where the action moves between settings).

Outline Based on real events from the Second World War. German Prisoners of War are sent out to work on farms deep in rural Wales, where the locals have to cope with the POWs, billeted Allied servicemen and wartime shortages.

A Load of Rubbish - Small Cast Musical

Author Sue Gordon

Roles Minimum Male roles = 0. Minimum Female roles = 0. Minimum total with doubling = 2. Minimum total without doubling = 5. No chorus.

Runtime Around 60 minutes.

Music Piano and vocal scores for eight original songs are supplied with the Producer's copy of the script.

Style One-act musical for a small cast (designed to be played by an adult touring company to school audiences)

Outline Life on an overspill rubbish dump takes a philosophical turn, with items of garbage asking 'why are we here?' - and making a song and dance about it!

Plus The following additional items are available (at extra cost) to go with this script: ** A 'backing track CD' with arrangements of all the songs from the show

** Soundtrack CD - vocal performances of all the songs from the show

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A Man of Quality

Author Richard Morris

Roles Minimum Male roles = 6. Minimum Female roles = 3. Minimum total with doubling = 12. Minimum total without doubling = 15. No chorus.

Runtime Around 30 minutes.

Music None.

Style One act play, exploring slavery and its abolition in the West Indies. Multiple settings, but suitable for minimal staging, with location changes indicated mainly by lighting.

Outline A historical drama based on the experiences of Janet Shaw and her father, the English Abolitionist James Shaw. Janet travels to Antigua to see for herself the treatment of slaves on the sugar plantations. She is impressed by the intelligent and gentle Robert, a house slave of her hosts.

A Mystery Tour

Author Colin Calvert

Roles Minimum Male roles = 0. Minimum Female roles = 5. Minimum total with doubling = 6. Minimum total without doubling = 8. No chorus.

Runtime Around 30 minutes.

Music None.

Style One-act comedy play, set on a coach (which can be as simple as a couple of rows of chairs). Contains mild swearing.

Outline It's the fifth annual Flower Arranging society mystery tour, and they've been out to Blockley Castle, just like every other year. But this year there's an escaped elephant, a missing kleptomaniac, the discovery of a mistress and the most tragic secret yet...

A Nice Cup of Tea

Author Jos Biggs

Roles Minimum Male roles = 1. Minimum Female roles = 1. Minimum total with doubling = 2. Minimum total without doubling = 2. No chorus.

Runtime Around 20 minutes.

Music None.

Style Short one-act comedy play, single kitchen setting (needs at least a working kettle).

Outline Harold has just returned from his course, training to be Health and Safety Officer at his firm. Now that he's in the know, he's determined to prevent his poor wife Marian from exposing herself to unnecessary risk while making a cuppa.

A Servant Plays for High Stakes

Author Vithal Rajan

Roles Minimum Male roles = 8. Minimum Female roles = 0. Minimum total with doubling = 7. Minimum total without doubling = 8. No chorus.

Runtime Around 30 minutes.

Music None.

Style A combination of Indian storytelling and chess! Simple props, but needs a means of displaying the chess moves to the audience.

Outline Game Four in the Varadachary Chess Cycle. British Chess Champion Sultan Khan recreates his 1932 defeat of Frederick Yates as an allegory for Gandhi's non-violent resistance to British colonial occupation of India.

A Smell of Burnt Feathers

Author Paul Gisby

Roles Minimum Male roles = 0. Minimum Female roles = 2. Minimum total with doubling = 2. Minimum total without doubling = 2. No chorus.

Runtime Around 20 minutes.

Music None.

Style Contemporary realism. One-act play, single modern set, simple props. (Contains swearing.)

Outline Oriole is events manager for an important conference, and her detailed plans didn't involve the arrival of her sister Jenny, fresh from their father's funeral. However, Oriole has some surprises in store for Jenny.

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A Time for Farewells

Author Damian Trasler

Roles Minimum Male roles = 3. Minimum Female roles = 1. Minimum total with doubling = 4. Minimum total without doubling = 4. No chorus.

Runtime Around 45 minutes.

Music None.

Style Serious, touching play. One act, one simple set. [Includes mild swearing]

Outline As they dress for a social event that will mark the end of their married life together, Sarah and Alex review their relationship to find out what brought them to this point.

A Trifle Unwell

Author Jane Lockyer Willis

Roles Minimum Male roles = 1. Minimum Female roles = 3. Minimum total with doubling = 4. Minimum total without doubling = 4. No chorus.

Runtime Around 25 minutes.

Music None.

Style One-act play, single set. Difficult to categorise, but plenty of scope for characterisation. Contains mild swearing.

Outline Jo's hiding from the rest of the party out on the stairs, but she's disturbed by Flora, who's escaping with the trifle. The pair meet Phil, who shouldn't really be there and then the hostess comes along to ask some searching questions. A light drama with added custard and sherry.

A Whole New World

Author Rebecca Grabill

Roles Minimum Male roles = 0. Minimum Female roles = 0. Minimum total with doubling = 13. Minimum total without doubling = 13. No chorus.

Runtime Around 20 minutes.

Music None.

Style Short single-set one-act comedy play (set in a radio studio in the far distant future).

Outline A radio show from the far, far future discusses the possible uses for a peculiar relic dug up on the long uninhabited planet earth. Some of the suggestions shock and disgust the listeners, but in the end it's lack of proper authority that brings the broadcast to a premature end.

A Widow's Tale - The Story of Ruth

Author Tim Crooks

Roles Minimum Male roles = 7. Minimum Female roles = 7. Minimum total with doubling = 14. Minimum total without doubling = 14. No chorus.

Runtime Around 50 minutes.

Music None.

Style One-act Play telling the biblical story of Ruth. Simple presentation with no specific set requirements.

Outline The book of Ruth is about a woman who leaves her own country and goes to live in a land with a culture and religion which are not those which she grew up with.

Aim

Author Terry Adlam

Roles Minimum Male roles = 3. Minimum Female roles = 1. Minimum total with doubling = 4. Minimum total without doubling = 4. No chorus.

Runtime Around 25 minutes.

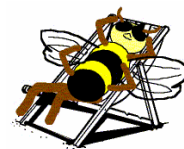
Music None.

Style Short thriller - one act, single, simple set, few props. Contains violence and swearing.

Outline Two men - the edgy Wolf and laid-back Dove - are waiting in a room to meet a third man. When their visitor arrives, he has an unexpected female companion, and all the plans seem to be going wrong.

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Airfield

Author Bob Tucker

Roles Minimum Male roles = 1. Minimum Female roles = 2. Minimum total with doubling = 3. Minimum total without doubling = 3. No chorus.

Runtime Around 25 minutes.

Music None.

Style Short one-act comedy play. Simple (minimal) staging.

Outline Fred and Lucy seem to have stumbled onto a real fly-by-night outfit when they signed up with Young Yettie Airways to fly to Barcelona. No hospitality, no departure lounge, not even any seats, and now there are delays and they might have to fly via Dublin...or is there something else afoot?

Alekhine's Greatest Defeat

Author Vithal Rajan

Roles Minimum Male roles = 4. Minimum Female roles = 1. Minimum total with doubling = 5. Minimum total without doubling = 5. Chorus.

Runtime Around 25 minutes.

Music None.

Style A combination of Indian storytelling and chess! Split-stage set, simple props, but needs a means of displaying the chess moves to the audience.

Outline Game One in the Varadachary Chess Cycle. Varadachary, the story teller, relates how he witnessed Russian Grand Master Alexander Alekhine fall in love whilst losing a chess match in Paris to a beautiful student.

Alessandro - Renaissance Don Juan

Author Nicholas Conti

Roles Minimum Male roles = 4. Minimum Female roles = 2. Minimum total with doubling = 6. Minimum total without doubling = 7. No chorus.

Runtime Around 35 minutes.

Music None.

Style A one-act romp set in 1682. Written in a style somewhere between Melodrama and Restoration Comedy! (American English.)

Outline The tale of Alessandro Stradella, musical lover. (That's musical lover as in 'musician and lothario', not as in 'fan of Rogers and Hammerstein'.) His affair with his pupil, Contessa Maria Cortese, sparks the wrath of her husband - just one of the enraged cuckolds Alessandro has left in his wake.

Apple Strudel, Chess and Ethics

Author Vithal Rajan

Roles Minimum Male roles = 5. Minimum Female roles = 0. Minimum total with doubling = 5. Minimum total without doubling = 5. No chorus.

Runtime Around 30 minutes.

Music None.

Style A combination of Indian storytelling and chess! Simple props, but needs a means of displaying the chess moves to the audience.

Outline Game Five in the Varadachary Chess Cycle. Albert Einstein challenges J. Robert Oppenheimer to a chess match, with Subrahmanyan Chandrasekhar looking on, as they discuss physics and ethics in the lead-up to the Manhattan Project.

Armed Robbery For Dummies

Author Paul R. Roman

Roles Minimum Male roles = 3. Minimum Female roles = 0. Minimum total with doubling = 3. Minimum total without doubling = 4. No chorus.

Runtime Around 20 minutes.

Music None.

Style Short one-act play with a single set and very black humour.

Outline Frank needs a change and thinks armed robbery is the way to go. He consults with his recently paroled friend, but the first attempt goes wrong and he ends up with a dead neighbour on his hands. So he needs to get some quick lessons in body disposal...

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Artists Anonymous

Author John Passadino

Roles Minimum Male roles = 2. Minimum Female roles = 1. Minimum total with doubling = 4. Minimum total without doubling = 5. No chorus.

Runtime Around 50 minutes.

Music None.

Style One-act play, single set. A sharp script with some interesting characters and real emotion in it.

Outline Three long-serving writers meet up for their weekly writing meeting. Will this be the one where they finally crack the winning formula, or just the one where Ralph, living in his parent's basement again after his latest marriage break up, cracks? That was a lousy sentence, but this time they think they've come up with a winner... they'll fake the death of one of the writing team and use the publicity to sell a story at last! But who will get the chop for the sake of success?

Auditions

Author Peter Appleton

Roles Minimum Male roles = 0. Minimum Female roles = 7. Minimum total with doubling = 7. Minimum total without doubling = 7. No chorus.

Runtime Around 30 minutes.

Music None.

Style One-act comedy play. Minimal set requirements.

Outline The AmDRAMMERS are meeting again, trying to ensure they get enough rehearsals to prevent last year's embarrassment. Competition for the few parts is hot, and just when it's cast, the producer drops a bombshell...

Baby Sparklers

Author Frank Gibbons

Roles Minimum Male roles = 4. Minimum Female roles = 4. Minimum total with doubling = 8. Minimum total without doubling = 8. No chorus.

Runtime Around 45 minutes.

Music None.

Style One-act nostalgic comedy play with a single - bonfire - set. An evocation of children growing-up in an industrial town in the 1970s. *Revised 2011 to shorten it slightly to a length suitable for one-act play festivals.*

Outline November 4th 1970 - a time for learning to swear, a time for discovering friendship, and a time for earning respect. Armed with dustbin lids and iron railings, Rachel, Susan and Tommy are prepared to guard their modest bonfire pile against an expected raid by the dreaded Dawson twins. But an even greater danger threatens to engulf them when a member of the group is lured away by the Firework Man.

Badly Drawn

Author Alan Robinson

Roles Minimum Male roles = 1. Minimum Female roles = 1. Minimum total with doubling = 5. Minimum total without doubling = 8. No chorus.

Runtime Around 20 minutes.

Music None.

Style Short, intriguing, one-act play, dealing with events of a psychological nature. Single, minimal set.

Outline Spectre has taken Saskia. Where and why, she can't be sure. As he recounts his tale of shattered dreams, stolen ideas and cursed cartoons, Saskia begins to realise the lines that he draws run parallel to her own and soon both are on a collision course to meltdown.

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Bat Out Of Heaven

Author Frank Gibbons

Roles Minimum Male roles = 1. Minimum Female roles = 5. Minimum total with doubling = 11. Minimum total without doubling = 11. No chorus.

Runtime Around 50 minutes.

Music None.

Style A powerful one-act drama, well-told, treating the central theme sensitively but without excessive sentimentality. Multiple locations but designed for very simple staging.

Outline Jessie is the favoured daughter, getting perhaps too much of Mum's interest in her Table Tennis efforts. Her brother is jealous, and things take a turn for the worse when Jessie is diagnosed with leukaemia. Her Mum must admit that she is adopted, and so her brother Rob cannot be a marrow donor. Rob sets out on a quest to find a donor sibling.

Being Nice

Author Mark Niel

Roles Minimum Male roles = 1. Minimum Female roles = 2. Minimum total with doubling = 3. Minimum total without doubling = 3. No chorus.

Runtime Around 55 minutes.

Music None.

Style One-act, single set comedy play. (Contains swearing.)

Outline Geoff, a divorcee pays his mortgage by renting out rooms to Emily and Alison, two girls in their twenties. Emily has a crush on Geoff and is mortified when Alison, a much more outgoing and earthy type, weighs in with advice and practical help. The three ponder the different dynamic and set out the boundaries of the potential relationship, but does Alison have a secret she's not sharing with Emily?

Best Friends

Author Tom Jensen

Roles Minimum Male roles = 2. Minimum Female roles = 2. Minimum total with doubling = 4. Minimum total without doubling = 5. No chorus.

Runtime Around 20 minutes.

Music None.

Style A short absurdist play. Single dining room set. This does what all absurd plays do - which is to deliver something bizarre that makes the audience think!

Outline A family that's almost too good to be true host another perfect family.

Betrayal

Author Bob Tucker

Roles Minimum Male roles = 2. Minimum Female roles = 3. Minimum total with doubling = 5. Minimum total without doubling = 5. No chorus.

Runtime Around 25 minutes.

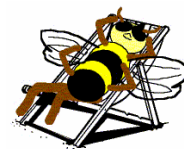
Music None.

Style One act farce which starts as a simple domestic comedy then turns into a heist story that has so many twists and reversals it's like watching a Samba competition.

Outline Leonard is depressed by the arrival of Spring. Margaret says he's a boring bank manager, but by the end of the day he's planning to run away with the money from the vault and the woman next door. Trouble is, he's not the only one with his eye on the money and a fast getaway.

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Big City

Author Wesley A. Knoch

Roles Minimum Male roles = 4. Minimum Female roles = 4. Minimum total with doubling = 19. Minimum total without doubling = 23. No chorus.

Runtime Around 55 minutes.

Music Producer's copy comes with sheet music (piano and vocal) for 10 songs and 2 instrumental pieces. Lazy Bee Scripts does not supply any sheet music with this script.

Style One-act musical for a junior high school youth theatre group.

Outline Dash Walker is determined to use his singing talent to escape his small town lifestyle. Entrusting his career to shifty talent scout Ricky T. Karr is his chance at fame - but is his trust misplaced?

Plus The following additional items are available (at extra cost) to go with this script: ** A 'backing track CD' with arrangements of all the songs from the show
** Soundtrack CD - vocal performances of all the songs from the show

Bill and Ben the Twilight Men

Author Frank Gibbons

Roles Minimum Male roles = 3. Minimum Female roles = 2. Minimum total with doubling = 5. Minimum total without doubling = 5. No chorus.

Runtime Around 55 minutes.

Music None.

Style One act comedy, single set (lounge bar of a village pub). Contains mild swearing and Lancashire accents.

Outline Bill is a curmudgeonly barman who nurses a desperate love for the landlady, Rose, but she's being courted by out-of-towner Ben, a suave, rich man. But a new guest at the pub, a spate of burglaries and the local copper's inventions combine to turn Bill's fortunes around.

Blind Date, Inc.

Author Gerald P. Murphy

Roles Minimum Male roles = 2. Minimum Female roles = 2. Minimum total with doubling = 4. Minimum total without doubling = 16. No chorus.

Runtime Around 30 minutes.

Music None.

Style A series of linked comedy sketches. Simple set - two tables, four chairs.

Outline A series of couples meet for the first time, introduced by Blind Date Inc.

Blind Date, Inc. 111

Author Gerald P. Murphy

Roles Minimum Male roles = 2. Minimum Female roles = 2. Minimum total with doubling = 4. Minimum total without doubling = 16. No chorus.

Runtime Around 40 minutes.

Music None.

Style A series of linked comedy sketches. Simple set - two tables, four chairs.

Outline This follows exactly the same structure as the two predecessors [Blind Date Inc.](#) and [Blind Date, Inc. 2](#) but with a different set of couples working out different relationships, covering a range of odd issues, with even Sherlock Holmes taking up the dating game!

Blind Date, Inc. 2

Author Gerald P. Murphy

Roles Minimum Male roles = 3. Minimum Female roles = 2. Minimum total with doubling = 5. Minimum total without doubling = 12. No chorus.

Runtime Around 25 minutes.

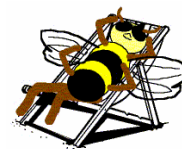
Music None.

Style A series of linked comedy sketches. Simple set - two tables, four chairs.

Outline This follows exactly the same structure as [Blind Date Inc.](#) but with a different set of couples working out different relationships!

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Bottle

Author John Chambers

Roles Minimum Male roles = 3. Minimum Female roles = 0. Minimum total with doubling = 3. Minimum total without doubling = 3. No chorus.

Runtime Around 55 minutes.

Music None.

Style One-act play, two (simple) hospital sets (one with a practical cubicle door). Contains strong adult themes and extremely offensive language from the rebellious teenager.

Outline Tom and his stepfather Clive are in the intensive care ward, waiting for news of Tom's mother, who has been viciously beaten. Clive calls Tom's real father Paul, who comes to join them. The three argue about blame, love and life, but can the two men handle the truth about who really beat Tom's mum?

Brush Yourself Off and Move On

Author Megan Boduch

Roles Minimum Male roles = 1. Minimum Female roles = 2. Minimum total with doubling = 3. Minimum total without doubling = 4. No chorus.

Runtime Around 20 minutes.

Music None.

Style One-act play - a character study - set outside a Broadway audition (though it could be a theatrical audition anywhere). No specific set requirements, simple props.

Outline A Broadway hopeful is waiting nervously outside her latest audition. A rival gains her trust but proceeds to destroy her confidence, apparently for no better reason than her own amusement. Just as our girl is about to give it all up, however, a man arrives and is considerate and kind. He restores her confidence and points out her advantages over the more poisonous girl. Together they point out the girl's deficiencies to her and win the moral victory over her.

Bucolic

Author Bob Tucker

Roles Minimum Male roles = 2. Minimum Female roles = 2. Minimum total with doubling = 4. Minimum total without doubling = 4. No chorus.

Runtime Around 35 minutes.

Music None.

Style One-act comedy play, single domestic set, simple props. (Contains mild swearing and mild adult themes.)

Outline Adam manages to come home earlier than usual, hoping to enjoy his restful country home, but there's an odd string of visitors, and his errant son returns unexpectedly from college. The new, attractive female, curate comes to call, and his wife reveals a most unexpected secret.

Bunkers

Author Peter Lancaster Walker

Roles Minimum Male roles = 1. Minimum Female roles = 5. Minimum total with doubling = 6. Minimum total without doubling = 6. No chorus.

Runtime Around 25 minutes.

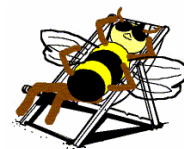
Music None.

Style Short one-act comedy play. Single set (indicative of a newspaper office). Written as a verbal comedy, but since one of the characters is accident-prone there is plenty of opportunity for development of a physical side.

Outline Delphine has arranged a job at the newspaper where she works for her accident-prone flat-mate, Sally. Now the job of Foreign Correspondent is up for grabs and Sally has applied! Here comes Armageddon!

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Caiaphas

Author Mike Sparks

Roles Minimum Male roles = 3. Minimum Female roles = 3. Minimum total with doubling = 7. Minimum total without doubling = 7. No chorus.

Runtime Around 35 minutes.

Music None.

Style One-act play which can be produced with minimal staging (so could easily be done within a church).

Outline The events of the last few days of Holy Week are shown from the viewpoint of High Priest Caiaphas and his family.

Captive Audience

Author Jenny Gilbert

Roles Minimum Male roles = 4. Minimum Female roles = 3. Minimum total with doubling = 7. Minimum total without doubling = 10. No chorus.

Runtime Around 50 minutes.

Music None.

Style One-act comedy play with a serious - even sinister - twist. Single simple set (give or take the table anchored to the floor). Includes mild swearing.

Outline Tom's on a short residential course as part of his Open University studies, and he's in a spot of bother, having been handcuffed to a table by a passing drunk. Other people on other courses gather around to help Tom in his hour of need, until Dave arrives to spill Tom's dark secret.

Carrie's Lions

Author Amy Sutton

Roles Minimum Male roles = 3. Minimum Female roles = 4. Minimum total with doubling = 8. Minimum total without doubling = 11. No chorus.

Runtime Around 20 minutes.

Music None.

Style A short play with plenty of technical and acting challenges! Whilst it is not formally divided into scenes, there are five locations - indicated symbolically by props and furniture.

Outline Through a series of conversations with her guardian angel, Carrie tries to come to terms with the death of her father.

Catch As Catch Can

Author George Freek

Roles Minimum Male roles = 4. Minimum Female roles = 3. Minimum total with doubling = 7. Minimum total without doubling = 7. No chorus.

Runtime Around 20 minutes.

Music None.

Style Short one-act play, in a single set. A comedy, which is not what one expects from Othello.

Outline An alternative history of *Othello*, playing with our preconceptions of Shakespeare's characters. A worldly wise Iago is giving advice about women to a distraught Cassio, who cannot bear to see Desdemona married to Othello. But Iago's wife seems to be openly flirting with the General, and Desdemona isn't happy...

Chemistry Lessons

Author George Freek

Roles Minimum Male roles = 2. Minimum Female roles = 3. Minimum total with doubling = 5. Minimum total without doubling = 5. No chorus.

Runtime Around 20 minutes.

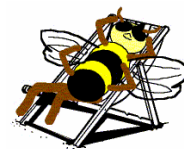
Music None.

Style Short one-act farcical comedy. Single domestic set (preferably with a practical door or at least the sound of a hefty slam!)

Outline A Chemistry teacher is having trouble coming to terms with his impending matrimony, when he's suddenly swept into the middle of another couple's marriage problems. Once he's proved he's not having an affair with the wife or the daughter, he still has his own fiancée to sort out...

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Chess as Felony

Author Vithal Rajan

Roles Minimum Male roles = 3. Minimum Female roles = 0. Minimum total with doubling = 3. Minimum total without doubling = 6. No chorus.

Runtime Around 20 minutes.

Music None.

Style A combination of Indian storytelling and chess! Simple props, but needs a means of displaying the chess moves to the audience.

Outline Game Ten in the Varadachary Chess Cycle. Convicts Claude Bloodgood and Ram Varadachary take a train with their guard to a chess tournament, but on the train they play a game for high stakes.

Consequences

Author Duncan Battman

Roles Minimum Male roles = 3. Minimum Female roles = 1. Minimum total with doubling = 4. Minimum total without doubling = 4. No chorus.

Runtime Around 50 minutes.

Music None.

Style One-act play. Single interior set. A very theatrical presentation, without being melodramatic. Contains unsavory language (and murder, and policemen).

Outline A young policeman and his older sergeant discover a dead body, along with a letter that casts new light on a long closed case. A case that the sergeant worked on a young PC, which may have resulted in the wrong man being jailed and dying in prison.

Crackerjoke Writer

Author Paul Richards

Roles Minimum Male roles = 3. Minimum Female roles = 1. Minimum total with doubling = 4. Minimum total without doubling = 4. No chorus.

Runtime Around 40 minutes.

Music None.

Style One-act play with plenty of acting challenges. A black comedy about comedians who are just not funny. Single set (with no specific set requirements) and simple props. Contains swearing.

Outline There is a comedy pit, where unfunny comedians are held captive. That's where Ade finds himself, despite thinking that he's the next big thing in comedy. He has one chance to break out with a new act and it depends on deadbeat failure, Bunny.

Custard and Disinfectant

Author Jim Pinnock

Roles Minimum Male roles = 5. Minimum Female roles = 4. Minimum total with doubling = 9. Minimum total without doubling = 9. No chorus.

Runtime Around 30 minutes.

Music None.

Style Murder mystery with a darkly comic edge. Includes swearing.

Outline Albert's a terror in the old folks' home, making improper suggestions and using bad language. But when he's found dead with a dagger in his chest and sleeping pills under his chair, the problem isn't whodunit, but who DIDN'T...

Cut it Out

Author Trevor Suthers

Roles Minimum Male roles = 0. Minimum Female roles = 3. Minimum total with doubling = 3. Minimum total without doubling = 3. No chorus.

Runtime Around 45 minutes.

Music None.

Style One-act drama, dealing with self-harm. Minimal set requirements. Contains swearing.

Outline Claire has been a self-harmer since the death of her twin sister. Why does she feel guilty, and why does her mother feel guilty too? Why can't they connect over this common bond? A gritty, emotional character piece.

Section 4: One-Act Plays for Adults

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Daffodils Make Me Sneeze

Author John Chambers

Roles Minimum Male roles = 1. Minimum Female roles = 2. Minimum total with doubling = 4. Minimum total without doubling = 4. No chorus.

Runtime Around 30 minutes.

Music None.

Style One-act drama. Single set - a hospital room with a bed. Contains mild swearing.

Outline Marilyn, hospitalized after being assaulted by her partner, meets Edna - a middle-aged woman - and her long-suffering husband Raymond. She soon recognises Edna as an interfering type who thinks she knows what's best for everyone. She may be powerless to heal her own relationship, but after a private conversation with Raymond, Marilyn thinks a few well-placed words might make Raymond's life a little easier.

Dead Lucky

Author Nigel Holloway

Roles Minimum Male roles = 1. Minimum Female roles = 1. Minimum total with doubling = 2. Minimum total without doubling = 3. No chorus.

Runtime Around 25 minutes.

Music None.

Style One-act play, satirising game shows. Contains mild swearing.

Outline Clive and Bonnie are competing in a global reality tv talent show, but how far are they prepared to go for the ultimate prize - being cryogenically frozen until the prize fund exceeds any fortune in the world?

Dead Ringer

Author Stuart Arden

Roles Minimum Male roles = 1. Minimum Female roles = 4. Minimum total with doubling = 7. Minimum total without doubling = 7. No chorus.

Runtime Around 55 minutes.

Music None.

Style Not so much a whodunnit as 'who is doing what to whom?' One-act play, single simple interior set.

Outline Margo drags her friend Fran to a séance. The sceptical Fran doesn't expect to be able to contact Margo's dead husband but then strange things begin to happen...

Deadly

Author Jonny Arden

Roles Minimum Male roles = 3. Minimum Female roles = 4. Minimum total with doubling = 7. Minimum total without doubling = 7. No chorus.

Runtime Around 25 minutes.

Music None.

Style One-act play for teenagers/young adults. Single simple set. Simple props. The script contains swearing (which may be toned-down to suit the requirements of a particular production).

Outline Seven friends attempt to make the most - or least - of their summer holidays. Each has a vice but it's a vice they're comfortable with, until Lewis makes a move on Priscilla, the new girl in town. Then it emerges that their sins could end up deadly...

Dear Lily

Author Lorraine Forrest-Turner

Roles Minimum Male roles = 2. Minimum Female roles = 3. Minimum total with doubling = 5. Minimum total without doubling = 7. No chorus.

Runtime Around 60 minutes.

Music None.

Style One-act romantic comedy. Lots of scenes and locations, but these are intended to be indicative rather than fully-dressed sets. Contains swearing.

Outline After thirty years as 'Lily', the agony aunt of The Courier, Ingrid loses her job and embarks on a radical reassessment of her life, beginning a stormy relationship with a man ten years her junior.

Section 4: One-Act Plays for Adults

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Death in Character

Author Stuart Ardern

Roles Minimum Male roles = 3. Minimum Female roles = 3. Minimum total with doubling = 8. Minimum total without doubling = 8. No chorus.

Runtime Around 45 minutes.

Music None.

Style One-act whodunnit, with lots of comic potential. Single simple set (a theatre stage strewn with the debris of previous productions), one act play.

Outline The management committee meets on the stage for the last time to arrange closure of their theatre. By the end of the evening the police are called in to investigate a murder with a rather unusual victim.

Dialogue

Author Stewart Boston

Roles Minimum Male roles = 0. Minimum Female roles = 0. Minimum total with doubling = 2. Minimum total without doubling = 2. No chorus.

Runtime Around 30 minutes.

Music None.

Style Unnerving and disturbing, but gripping one-act play. Single simple set.

Outline Two immortal beings argue about the pros and cons of passing the time by experimenting with creation. Eventually the one who has worked hard on his people and his vision has to admit it's all gone horribly wrong. The other is happy to bring things to a close.

Disconnected

Author Paul L. Harwood

Roles Minimum Male roles = 2. Minimum Female roles = 3. Minimum total with doubling = 5. Minimum total without doubling = 9. No chorus.

Runtime Around 40 minutes.

Music None.

Style One-act play. Single set which morphs into different locations. An exploration of time, decisions and consequences. Contains mild swearing.

Outline Bernie is an old man, but he's haunted by the consequences of a promise he made to his childhood friend Joe, who died in World War Two. Now Bernie is reliving important moments of his life - could he really be about to undo the most disastrous decision he ever made?

Do Me A Favour

Author Trevor Suthers

Roles Minimum Male roles = 2. Minimum Female roles = 0. Minimum total with doubling = 2. Minimum total without doubling = 0. No chorus.

Runtime Around 55 minutes.

Music None.

Style One-act comedy play. It needs to be performed in its entirety, but because of its structure - a series of seven prison visits - it could be performed front of curtain as part of a sketch show. Contains extreme swearing.

Outline Bill's banged up inside, and Ben is his regular visitor. Since Ben owes Bill, it's only natural that he should carry out any instructions the senior villain gives him. Even if they are a bit... iffy. eventually Bill gives one order too many and a little while later their positions are reversed.

Don't Mention the Dream

Author Damian Trasler

Roles Minimum Male roles = 1. Minimum Female roles = 3. Minimum total with doubling = 4. Minimum total without doubling = 4. No chorus.

Runtime Around 25 minutes.

Music None.

Style One-act play. Single set, modern realism, character, explores approaches to staging Shakespeare. Contains mild swearing.

Outline It's the annual meeting of the Drama Society, but they're a bit thin on the ground this year. Will Russell get his way and produce a period 'A Midsummer Night's Dream' or will Lucy put a spanner in the works?

Section 4: One-Act Plays for Adults

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Emergency

Author Bob Tucker

Roles Minimum Male roles = 3. Minimum Female roles = 2. Minimum total with doubling = 5. Minimum total without doubling = 5. No chorus.

Runtime Around 20 minutes.

Music None.

Style Short one-act play. Single, simple set (a table), suitable for a bare stage presentation or could be played front of curtain whilst the stage was being prepared for another piece.

Outline A crisis has occurred in an expatriate Social Society that is having to move to smaller premises. Only one of four standard activities can continue and the spokespeople for each of the four are locked in acrimonious debate.

Emporium 3

Author Bob Tucker

Roles Minimum Male roles = 1. Minimum Female roles = 5. Minimum total with doubling = 6. Minimum total without doubling = 6. No chorus.

Runtime Around 25 minutes.

Music None.

Style Short one-act comedy play. Single (store) set. Part of a series set in the same bizarre venue. (A couple of remarks refer back to previous events, but can easily be changed to allow this to run as a stand-alone play.)

Outline Candles and romance are waxing strong in Mme Dressoir's strange little shop, but customer dissatisfaction looms large, hindering growth and leading to broken promises and broken hearts.

Emporium 4

Author Bob Tucker

Roles Minimum Male roles = 1. Minimum Female roles = 4. Minimum total with doubling = 5. Minimum total without doubling = 5. No chorus.

Runtime Around 20 minutes.

Music None.

Style Short one-act comedy play. Single (store) set. Part of a series set in the same bizarre venue (but functions as a stand-alone play.)

Outline A tangled love story in a very odd retail outlet. Shop assistant Michelle tries to continue her romance with the local policeman, whilst Ms Dressoir, the shop manager tries to prevent it and also to getting free publicity from the local paper.

Emporium 5

Author Bob Tucker

Roles Minimum Male roles = 1. Minimum Female roles = 6. Minimum total with doubling = 8. Minimum total without doubling = 8. Chorus.

Runtime Around 40 minutes.

Music None.

Style One-act comedy play. Single (store) set. Part of a series set in the same bizarre venue (but functions as a stand-alone play.)

Outline The worms in the shop finally turn, with Cynthia thrown out and Michelle getting hitched to her sweetheart, Rex. Madam Dressoir, the dreaded emporium manager, finally gets what's coming to her...

Emporium [One-Act Version]

Author Bob Tucker

Roles Minimum Male roles = 0. Minimum Female roles = 6. Minimum total with doubling = 6. Minimum total without doubling = 6. No chorus.

Runtime Around 20 minutes.

Music None.

Style One-act play, single set - the interior of a small and very odd store. (An expanded version of Bob Tucker's original ten minute Emporium.)

Outline A few minutes in the day of a very peculiar shop...excuse me, I mean *Emporium*. Befuddled employees and confused customers combine with disdainful management to provide a unique shopping experience.

Section 4: One-Act Plays for Adults

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End Of The Pier

Author Karen Doling

Roles Minimum Male roles = 4. Minimum Female roles = 4. Minimum total with doubling = 8. Minimum total without doubling = 8. No chorus.

Runtime Around 50 minutes.

Music None.

Style One act play, single set - a fortune teller's tent at the end of a pier!

Outline A gypsy called Lea (as all soothsayers are) reads people's fortunes on the end of the pier - at least, that's what the sign says, but she usually tells people the same old thing. Today, things aren't going to go as she planned, but the results will be strangely familiar...

Erica and Me

Author Alan Robinson

Roles Minimum Male roles = 2. Minimum Female roles = 5. Minimum total with doubling = 7. Minimum total without doubling = 7. No chorus.

Runtime Around 45 minutes.

Music None.

Style Hilarious one-act farce. Single set (ideally with two practical doors, but could be staged without). Simple props. Contains mild swearing.

Outline To impress his boss, who likes employees to be family men, the single, nerdy Simon hires an escort to pretend to be his girlfriend. Things spiral out of control when three women turn up, all (possibly) the Erica he's expecting...

Fidelity Farce

Author Gary Diamond

Roles Minimum Male roles = 2. Minimum Female roles = 4. Minimum total with doubling = 6. Minimum total without doubling = 6. No chorus.

Runtime Around 35 minutes.

Music None.

Style One-act bedroom farce. (Lots of doors, that sort of thing.)

Outline Successful businessman Vincent Donaldson has booked a hotel room - the scene of a fling with his PA. But he hasn't counted on the appearance of his wife, her sister (with whom he is also having an affair), and another woman from his past. Not to mention the room-service man...

Fight for the Future

Author Damian Trasler

Roles Minimum Male roles = 1. Minimum Female roles = 1. Minimum total with doubling = 3. Minimum total without doubling = 3. No chorus.

Runtime Around 20 minutes.

Music None.

Style Short science-fiction play about time travel. Bare stage and just one prop - a piece of paper. That's all. Thousands of years of technological innovation leading to just one piece of paper. (Give or take the time capsule.)

Outline The first ever time traveller journeys to the future and discovers a world very different to the one he imagined...

Find the Lady

Author Helen Sharman

Roles Minimum Male roles = 2. Minimum Female roles = 2. Minimum total with doubling = 4. Minimum total without doubling = 4. No chorus.

Runtime Around 30 minutes.

Music None.

Style One act play. Minimal set, with only a dressing table and clothes rail, plus a sofa and table arrangement that remain onstage throughout. Contains very mild swearing.

Outline An actress struggles to contain the character of Lady Macbeth as the play both infects and reflects other parts of her life.

Section 4: One-Act Plays for Adults

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First Time Around

Author Colin Calvert

Roles Minimum Male roles = 7. Minimum Female roles = 5. Minimum total with doubling = 12. Minimum total without doubling = 13. No chorus.

Runtime Around 45 minutes.

Music None.

Style One-act comedy play, with a single (wedding reception) set.

Outline Two families collide at a wedding. One has taken pains to ensure the speeches are suitable (and short enough!) for the eminent guests they have invited, by bringing along some chloroform. But not everyone at the event is what they seem, with the Bride's family are playing at being poor country bumpkins to avoid paying for the event.

Flapjacks

Author Karen Doling

Roles Minimum Male roles = 4. Minimum Female roles = 4. Minimum total with doubling = 9. Minimum total without doubling = 10. No chorus.

Runtime Around 40 minutes.

Music None.

Style One-act comedy play. Single cafe set. Contains mild swearing.

Outline Maddie and Claire are on the verge of opening their new cafe but the builders are still working, they're not sure about making savoury food, and they only have a couple of days before the Mayor comes to cut the ribbon.

Fleas Can Bite

Author George Freek

Roles Minimum Male roles = 4. Minimum Female roles = 2. Minimum total with doubling = 6. Minimum total without doubling = 9. No chorus.

Runtime Around 65 minutes.

Music None.

Style Dry comedy, on the boundary between a long one-act play, and a short full-length one. (It's in two acts.)

Outline A saga of unrequited love, insanity and blackmail, populated by a strange collection of patients, professionals and friends.

Floor 13

Author Young Theatre, edited by Helen Sharman

Roles Minimum Male roles = 2. Minimum Female roles = 2. Minimum total with doubling = 4. Minimum total without doubling = 4. No chorus.

Runtime Around 20 minutes.

Music None.

Style Short one-act play, exploring character and motivation. Contains mild swearing.

Outline Four different characters are stranded on the thirteenth floor by an uncooperative lift. There are no stairs or other exits. How did they get here? Where should they go?

Frying Nemo

Author Amy Sutton

Roles Minimum Male roles = 3. Minimum Female roles = 3. Minimum total with doubling = 10. Minimum total without doubling = 33. No chorus.

Runtime Around 45 minutes.

Music None.

Style A one-act nautical comedy play (with opportunities for dance music). Written for minimal set - because it was originally performed in a sea-life centre!

Outline An old man in a care home is telling the story of his younger days - as the seafaring adventurer Captain Nemo! We see things that Jules Verne never got to write about in this stirring tale of derring do and mermaids, with a surprisingly affecting ending.

Section 4: One-Act Plays for Adults

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Gallery

Author Stewart Boston

Roles Minimum Male roles = 2. Minimum Female roles = 3. Minimum total with doubling = 5. Minimum total without doubling = 7. No chorus.

Runtime Around 40 minutes.

Music None.

Style Structurally a two-act play (but classified as a one-act on the grounds of length), single art gallery setting, satirising the pretensions of the commercial fine arts world.

Outline An unscrupulous Art Dealer has a young artist foisted on him by a work programme, but soon turns the situation to his advantage when a misunderstanding makes the artist an overnight sensation.

Game - Love

Author Dominique Vaughan

Roles Minimum Male roles = 3. Minimum Female roles = 4. Minimum total with doubling = 7. Minimum total without doubling = 7. No chorus.

Runtime Around 20 minutes.

Music None.

Style One-act play with a simple single set and simple props.

Outline Three couples meet one another at a speed-dating evening while the company moderator looks on. Two find they have at least enough in common to meet again, but the third pair find they have more in common than they want to share.

Get Staffed

Author Frank Gibbons

Roles Minimum Male roles = 3. Minimum Female roles = 5. Minimum total with doubling = 8. Minimum total without doubling = 9. No chorus.

Runtime Around 55 minutes.

Music None.

Style One-act comical farce. Single (hotel reception) set.

Outline It's opening day for the newest Buzz Hotel, but things are not going well. Their first diners have come down with suspected food poisoning, and their only room booking is probably a hoax - surely it's not the *real* Kylie Minogue?

God's Minstrel

Author Joseph P. Ritz

Roles Minimum Male roles = 4. Minimum Female roles = 1. Minimum total with doubling = 5. Minimum total without doubling = 11. No chorus.

Runtime Around 70 minutes.

Music None.

Style You can think of this either as a short two-act play, or a long one-act play. Single set.

Outline Mixed in with a little tale from modern times, this is the story of how Francis of Assisi became a saint. A moving and honest telling.

Going Underground

Author Christopher Morgan

Roles Minimum Male roles = 4. Minimum Female roles = 3. Minimum total with doubling = 7. Minimum total without doubling = 7. No chorus.

Runtime Around 50 minutes.

Music None.

Style One-act play, single set - the interior of an underground train. Simple props.

Outline Seven travellers on the underground with a series of overlapping stories.

Section 4: One-Act Plays for Adults

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Grace - A Monologue

Author Frank Flynn

Roles Minimum Male roles = 0. Minimum Female roles = 1. Minimum total with doubling = 1. Minimum total without doubling = 1. No chorus.

Runtime Around 30 minutes.

Music None.

Style One-act monologue. Single domestic set (which can be implied rather than fully built). Written in Canadian English.

Outline Grace is sorting through the detritus of her life, and holds a rambling conversation with the audience about the people and places she has known. We finally come round with her to the realisation that her husband has died and she is packing up the house ready to sell.

Grave Matters

Author Peter Stallard

Roles Minimum Male roles = 3. Minimum Female roles = 1. Minimum total with doubling = 5. Minimum total without doubling = 6. No chorus.

Runtime Around 35 minutes.

Music None.

Style A ghost story told as a humorous one-act play. Single graveyard set, simple props.

Outline A magistrate and a Police Sergeant stole a valuable chalice and hid the theft under the cover of arson committed by a local troublemaker. Now their souls are bound to the churchyard until they can restore the chalice.

Grecian Cat

Author Erica Glenn

Roles Minimum Male roles = 2. Minimum Female roles = 2. Minimum total with doubling = 4. Minimum total without doubling = 4. No chorus.

Runtime Around 20 minutes.

Music None.

Style A snappy short play about four twenty-somethings. One set (the kitchens of two adjoining apartments).

Outline Amber's Grecian cat figurine guards the front of her apartment and she believes it guards her fortune too, so when her new neighbour crushes it with his car, she wants revenge. The two adversaries and their roommates learn a lot about each other and themselves.

Growing Up With Martin

Author Paul Richards

Roles Minimum Male roles = 4. Minimum Female roles = 2. Minimum total with doubling = 6. Minimum total without doubling = 9. No chorus.

Runtime Around 60 minutes.

Music None.

Style One-act comedy play (three sets)

Outline Martin is twenty four, living in a rented flat with his girlfriend, and working at the bottom of the corporate ladder in an accounting firm run by his Mum and Dad. He's frustrated by his lowly position, but equally annoyed by the idea that he should have to exert himself to get on in life. In the course of one day we see him downtrodden, turn a corner and find a new goal, just to have one of the dearest things snatched from him.

Guidance

Author Bob Tucker

Roles Minimum Male roles = 2. Minimum Female roles = 3. Minimum total with doubling = 5. Minimum total without doubling = 5. No chorus.

Runtime Around 40 minutes.

Music None.

Style A neat one-act play in the best tradition of the British sexy farce. Three doors, two sofas, that sort of thing. Contains adult themes (such as marriage and disagreement!)

Outline A married couple involved in an almighty row prove to be Marriage Guidance Counsellors. Their next clients are due but are they in any condition to help?

Section 4: One-Act Plays for Adults

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Handstands For You

Author Adam Exton

Roles Minimum Male roles = 2. Minimum Female roles = 1. Minimum total with doubling = 3. Minimum total without doubling = 5. No chorus.

Runtime Around 65 minutes.

Music None.

Style A touching and deftly-handled approach to the subject of childhood illness. Multiple settings, but does not need explicit sets. Contains mild swearing (which could be moderated if deemed in appropriate for a specific production).

Outline When Billy was five, his best friend was Gemma, but she moved away. Now Billy's thirteen, he's got a new best friend in Ronald, but he also has leukaemia. Gemma moves back to the neighbourhood and the three have to find space for each other.

He Deserves It

Author George Freek

Roles Minimum Male roles = 3. Minimum Female roles = 3. Minimum total with doubling = 6. Minimum total without doubling = 6. No chorus.

Runtime Around 70 minutes.

Music None.

Style Short-ish two act play - a comic melodrama. Single domestic set.

Outline George Potter dreams of building the low-cost housing his father never finished, but he's long on dreams and short of cash. Will he get the money from mean old banker Bailey, or will his childhood friend Frank help him out?
A play that plays with variations on the characters and themes of 'It's a Wonderful Life'.

He's Coming To Dinner

Author JPS Yates

Roles Minimum Male roles = 2. Minimum Female roles = 2. Minimum total with doubling = 4. Minimum total without doubling = 4. No chorus.

Runtime Around 45 minutes.

Music None.

Style One-act drama about family life! Single interior setting.

Outline Marianne is trying to get her teenage children ready for an evening with the new man in her life. Her son is happy that it's anyone but his father, but his sister isn't convinced. When their Dad walks in, no one is quite sure how they feel about it.

Heaven's Waiting Room

Author Gary Diamond

Roles Minimum Male roles = 4. Minimum Female roles = 1. Minimum total with doubling = 5. Minimum total without doubling = 5. No chorus.

Runtime Around 20 minutes.

Music None.

Style Short one-act comedy play. Single (rather white) set, simple props. Contains mild swearing and mild adult themes.

Outline Martin Dexter is confused to find himself in a waiting room. He remembers breaking up with his girlfriend and... oh, yes, falling to his death. But where does he go from here? (It seems that there are two possibilities...)

High Tea

Author Peter Stallard

Roles Minimum Male roles = 2. Minimum Female roles = 2. Minimum total with doubling = 4. Minimum total without doubling = 4. No chorus.

Runtime Around 25 minutes.

Music None.

Style One-act comedy play, single set (a Welsh pensioner's flat). Simple props, give or take the stuffed parrot. (Includes mild swearing.)

Outline Mr. Edryn Pugh lives alone, dwelling on the memories of his communist past, with only a stuffed parrot (called Lenin) for company. When his chirpy neighbour, Liz, drops in, she finds him drinking fortified tea and telling tales of his family, including his brother-in-law, the undertaker Sniffer Watkins, who has occasion to call...

Section 4: One-Act Plays for Adults

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Holiday

Author Colin Calvert

Roles Minimum Male roles = 3. Minimum Female roles = 4. Minimum total with doubling = 7. Minimum total without doubling = 7. No chorus.

Runtime Around 55 minutes.

Music None.

Style One-act farcical comedy. Single set with practical door. Simple props.

Outline Donna is trying to hold the fort at the travel agency where she works, but her co-worker Linzi has run off to be a mud wrestler in Morocco and there's an inspector coming from Head Office. New recruit Sandra finds herself thrown in the deep end and experiencing the weird and wonderful folk who come looking for a holiday. Have the pair been nice enough to their customers to pass the inspection?

Hope - A Monologue

Author Frank Flynn

Roles Minimum Male roles = 0. Minimum Female roles = 1. Minimum total with doubling = 1. Minimum total without doubling = 1. No chorus.

Runtime Around 20 minutes.

Music None.

Style One-act monologue. Single outdoor set (which can be implied rather than fully built). Written in Canadian English.

Outline Young mother Hope waits in the park for a meeting that will change her life. She tries to comfort her tiny baby, though she has no new clothes, nor food for her. A very emotive piece.

Horseplay

Author Graham Jones

Roles Minimum Male roles = 2. Minimum Female roles = 2. Minimum total with doubling = 4. Minimum total without doubling = 4. No chorus.

Runtime Around 25 minutes.

Music None.

Style Compelling one-act drama. Single set - just a committee room table and chairs. Contains adult themes.

Outline After a post-match celebration, three rugby players are accused of raping a girl. Through the old boys' network, the matter is dropped, but the club barmaid won't let it rest. Thanks to her persistence, one of the other members starts to see things in a different light too.

I Am Hamlet

Author Richard James

Roles Minimum Male roles = 2. Minimum Female roles = 0. Minimum total with doubling = 2. Minimum total without doubling = 2. No chorus.

Runtime Around 50 minutes.

Music None.

Style One-act comedy thriller, single bare-stage set.

Outline An amateur actor auditions for the lead role in a local production of Hamlet. There is some fun to be had as the director puts him through his acting paces, but slowly we learn that the actor has more in common with the Prince of Denmark than meets the eye...

I Stand Alone

Author Kevin Broughton

Roles Minimum Male roles = 3. Minimum Female roles = 1. Minimum total with doubling = 4. Minimum total without doubling = 4. No chorus.

Runtime Around 75 minutes.

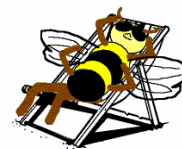
Music None.

Style Drama in two acts. Four locations, but designed for minimal staging. Contains mild swearing.

Outline An allegorical play. In the far future, Britain has been ravaged by an external conflict and a civil war between the returning Celts, who restored the country, and the native Saxons who feel they have been pushed aside.

Section 4: One-Act Plays for Adults

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I'm On A Train

Author Graham Jones

Roles Minimum Male roles = 1. Minimum Female roles = 0. Minimum total with doubling = 1. Minimum total without doubling = 1. No chorus.

Runtime Around 25 minutes.

Music None.

Style A neat, simple monologue that could be comedy gold in the right hands. (Minimal set requirements.)

Outline It's a tough day for businessman Tom Wright, as he races to Edinburgh in a last-ditch attempt to save his company. Sadly, things are not destined to go his way, and the phone calls he makes and receives on that journey reveal the scope of the disaster that unfolds.

In Sanity

Author Eleanor Hough

Roles Minimum Male roles = 2. Minimum Female roles = 0. Minimum total with doubling = 2. Minimum total without doubling = 2. No chorus.

Runtime Around 30 minutes.

Music None.

Style One-act play for two men. No set. The props are all coats.

Outline There are two men, of that we can be sure. Everything else is subject to negotiation. They may be involved in a murder and trying to flee the scene, but first one of them has to figure out how to drive, and if they're friends, or lovers or brothers or even who they are.

In the Bag

Author Frances Bartram

Roles Minimum Male roles = 0. Minimum Female roles = 4. Minimum total with doubling = 4. Minimum total without doubling = 5. No chorus.

Runtime Around 35 minutes.

Music None.

Style One-act comedy play, single set - the back room of a charity shop (and, as you might expect, the props are largely charity shop bric-a-brac)

Outline Maureen and Mary are volunteers in a charity shop and every day is much like the one before. But today, when they're going through new donations, they find some money. A lot of money. Just as they're deciding what to do with it, two new volunteers arrive. What to do?

In The Rough

Author Richard James

Roles Minimum Male roles = 3. Minimum Female roles = 3. Minimum total with doubling = 6. Minimum total without doubling = 6. No chorus.

Runtime Around 40 minutes.

Music None.

Style One-act comedy play. Two simple sets, simple props.

Outline In *Lysistrata*, by Aristophanes, the women were trying to end the Peloponnesian War. In this case, it's their husbands' addiction to golf that's the problem, but the method employed is the same (give or take the barricading of public buildings)!

Indian Summer

Author Richard James

Roles Minimum Male roles = 1. Minimum Female roles = 1. Minimum total with doubling = 2. Minimum total without doubling = 2. No chorus.

Runtime Around 20 minutes.

Music None.

Style One-act play, single set. A brief romance set against the background of the Indian Mutiny.

Outline Amid the uprising against the East India Company in the 1850s, Clara has commissioned a portrait - to closely resemble Botticelli's 'Birth Of Venus', but depicting her as an old woman. The Artist, Nathaniel, arrives with his canvas and oils, and they share the last moments of an Indian Summer together.

Section 4: One-Act Plays for Adults

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Inspector Quaker of the Yard

Author Peter Stallard

Roles Minimum Male roles = 4. Minimum Female roles = 2. Minimum total with doubling = 7. Minimum total without doubling = 7. No chorus.

Runtime Around 35 minutes.

Music None.

Style One-act comedy play - a spoof detective story.

Outline Cecil has gone missing (from his position on the mantelpiece) and Lady Boulder *has* to find him - and his urn. The stage is set for *Inspector Quaker of the Yard* in *The Return of the Cecil Vessel*.

Isaac and Ishmael

Author Christopher Kent

Roles Minimum Male roles = 3. Minimum Female roles = 2. Minimum total with doubling = 5. Minimum total without doubling = 5. No chorus.

Runtime Around 70 minutes.

Music None.

Style A powerful play for a small cast in a single living-room set. Contains mild swearing.

Outline Adam is waiting for the reading of his father's will, but that won't take place until the attorney arrives and Adam's institutionalised brother David is brought to the house. The noises only Adam can hear are scaring him, as does the fear his brother's madness may be genetic...

Jackpot Joy

Author Karen Doling

Roles Minimum Male roles = 5. Minimum Female roles = 5. Minimum total with doubling = 10. Minimum total without doubling = 10. No chorus.

Runtime Around 35 minutes.

Music The Producer's copy of the script contains suggestions for four songs (with adjusted lyrics to one of them). Lazy Bee Scripts does not supply any sheet music with this script.

Style One-act comedy play (with a few songs thrown-in). Contains mild swearing.

Outline After apparently winning the lottery one night, Joy's life is plagued by sycophantic family members angling for a portion of her seven-figure jackpot. When Joy hides her winning ticket, others are determined to take matters (and the ticket itself) into their own hands!

Kecks

Author John Chambers

Roles Minimum Male roles = 0. Minimum Female roles = 2. Minimum total with doubling = 2. Minimum total without doubling = 2. No chorus.

Runtime Around 35 minutes.

Music None.

Style Contains adult themes and mild swearing.

Outline Karen and her mother Petula are in an exclusive lingerie shop, preparing for Karen's wedding night. Petula is prompted to reveal more than Karen wants to hear about her own sex life, but then when she tries on a basque, Karen reveals more than she wanted to about her own relationship.

Keeping Mum

Author Barry Blaize

Roles Minimum Male roles = 2. Minimum Female roles = 4. Minimum total with doubling = 6. Minimum total without doubling = 6. No chorus.

Runtime Around 40 minutes.

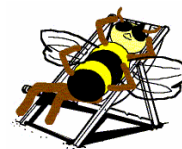
Music None.

Style One-act comedy play, single domestic set. Includes mild swearing.

Outline Hetty nursed her Mum through a long illness, and now the old lady has died Hetty's sisters, Freda and Marion are there. Marion has come over from Spain for the funeral, but her companion, Carlos, arouses suspicions, as do rumours about Hetty's nursing.

Section 4: One-Act Plays for Adults

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Last Respects

Author Colin Calvert

Roles Minimum Male roles = 2. Minimum Female roles = 3. Minimum total with doubling = 5. Minimum total without doubling = 5. No chorus.

Runtime Around 30 minutes.

Music None.

Style A one-act play in funereal black - so obviously a comedy! Single set (a funeral parlour), replete with coffin.

Outline Henry Throgmorton (deceased) has decreed that a wake should be held in his honour at the funeral parlour. The guests, previously unknown to each other, are his wife and his two mistresses...

Latin Fever

Author Terence Dale

Roles Minimum Male roles = 2. Minimum Female roles = 1. Minimum total with doubling = 3. Minimum total without doubling = 3. No chorus.

Runtime Around 25 minutes.

Music None.

Style One-act play, single domestic set, simple props. (Contains mild swearing.)

Outline Surly and aggressive Bernard has to be levered out of his domestic rut by the persistence of his long-suffering but ever loving wife, who wields a crowbar in the unlikely shape of Stephen...

Lazy Daze

Author John Chambers

Roles Minimum Male roles = . Minimum Female roles = 1. Minimum total with doubling = 1. Minimum total without doubling = 1. No chorus.

Runtime Around 45 minutes.

Music None.

Style Monody - one-act play for a cast of one. Single (store-room) set. Contains swearing.

Outline Daisy, with her limp and her lazy eye, has suffered scorn in her life, but Ian showed her a new interest - philosophy, reading, questioning. Daisy tells us about the night she and Ian were both invited to a colleague's leaving do.

Leading Ladies - It's Behind You

Author Christina Simpkin

Roles Minimum Male roles = 2. Minimum Female roles = 4. Minimum total with doubling = 6. Minimum total without doubling = 6. No chorus.

Runtime Around 25 minutes.

Music None.

Style One-act comedy play, set back-stage at a (British) pantomime.

Outline Behind the scenes at the annual panto, two ladies compare notes on this production, other productions and other members of the cast, while various characters drift through on their way to the stage or the Green Room.

Leaving Tommy

Author Mark Seaman

Roles Minimum Male roles = 3. Minimum Female roles = 0. Minimum total with doubling = 3. Minimum total without doubling = 4. No chorus.

Runtime Around 45 minutes.

Music None.

Style One-act play, set in a prison cell during the first world war. (Minimal set requirements.)

Outline A young man has been tried and found guilty of cowardice and desertion, and awaits his death by firing squad. He is visited by the army Chaplain, a Captain who hears about his reasons for joining up and what really happened on the front line.

Section 4: One-Act Plays for Adults

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Let Her Rip

Author Donna Brightwell

Roles Minimum Male roles = 2. Minimum Female roles = 6. Minimum total with doubling = 8. Minimum total without doubling = 8. No chorus.

Runtime Around 20 minutes.

Music None.

Style Short one-act comedy play set in the southern USA. Intended to be played with minimal sets.

Outline Sixty-somethings behaving badly, when four ladies decide to have the wild time they've missed in the rest of their lives.

Like it or Not

Author George Freek

Roles Minimum Male roles = 3. Minimum Female roles = 3. Minimum total with doubling = 6. Minimum total without doubling = 6. No chorus.

Runtime Around 25 minutes.

Music None.

Style One-act comedy. Single set (hotel sitting room), which need not be elaborate.

Outline A young playwright waits to meet the star who may produce his play, but his fiancée wants in on the act. More than that, her father has planned a meeting with the actress, and it turns out her mother is going to have her own surprising encounter.

Limbo

Author Julia Lee Dean

Roles Minimum Male roles = 3. Minimum Female roles = 2. Minimum total with doubling = 5. Minimum total without doubling = 5. No chorus.

Runtime Around 40 minutes.

Music None.

Style One-act play, with a single set which is somewhere between reality and the afterlife! A very enjoyable and touching play.

Outline Michael's day isn't going well. For one thing, he's just died. For another he's found he's got to share the afterlife with the lady who used to live in his house, and he can't leave it. Now he watches his wife move on without him.

Little Acorns

Author Jenny Gilbert

Roles Minimum Male roles = 3. Minimum Female roles = 13. Minimum total with doubling = 16. Minimum total without doubling = 16. No chorus.

Runtime Around 35 minutes.

Music None.

Style One-act play, single set.

Outline Gentle comedy, set in a school staff room, where the staff try to work out their gripes, with a particular concern about one member of the school.

Loitering Within Tent

Author tlc Creative

Roles Minimum Male roles = 1. Minimum Female roles = 6. Minimum total with doubling = 7. Minimum total without doubling = 7. No chorus.

Runtime Around 20 minutes.

Music None.

Style Short one-act comedy play, single set (a Bedouin tent), simple props.

Outline A Tourist party of ladies from the Women's Institute are treated to the 'Bedouin Desert experience', unaware that there is more to it than meets the eye...

Section 4: One-Act Plays for Adults

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Maintenance

Author Bob Tucker

Roles Minimum Male roles = 4. Minimum Female roles = 5. Minimum total with doubling = 9. Minimum total without doubling = 9. No chorus.

Runtime Around 25 minutes.

Music None.

Style Short one-act comedy play. Single set (apartment interior). One or two adult themes (as you might deduce from the synopsis).

Outline Sally just wants to sleep off her night shift, but Colin the maintenance man has other plans. As does Delores the call girl, Vincente the enforcer, Penelope the pregnant pizza lady and a host of other quirky characters...

Making Theatre History

Author tlc Creative

Roles Minimum Male roles = 3. Minimum Female roles = 3. Minimum total with doubling = 6. Minimum total without doubling = 6. No chorus.

Runtime Around 25 minutes.

Music Lyrics (set to snatches of songs from musicals) are included in the script. Lazy Bee Scripts does not supply any sheet music with this script.

Style Short one-act comedy (with snatches of song). Simple village hall committee-room set. Contains mild swearing.

Outline It is decision time for the Amdram society committee. The next show must be chosen tonight and after months of arguments and division, the task of making that choice has been handed to the chair, Richard, to make. But Richard's announcement is not quite what everyone was expecting...

Marigolds - Piling on the Agony

Author John Chambers

Roles Minimum Male roles = 1. Minimum Female roles = 2. Minimum total with doubling = 3. Minimum total without doubling = 3. No chorus.

Runtime Around 50 minutes.

Music None.

Style A comedy of self discovery. Contains swearing and a verbally explicit exploration of sexual themes.

Outline Harry and Marigold have a rocky marriage, but it's not in as bad shape as his... posterior. After he gets his long-suffering wife to help him out, we follow Harry and his family through more pain to reconciliation. Not for the faint-hearted!

Matt Freeman's San Antonio

Author Sandy Radford

Roles Minimum Male roles = 4. Minimum Female roles = 5. Minimum total with doubling = 9. Minimum total without doubling = 18. No chorus.

Runtime Around 60 minutes.

Music None.

Style Drama, running somewhere on the boundary between a one-act and a full-length play, though structured in four acts. Multiple sets, but described very feasibly. Contains mild swearing.

Outline Matt is a playwright, but he's not happy with his level of success, either in his professional or his personal life. He decides to throw everything into a new play and a trip to San Antonio to try and recapture a lost love.
A play that plays with theatre to lead the audience on a journey through what is, what should be, and what might have been.

Mirror, Mirror, on the Wall

Author Nicholas Conti

Roles Minimum Male roles = 1. Minimum Female roles = 3. Minimum total with doubling = 4. Minimum total without doubling = 4. No chorus.

Runtime Around 40 minutes.

Music None.

Style One-act play, a haunting - on the edge of Melodrama. Single interior set - a house in Salem in the 1940s. Characters are all adults but could be within the grasp of teenagers.

Outline A couple move into a new home in Salem, only to find that they are not alone...

Section 4: One-Act Plays for Adults

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Miss Glossop Comes to Tea

Author Stuart Ardern

Roles Minimum Male roles = 3. Minimum Female roles = 7. Minimum total with doubling = 10. Minimum total without doubling = 10. No chorus.

Runtime Around 60 minutes.

Music None.

Style Humorous one-act murder mystery. Single set (domestic living room). One-act play.

Outline Hapless amateur sleuth, Miss Glossop visits an old friend and solves a murder to the satisfaction of everyone - especially the guilty.

Miss Glossop's Weekend Break

Author Stuart Ardern

Roles Minimum Male roles = 4. Minimum Female roles = 5. Minimum total with doubling = 9. Minimum total without doubling = 9. No chorus.

Runtime Around 55 minutes.

Music None.

Style Humorous one-act murder mystery. Single set. One act play.

Outline A murder is committed at a small hotel, and Miss Glossop is on hand to demonstrate how easy it is to jump to the wrong conclusions. A second outing for the incompetent detective who first appeared in Miss Glossop Comes to Tea. (Note that this is not a sequel - the two plays function independently.)

Mixed Messages

Author Alan Robinson

Roles Minimum Male roles = 3. Minimum Female roles = 5. Minimum total with doubling = 8. Minimum total without doubling = 8. No chorus.

Runtime Around 60 minutes.

Music None.

Style One-act farce with a single 'health spa' setting. Intended to be taken at a frantic pace, so could well be done in 50 minutes.

Outline It's a busy day in the relaxation spa, with New Girl Tina struggling to come to terms with her new job. It's all complicated by a number of clients who've arranged liaisons, or mistaken the premises for...some quite different establishment. It's steamy and hairy, but funny too.

Monday Morning - 9.15

Author Jon Vinson

Roles Minimum Male roles = 4. Minimum Female roles = 5. Minimum total with doubling = 12. Minimum total without doubling = 12. No chorus.

Runtime Around 40 minutes.

Music None.

Style One-act drama set in a doctor's surgery.

Outline A busy morning in a surgery isn't helped when the new doctor spends an hour on his first patient instead of the regulation ten minutes. His colleague and the receptionists have to cope with the fallout.

Mondo Pizzicato

Author George Freek

Roles Minimum Male roles = 3. Minimum Female roles = 1. Minimum total with doubling = 5. Minimum total without doubling = 5. No chorus.

Runtime Around 45 minutes.

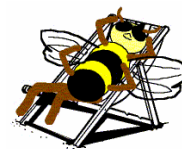
Music None.

Style One act farce. Single domestic set.

Outline Jimmy is relying on his brother Danny for financial support while he finishes his musical degree. Danny thinks he should marry Peggy, the girl who does their cleaning, but doesn't know that Jimmy and Peggy had a one night stand last week. Danny also doesn't know that their gay friend Freddy fancies him. All these secrets collide on the same day.

Section 4: One-Act Plays for Adults

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Monkey Business

Author Sue Murray

Roles Minimum Male roles = 5. Minimum Female roles = 2. Minimum total with doubling = 9. Minimum total without doubling = 9. No chorus.

Runtime Around 35 minutes.

Music None.

Style Structurally in three acts, but of one-act length. Split stage set. Contains a limited amount of very mild swearing.

Outline Research into training chimps to use sign language gets an unexpected boost when a student devotes some of his work experience time to listening to what the chimps have to say. But the Doctor in charge of the research isn't so keen on really intelligent subjects...

Mourning Calls

Author Troy Shearer

Roles Minimum Male roles = 2. Minimum Female roles = 4. Minimum total with doubling = 6. Minimum total without doubling = 6. No chorus.

Runtime Around 25 minutes.

Music None.

Style Very black comedy. Contains swearing and strong adult themes.

Outline Chris wakes up to find a dead hooker in his bed. His best friend isn't being very helpful and his wife is on her way home. Should he call the cops or try to dispose of her body himself? Then he finds out his wife is due home early than expected...

Moving On

Author Richard James

Roles Minimum Male roles = 1. Minimum Female roles = 2. Minimum total with doubling = 3. Minimum total without doubling = 3. No chorus.

Runtime Around 30 minutes.

Music None.

Style An excellent three-handed, single-set one-act play on the subject of bereavement.

Outline Angela is packing up her things to move out of the house she raised her children in. Though her husband has been dead for a year, she hasn't come to terms with losing him.

Murder at Peculiar Manor

Author Paul Mathews

Roles Minimum Male roles = 4. Minimum Female roles = 2. Minimum total with doubling = 6. Minimum total without doubling = 6. No chorus.

Runtime Around 45 minutes.

Music None.

Style One-act murder mystery - a satisfactory plot, with twists and red herrings, but with tongue-in-cheek comedy thrown in. Contains very mild swearing.

Outline Dr Fincham certified that Lady Peculiar died of natural causes, but an Inspector is asking questions of the staff... What's the Maid's secret? Why was the will changed, and is it important that the apples are being stolen?

Murder in the Green Room

Author Iris Winston

Roles Minimum Male roles = 2. Minimum Female roles = 3. Minimum total with doubling = 5. Minimum total without doubling = 5. No chorus.

Runtime Around 20 minutes.

Music None.

Style Very short one-act play. A murder mystery with a single simple set (backstage at a theatre) and good opportunities for character acting.

Outline It looks like the new members of the 'Oak Six' drama club are getting on the nerves of the founders, but surely the old guard wouldn't resort to murder? Or would they?

Section 4: One-Act Plays for Adults

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My Blue Heaven

Author Colin Calvert

Roles Minimum Male roles = 4. Minimum Female roles = 2. Minimum total with doubling = 6. Minimum total without doubling = 6. No chorus.

Runtime Around 50 minutes.

Music None.

Style One-act comedy play, verging on farce. (The subject matter is directed at adults!)

Outline Brian has used his redundancy money to fund a new business, and, as a result, he and his wife Melanie are Nouveau Riches. What Melanie doesn't know is that Brian's wealth comes from an offshoot of the photography club - providing videos for, shall we say, a specialist market. However, when the friends they invite round for dinner try to look at Brian and Melanie's holiday video, they get more than they bargained for...

Nanny State

Author Nigel Holloway

Roles Minimum Male roles = 5. Minimum Female roles = 5. Minimum total with doubling = 10. Minimum total without doubling = 22. No chorus.

Runtime Around 60 minutes.

Music None.

Style A complex and challenging, but performable one-act play, with a subject that is both controversial and compelling. Split-stage set. Includes mild swearing

Outline When Bernard dies, his wife discovers he's been writing a political blog that has galvanised the country. She steps into his shoes, fights a campaign and becomes Prime Minister. But the cost is high for saving the country.
A hard-hitting political play, posing the question 'Could the Grey vote really change the world?' However, when it comes down to it, the play is not about how to right the wrongs of governing the country, it's about one woman's blindness to the people closest to her, about losing sight of the things that really matter in life.

New Neighbour

Author Tom Jensen

Roles Minimum Male roles = 3. Minimum Female roles = 2. Minimum total with doubling = 6. Minimum total without doubling = 6. No chorus.

Runtime Around 20 minutes.

Music None.

Style Short one-act play with a surreal edge. Single set (but challenging, as it needs to indicate the front doors to three houses). Contains mild swearing.

Outline A distinctive stranger moves into the street. Gemma likes the look of him, but her husband Wilf agrees with their neighbour Cynthia that there's something shifty about him. Cynthia's husband is prepared to believe the best, but not ready for the worst.
A script in which everyone ignores the elephant in the room (which, in this case, is a man with a warthog's head).

Night Call

Author Archie Wilson

Roles Minimum Male roles = 2. Minimum Female roles = 1. Minimum total with doubling = 3. Minimum total without doubling = 3. No chorus.

Runtime Around 20 minutes.

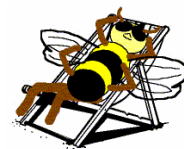
Music None.

Style One-act play. Single domestic set. Simple props. Contains mild swearing and sexual elements.

Outline Matthew's quiet night in is disturbed by a couple of strange visitors. The fearsome Scanlon seems very interested in Matthew's book collection while the voluptuous Lisa is paying more attention to Matthew himself. But what is it they are really after? A menacing short play with a comic twist.

Section 4: One-Act Plays for Adults

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Not 2B

Author George Freek

Roles Minimum Male roles = 3. Minimum Female roles = 3. Minimum total with doubling = 6. Minimum total without doubling = 6. No chorus.

Runtime Around 65 minutes.

Music None.

Style Two-act play (but on the shorter side of that form). Single domestic set. Contains mild swearing.

Outline Amanda worries that her children, Tom and Laura, are too ambitious. Tom sets Laura up with a guy from his company, but the evening takes a few twists that no one was expecting. Luckily it all goes over Amanda's head, and she tells herself she's got a happy ending after all.

Nursery Crimes - The Da Wincey Code

Author tlc Creative

Roles Minimum Male roles = 2. Minimum Female roles = 2. Minimum total with doubling = 5. Minimum total without doubling = 5. No chorus.

Runtime Around 30 minutes.

Music None.

Style A one-act play with fairly simple set and prop requirements. Read the script to check that the punchline is acceptable to you before using this as a script for children!

Outline Hansel and Gretel attempt to track down the truth behind the famous Incey Da Wincey conspiracy stories. What did the celebrated web artist know about the 'Narrator' and the 'Index'? Could Nursery Land really just be a series of stories in a book? Can they solve the mystery before they are silenced by sinister forces who want the secret protected forever? A parody of the Da Vinci Code (obviously). (What may be less obvious to American readers is that it is based on a nursery rhyme which, in the UK is 'Incey Wincey Spider', the American version being 'Itsy-Bitsy Spider')

Odd Ball

Author Steve Menary

Roles Minimum Male roles = 2. Minimum Female roles = 1. Minimum total with doubling = 3. Minimum total without doubling = 4. No chorus.

Runtime Around 35 minutes.

Music None.

Style One-act play about a teenager with testicular cancer. Rapid alternation of scenes implies an outline set, rather than detail - thus suitable as a festival piece. Contains mild swearing and discussion of a serious subject!

Outline Danny is a football player on his school team, but he's got a secret - something like a spot in a very private place. It turns out to be a lot more serious than acne, and costs him his place on the team, and the friendship of his closest mate. Are they both gone forever? (The script is in British English, so 'football' refers to a game in which the ball is addressed principally by the players' feet.)

Old Folk

Author Archie Wilson

Roles Minimum Male roles = 1. Minimum Female roles = 5. Minimum total with doubling = 6. Minimum total without doubling = 6. No chorus.

Runtime Around 30 minutes.

Music None.

Style One-act play. Single set - the day-room of an old folks home (which can be easily implied through a few comfy chairs).

Outline Leonard is the new arrival and only man in an old folks' home. The ladies nearly come to blows over him while he tries to fathom the mysteries of Bingo, random medicine assignment and teatime wrangles.

Section 4: One-Act Plays for Adults

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On the Shelf

Author David John Manning

Roles Minimum Male roles = 3. Minimum Female roles = 2. Minimum total with doubling = 5. Minimum total without doubling = 5. No chorus.

Runtime Around 35 minutes.

Music None.

Style One-act romantic comedy, set in the 1970s. Single set, simple props. Contains mild swearing.

Outline Arthur works in the stationery stores of a big company and rules his domain with a hand of iron. However, things are tough outside, and the company want him to pull his weight, so they send him an assistant... A woman!

On the Way to the Wedding

Author Ray Lawrence

Roles Minimum Male roles = 2. Minimum Female roles = 2. Minimum total with doubling = 4. Minimum total without doubling = 4. No chorus.

Runtime Around 50 minutes.

Music None.

Style Domestic comedy. Single set divided into living room, hall and garage.

Outline Nora, her husband Sid and Nora's parents have been invited to a wedding. Sid couldn't be happier - but that's because he is in the garage, changing the oil on his beloved car, where he can forget that his mother-in-law has inexplicably moved in.

Once a Jolly Farmer

Author Frances Bartram

Roles Minimum Male roles = 2. Minimum Female roles = 3. Minimum total with doubling = 8. Minimum total without doubling = 8. No chorus.

Runtime Around 35 minutes.

Music None.

Style One-act comedy play, single (farm shop) set.

Outline Tricia's first day of work experience at the Farm Shop is a real experience, as Charles' mistress shows up unexpectedly and Tricia is recruited into the plot to keep her apart from Marion, Charles' wife.

Outside the Audition

Author Damian Trasler

Roles Minimum Male roles = 2. Minimum Female roles = 0. Minimum total with doubling = 2. Minimum total without doubling = 3. No chorus.

Runtime Around 25 minutes.

Music None.

Style One-act play with minimal set and props.

Outline Bill and Jeff are waiting for their audition slot and help each other out by rehearsing their lines together. Unfortunately, they can't agree on what makes a good piece of drama.

Outside the Box

Author JPS Yates

Roles Minimum Male roles = 3. Minimum Female roles = 3. Minimum total with doubling = 6. Minimum total without doubling = 9. No chorus.

Runtime Around 65 minutes.

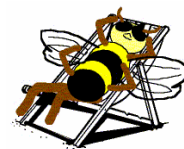
Music None.

Style A play for adults, satirising office life - where the office workers are nursery toys. Single set. Written in one act, but quite long. A cracking pace might get it down to one-act-play festival length. Contains mild swearing.

Outline The nursery toys are mostly happy with their lot in life - only Ragdoll feels unwanted, so it doesn't surprise her when bureaucratic Fairy Crackernuts arrives and announces they're having 'a re-shuffle'. What does surprise her is that Teddy is the who's been made redundant...

Section 4: One-Act Plays for Adults

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Over My Dead Body!

Author Pat Baker

Roles Minimum Male roles = 4. Minimum Female roles = 3. Minimum total with doubling = 6. Minimum total without doubling = 7. No chorus.

Runtime Around 45 minutes.

Music None.

Style Comic murder mystery set in a manor house in the 1920s. One act, one set, simple props.

Outline Tensions are rising at Grabbit Manor. Lord Grabbit won't buy his daughter a new dress for her engagement to the unsuitable wastrel Roger. Curt, the butler, hasn't been paid for months and Lord Grabbit suspects Cook of cooking the books. When the lights come on after a sudden blackout, a body is found - a problem for Inspector Foot (of the Yard)... the problem being that the corpse has been poisoned, strangled, stabbed and shot!

Palmy Balmy Days

Author Richard Morris

Roles Minimum Male roles = 2. Minimum Female roles = 4. Minimum total with doubling = 6. Minimum total without doubling = 6. No chorus.

Runtime Around 75 minutes.

Music The Producer's copy of the script suggests music and songs - including gospel songs, spirituals and hymns. Lazy Bee Scripts does not supply any sheet music with this script.

Style Long one-act play (or a full-length play designed to be played as a single act). Single (minimal) set, few props. Contains swearing and recreational vegetation.

Outline On the threshold of the afterlife, Divine Intervention greets the newly arrived (or recently departed), the start of a reconciliation process, and a review of the lot each was dealt in life.
A meditation on the vagaries of getting old and the expectations, frustrations and disappointments of the participants.

Pandemonium

Author Jonny Ardern

Roles Minimum Male roles = 0. Minimum Female roles = 0. Minimum total with doubling = 13. Minimum total without doubling = 17. Chorus.

Runtime Around 30 minutes.

Music None.

Style A somewhat divine comedy! Multiple settings, but minimal staging requirements

Outline Azaeus is unhappy with his lot. He wants more from being a demon - a look at the Devil's record collection, for a start. He is, after all, reputed to have the best tunes. Azaeus rallies the legions of Hell and they overthrow Satan in an exorcism ceremony. But with Satan gone, Hell begins to collapse, and it's not long before Azaeus has to go to Heaven to beg a favour from the Almighty...

Peter's Tale

Author Mike Sparks

Roles Minimum Male roles = 4. Minimum Female roles = 1. Minimum total with doubling = 5. Minimum total without doubling = 7. No chorus.

Runtime Around 25 minutes.

Music None.

Style One-act mystery play (in the sense of the medieval religious mystery plays) in modern English. No set requirements, no props.

Outline Peter's perspective of the ministry of Jesus, as he reflects on their time together after Jesus' arrest.

Section 4: One-Act Plays for Adults

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Pilate's Wife

Author Julia Lee Dean

Roles Minimum Male roles = 4. Minimum Female roles = 3. Minimum total with doubling = 7. Minimum total without doubling = 7. No chorus.

Runtime Around 60 minutes.

Music None.

Style Easter play (from an unusual perspective), of one-act length but structured in three acts. Three locations, which could be formed as one simple composite set.

Outline The story of Easter week told from the point of view of Pontius Pilate's household. (Mary Magdalene is presented as Pilate's mistress, allowing three very different interpretations of the events as they unfold.)

Pluck

Author George Freek

Roles Minimum Male roles = 2. Minimum Female roles = 3. Minimum total with doubling = 5. Minimum total without doubling = 5. No chorus.

Runtime Around 25 minutes.

Music None.

Style One-act period farce. Single set (the office of a 1900 Midwest department store). Few props.

Outline Oliver is a successful department store owner who is disenchanted with his marriage (his check book tells him so) and he's looking for an outlet for his affections. His roving eye falls upon Isabella, a newly arrived immigrant who - unknown to him - is the former girlfriend of his store manager - that same store manager who Oliver is trying to marry-off to his wife's sister. All the ingredients of a classic farce, played out in 25 minutes.

Poison

Author David Neale

Roles Minimum Male roles = 2. Minimum Female roles = 0. Minimum total with doubling = 2. Minimum total without doubling = 2. No chorus.

Runtime Around 35 minutes.

Music None.

Style Thriller with elements of black comedy. Single interior set.

Outline Dennis isn't expecting a visitor, but Archie has something to tell him. Intending to poison his own wife, Archie has been making toxic flapjacks. Sadly, Susan has been giving them away to Dennis, so he's the one who's going to die. But it's an odder day than that for both men.

One room, two men, one way to die!

Port and Starboard

Author Rob Burbidge

Roles Minimum Male roles = 3. Minimum Female roles = 1. Minimum total with doubling = 5. Minimum total without doubling = 5. No chorus.

Runtime Around 25 minutes.

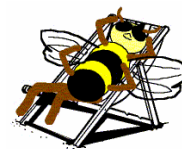
Music None.

Style One-act play adapted from an O. Henry short story. Single set divided into three rooms and a waiting area. (This sounds complex, but could be done physically or just with imagination.)

Outline Lawyer Gooch has handled many cases of divorce, and arranged the rescuing of more than one marriage. This time he faces three clients, all involved in the same marital discord. Can he untangle the threads and still come out a winner?

Section 4: One-Act Plays for Adults

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Postal

Author Herb Hasler

Roles Minimum Male roles = 6. Minimum Female roles = 6. Minimum total with doubling = 12. Minimum total without doubling = 13. No chorus.

Runtime Around 75 minutes.

Music None.

Style Full-length whacky comedy play (in two acts). Single set divided into the front and back offices of the Post Office.

Outline A dysfunctional post office in Hicksville has a tough inspection, which isn't helped by a former employee taking everyone hostage in an attempt to get his job back. Illicit affairs, novels in progress and unrequited love, not to mention robbery ensure a busy time for all.

Pride and Prejudice - Stage Adaptation

Author Gerald P. Murphy

Roles Minimum Male roles = 4. Minimum Female roles = 6. Minimum total with doubling = 12. Minimum total without doubling = 12. No chorus.

Runtime Around 45 minutes.

Music None.

Style Stage adaptation of Jane Austen's Novel. (A three-volume novel thoroughly distilled to become a 45 minute play!) No specific set requirements, apart from six chairs.

Outline Elizabeth Bennet wishes to marry for love, whilst her parents and suitors see the matter entirely in terms of wealth and status. Then there's Mr. Darcy, whom Elizabeth keeps at more than arm's length for his rudeness and arrogance. Will there ever be a match?

Pride, Prejudice and Other Useful Qualities

Author Geoff Bamber

Roles Minimum Male roles = 5. Minimum Female roles = 10. Minimum total with doubling = 15. Minimum total without doubling = 15. No chorus.

Runtime Around 50 minutes.

Music None.

Style One-act comedy play, in which Geoff Bamber exacts a gentle revenge on Jane Austen. In theory, there are multiple settings, but it is remarkable how similar Longbourn and Netherfield look...

Outline The Bennet sisters are shopping their father into penury. He needs to marry them off (preferably without an expensive wedding.) There's Mr Bingley who's keen on Jane, Mr Collins who is keen on anyone who'll have him (which seems to limit the field), Captain Wickham, a military cad, and Mr Darcy who seems to be intent on making trouble or making whoopee (possibly at one and the same time).

Problem In Judaea

Author Stewart Boston

Roles Minimum Male roles = 7. Minimum Female roles = 1. Minimum total with doubling = 12. Minimum total without doubling = 13. Chorus.

Runtime Around 45 minutes.

Music None.

Style Easter play. Structurally in two acts, but of one act length. Three sets, but designed for minimal staging.

Outline A minimalist retelling of the events surrounding the Crucifixion, told from the point of view of Pilate, the Sanhedrin and Herod.

Quite a Buzz!

Author Alan Robinson

Roles Minimum Male roles = 3. Minimum Female roles = 2. Minimum total with doubling = 5. Minimum total without doubling = 5. No chorus.

Runtime Around 25 minutes.

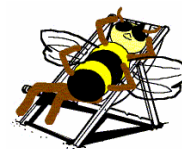
Music None.

Style Short one-act comedy play, minimal set requirements (a chair), simple props. Contains mild swearing.

Outline Blue has got herself stuck, but Mr S is not helping her - in fact, he's tied her up. Two more fall victim to Mr S's trap, before we meet his lady-friend and find out what - or who - is really for dinner.

Section 4: One-Act Plays for Adults

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Ragtime Mystery

Author Gerald P. Murphy

Roles Minimum Male roles = 4. Minimum Female roles = 3. Minimum total with doubling = 7. Minimum total without doubling = 7. No chorus.

Runtime Around 30 minutes.

Music Three Scott Joplin rags suggested as musical accompaniment. Lazy Bee Scripts does not supply any sheet music with this script.

Style Short, simple detective story. Three scenes, but integrated by music whilst the set is dressed for the next scene.

Outline Gossip columnist Veronica Rivers gets a mysterious invitation to a party, where she recognises an infamous jewel thief - just before a diamond necklace goes missing. It's down to Charlie 'Ragtime' Jones the piano-playing detective to solve the mystery.

Red Nose, Floppy Shoes

Author James Brosnahan

Roles Minimum Male roles = 1. Minimum Female roles = 2. Minimum total with doubling = 4. Minimum total without doubling = 5. No chorus.

Runtime Around 45 minutes.

Music None.

Style One-act satirical comedy. Single (domestic kitchen) set.

Outline Michael's DNA test confirms his self-diagnosed Coulrophobia (fear of clowns). When Dr Keeble informs him he actually has the dreaded Clown Syndrome and only a week to live, his wife must keep him away from any form of comedy. Michael agrees to attend a support group. Tragically, the DNA test was mixed up, and rather than Coulrophobia, Michael has actually got the Clown Gene - he's a clown, and cannot help himself delivering an improvised stand up routine to the members of the Clown Syndrome support group. Exposed to comedy, they die in droves and Michael is carted off to prison, charged with murder. At the last moment his sentence is commuted to Community Service and his family must adjust to the new Michael, from his red nose to his floppy shoes.

Relief

Author William Campbell

Roles Minimum Male roles = 2. Minimum Female roles = 3. Minimum total with doubling = 5. Minimum total without doubling = 7. No chorus.

Runtime Around 45 minutes.

Music None.

Style One-act play. Black box presentation in which the phases of the play follow the progress of the women's van. Contains swearing and potentially disturbing content.

Outline Brenda and Maxine are taking a van-load of medical supplies, food and clothing to a mental asylum for women in an Eastern European country. They argue and struggle on the long and harrowing journey and finally reach an understanding of each other and the nature of helping people.

Retirement Plan

Author Nigel Holloway

Roles Minimum Male roles = 2. Minimum Female roles = 3. Minimum total with doubling = 6. Minimum total without doubling = 7. No chorus.

Runtime Around 55 minutes.

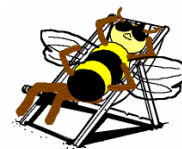
Music None.

Style One-act play. Stage split between one small fixed location and the rest of the stage, on which other locations are overlaid. Includes mild swearing.

Outline Walter didn't get to enjoy his retirement – he had to keep working from home because his pension fund was stolen. His daughter never understood his passion for the virtual worlds he worked in, and after his wife died only his granddaughter gave him a reason to live. But what is the definition of living?

Section 4: One-Act Plays for Adults

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Revelations

Author Bob Tucker

Roles Minimum Male roles = 2. Minimum Female roles = 2. Minimum total with doubling = 4. Minimum total without doubling = 4. No chorus.

Runtime Around 40 minutes.

Music None.

Style A one-act play that offers a simple set and complex characters, emotional involvement and a satisfactory resolution - plus a few laughs along the way.

Outline A couple brought in to see a specialist about their son's unusual medical condition come to realise that they have more to contend with and less in common than they thought.

Ripples

Author Pete Grocock

Roles Minimum Male roles = 4. Minimum Female roles = 4. Minimum total with doubling = 8. Minimum total without doubling = 8. No chorus.

Runtime Around 70 minutes.

Music None.

Style Long one-act murder mystery (or short full-length play). Single set. Simple props. Contains mild swearing.

Outline A family meal is marred by the discovery of the body of a murdered woman in the hall trunk. The owners of the house don't know who she is or how she got there, but some of their guests know her well, and one is hiding further secrets.

Romantic Novelist

Author Graham Jones

Roles Minimum Male roles = 0. Minimum Female roles = 3. Minimum total with doubling = 3. Minimum total without doubling = 3. No chorus.

Runtime Around 25 minutes.

Music None.

Style Short one-act comedy play for three ladies. Single set (written as a domestic interior, but could be hinted-at, rather than fully realised). Simple props.

Outline Louella Packenham is struggling to finish her latest bodice-ripper with the help of her faithful assistant Miss Trent. But Louella's errant husband is clearly on her mind too, then her housekeeper Miss Fortune asks for help with her equally wayward brother. Can the straitlaced Miss Trent bring him back to the fold?

Room Eight-Zero-Seven

Author Geoff Bamber

Roles Minimum Male roles = 1. Minimum Female roles = 1. Minimum total with doubling = 2. Minimum total without doubling = 2. No chorus.

Runtime Around 35 minutes.

Music None.

Style One-act comedy. Single set (hotel room).

Outline When Maddy checks into a hotel after an awful day travelling, she just wants to rest, so she is not at all pleased when Lennox walks in. However, that is nothing to her reaction at the appearance of his guest...

Rusticesses

Author Bob Tucker

Roles Minimum Male roles = 0. Minimum Female roles = 2. Minimum total with doubling = 2. Minimum total without doubling = 2. No chorus.

Runtime Around 20 minutes.

Music None.

Style Collection of three linked sketches. No set requirements, simple props. The sketches could be presented together, or could be used separately (for example as front-of-curtain interludes in a sketch show).

Outline Two ladies of dubious intellectual capacity discuss life, husbands and their impending motherhood in three encounters. Described by the author as a *self-supporting companion to 'Rustics'* by which he means that the concept is similar (this is the female counterpart), but the scripts are totally independent.

Section 4: One-Act Plays for Adults

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Rustics

- Author* Bob Tucker
- Roles* Minimum Male roles = 2. Minimum Female roles = 0. Minimum total with doubling = 2. Minimum total without doubling = 2. No chorus.
- Runtime* Around 25 minutes.
- Music* None.
- Style* Collection of four sketches. No set requirements, simple props (and only two of those). The sketches could be presented together, or could be used separately (for example as front-of-curtain interludes in a sketch show).
- Outline* Two local yokels discuss whatever comes to mind!

Samaritans, Can I Help You?

- Author* Brendan Williams
- Roles* Minimum Male roles = 2. Minimum Female roles = 0. Minimum total with doubling = 2. Minimum total without doubling = 2. No chorus.
- Runtime* Around 45 minutes.
- Music* None.
- Style* One-act play, dealing with a disturbing subject. Single simple set, simple props. Contains swearing and sexual themes.
- Outline* A man in torment over a love affair calls the one organisation he feels might listen without prejudice.

Sand to the Egyptians

- Author* JPS Yates
- Roles* Minimum Male roles = 1. Minimum Female roles = 2. Minimum total with doubling = 3. Minimum total without doubling = 3. No chorus.
- Runtime* Around 30 minutes.
- Music* None.
- Style* One-act play with a neat twist. Two sets, but both can be done minimally.
- Outline* James is at a speed dating event, and Natalie has just made it to his table. He's easy to talk to and she's soon telling him a great deal, but then, he's a Police negotiator, so that's not really surprising, is it?

Scene Six

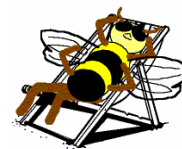
- Author* Andrew McGuirk
- Roles* Minimum Male roles = 2. Minimum Female roles = 1. Minimum total with doubling = 3. Minimum total without doubling = 4. No chorus.
- Runtime* Around 55 minutes.
- Music* None.
- Style* Character drama with plenty of acting challenges. Structured in two acts, but, at around 55 minutes, of one-act length. (Includes some swearing.)
- Outline* Two old friends and a new acquaintance decide to put on a play, but the assigned parts, emotional attachments, and the ruthlessness of the director cause rifts between the three.

Scrabble, Stamps and Goldfish

- Author* Johnny Grim
- Roles* Minimum Male roles = 3. Minimum Female roles = 0. Minimum total with doubling = 3. Minimum total without doubling = 3. No chorus.
- Runtime* Around 25 minutes.
- Music* None.
- Style* One-act comedy play. Contains mild swearing.
- Outline* Nigel is fat and unhappy, so his friends are trying to find him a woman through an online dating service. Sadly, Nigel isn't very enthusiastic, or very decisive, so Bob and Ron have to make a lot of the decisions for him. Surely there's *someone* out there for him?

Section 4: One-Act Plays for Adults

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Second Thoughts

Author Colin Calvert

Roles Minimum Male roles = 1. Minimum Female roles = 1. Minimum total with doubling = 2. Minimum total without doubling = 6. No chorus.

Runtime Around 30 minutes.

Music None.

Style One-act play, single minimalist set - a bus stop. Few props. A study of an attempted mid-life affair.

Outline Harold is waiting at the appointed spot, a bus shelter, for a meeting with his old school friend Patti, and wondering if he's up to having an affair, if that's even what's on offer.

Sent Back Standing

Author Jenny Gilbert

Roles Minimum Male roles = 4. Minimum Female roles = 3. Minimum total with doubling = 9. Minimum total without doubling = 9. No chorus.

Runtime Around 35 minutes.

Music None.

Style One-act play, single set (pretty much a bare stage).

Outline A director struggles to keep her sanity through the stresses of a Tech rehearsal in a venue that's being rebuilt around the company. She's also haunted by her husband's affair, and trying to work through her private grief in a very public place.

Sergeant Major Hewitt

Author Archie Wilson

Roles Minimum Male roles = 2. Minimum Female roles = 2. Minimum total with doubling = 6. Minimum total without doubling = 6. No chorus.

Runtime Around 25 minutes.

Music None.

Style One-act drama. Single (hospital room) set. Contains mild swearing.

Outline A World War One Veteran has to share his hospital room with a boy whose father died in World War 2. Though they are only together a short while, they have a great impact on each other's lives.

Set to and Build

Author Peter Appleton

Roles Minimum Male roles = 3. Minimum Female roles = 5. Minimum total with doubling = 8. Minimum total without doubling = 8. No chorus.

Runtime Around 35 minutes.

Music None.

Style One-act comedy during which parts of the set are built on-stage - sort of.

Outline An AmDram crew meets ahead of the new show to build the set. Arguments over creative vision versus available materials, colours and building techniques, not to mention accidents, strain relations.

Sharing

Author Bob Tucker

Roles Minimum Male roles = 2. Minimum Female roles = 1. Minimum total with doubling = 3. Minimum total without doubling = 3. No chorus.

Runtime Around 20 minutes.

Music None.

Style Short one-act play, single interior set. Furniture includes a collapsing chair (great fun for the set designer!)

Outline Chris the suave estate agent thinks he's on to a good thing when wet and weedy Jake brings the gorgeous Holly in to buy a house. They're clearly not suited, and he makes his move to split them up. Jake is paired off with Chris's soon-to-be ex-wife and leaves, but then Holly has some surprising revelations for Chris.

Section 4: One-Act Plays for Adults

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Sherlock Holmes' Last Case

- Author* Charlie Cook
- Roles* Minimum Male roles = 3. Minimum Female roles = 3. Minimum total with doubling = 6. Minimum total without doubling = 7. No chorus.
- Runtime* Around 40 minutes.
- Music* None.
- Style* One act comedy play (single set).
- Outline* The fabulous Kalimari diamond has been stolen from a locked bag in a locked safe, and when Watson hands over the ransom, the receiver is murdered horribly! A brilliant Holmes pastiche with appropriate gags and a surprise ending.

Sign Here, Please

- Author* Graham Trasler
- Roles* Minimum Male roles = 6. Minimum Female roles = 3. Minimum total with doubling = 13. Minimum total without doubling = 26. Chorus.
- Runtime* Around 60 minutes.
- Music* None.
- Style* One-act play, single (minimal) set, no required props. Not intended to be a musical, but the script has positions for musical interludes.
- Outline* A series of stories from the Gospel of St John explored through a courtroom drama in which Sabbath observance is tested against other teachings of Jesus.

Silas Marner

- Author* George Eliot adapted by Gerald P. Murphy
- Roles* Minimum Male roles = 10. Minimum Female roles = 8. Minimum total with doubling = 18. Minimum total without doubling = 18. No chorus.
- Runtime* Around 50 minutes.
- Music* None.
- Style* One-act historical drama, adapted from George Eliot's novel of the same name. A serious play, with a moral
- Outline* Silas Marner has been cast out by his home community and has moved to Raveloe. He continues his weaving business, but becomes a recluse and a miser. His life is changed by two events - the theft of his fortune and the arrival on his doorstep of a foundling whom he names Eppie.

Skitskrieg

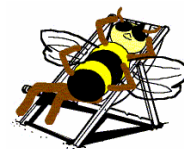
- Author* TLC Creative
- Roles* Minimum Male roles = 0. Minimum Female roles = 0. Minimum total with doubling = 4. Minimum total without doubling = 44. Chorus.
- Runtime* Around 40 minutes.
- Music* The script contains the lyrics to one song (to the tune of 12 days of Christmas) and suggestions for other songs which might be appropriate for the show. (Note that additional songs will add to the run-time.) Lazy Bee Scripts does not supply any sheet music with this script.
- Style* Collection of sketches. Minimal requirements for set and props.
- Outline* Sixteen sketches with Second World War themes (although with a very modern perspective, including, amongst other things, pastiches of TV shows). Topics include rationing, air-raids, code breaking and various perspectives on the trials of military life.

Sleep Out

- Author* Jonathan Edgington (Song: Mark Laurent)
- Roles* Minimum Male roles = 7. Minimum Female roles = 8. Minimum total with doubling = 15. Minimum total without doubling = 16. No chorus.
- Runtime* Around 45 minutes.
- Music* Sheet music (vocal line plus guitar chords) for 'Hope' by Mark Laurent is included with the Producer's Copy of the script.
- Style* One-act play (in length, though it's structured in two acts). Includes a modicum of swearing and adult themes. (And a song. And some comedy.)
- Outline* A cross section of the population come together for a charity sleep out in aid of the homeless. Six months later, life has changed for quite a few of them. Threads of life woven around a common focal point.

Section 4: One-Act Plays for Adults

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Socks

- Author** Rosemary Frisino Toohey
- Roles** Minimum Male roles = 2. Minimum Female roles = 2. Minimum total with doubling = 4. Minimum total without doubling = 5. No chorus.
- Runtime** Around 20 minutes.
- Music** None.
- Style** Short, one-act comedy play. Single set - the inside of a clothes dryer at a laundromat! (A delightful contribution to an under-used sub-genre of costume drama!)
- Outline** A group of single socks discuss their plight. Should they attempt escape? Why have they been abandoned? Don't humans know that socks are the cornerstone of civilization?
A tale of abandonment, rejection and hope in the confines of a clothes dryer.
It is a truth universally acknowledged that a single man in possession of clean laundry must be in want of the correct number of socks.

Something of a Stir

- Author** Joseph A. Jones
- Roles** Minimum Male roles = 0. Minimum Female roles = 4. Minimum total with doubling = 4. Minimum total without doubling = 4. No chorus.
- Runtime** Around 35 minutes.
- Music** None.
- Style** One-act comedy, single domestic set.
- Outline** Dora is expecting her friend Paula for a cup of tea and a chat, but Paula brings Maisie Day, a card reader who Dora is convinced is a charlatan. Can Dora pull off a little tea leaf trickery of her own to put Maisie in her place?

Stairway to Heaven

- Author** Johnny Grim
- Roles** Minimum Male roles = 3. Minimum Female roles = 0. Minimum total with doubling = 3. Minimum total without doubling = 3. No chorus.
- Runtime** Around 25 minutes.
- Music** None.
- Style** One-act comedy play, single set (or lack of set, since it takes place at the ultimate ephemeral location - just outside the pearly gates). Australian in tone, but universal in humour.
- Outline** Robbie, a biker, meets Alfred, a civil servant, outside the gates to heaven. Unpredictably, they get on quite well, but there's been a bit of a mix-up, and the angel Gabe isn't sure if either of them should be going in...

Tabbed

- Author** Bob Tucker
- Roles** Minimum Male roles = 4. Minimum Female roles = 3. Minimum total with doubling = 7. Minimum total without doubling = 12. Chorus.
- Runtime** Around 30 minutes.
- Music** None.
- Style** One-act comedy, set in the middle of a (disastrous) pantomime performance.
- Outline** It's Panto time again for the Witherington Over Mired Brook Amateur Theatrical Society (WOMBATS), but things aren't going well... Aladdin's had a nasty accident and had to be replaced at short notice, the script is illegible, the stage crew are in revolt and the lights and curtain aren't behaving themselves either. Can Widow Twankey hold things together?

Taking Minutes, Wasting Hours!

- Author** Damian Trasler
- Roles** Minimum Male roles = 3. Minimum Female roles = 3. Minimum total with doubling = 6. Minimum total without doubling = 6. No chorus.
- Runtime** Around 20 minutes.
- Music** None.
- Style** Single set, simple props.
- Outline** It's committee night and the Chairman has been asked to introduce a surprise speaker. Little does he know what a surprise she'll be!

Section 4: One-Act Plays for Adults

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Talk Show

Author Gary Diamond

Roles Minimum Male roles = 5. Minimum Female roles = 3. Minimum total with doubling = 8. Minimum total without doubling = 11. No chorus.

Runtime Around 55 minutes.

Music None.

Style One-act comedy play, single set (a simple TV talk show studio bounded by dressing room and green room). Includes mild swearing and adult themes.

Outline Bunter Smiles is having a bad day. He's just found his wife cheating on him with an American actor, who just happens to be the main guest on his talk show. Little does he know how bad the other guests are going to be...

Teething Troubles

Author Phil Birkett

Roles Minimum Male roles = 3. Minimum Female roles = 3. Minimum total with doubling = 6. Minimum total without doubling = 6. No chorus.

Runtime Around 30 minutes.

Music None.

Style Single set one-act comedy.

Outline Jane is reluctantly acting as daycare for her granddaughter, Dakota, but she's less than maternal. Then she gets a visit from her ex-husband, on the prowl for funds for his latest venture, and she decides to rearrange her priorities.

The Affairs At Meddler's Top

Author Richard Coleman

Roles Minimum Male roles = 11. Minimum Female roles = 7. Minimum total with doubling = 18. Minimum total without doubling = 18. No chorus.

Runtime Around 75 minutes.

Music None.

Style A hilarious comic spoof of a murder mystery, set in the 1920s. (Two acts - but relatively short.)

Outline A country house weekend is organised with a view to trapping a thief. Various tangled affairs are revealed, leading up to a murder.

The Black Widow

Author Helen Sharman

Roles Minimum Male roles = 6. Minimum Female roles = 3. Minimum total with doubling = 9. Minimum total without doubling = 9. No chorus.

Runtime Around 35 minutes.

Music None.

Style Parody of a Victorian melodrama - all the exaggerated wickedness, innocence, heroism and coincidence, with added comedy! Several scenes, but sets implied rather than elaborate. Simple props. Contains mild innuendo.

Outline Old lepidopterist, Squire Decrepit, is the wicked Vylene's fourth husband - and she's about to look for a fifth. All that stands between her and the dashing Mark Christmas is the sweet, innocent Abigail her strange uncle, Ivor and Squire Decrepit - who just happens to be in a wheelchair on a cliff-top.

The Bright and Shiny Radio Show [Family Edition]

Author TLC Creative

Roles Minimum Male roles = 3. Minimum Female roles = 1. Minimum total with doubling = 4. Minimum total without doubling = 55. No chorus.

Runtime Around 45 minutes.

Music None.

Style Collection of 23 sketches suitable for either a radio show or a stage revue. (There are sound effects, but no props or set requirements listed.) This edition is [in the opinion of the writers] suitable for a family audience.

Outline A comedy collection, which includes a number of very problematic job interviews, investigations into the difficulties of being a snake, a homing pigeon or an insect, unlikely various television and radio shows and the inevitable doctor's sketch.

Section 4: One-Act Plays for Adults

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The Bright and Shiny Radio Show [Robust Edition]

Author TLC Creative

Roles Minimum Male roles = 3. Minimum Female roles = 1. Minimum total with doubling = 4. Minimum total without doubling = 6. No chorus.

Runtime Around 45 minutes.

Music None.

Style Collection of 26 sketches suitable for either a radio show or a stage revue. (There are sound effects, but no props or set requirements listed.) This 'robust' edition has three more sketches and a few more rude words than the family edition.

Outline A comedy collection, which includes a number of very problematic job interviews, investigations into the difficulties of being a snake, a homing pigeon or an insect, unlikely various television and radio shows and the inevitable doctor's sketch, along with a couple of running gags.

The Crying Dame

Author tlc Creative

Roles Minimum Male roles = 3. Minimum Female roles = 3. Minimum total with doubling = 6. Minimum total without doubling = 6. No chorus.

Runtime Around 30 minutes.

Music None.

Style One-act comedy play, single 'committee room' set.

Outline A regular committee meeting of the Southern Sudbury-Regis Drama Club is rudely interrupted by one of the society members who has some strong ideas about the next pantomime. Little do they know just how far he is prepared to go!

The Death of Sherlock Holmes

Author Richard James

Roles Minimum Male roles = 2. Minimum Female roles = 0. Minimum total with doubling = 2. Minimum total without doubling = 2. No chorus.

Runtime Around 30 minutes.

Music None.

Style One-act play, single set.

Outline Holmes and Watson must act fast to prevent the theft of a famous diamond and safeguard the economy of the Austrian Empire. But does Holmes mean to get shot by Watson? Will the Great Detective survive?

The Definition of Love

Author Benoni Holt

Roles Minimum Male roles = 0. Minimum Female roles = 1. Minimum total with doubling = 1. Minimum total without doubling = 1. No chorus.

Runtime Around 30 minutes.

Music None.

Style One-act monologue. No set or props required. Contains swearing and sensitive issues.

Outline An angry sixteen-year-old rages about her sister's cancer and the many other trials in her life, all brought about by the ability to love. She argues for and against in an eloquent, sometimes poignant, monologue with an unexpectedly positive ending.

The Devil of a Job

Author Stewart Boston

Roles Minimum Male roles = 3. Minimum Female roles = 0. Minimum total with doubling = 3. Minimum total without doubling = 3. No chorus.

Runtime Around 20 minutes.

Music None.

Style One-act play, single set, divided into earth and hell (as so many sets are).

Outline Mephistopheles and Lucifer plan to corrupt the soul of an intellectual former demonologist. The demonologist recognises what Mephistopheles is trying to do and succeeds not only in turning him away, but convinces him to do some charity work.

Section 4: One-Act Plays for Adults

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The Diabolical Duplication of Daisy

Author Ray Lawrence

Roles Minimum Male roles = 6. Minimum Female roles = 5. Minimum total with doubling = 11. Minimum total without doubling = 11. No chorus.

Runtime Around 50 minutes.

Music None.

Style One-act comedy. A modern take on the conventions of Victorian melodrama - innocent heroines, scheming wicked squires, that sort of thing.

Outline Daisy, working with her mother in the kitchens, is trying hard to resist the grubby blandishments of Sir Odious Malpractice, who wants her to marry him. Unknown to Daisy, Victor Tallbody has arrived to tell her she has inherited a fortune, just in the nick of time.

The Diary of Adam and Eve

Author Mark Twain adapted by Gerald P. Murphy

Roles Minimum Male roles = 1. Minimum Female roles = 1. Minimum total with doubling = 2. Minimum total without doubling = 3. No chorus.

Runtime Around 40 minutes.

Music None.

Style One-act comedy play (adapted from 'The Diary of Adam Eve' by Mark Twain. Single set (representing the Garden of Eden and what lay beyond), simple props.

Outline Alone in the Garden of Eden, Adam is bored and, though he doesn't realise it, lonely. Of course, God has the answer... What follows is told through the diaries of those involved.

The Dog Sitters

Author Sarah Cowan

Roles Minimum Male roles = 4. Minimum Female roles = 6. Minimum total with doubling = 12. Minimum total without doubling = 17. No chorus.

Runtime Around 25 minutes.

Music None.

Style One-act comedy play, single set.

Outline A group of girls invited to house-sit and look after a dog for an evening take the opportunity for an impromptu party, during which there is a problem with the dog...

The Double-Headed Penny-Farthing

Author Robert Black

Roles Minimum Male roles = 2. Minimum Female roles = 0. Minimum total with doubling = 2. Minimum total without doubling = 2. No chorus.

Runtime Around 20 minutes.

Music None.

Style Short one-act play, single set.

Outline Holmes and Watson crack a curious case of diamond-theft without even leaving the fireside of 221b Baker Street.

The Dreaming

Author Richard James

Roles Minimum Male roles = 0. Minimum Female roles = 0. Minimum total with doubling = 2. Minimum total without doubling = 2. No chorus.

Runtime Around 25 minutes.

Music None.

Style One-act play, suitable for a bare stage presentation.

Outline Two men find themselves in a featureless room, with no memory of how they arrived there, or even who they are. Their only clues come from scraps of paper on the floor, that seem to mirror words they have spoken. Can it be true that they're just characters in an unwritten play?

Section 4: One-Act Plays for Adults

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The Eco Hotel

Author Robert Hugh Mitchell

Roles Minimum Male roles = 5. Minimum Female roles = 4. Minimum total with doubling = 11. Minimum total without doubling = 20. No chorus.

Runtime Around 35 minutes.

Music None.

Style One-act play. Multiple sets, with changes to the main stage covered by front-of-cloth scenes. Contains swearing. And comedy.

Outline A group of guests are enjoying their last night in the Environmentally-friendly Eco hotel. Little do they know that the lake has been polluted with irradiated water, and the formally mild and vegetarian turtles have grown bigger and hungrier....

The Emperor's Last Victory

Author Vithal Rajan

Roles Minimum Male roles = 4. Minimum Female roles = 1. Minimum total with doubling = 5. Minimum total without doubling = 5. No chorus.

Runtime Around 30 minutes.

Music None.

Style A combination of Indian storytelling and chess! Simple props, but needs a means of displaying the chess moves to the audience.

Outline Game Two in the Varadachary Chess Cycle. Napoleon, exiled on St. Helena, uses a chess game with Bertrand, his aid de camp, to review his career, philosophy and military strategy.

The Endowment

Author Susan Scott

Roles Minimum Male roles = 1. Minimum Female roles = 1. Minimum total with doubling = 2. Minimum total without doubling = 2. No chorus.

Runtime Around 40 minutes.

Music None.

Style One-act Drama, single domestic set. (Includes occasional swearing.)

Outline Linda receives a visit from her ex-husband, bearing unwelcome memories and unexpected news. Have their years of separation changed them enough to right old wrongs?

The English Game

Author Roger Hodge

Roles Minimum Male roles = 3. Minimum Female roles = 2. Minimum total with doubling = 5. Minimum total without doubling = 5. No chorus.

Runtime Around 35 minutes.

Music None.

Style One-act play. Single set. Some interesting challenges for the technical team! Contains mild swearing.

Outline Two German agents are preparing to meet a new contact on the eve of the Second World War. He seems genuine, but their suspicions become aroused and there is a confrontation.

The Exit Poll

Author Jim Pinnock

Roles Minimum Male roles = 3. Minimum Female roles = 2. Minimum total with doubling = 5. Minimum total without doubling = 6. No chorus.

Runtime Around 25 minutes.

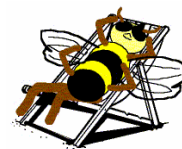
Music None.

Style The farcical comedy of politics. Simple sets. Contains mild swearing.

Outline Three candidates are contesting a by-election, but they all have secrets, most of which come to light before the results are revealed. Can any of them really claim the victory?

Section 4: One-Act Plays for Adults

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The Filming of Das Kapital

Author Vithal Rajan

Roles Minimum Male roles = 5. Minimum Female roles = 0. Minimum total with doubling = 5. Minimum total without doubling = 7. No chorus.

Runtime Around 25 minutes.

Music None.

Style A combination of Indian storytelling and chess! Simple props, but needs a means of displaying the chess moves to the audience.

Outline Game Nine in the Varadachary Chess Cycle. A Bollywood producer has plans to make a film of the life of Karl Marx, part of which is played out through a chess game. An amateur theatre group - including the author! - runs through the script (and the chess game), criticising the producer's distortions of history!

The First Rehearsal

Author Peter Appleton

Roles Minimum Male roles = 3. Minimum Female roles = 5. Minimum total with doubling = 8. Minimum total without doubling = 8. No chorus.

Runtime Around 35 minutes.

Music None.

Style One-act comedy play. Singular lack of set (which the stage manager indicates by placing chairs around the stage - a process very familiar to some of us).

Outline An amateur drama group come together to block out the moves at the first rehearsal of their incomplete script. The dialogue is odd, the plot confusing and the characters get out of hand... just like in every AmDram group!

The Florist

Author Iris Winston

Roles Minimum Male roles = 1. Minimum Female roles = 1. Minimum total with doubling = 2. Minimum total without doubling = 2. No chorus.

Runtime Around 20 minutes.

Music None.

Style Short one-act play. Single set (florist's shop).

Outline George Bernard Shaw drops into a Flower shop run by a lady called Liza and they talk of her old friends, and the life she has led.

The Friday Night Radio Play

Author Damian Trasler

Roles Minimum Male roles = 6. Minimum Female roles = 3. Minimum total with doubling = 10. Minimum total without doubling = 10. No chorus.

Runtime Around 35 minutes.

Music None.

Style One-act comedy (arguably a light farce), single domestic set.

Outline It's an exciting night for the Branston family. The premier of aspiring writer Geoff's radio play is about to be broadcast and the family is gathered to listen. But just as it is about to start, the fuses blow. To ensure that Grandma is not disappointed, the show must go on...

The Gardener's Tale

Author Mike Sparks

Roles Minimum Male roles = 2. Minimum Female roles = 2. Minimum total with doubling = 4. Minimum total without doubling = 7. No chorus.

Runtime Around 25 minutes.

Music None.

Style Modern version of a medieval mystery play. One-act play, eight scenes, but no specific set requirements. A few simple props (including a wheelbarrow).

Outline A gardener from Jerusalem tells her story of Holy Week and the odd bunch of characters she has run into. All of them have tales to tell about 'that Nazarene who's been causing so much trouble.' The story covers the time from Palm Sunday through to the burial of Jesus.

Section 4: One-Act Plays for Adults

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The Gatekeeper's True Religion

Author Michael Pearcy

Roles Minimum Male roles = 2. Minimum Female roles = 1. Minimum total with doubling = 3. Minimum total without doubling = 3. No chorus.

Runtime Around 55 minutes.

Music None.

Style One-act play. Simple sets. Very serious subject, but peppered with a wonderful black humour. Contains swearing and adult themes.

Outline Vasily guards one of the gates into the sealed off Chernobyl Nuclear Power station. Pavel is a Priest sent to tend to the small flock who still live in the shadow of Chernobyl, while Petlova is a prostitute who ministers to Vasily's physical needs. A great commentary on religion, on attitudes to life, on the after-effects of disasters.... many, many things.

The Gentlemen of the Press

Author Stuart Arden

Roles Minimum Male roles = 3. Minimum Female roles = 3. Minimum total with doubling = 6. Minimum total without doubling = 6. No chorus.

Runtime Around 20 minutes.

Music None.

Style A very short humorous costume drama. Two simple sets.

Outline During the Napoleonic wars, two junior officers are sent out to find men to fill the complement of their ship. One of them has other motives.

The Ghosts of Marvin Grange

Author Richard Coleman

Roles Minimum Male roles = 7. Minimum Female roles = 4. Minimum total with doubling = 13. Minimum total without doubling = 20. No chorus.

Runtime Around 65 minutes.

Music None.

Style Melodrama - with the playwright's tongue firmly in his cheek. (Two acts - but relatively short.)

Outline Christopher Sinclair receives a strange summons and returns to Marvin Grange, a remote estate on a lonely moor to unravel the mystery of a haunting that is driving his cousin's wife mad...

The Golf War Widows

Author Damian Trasler

Roles Minimum Male roles = 0. Minimum Female roles = 3. Minimum total with doubling = 3. Minimum total without doubling = 3. No chorus.

Runtime Around 30 minutes.

Music None.

Style Single set (a bar), modern realism, analysis of character, behaviour and relationships

Outline Three women meet behind the scenes at a corporate Golf Tournament. Theresa is a wife who has built her own business in response to her husband's obsession with work and her own fading looks. Doty has brought up a family despite the disinterest of her husband and Rachel... became a crime-fighter.

The Greatest Form of Flattery

Author Amy Sutton

Roles Minimum Male roles = 2. Minimum Female roles = 3. Minimum total with doubling = 5. Minimum total without doubling = 6. No chorus.

Runtime Around 70 minutes.

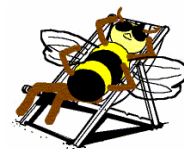
Music None.

Style Either a short full-length play, or a long one-act play! Figurative sets (scenery kept to the minimum needed to indicate the location) but props include a set of shop-window dummies. Contains swearing.

Outline Brendan is a struggling artist who is horrified to see someone he went to Art College with hit the big time with an exhibition of work that looks terribly familiar. When the centrepiece of the exhibition gets stolen and turns up in Brendan's studio, potential disaster is turned to success for everyone.

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The Heretic Queen

Author Vithal Rajan

Roles Minimum Male roles = 5. Minimum Female roles = 0. Minimum total with doubling = 5. Minimum total without doubling = 6. No chorus.

Runtime Around 30 minutes.

Music None.

Style A combination of Indian storytelling and chess! Simple props, but needs a means of displaying the chess moves to the audience.

Outline Game Eight in the Varadachary Chess Cycle. The painter El Greco challenges the Lord High Admiral of the Spanish navy to a chess match on the eve of the launch of the Armada to invade Queen Elizabeth's England. (The other El Greco - the chess master - takes notes!)

The Honorable Knight

Author Stewart Boston

Roles Minimum Male roles = 2. Minimum Female roles = 2. Minimum total with doubling = 4. Minimum total without doubling = 8. No chorus.

Runtime Around 30 minutes.

Music None.

Style A light comedy, playing on the traditions of the knightly stories. Split-stage set, with one permanent location and the other half of the stage doubling for two other locations.

Outline Before leaving his castle for the last time, Sir Gawain of the renowned Round Table reluctantly reveals a tale of his exploits that shows him in a less than favourable light.

The Horrible Hot Air Homicide

Author Ray Lawrence

Roles Minimum Male roles = 4. Minimum Female roles = 3. Minimum total with doubling = 8. Minimum total without doubling = 8. No chorus.

Runtime Around 30 minutes.

Music One song (to a G&S tune). Sheet music for the song is supplied with the producer's copy of the script.

Style Melodrama set in Victorian times, but written in the 21st century - so something of a send-up of the format.

Outline 'The Horrible Hot Air Homicide' - or 'Fanny's Free For All' sees the wicked squire in pursuit of the poor heroine, Fanny. However, in fear that his past misdeeds will be exposed, the squire frames his rival for murder, then furnishes a fiendish fate for Fanny.

The Inkeeper's Christmas

Author Mike Sparks

Roles Minimum Male roles = 2. Minimum Female roles = 2. Minimum total with doubling = 4. Minimum total without doubling = 6. No chorus.

Runtime Around 20 minutes.

Music None.

Style Modern version of a medieval mystery play. Single, minimal set, basic props.

Outline An Innkeeper tells us of the frantic time he and his staff have had during the Roman Census in Judea.

The Inn Keeper's Chalice

Author Mike Sparks

Roles Minimum Male roles = 4. Minimum Female roles = 2. Minimum total with doubling = 6. Minimum total without doubling = 6. No chorus.

Runtime Around 30 minutes.

Music None.

Style One-act Easter play (designed to be staged simply, possibly in a church).

Outline The day after a party books their function room for a Passover feast, an Innkeeper and his wife struggle with the clearing up while being interrupted by various people, most of whom have a connection with a man executed that day...

Section 4: One-Act Plays for Adults

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The Innkeeper and the Donkey Man

Author Mike Sparks

Roles Minimum Male roles = 5. Minimum Female roles = 1. Minimum total with doubling = 6. Minimum total without doubling = 6. No chorus.

Runtime Around 20 minutes.

Music None.

Style One-act play from a New Testament parable, relying on minimum props and no scenery, so could be performed instead of a sermon or as a precursor to a discussion.

Outline The story of the Good Samaritan told from the point of view of the man who owns the inn where the Samaritan brings the robbery victim.

The Kitchen Skirmishes

Author Damian Trasler

Roles Minimum Male roles = 2. Minimum Female roles = 2. Minimum total with doubling = 4. Minimum total without doubling = 4. No chorus.

Runtime Around 40 minutes.

Music None.

Style One act comedy of circumstance. Stage split between domestic set and bar.

Outline When Lucy and Bernard have their first child, they decide that Bernard will stay home and be the househusband while Lucy continues working. Bernard thinks it will be a walk in the park... he has a surprise in store...

The Lady or the Tiger

Author Gerald P. Murphy

Roles Minimum Male roles = 2. Minimum Female roles = 2. Minimum total with doubling = 13. Minimum total without doubling = 15. Chorus.

Runtime Around 30 minutes.

Music None.

Style One-act play adapted from Frank Stockton's short story. Simple props.

Outline The Princess's lover is on trial for his life. She can save him from certain death, but would the alternative be worse?

The Last Waltz

Author Johnny Grim

Roles Minimum Male roles = 2. Minimum Female roles = 0. Minimum total with doubling = 2. Minimum total without doubling = 2. No chorus.

Runtime Around 30 minutes.

Music None.

Style One-act drama (with elements of black comedy!) Single set with two locations - a taxi and a park bench. Contains swearing.

Outline Shane Grantham plans revenge on the man who stole his wife. He requests a taxi to take him to the place where the man lives. For driver Krishnan Singh, this is just another routine call, and his passenger just another face in the crowd. A chance meeting between two strangers, two men from very different worlds, who on this one night discover that love is universal.

The Little Watch Girl

Author George Douglas Lee

Roles Minimum Male roles = 3. Minimum Female roles = 4. Minimum total with doubling = 9. Minimum total without doubling = 10. No chorus.

Runtime Around 35 minutes.

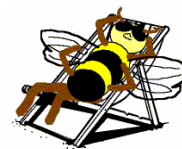
Music None.

Style One-act play based on Hans Christian Andersen's Little Match Girl. Single set. Props include a rather under-cooked roast goose.

Outline A familiar Christmas story is given a major twist when a starving, freezing girl out on a snow Christmas Eve supplements her match selling income by stealing watches from passers by. She is visited by several visions to help her learn the true meaning of Christmas.

Section 4: One-Act Plays for Adults

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The Love Gambit

Author Vithal Rajan

Roles Minimum Male roles = 5. Minimum Female roles = 1. Minimum total with doubling = 6. Minimum total without doubling = 6. No chorus.

Runtime Around 20 minutes.

Music None.

Style A combination of Indian storytelling and chess! Simple props, but needs a means of displaying the chess moves to the audience.

Outline Game Six in the Varadachary Chess Cycle. Varadachary recalls New Years Eve, 1944 when Humphrey Bogart challenged Lauren Bacall to a chess match - and much more.

The Madness of Sherlock Holmes

Author JPS Yates

Roles Minimum Male roles = 4. Minimum Female roles = 0. Minimum total with doubling = 4. Minimum total without doubling = 4. No chorus.

Runtime Around 50 minutes.

Music None.

Style One-act thriller. Single set - a prison cell!

Outline A curious and very authentic Holmes tale, with the Great Detective locked in a cell and wearing a straitjacket. Is there really a plot to assassinate the Queen, or is this a fabrication of Holmes' deranged mind, as his friend Watson suspects?

The Man Who Died Twice

Author Robert Black

Roles Minimum Male roles = 2. Minimum Female roles = 0. Minimum total with doubling = 2. Minimum total without doubling = 2. No chorus.

Runtime Around 25 minutes.

Music None.

Style Short one-act play, single set (Sherlock Holmes' study).

Outline Sherlock Holmes and Dr Watson are sent a plea for help with a case. Sidney Mickelthwaite, an embezzler with debts to a disreputable family, took to a boat on the river Rockingham one night and apparently committed suicide. Less than a month later, he was seen on his way to committing suicide... again. Can Holmes and Watson solve the mystery of the man who died twice?

The Merry Women of Windham

Author Nicholas Conti

Roles Minimum Male roles = 0. Minimum Female roles = 6. Minimum total with doubling = 6. Minimum total without doubling = 6. No chorus.

Runtime Around 65 minutes.

Music None.

Style Black comedy set in a modern American suburb. One-act, single set.

Outline A Garden Mystery or 'Victoria's Secret'... The women of Victoria's Garden Club devise novel ways of dealing with problems in their domestic relationships. All the solutions are permanent, though they require a fair amount of digging, and Victoria's garden contains some unusual plants. All the club members are blissfully contented until the digging and the ceremonial chanting is brought to the attention of a local policewoman, who comes to investigate...

The Mixer

Author Glyn Blakeborough

Roles Minimum Male roles = 1. Minimum Female roles = 1. Minimum total with doubling = 2. Minimum total without doubling = 4. No chorus.

Runtime Around 20 minutes.

Music None.

Style Short one-act play, single set (in theory a domestic kitchen, but could easily be done in a 'black box' presentation). Walks a careful line of bittersweet tragic-comedy. Contains mild swearing.

Outline Peter and Edna have been waiting for three weeks for their bins to be emptied. Peter helps old Mrs Thorburn by putting her rubbish into the correct bins for collection, but it turns out he's been getting it wrong, and Mrs Thorburn is under threat of legal action...

Section 4: One-Act Plays for Adults

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The Neville Report - Village of Fear

Author Gary Diamond, John Fryer & Ray Lawrence

Roles Minimum Male roles = 2. Minimum Female roles = 1. Minimum total with doubling = 3. Minimum total without doubling = 8. No chorus.

Runtime Around 25 minutes.

Music None.

Style One-act play - a comic pastiche of a 1950s radio drama intended for presentation as a staged radio play.

Outline A comedy radio play that pits intrepid reporter Neville Reville against the supernatural goings-on in Merry Waddle on the Weddle. Aided only by a leg in disguise, Neville braves the Portals of Hell (a pub), Lusty Wanda (a siren) and the evil Mordred to rescue Lady Purity!

The New Bathroom

Author Sue Gordon

Roles Minimum Male roles = 1. Minimum Female roles = 1. Minimum total with doubling = 2. Minimum total without doubling = 2. No chorus.

Runtime Around 20 minutes.

Music None.

Style Short one-act play, single domestic set, simple props.

Outline It's 9:34, Richard and Sally are waiting at home for the plumber to come and install their new bathroom. Richard is getting more and more impatient as the plumbers are over an hour and four minutes late. Sally tries to calm him down but her good nature becomes too good when the plumbers telephone to put off the work. Godot was probably a plumber.

The Nth Degree

Author Richard James

Roles Minimum Male roles = 4. Minimum Female roles = 2. Minimum total with doubling = 6. Minimum total without doubling = 6. No chorus.

Runtime Around 30 minutes.

Music None.

Style Confrontational - or challenging, depending on your viewpoint - one-act play, single prison room set. Contains intolerance.

Outline In a fundamentalist religious state, a news reporter arranges a confrontation between two prisoners and the couple who prosecuted them for offences against their faith.

The Observer

Author Paul Mathews

Roles Minimum Male roles = 3. Minimum Female roles = 0. Minimum total with doubling = 3. Minimum total without doubling = 3. No chorus.

Runtime Around 45 minutes.

Music None.

Style A terrific, three handed one-act play. In theory, there are two sets, but one is a single scene in a cinema, which could be indicated by a couple of chairs and appropriate lighting. Contains mild swearing.

Outline George and Mike are the old guard of a paper being revamped. Editor George has been told that Mike must move from News to Features. Can the old News Hound pull one more exclusive out of the bag to save his career?

The Order of the Pink Pantyhose

Author Erica Glenn

Roles Minimum Male roles = 1. Minimum Female roles = 4. Minimum total with doubling = 5. Minimum total without doubling = 5. No chorus.

Runtime Around 25 minutes.

Music None.

Style An old-fashioned 'play' on manners and a light-hearted spoof of the traditional murder mystery.

Outline Four elderly women-a fidgety hostess, her grumpy cousin, a southern belle, and a British cynic--sit down for afternoon tea. One is a murderer in disguise, one a detective in disguise, one a humanitarian worker in disguise, and one an innocent bystander (also in disguise). Conversation soon turns from the state of the weather to the untimely death of Great-Aunt Charlotte Robinson (the undercover leader of band of pantyhose thieves). And before you can say 'pink pantyhose,' an innocent tea party has turned into a dangerous (if slightly silly) game of 'who dun it?'

Section 4: One-Act Plays for Adults

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The Parable of the Chess Game

Author Vithal Rajan
Roles Minimum Male roles = 5. Minimum Female roles = 0. Minimum total with doubling = 5. Minimum total without doubling = 5. No chorus.
Runtime Around 25 minutes.
Music None.
Style A combination of Indian storytelling and chess! Simple props, but needs a means of displaying the chess moves to the audience.
Outline Game Eleven in the Varadachary Chess Cycle. Varadachary, revolutionary and storyteller, coming to the end of his life, receives a lesson in non-violent revolution from the spirits of his gurus, Ghandi and Tolstoy.

The Passion

Author Mike Sparks
Roles Minimum Male roles = 5. Minimum Female roles = 3. Minimum total with doubling = 8. Minimum total without doubling = 22. Chorus.
Runtime Around 25 minutes.
Music None.
Style Modern version of a medieval mystery play. Single set (a cart!), basic props.
Outline The betrayal, trial and crucifixion of Jesus.

The Perils at Peddler's Cove

Author Richard Coleman
Roles Minimum Male roles = 9. Minimum Female roles = 5. Minimum total with doubling = 16. Minimum total without doubling = 16. No chorus.
Runtime Around 75 minutes.
Music None.
Style Murder mystery peopled with eccentric - and suspicious - characters. One set with additional front-of-curtain scenes.
Outline Letters from a lawyer summon a group of people to a remote island, apparently for a weekend house-party, but then one of the guests is murdered.

The Psychotherapist In Spite Of Himself

Author George Freek
Roles Minimum Male roles = 3. Minimum Female roles = 3. Minimum total with doubling = 6. Minimum total without doubling = 6. No chorus.
Runtime Around 35 minutes.
Music None.
Style Comical farce in one act and one (simple, domestic) set.
Outline Ronald wants to marry Janey, but he thinks she's worried about his acting career. He poses as a psychotherapist to see if he can convince her that he's a good actor - and ends up taking on her entire family's emotional problems in one very busy day.

The Quintessential Quintet

Author Frances Bartram
Roles Minimum Male roles = 2. Minimum Female roles = 3. Minimum total with doubling = 5. Minimum total without doubling = 5. No chorus.
Runtime Around 20 minutes.
Music None.
Style Parody in the style of Enid Blyton.
Outline Four children (two boys, one girl, one tomboy) and their dog are out in the countryside for a picnic. They encounter some odd flashes of light that could be smugglers signalling, and an odd sort of boy who may be a new chum or someone more sinister.

Section 4: One-Act Plays for Adults

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The Rector of Stiffkey

Author Graham Jones

Roles Minimum Male roles = 3. Minimum Female roles = 1. Minimum total with doubling = 4. Minimum total without doubling = 4. No chorus.

Runtime Around 45 minutes.

Music None.

Style Essentially, this is a courtroom drama set in the afterlife, with the audience cast as the jury! Minimal set and props.

Outline Harold Davidson has arrived in Limbo, and a lot depends on the next few minutes - how he accounts for the extraordinary events of his life until his death by mauling will determine where he goes from here. Was he really immoral, or a modern-day saint treated badly by the church?
This is the true story of Harold Davidson known in the 1930s as 'The Rector of Stiffkey'. His unfrocking by the Church of England was a *cause celebre* but he attained even greater notoriety by later preaching in a lion's den at a circus.

The Red Balloon

Author Damian Trasler

Roles Minimum Male roles = 1. Minimum Female roles = 2. Minimum total with doubling = 3. Minimum total without doubling = 3. No chorus.

Runtime Around 20 minutes.

Music None.

Style Single set (bare stage, with a few items of furniture brought on during the piece). Few props. Explores the nature of live theatre!

Outline A couple interrupt the premier of a piece of Modern Theatre and claim it's all rubbish. The performer challenges them to produce something better, and the three begin to work on the piece together. What will they come up with by the end of the evening?

The Rehearsal

Author Bob Tucker

Roles Minimum Male roles = 2. Minimum Female roles = 1. Minimum total with doubling = 3. Minimum total without doubling = 3. No chorus.

Runtime Around 30 minutes.

Music None.

Style One-act play, set, as you might guess, on a stage. A comedy of character and situation.

Outline Daniel is rehearsing a crucial scene from his new play, but Millie and Mike, the two leads, are not being very co-operative. They don't like his last minute changes to the text, and they keep wondering where the rest of the cast is.

The Return Of Lady Bracknell

Author Graham Jones

Roles Minimum Male roles = 3. Minimum Female roles = 3. Minimum total with doubling = 6. Minimum total without doubling = 6. No chorus.

Runtime Around 25 minutes.

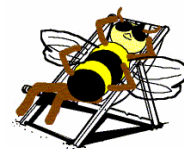
Music None.

Style One-act comedy play, messing with theatre and reality. The action takes place on a rehearsal stage, so little required in the way of set. Contains very mild swearing.

Outline It's two weeks to the production of 'The importance of being Earnest' and Rebecca has flu, so there's no one to play Lady Bracknell. Except... this strange lady, dressed for the part, who knows all the lines and stays in character *all the time*...

Section 4: One-Act Plays for Adults

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The Romantic Legend of Don Quixote - A Knight to Remember

Author Geoff Bamber

Roles Minimum Male roles = 7. Minimum Female roles = 4. Minimum total with doubling = 12. Minimum total without doubling = 14. Chorus.

Runtime Around 35 minutes.

Music None.

Style One-Act comedy (verbal and physical). Single set. Written for a company of adults, but could be played by teenagers.

Outline When the penniless nobleman Don Quixote arrives in the town of Guadalcara he falls in love with the beautiful daughter of Don Alvaro and Donna Madeleine, the town's rulers. Unfortunately Don Quixote doesn't fit their idea of a suitable match for their daughter and Don Quixote has to complete seven tasks to prove himself. Fortunately he has help from Sancha, his servant, Romana, a fortune teller, and Gonzalo, an artist with questionable honesty, who make up for Quixote's distinct lack of bravery and imagination!

The Room

Author Graham Jones

Roles Minimum Male roles = 0. Minimum Female roles = 4. Minimum total with doubling = 4. Minimum total without doubling = 5. No chorus.

Runtime Around 20 minutes.

Music None.

Style Short one-act play, single set - character study with a rather sinister edge!

Outline Four women of varying ages and infirmities enter a room, supposedly in a rest home/hospice called 'Pleasantways'. They're told to enter the room but not to leave. The women open up to each other about the circumstances that brought them to this place and their feelings about the treatment they have received. Exploration of their current position leads to a sinister discovery...

The School for Scandal (abridged)

Author Sheridan abridged by George Freek

Roles Minimum Male roles = 9. Minimum Female roles = 4. Minimum total with doubling = 13. Minimum total without doubling = 13. No chorus.

Runtime Around 50 minutes.

Music None.

Style Eighteenth century comedy of manners, abridged to one-act play length.

Outline Plots and intrigues abound to blacken names and ruin reputations, but when true love is expressed it awakens the good characters of some of the school's members.

The Scramblings at Spriggly Torch

Author Richard Coleman

Roles Minimum Male roles = 9. Minimum Female roles = 8. Minimum total with doubling = 17. Minimum total without doubling = 17. No chorus.

Runtime Around 75 minutes.

Music None.

Style Comic play - a Second World War mystery. One set, divided into three locations.

Outline It is 1943, and enemy plans for a new fighter aircraft have fallen into the hands of British intelligence, but a traitor is suspected of attempting to retrieve them.

Section 4: One-Act Plays for Adults

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The Second Friday Of The Month

Author Geoff Bamber

Roles Minimum Male roles = 3. Minimum Female roles = 4. Minimum total with doubling = 7. Minimum total without doubling = 7. No chorus.

Runtime Around 65 minutes.

Music None.

Style A farce in two short acts (which puts it on the boundary between a one-act and full-length play). Single (small flat *) set. Contains mild swearing and adult themes.

* I mean it's set in a small flat, not that the set is small and flat.

Outline Dan has a somewhat clinical sexual relationship with a psychologist who lives in the flat above him. They meet every second Friday of the month, but their routine is broken by the arrival of some of Dan's diverse acquaintances. A clever, funny play, exploring some rather unconventional relationships.

The Secret Testament of John Shakespeare

Author Martin Lytton

Roles Minimum Male roles = 2. Minimum Female roles = 2. Minimum total with doubling = 4. Minimum total without doubling = 4. No chorus.

Runtime Around 70 minutes.

Music None.

Style Historical drama (on the boundary between a one-act and a full-length play). Single set. Lots of historical detail amidst a passionate story.

Outline William Shakespeare's wife drops in on her in-laws to mind her Father-in-Law while his wife visits a friend. The Informer James Langrake, who was responsible for the fall in Shakespeare senior's fortunes, calls in unannounced and nearly finds evidence to bring death to the household.

The Sinister Mrs Eaves

Author Robert Black

Roles Minimum Male roles = 2. Minimum Female roles = 0. Minimum total with doubling = 2. Minimum total without doubling = 2. No chorus.

Runtime Around 25 minutes.

Music None.

Style Short one-act play, single set (Sherlock Holmes' study).

Outline Holmes and Watson tackle the bizarre case of the Sinister Mrs Eaves and twenty-one-and-a-half Harper Street without leaving their comfortable rooms at 221b Baker Street. A fine Holmes mystery with more than a touch of humour.

The Sleuth Slayer

Author Paul Mathews

Roles Minimum Male roles = 9. Minimum Female roles = 3. Minimum total with doubling = 12. Minimum total without doubling = 12. No chorus.

Runtime Around 50 minutes.

Music None.

Style One act comedy send-up of detective fiction in general and the country house murder mystery in particular. Single country house set. Contains mild swearing.

Outline The world's greatest detectives are invited to a murder at Carnage Hall, but no one there knows anything about it... Until one of the detectives is found dead! The hunt is on to find the killer before there's no one left to solve the crime!

The Soldiers' Tale

Author Mike Sparks

Roles Minimum Male roles = 3. Minimum Female roles = 1. Minimum total with doubling = 4. Minimum total without doubling = 6. No chorus.

Runtime Around 20 minutes.

Music None.

Style Modern version of a medieval mystery play. Single, minimal set, basic props.

Outline The events on Calvary discussed from the perspective of bystanders, including the soldiers who administered the crucifixion.

Section 4: One-Act Plays for Adults

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The Spartan Conspiracy

Author Vithal Rajan

Roles Minimum Male roles = 4. Minimum Female roles = 4. Minimum total with doubling = 9. Minimum total without doubling = 9. No chorus.

Runtime Around 35 minutes.

Music None.

Style One-act satire.

Outline Menelaus, Ulysses and Agamemnon meet with Achilles to discuss the disastrous rise in the price of Olive Oil, instigated by the Trojans. How can they prompt a war with Troy to combat the oil price? Then they send for Helen...

The Substitute

Author Duncan Battman

Roles Minimum Male roles = 1. Minimum Female roles = 0. Minimum total with doubling = 1. Minimum total without doubling = 1. No chorus.

Runtime Around 30 minutes.

Music None.

Style One-act play in the form of a monologue. Dramatic content, though the direct action is minimal. Contains strong language and adult themes.

Outline A long but dramatic monologue delivered by Frank, an ex-footballer who is now confined to a wheelchair. As he packs up his room he relates the ups and downs of his life, right up to the startling conclusion.

The Three Little Pigs... I Mean The Three Little Hogs

Author Larry Brumer

Roles Minimum Male roles = 0. Minimum Female roles = 1. Minimum total with doubling = 5. Minimum total without doubling = 5. No chorus.

Runtime Around 30 minutes.

Music None.

Style Small-cast comedy play intended for performance by an adult or high school company to an elementary school audience. Simple sets, costumes and props.

Outline The tale of the Three Little Pigs (building houses, wolves huffing and blowing - that sort of thing) retold for elementary pupils with audience interaction and a surprise ending.

The Victory of the Revolution

Author Vithal Rajan

Roles Minimum Male roles = 3. Minimum Female roles = 0. Minimum total with doubling = 3. Minimum total without doubling = 3. No chorus.

Runtime Around 20 minutes.

Music None.

Style A combination of Indian storytelling and chess! Simple props, but needs a means of displaying the chess moves to the audience.

Outline Game Seven in the Varadachary Chess Cycle. The Cuban revolution, reviewed through Fidel Castro's 1966 chess match against the Mexican master Filiberto Terrazas.

The Visitor

Author Dean Laccohee

Roles Minimum Male roles = 2. Minimum Female roles = 1. Minimum total with doubling = 3. Minimum total without doubling = 3. No chorus.

Runtime Around 35 minutes.

Music None.

Style One-act play, single set (a psychiatrist's office), simple props. A play with things to say about seizing the moment, and about our reactions to hardship and suffering.

Outline A patient gives his psychiatrist a few problems by claiming to come from a distant planet. His belief can't be shaken, and worse, he says the world is going to end very soon. Will Dr Collinghurst accept his offer of a ride on his spaceship, or at least ask Nurse Elizabeth out before Doomsday?

Section 4: One-Act Plays for Adults

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The Whore's Tale

Author Archie Wilson

Roles Minimum Male roles = 1. Minimum Female roles = 2. Minimum total with doubling = 3. Minimum total without doubling = 3. No chorus.

Runtime Around 35 minutes.

Music None.

Style Single-set one act play. Strong sexual themes and violence.

Outline Gerald pays a call to Mandy, a prostitute, asking for her to play a special game. However, we quickly find out that neither Mandy nor Gerald are who they seem to be, but then the game is not what we think it is either. A twist-in-the-tale three hander.

The Wrong Ladder

Author Jim Pinnock

Roles Minimum Male roles = 5. Minimum Female roles = 2. Minimum total with doubling = 8. Minimum total without doubling = 8. No chorus.

Runtime Around 30 minutes.

Music None.

Style One-act comedy play (with some dark moments!) Single set split into two acting areas.

Outline Longhurst Ladders are struggling, and Arthur needs to land a big contract to save his company. He's not helped by his secretary, his grasping ex-wife, layabout son and spendthrift daughter. Perhaps a spiritual retreat to Tibet is what he needs?

There's Something About Bernard

Author Richard James

Roles Minimum Male roles = 1. Minimum Female roles = 4. Minimum total with doubling = 5. Minimum total without doubling = 5. No chorus.

Runtime Around 30 minutes.

Music None.

Style One-act comedy play, single (simple, domestic) set. Contains mild swearing.

Outline Bernard's wife, best friend and daughter are gathered to surprise him with a party on his birthday, but it's his ex-wife who walks in first. Some hard truths are exchanged, and in the end, it's Bernard who surprises them all.

Thick and Thin

Author Johnny Grim

Roles Minimum Male roles = 3. Minimum Female roles = 0. Minimum total with doubling = 3. Minimum total without doubling = 3. No chorus.

Runtime Around 30 minutes.

Music None.

Style One-act play - the philosophy of the relationship between sport and life. The characters are in stadium seats, so could be a very simple set. Contains very strong language.

Outline Three football (soccer!) fans are watching the fourth rematch in a cup game and discussing the benefits of tactics, the importance of buying season tickets over paying rent, the influence of women and what to eat during the match.

Three Canterbury Tales

Author Richard James

Roles Minimum Male roles = 5. Minimum Female roles = 2. Minimum total with doubling = 7. Minimum total without doubling = 7. No chorus.

Runtime Around 25 minutes.

Music None.

Style One-act verse play. No set requirements, few (deliberately rough-and-ready) props.

Outline Three of Chaucer's Canterbury Tales, told in verse but adapted for the stage. The Miller, The Pardoner and the Wife of Bath are brought to life with the narration of Chaucer and the help of three other pilgrims (the Friar, the Summoner and the Nun).

Section 4: One-Act Plays for Adults

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Three Coins

Author Alex Pryce

Roles Minimum Male roles = 1. Minimum Female roles = 1. Minimum total with doubling = 2. Minimum total without doubling = 2. No chorus.

Runtime Around 20 minutes.

Music None.

Style One act play for two actors (one playing multiple roles). Single set.

Outline Rob is in therapy, trying to come to terms with the death of his Nan. He and the therapist look at different aspects of Rob's life.

TickTock

Author Eileen Siedman

Roles Minimum Male roles = 0. Minimum Female roles = 5. Minimum total with doubling = 5. Minimum total without doubling = 5. No chorus.

Runtime Around 35 minutes.

Music None.

Style One-act play with a cast of strong female characters. Single (hotel lounge) set. Some good set-pieces, and a satisfying feeling of having been under the surface of the characters' lives. Contains mild swearing.

Outline Five different career-minded women meet for a business conference. They make small talk, sip coffee and make business calls - but after the conference is over, their personal lives threaten to infringe on their enjoyment of the day.

Tissues and Wine

Author Johnny Grim

Roles Minimum Male roles = 0. Minimum Female roles = 3. Minimum total with doubling = 3. Minimum total without doubling = 3. No chorus.

Runtime Around 30 minutes.

Music None.

Style One-act drama. Single domestic setting. Set in Australia, though the situation is universal, and it could easily be moved. Contains swearing.

Outline Sonia has just caught her husband having an affair, and has retreated to her mother's house for solace. That's not quite what she gets when Julia, the nosey neighbour, invites herself over to share in the bottle of wine and the advice.

Tricksilver

Author Rob Burbidge

Roles Minimum Male roles = 2. Minimum Female roles = 2. Minimum total with doubling = 4. Minimum total without doubling = 4. No chorus.

Runtime Around 35 minutes.

Music None.

Style One-act play based on a story by O. Henry - a tale of trickery and double-crossing. Two sets (or one composite set) plus front-of-curtain scene at a railway station.

Outline As the twentieth century dawns, the United States of America is the land of opportunity. There are plenty of ways to make a quick buck, but the quickest and biggest bucks are made by the scam artists. Having a conscience is a bit of a handicap for confidence trickster Jeff Peters. He decides against the advice of his business partner to include a real woman in his marriage agency scam. Will he find out that women are the honest sex, or will he discover that a woman can be the equal of a man in dishonesty? Will he break the habit of a lifetime, and trust a bank? In this tale of cross and double-cross, who gets the loot?

Section 4: One-Act Plays for Adults

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True Reflection

Author Peter Stallard

Roles Minimum Male roles = 2. Minimum Female roles = 4. Minimum total with doubling = 6. Minimum total without doubling = 6. No chorus.

Runtime Around 35 minutes.

Music None.

Style One-act comedy play. Single domestic interior set. (Contains mild swearing.)

Outline Joe Parry is being harassed by his wife for lending money to his feckless friend, Dai German. He is sent to retrieve the cash, but returns instead with a mirror. To avoid more scorn, he convinces his wife it's a revolutionary dieting aid, and a few minutes in front of the mirror can remove pounds. While she sits in front of it, he fiddles the scales to give the correct result, and it's not long before all the local women are dropping in to check out the rumour. Meanwhile Joe has brought Dai round to sort the problem before the truth comes to light - but the result is a confrontation which ends with the mirror in shards... with an unexpected revelation.

Two Weddings and a Conference

Author Karen Doling

Roles Minimum Male roles = 5. Minimum Female roles = 6. Minimum total with doubling = 12. Minimum total without doubling = 12. No chorus.

Runtime Around 65 minutes.

Music None.

Style Comedy play. Single (hotel reception) set. Structurally in two acts, but in length it's on the boundary between a one-act and a two-act (it could occupy a whole evening's theatre or be accompanied by a shorter piece.) Contains mild swearing.

Outline A double-booked wedding reception at a hotel causes havoc for the brides, grooms, manager, receptionist, and the attendees of a conference that is supposed to be happening at the same time! However, it soon transpires that the double-booking is not the only coincidence they will have to deal with.

Up the Garden Path

Author Barry Blaize

Roles Minimum Male roles = 2. Minimum Female roles = 3. Minimum total with doubling = 5. Minimum total without doubling = 5. No chorus.

Runtime Around 30 minutes.

Music None.

Style One-act farce. Single set - quite complex to stage but the rewards are worth it! Contains mild swearing and drug abuse.

Outline When Susan agreed to be on the end of the phone for Marie during a quiz, she thought she'd be a help. But she didn't give the right answer, and now Marie's husband wants Susan and Trevor to cough up the sixty thousand she didn't win...

Varadachary The Dadaist

Author Vithal Rajan

Roles Minimum Male roles = 4. Minimum Female roles = 0. Minimum total with doubling = 4. Minimum total without doubling = 4. No chorus.

Runtime Around 20 minutes.

Music None.

Style A combination of Indian storytelling and chess! Simple props, but needs a means of displaying the chess moves to the audience.

Outline Game Three in the Varadachary Chess Cycle. Marcel Duchamp explains the influences of his Dadaist art on his 1929 victory over Belgian chess champion Georges Koltanowski.

Variations

Author Peter Appleton

Roles Minimum Male roles = 2. Minimum Female roles = 2. Minimum total with doubling = 4. Minimum total without doubling = 4. No chorus.

Runtime Around 35 minutes.

Music Lazy Bee Scripts does not supply any sheet music with this script.

Style One act play, single interior set, simple props. (Contains mild swearing)

Outline Two couples are rounding off a nice evening with drinks and talk, but a story in the local paper changes the mood and secrets are uncovered.

Section 4: One-Act Plays for Adults

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Vision Impaired

- Author* Richard James
- Roles* Minimum Male roles = 2. Minimum Female roles = 0. Minimum total with doubling = 2. Minimum total without doubling = 2. No chorus.
- Runtime* Around 35 minutes.
- Music* None.
- Style* One-act comedy play, very simple set (essentially a bare stage with two swivel chairs).
- Outline* Two occupants of merciless alien costumes for a famous time travelling series discuss life, fame, and pressing problems for actors in their confined position!

Wait... What?

- Author* Ted Evans
- Roles* Minimum Male roles = 2. Minimum Female roles = 1. Minimum total with doubling = 3. Minimum total without doubling = 7. No chorus.
- Runtime* Around 30 minutes.
- Music* None.
- Style* One-act comedy play, almost a monologue, in the style of a disjointed presentation. Some educational content about Attention Deficit Disorder. Includes opportunities for improvisation. Contains mild swearing
- Outline* An Attention Deficit Disorder sufferer talks about his experiences with a new wonder-drug and ADD in general, but ends up saying a little too much for the drug manufacturer's liking.

Waiting for Twist Stiffly

- Author* Damian Trasler
- Roles* Minimum Male roles = 3. Minimum Female roles = 2. Minimum total with doubling = 5. Minimum total without doubling = 6. No chorus.
- Runtime* Around 30 minutes.
- Music* None.
- Style* One-act play which takes place on the set of a 1950s science fiction serial, but is really about actors and their relationship to their characters.
- Outline* Filming of the 1950s adventure serial 'Twist Stiffly - Space adventurer' is being held up because the leading man is nowhere to be found. While the remaining cast members lounge around waiting for him to turn up, they discuss their roles in the drama and their dissatisfactions with the main man. Then they come up with a great way to fill their time until he arrives...

Waiting in Soho

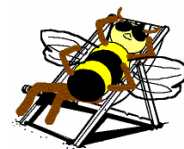
- Author* Christopher Morgan
- Roles* Minimum Male roles = 3. Minimum Female roles = 4. Minimum total with doubling = 7. Minimum total without doubling = 7. No chorus.
- Runtime* Around 50 minutes.
- Music* None.
- Style* One act play with a single bar-room set. An ensemble piece with seven overlapping stories. Contains a range of adult themes.
- Outline* A disparate group are sharing space in a Soho bar at the weekend - their only common ground. Through voicing streams of overlapping thoughts, they open up and reveal the experiences that brought them to where they are.

Watch This Space [Comedy Play]

- Author* Karrena Dewhurst
- Roles* Minimum Male roles = 1. Minimum Female roles = 1. Minimum total with doubling = 5. Minimum total without doubling = 6. No chorus.
- Runtime* Around 20 minutes.
- Music* None.
- Style* One-act comedy play, set in space. (There is also a follow-up, ['Watch This Space Too'](#), by Leo Finn, using the same characters.)
- Outline* Rodney's just the cleaner on the spaceship, and he's the butt of everyone's jokes, even the shipboard computer. But when an Alien species threatens the ship, only Rodney's brain has the... spare capacity for telepathic communication. It's up to him to save the ship!

Section 4: One-Act Plays for Adults

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We Love Barney

Author Joseph A. Jones

Roles Minimum Male roles = 2. Minimum Female roles = 5. Minimum total with doubling = 7. Minimum total without doubling = 7. No chorus.

Runtime Around 35 minutes.

Music None.

Style One-act farce. Single domestic set.

Outline Barney is to decide who is to become the Assistant Branch Manager, and competition is fierce. Will newly-separated Barney give in to the wiles of Sharon, or will he be persuaded by Phyllis's experience and dedication? And what of Nigel, who doesn't want the job, but is marrying a woman who wants him to have it? It's going to be a busy night at the company drinks party.

Wedding Day

Author John F. Glen

Roles Minimum Male roles = 3. Minimum Female roles = 3. Minimum total with doubling = 6. Minimum total without doubling = 9. No chorus.

Runtime Around 35 minutes.

Music None.

Style One-act play. Simple set (two pieces of furniture - so easy to stage as a competition piece). Contains mild swearing.

Outline Annie, elderly matriarch of a family, looks back on a long life on the day her granddaughter gets married. She recalls the wedding of her daughter and her own wedding day, as well as some sadder memories.

Weir of Hermiston

Author David McVey from Robert Louis Stevenson

Roles Minimum Male roles = 6. Minimum Female roles = 3. Minimum total with doubling = 9. Minimum total without doubling = 9. Chorus.

Runtime Around 30 minutes.

Music None.

Style One-act drama, focusing on the relationship between Archie Weir and his tyrannical father. Adapted from an unfinished novel by Robert Louis Stevenson. Uses broad Scots (though omitting the less fathomable language from Stevenson's draft.)

Outline Archie Weir is the son of the Lord Justice Clerk and in training to be a lawyer himself, though he is fearful of his hard father. Following advice from a family friend, Archie watches a trial held by his father and is horrified at the old man's apparent glee at hanging the poor wretch. He speaks out in public against the death penalty and is exiled to the family's country estate.

What Manner of Man

Author Mike Smith

Roles Minimum Male roles = 4. Minimum Female roles = 1. Minimum total with doubling = 5. Minimum total without doubling = 9. No chorus.

Runtime Around 45 minutes.

Music None.

Style One-act historical drama, set in the Jacobite rebellion of 1745. Most of the action takes place in a single interior set. Two exterior scenes could be played on bare stage.

Outline Having reached the English town of Derby, Adjutant General of Bonnie Prince Charlie's forces, Lord George Murray agonises over the need to tell the Prince that taking London is not possible. He must win over two other members of the Prince's council to carry the day and force retreat.

What's On Your Mind

Author Ashley Montgomery

Roles Minimum Male roles = 3. Minimum Female roles = 2. Minimum total with doubling = 6. Minimum total without doubling = 6. No chorus.

Runtime Around 60 minutes.

Music None.

Style One-act play - a character piece, rather than a 'plot'. Single set.

Outline Five different characters bring their problems to a counsellor, each believing they are alone, that their problems are unique and they are truly and untreatably crazy.

Section 4: One-Act Plays for Adults

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Where There's Blame

Author John Chambers

Roles Minimum Male roles = 2. Minimum Female roles = 1. Minimum total with doubling = 3. Minimum total without doubling = 3. No chorus.

Runtime Around 35 minutes.

Music None.

Style One-act play, minimal set requirements, simple props, three strong characters and an involving story. Contains strong language and adult themes.

Outline Lennie is fronting an accident claim company to raise money for his property speculating in Spain, Tina's waiting for Kevin to bring her some money for the week's shopping, but he's got caught up with Lennie's pie in the sky.

Where's George

Author Gary Diamond & Ray Lawrence

Roles Minimum Male roles = 2. Minimum Female roles = 3. Minimum total with doubling = 5. Minimum total without doubling = 5. No chorus.

Runtime Around 35 minutes.

Music None.

Style One-act play. Single set (living room). Contemporary realism.

Outline It's Sunday afternoon. Arthur and Vera face the weekly ordeal of tea with Vera's mother, the fearsome Rose, and her carer-son, Edward. Rose is awaiting the arrival of her favourite son, George, but Edward has other surprises in store.

White Lies

Author Richard James

Roles Minimum Male roles = 0. Minimum Female roles = 4. Minimum total with doubling = 5. Minimum total without doubling = 5. No chorus.

Runtime Around 50 minutes.

Music None.

Style One-act comedy. Single simple set (so easy to do as a competition piece). Simple props. Contains mild swearing.

Outline Four old University chums meet up again after thirty years for a meal and talk. Bea is concerned only with herself and her own success, and doesn't care about the casual way she has hurt or used the others in the past, and the other ladies decide it's time for payback. But their little revenge stunt goes a little further than they planned.

Whiz Kids

Author Geoff Motley

Roles Minimum Male roles = 5. Minimum Female roles = 2. Minimum total with doubling = 7. Minimum total without doubling = 7. No chorus.

Runtime Around 55 minutes.

Music None.

Style Cpmedy play for adults about writing for children. One act by length - a two act play if you count the number of acts! Lots of physical comedy. Single office set (with furniture changes during the play). Contains swearing.

Outline Gareth, Eddie and Maggie write and draw 'Whiz Kids', an eccentric children's comic initiated by Colonel Cheviot. Now the Colonel has died, and his wife, Lady Hermione is not so indulgent. She installs a new editor and a new coffee machine to keep noses to the grindstone and out of the pub. How will the staff cope with the shock of the new?

Who's Hamlet

Author George Freek

Roles Minimum Male roles = 3. Minimum Female roles = 2. Minimum total with doubling = 5. Minimum total without doubling = 5. No chorus.

Runtime Around 50 minutes.

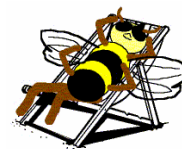
Music None.

Style A one-act farce in two acts. (I mean it's in two acts but is relatively short.) A farce, with misunderstandings galore and all the theatrical temperament you could wish for. All this comes with a simple set and small cast.

Outline A young actor takes the role of Hamlet from his ageing father.

Section 4: One-Act Plays for Adults

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Will's Women

Author Louise Wade

Roles Minimum Male roles = 1. Minimum Female roles = 4. Minimum total with doubling = 5. Minimum total without doubling = 5. No chorus.

Runtime Around 20 minutes.

Music None.

Style Short one-act play. Single set.

Outline Hard at work on his new tragedy about a certain Scotsman, Will Shakespeare is visited by four women from the play, and they're not at all happy with him. They have something to say about the violence and negative portrayal of women.

Work in Progress

Author Damian Trasler

Roles Minimum Male roles = 2. Minimum Female roles = 2. Minimum total with doubling = 4. Minimum total without doubling = 4. No chorus.

Runtime Around 30 minutes.

Music None.

Style Single set, argument amongst Film Noir characters and their writer!

Outline An author struggles to complete a book, contending with his publishing deadline and a group of characters determined to assert their identity.

Writer's Cramp

Author Richard James

Roles Minimum Male roles = 4. Minimum Female roles = 2. Minimum total with doubling = 6. Minimum total without doubling = 9. No chorus.

Runtime Around 35 minutes.

Music None.

Style One-act character-driven comedy.

Outline Hilary Hunter has made his name and fortune writing the Jack Brady movies, but now he's been ousted by a younger man represented by his agent, and he thinks his daughter's new boyfriend may have stolen his wallet. A frantic couple of days in the life of a writer in the twilight of his career.

X-Traordinary Factor

Author Gary Diamond

Roles Minimum Male roles = 5. Minimum Female roles = 3. Minimum total with doubling = 9. Minimum total without doubling = 9. No chorus.

Runtime Around 40 minutes.

Music None.

Style One-act comedy play. Minimal set and simple props (so could easily serve as a very funny festival piece). Contains mild swearing.

Outline In an attempt to escape the law, two bungling would-be thieves crash the auditions for a reality TV talent show. Unfortunately for them, there's a policeman auditioning, as well as a couple of other surprises in store...

Yard Sale

Author Michael Paul

Roles Minimum Male roles = 2. Minimum Female roles = 2. Minimum total with doubling = 4. Minimum total without doubling = 8. No chorus.

Runtime Around 40 minutes.

Music None.

Style One-act comedy play, single set.

Outline Mark and Julie are holding a yard sale, but having strangers rummaging through their possessions brings some darker thoughts and feelings to light, and it's not long before their marriage is at crisis point.

Section 4: One-Act Plays for Adults

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You And Me Makes Three

Author Mark Seaman

Roles Minimum Male roles = 2. Minimum Female roles = 1. Minimum total with doubling = 3. Minimum total without doubling = 3. No chorus.

Runtime Around 50 minutes.

Music None.

Style Emotionally-charged one-act play. Single domestic set.

Outline Paul and Kathy have just returned from Tony's funeral. Though remaining outwardly happy with one another, Kathy remembers the brief affair she had with Tony that might have made him the father of her dead child, and Paul remembers cutting Tony out of their lives, and regrets it.

Zoo

Author Terry Adlam

Roles Minimum Male roles = 4. Minimum Female roles = 1. Minimum total with doubling = 5. Minimum total without doubling = 16. No chorus.

Runtime Around 35 minutes.

Music None.

Style Hilarious one-act comedy. Single set. Contains a little swearing, a little physical violence and a penguin.

Outline It's an important day for the zoo manager - financier Sir Norman is coming for an inspection, and nothing must go wrong. So it would be a bad time for the gibbons to hijack a car, the tractor to run into croc lake and the tiger to take up residence in the coffee shop. And don't ask about the penguin.