

Section 3: Sketches, Skits and Ten-Minute Plays

Part 2: Ten- to Fifteen-Minute Plays for Adults

(Page 1)



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.

A Beautiful Day for a Duel

Author Gerald P. Murphy

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

Runtime Around 10 minutes.

Music None.

Style Ten-minute comedy skit. Single set (with no specific requirements) and a pair as duelling pistols as the main props.

Outline Andre arrives for his sixth duel of the year to find that his day is in danger of being spoiled by his inexperienced opponent.

A Captivating Situation

Author Damian Trasler

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

Runtime Around 12 minutes.

Music None.

Style Short play. Contemporary realism. Single set, simple props.

Outline Howie's having a bad day - he left the house for little shopping, now, a few hours later, he's holed up in an abandoned house with a hostage upstairs and a bullet in his stomach. Can he negotiate a solution with Police Officer Zip before the SWAT team arrives?

A Christmas Carol - The Real Story

Author Colin Calvert

Roles Minimum Male roles = 0. Minimum Female roles = 0. Minimum total with doubling = 2. Minimum total without doubling = 9. No chorus.

Runtime Around 10 minutes.

Music None.

Style Essentially a duologue which could either be done without additional actors, (as an after-dinner piece) or be staged as a narrated mime. Minimal staging requirements. Makes no attempt to be 'politically correct'!

Outline Two narrators tell the story of a modern day Scrooge who's having the wool pulled over his eyes by dishonest Bob Cratchit and his gang of cronies.

A Lottery Ticket

Author Gerald P. Murphy

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

Runtime Around 10 minutes.

Music None.

Style Ten-minute play, adapted from a short story by Anton Chekhov. Single set, simple props (give or take a period telephone).

Outline Sylvia's lottery ticket matches the published part of the winning number. A single phone call will tell her of success or failure, but meanwhile she and her husband contemplate what might happen if she *has* won...

A Meeting on a Train

Author Gerald P. Murphy

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

Runtime Around 10 minutes.

Music None.

Style Ten minute play, based on the short story 'An Enigmatic Nature' by Anton Chekhov. Single set (train carriage, with no specific furnishings), minimal props.

Outline Meeting on a train, Ian tries to impress his travelling companion Ana. As it turns out, Ana impresses him in an unexpected way.

Section 3: Sketches, Skits and Ten-Minute Plays

Part 2: Ten- to Fifteen-Minute Plays for Adults

(Page 2)



A Piece of Cookie

Author Yair Packer

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

Runtime Around 15 minutes.

Music None.

Style Short play, single set, simple props. Includes some swearing.

Outline George and Kelly are waiting in a hotel room whilst their partners are in the next room, consummating an adulterous affair!

After the Matinee

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 10 minutes.

Music None.

Style Ten minute play, with panto actors outside a pantomime - reflective, gently humorous.

Outline In between the Matinee and evening performances of the Panto an old hand explains Amateur Theatre to an enthusiastic Buttons.

An Inn Keeper's Tale

Author Mike Sparks

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

Runtime Around 15 minutes.

Music None.

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

Outline An Innkeeper relates the strange events surrounding a local crucifixion. Various members of the Easter Story drop in to give their view of the events.

An Unlikely Event

Author James Harvey

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

Runtime Around 10 minutes.

Music None.

Style Ten-minute play, single set (a park bench).

Outline What at first appears to be a whimsical exchange between two old men on a park bench takes a turn into more dangerous territory!

At the Gates of Valhalla

Author tlc Creative

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

Runtime Around 15 minutes.

Music None.

Style Fifteen-minute comedy play. Single set (a reception desk and three chairs). Contains mild swearing.

Outline A group of Vikings arrive on the threshold of the afterlife, expecting quaffing and carousing and more enjoyment than they get from a single Valkyrie with a clipboard...

Section 3: Sketches, Skits and Ten-Minute Plays

Part 2: Ten- to Fifteen-Minute Plays for Adults

(Page 3)



Behind Closed Doors

Author Iris Winston

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

Runtime Around 15 minutes.

Music None.

Style Fifteen minute play. Single set (three separate apartments, but could be done in a minimal way).

Outline Michael is trying to get some Christmas commitment from his lover, Harry is waiting for his son to collect him for their meal, and Herta just wants her daughter to phone. Three lonely Christmasses along the same corridor.

Blanket Boy

Author Jack Moskovitz

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

Runtime Around 15 minutes.

Music None.

Style Fifteen-minute play, single contemporary set. Simple props. Contains violence.

Outline Mae is due to catch a late night bus, and Jack comes to see her off, and gets into a confrontation with the Blanket Boy who inhabits the bus station. A confrontation with unforeseen consequences for all concerned.

Boysenberry Park

Author Henry P. Gravelle

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

Runtime Around 10 minutes.

Music None.

Style Ten-minute play about teenagers and their long-suffering parents! Single set (indicative of a forest clearing).

Outline Two families find themselves sharing the same clearing on a camping trip, and things quickly deteriorate between them. The peacemakers come as a surprise.

Bright - A Play About Heaven

Author David Webb

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

Runtime Around 10 minutes.

Music None.

Style Ten minute play with a Christian theme delivered in a direct style. No specific set - requires only a bench.

Outline A man suffering after his second heart attack meets a friend in a beautiful garden, where the air makes him feel better than the doctors have managed. Then he remembers that friend was badly hurt in an accident and begins to realise where he is.

Caught Out

Author Steve Shaw

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

Runtime Around 10 minutes.

Music None.

Style Ten minute comedy play. Single, simple set.

Outline Two burglars break into Mrs. Forester-Brown's House, but their noise attracts attention. Meanwhile, Mrs. Forester-Brown's husband has gone missing...

Section 3: Sketches, Skits and Ten-Minute Plays

Part 2: Ten- to Fifteen-Minute Plays for Adults

(Page 4)



Celebrating Saint Patrick's

Author Olivia Arieti

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

Runtime Around 10 minutes.

Music None.

Style Ten-minute play. Single pub set.

Outline Larry is out to celebrate Saint Patrick's day, but his drinking partner is a little unexpected.

Cheers

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 12 minutes.

Music None.

Style Very short comedy play (or a long sketch) with a single West Country pub setting. *[This sketch has nothing to do with the TV show of the same name.]*

Outline Graham returns home after years away and goes looking for a pint. He asks the landlord what he recommends, and Annie the barmaid certainly gives him something to think about...

Count Ferdinand Von Finkelstein's Fabulous Freak Show

Author Jack Burgess

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

Runtime Around 10 minutes.

Music None.

Style Ten-minute comedy sketch. (Part of the *Acting Funny* collection of sketches.)

Outline Count Ferdinand Von Finkelstein introduces his Fabulous Freak Show and circus, including the not-so-strong man, the non-so-bearded lady and Mickey the Meteorite (who has the temerity to want payment for the privilege of being fired from a cannon).

Couples

Author Bob Tucker

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

Runtime Around 15 minutes.

Music None.

Style A very short farce (mistaken identity, mistaken intentions, that sort of thing). Single set. All characters are adults.

Outline A proposal of marriage is on the cards - but the cards seem to have got a bit shuffled.

Cube Farming

Author Damian Trasler

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

Runtime Around 10 minutes.

Music None.

Style Ten minute comedy play. Single set, Simple props.

Outline It is Marvin's first day at work, where Simon introduces him to his cubicle or PWE (Personal Work environment).

Section 3: Sketches, Skits and Ten-Minute Plays

Part 2: Ten- to Fifteen-Minute Plays for Adults

(Page 5)



Dead Weight

Author Rob Ricards

Roles Minimum Male roles = 3. Minimum Female roles = 0. Minimum total with doubling = 3. Minimum total without doubling = 5. No chorus.

Runtime Around 15 minutes.

Music None.

Style Fifteen minute absurd comedy (with more than a nod to Samuel Beckett). Single, minimal set and a coffin. (Contains swearing.)

Outline Two undertakers, sick of carrying the coffin after their hearse has broken down, ditch the corpse out to lighten their load. The corpse is happily reanimated by a couple of passing tramps.
(The author provides hints as to the identity of the corpse, but also provides alternative hints - with the option of choosing a death to suit the production!)

Difficult People

Author Gerald P. Murphy

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

Runtime Around 15 minutes.

Music None.

Style Fifteen minute play, single set, simple props, adapted from a short story by Anton Chekhov.

Outline A family disagreement over how the money should be spent - or is it?

Double Walker

Author Henry P. Gravelle

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

Runtime Around 10 minutes.

Music None.

Style Ten-minute play, single interior (psychiatrist's office) set.

Outline Bruce Arnold is referred to Psychiatrist Maria Dobbs after being linked to a series of deaths. He claims it is his shadow, his doppelganger that kills people who make him angry. Can the Doctor get to the truth... or is it already too late?

Duck

Author Bob Tucker

Roles Minimum Male roles = 0. Minimum Female roles = 0. Minimum total with doubling = 9. Minimum total without doubling = 9. No chorus.

Runtime Around 10 minutes.

Music None.

Style Ten-minute comedy play. Single set (no real set requirements)

Outline Three different varieties of duck are arguing about which is the true Duck, when they are united by the threatening behaviour of the ruling swans. Sadly, before their revolution can get off the ground, three duck hunters arrive.

Emporium

Author Bob Tucker

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

Runtime Around 10 minutes.

Music None.

Style Ten-minute comedy play. Single set (simple shop). Simple props.

Outline No matter what the problem, our happy smiling staff are always here to blame the customer!

Section 3: Sketches, Skits and Ten-Minute Plays

Part 2: Ten- to Fifteen-Minute Plays for Adults

(Page 6)



Emporium 2

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 15 minutes.

Music None.

Style Fifteen-minute comedy play, single (simple) set, simple props.

Outline The Emporium has been broken into overnight (after the staff closed the shop at 5:37 the previous evening) and P.C. Bromley is sent to investigate. Ms. Dressoir, the shop owner, has some specific ideas about how the investigation should continue and how P.C. Bromley should stay away from her daughter Michelle. (Set in the same establishment as 'Emporium', so could be played stand-alone or as a sequel.)

End of the Road Pub - a play about Hell

Author David Webb

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

Runtime Around 10 minutes.

Music None.

Style Ten-minute play with a Christian perspective on the riskier areas of the afterlife. (Single public bar setting, simple props.)

Outline Marty and Jim stagger into a pub after a nasty car crash. They have a drink to steady their nerves but soon notice something strange about the pub. It turns out that crash was nastier than they thought and they've got their own lock-in, forever!

Feeding the Ducks

Author Paul Mathews

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

Runtime Around 10 minutes.

Music None.

Style Ten-minute play - a two-handed comedy with some serious edges and good acting opportunities. Simple set (a bench) and ducks brought to life by sound effects.

Outline Moira loves to feed the ducks, and has done so ever since her husband died. But Paul is an ornithologist on a mission to save ducks from those who clog their crops with damp bread!

Fling Story

Author Tom Jensen

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

Runtime Around 10 minutes.

Music None.

Style Absurdist ten-minute black comedy play used to study a relationship. No set requirements, simple props.

Outline Karen and Richard reveal the extent of their affair to the audience and its sudden, climactic ending. (See also 'Fling Story - Alternative Version' - the same tale, with a less brutal ending.)

Fling Story - Alternative Version

Author Tom Jensen

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

Runtime Around 10 minutes.

Music None.

Style Absurdist ten-minute black comedy play used to study a relationship. No set requirements, simple props.

Outline Karen and Richard reveal the extent of their affair to the audience and how it all ends. (See also 'Fling Story' - the same tale, with a different ending.)

Section 3: Sketches, Skits and Ten-Minute Plays

Part 2: Ten- to Fifteen-Minute Plays for Adults

(Page 7)



Getting It Off

Author Ray Lawrence

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

Runtime Around 10 minutes.

Music None.

Style Ten-minute comedy play. Single (café) set. Simple props.

Outline Shirley and Tracey reflect on the struggle for weight loss in a café.

Great Moments in History, Number 3

Author Jack Burgess

Roles Minimum Male roles = 4. Minimum Female roles = 0. Minimum total with doubling = 4. Minimum total without doubling = 10. Chorus.

Runtime Around 10 minutes.

Music Script includes a parody of the title song from Oklahoma. Lazy Bee Scripts does not supply any sheet music with this script.

Style Musical skit, parodying the creative process! (Part of the *Acting Funny* collection of sketches.)

Outline The Rogers and Frankenstein Story! Richard Rogers and his collaborator, Oscar Frankenstein III, ponder the creation of a new Broadway musical, whilst eating pizza.

Great Moments in History, Number 4

Author Jack Burgess

Roles Minimum Male roles = 0. Minimum Female roles = 1. Minimum total with doubling = 4. Minimum total without doubling = 4. No chorus.

Runtime Around 10 minutes.

Music None.

Style Ten-minute skit. Contains mild swearing. (Part of the *Acting Funny* collection of sketches.)

Outline Christmas - The Untold Story. In which an angel takes a wrong turning...

Guilt

Author Robbie Flowers

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

Runtime Around 15 minutes.

Music None.

Style A short emotional, possibly edgy, play. Minimal set, but a significant prop (a chest). Contains mild swearing.

Outline Angela is suffering for something she did. Until she agrees to talk about it, Sally won't let her out of the box. As Angela opens up, we find that Sally has more than a passing involvement in Angela's suffering.

Henry VIII

Author Archie Wilson

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

Runtime Around 15 minutes.

Music None.

Style Fifteen-minute historical romp! (The history is rough-and-ready rather than scrupulously accurate!)

Outline Henry The Eighth walks amongst his people and is struck by the lewd advances of Anne Boleyn, leading him to split from the Catholic church to obtain his divorce from Katherine of Aragon.

Section 3: Sketches, Skits and Ten-Minute Plays

Part 2: Ten- to Fifteen-Minute Plays for Adults

(Page 8)



Hi Santa, Remember Me?

Author Trevor Suthers

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

Runtime Around 10 minutes.

Music None.

Style Ten-minute dark comedy play. Single (simple barroom) set. Contains mild swearing.

Outline Trying to have a quiet drink in his off-season, Santa is accosted by someone claiming to be his biggest fan, but who actually has a complaint to make...

Home News

Author Tom Jensen

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

Runtime Around 10 minutes.

Music None.

Style Ten minute comedy sketch, packed with opportunities for over-acting. Single set (a news desk).

Outline A domestic crisis viewed through the eyes of a local news team. A comic look at marital break-up.

Human Relations

Author Mark Niel

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

Runtime Around 10 minutes.

Music None.

Style Ten minute comedy play, single (restaurant table) set, simple props.

Outline Paula thinks she's just meeting her boyfriend for a pleasant evening out together, but he's an HR manager, and it's been a year since they started going out, so there's got to be an annual review!

In God's Office

Author Damian Trasler

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

Runtime Around 10 minutes.

Music None.

Style Short two-handed play with a Christian perspective. Single office set.

Outline A delivery man enters the wrong office by mistake and finds himself discussing free will with God.

In the Gallery

Author Damian Trasler

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

Runtime Around 10 minutes.

Music None.

Style Whimsical ten-minute play in which two paintings converse. Single set - an art gallery, mainly with two large frames, simple props.

Outline It's night time in the gallery and the portraits of the Mona Lisa and the Scream are talking art...

Section 3: Sketches, Skits and Ten-Minute Plays

Part 2: Ten- to Fifteen-Minute Plays for Adults

(Page 9)



Jumping Jasper

Author Yair Packer

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

Runtime Around 10 minutes.

Music None.

Style Ten minute play. Dark comedy. Single set. (Contains swearing.)

Outline It's almost dawn, and a man is about to jump out of an office window - except that he hasn't reckoned on the bag lady in the street below.

Keeping Fit

Author Archie Wilson

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

Runtime Around 15 minutes.

Music None.

Style Fifteen-minute play, set in a fitness room.

Outline Two old friends are working out whether they need to work out at the gym, and discussing life and love while they're about it. A gentleman enters, but will he come between them?

Last of the Meagans

Author Henry P. Gravelle

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

Runtime Around 10 minutes.

Music None.

Style Ten-minute play, single set. Minimal props. Contains adult themes.

Outline A father argues with his remaining son after the funeral of his youngest son, a victim of the Iraq war. Family revelations follow harsh words and it's left to Mom to hold the family together.

Life

Author Bob Tucker

Roles Minimum Male roles = 0. Minimum Female roles = 6. Minimum total with doubling = 7. Minimum total without doubling = 7. No chorus.

Runtime Around 10 minutes.

Music None.

Style Ten minute comedy play. Single café set.

Outline Three pairs of women take separate tales at a café and discuss their lives, only to find that all of them have at least their opinions in common.

Location, Location

Author Ray Lawrence

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

Runtime Around 10 minutes.

Music None.

Style Ten-minute comedy sketch, single set, simple props.

Outline Colonel Wesley-Brown is having trouble finding a house to suit his requirements - but Mr. Grabb the estate agent is on hand to help.

Section 3: Sketches, Skits and Ten-Minute Plays

Part 2: Ten- to Fifteen-Minute Plays for Adults

(Page 10)



Make Me a Celebrity - Now!

Author Trevor Suthers

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

Runtime Around 10 minutes.

Music None.

Style Monologue. No set, no props. Contains swearing.

Outline A rant about the desire for fame.

Marigolds

Author John Chambers

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

Runtime Around 15 minutes.

Music None.

Style Hilarious fifteen-minute comedy. Simple single set. Simple props. Contains swearing.

Outline Harry is having trouble with his piles, and needs his wife Margaret to... take the problem in hand, so to speak. She's reluctant to use her lovely washing-up gloves for such a personal task, but he is adamant. While they struggle to... rectify... the problem, a few other things pop out that Harry had no idea about.

Medieval Help Desk

Author tlc Creative

Roles Minimum Male roles = 0. Minimum Female roles = 0. Minimum total with doubling = 3. Minimum total without doubling = 7. No chorus.

Runtime Around 10 minutes.

Music None.

Style Comedy sketch - a torrent of parody and puns - set in a medieval office.

Outline You've reached the Medieval Help Desk. How can we give you excellent service?

Modern Santa

Author Colin Calvert

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

Runtime Around 15 minutes.

Music None.

Style Fifteen-minute skit. No specific set requirements, and no requirement for movement. (Could be done as a party-piece or front-of-curtain during a set change). Contains mild swearing and adult humour.

Outline Santa appears before a committee vetting his application for seasonal work. (They suggest that his contract needs additional clauses.)

Mr. Willoughby

Author Peter Lancaster Walker

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

Runtime Around 12 minutes.

Music None.

Style A comedy sketch (simple set, simple props) featuring a switchback conversation and corn circles!

Outline An Alien Abductee is interviewed by a sceptical journalist, providing some surprising answers.

Section 3: Sketches, Skits and Ten-Minute Plays

Part 2: Ten- to Fifteen-Minute Plays for Adults

(Page 11)



Murder At Merryweather Mansion

Author Lauren Jones

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

Runtime Around 10 minutes.

Music None.

Style Sketch-length murder mystery parody. In theory, two sets, but the opening scene could be delivered front-of curtain or in a spotlight to one side of the stage.

Outline When the odorous Mike Merryweather is murdered in his own living room, Detective McGloclyn is left with a roomful of suspects and more than a few clues and motives. His keen detective sense may not be up to unmasking the killer.

Murder in the Greenroom

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?

Nelson's Driving Test

Author tlc Creative

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

Runtime Around 15 minutes.

Music None.

Style Comedy sketch, with verbal and visual gags and anachronisms. Single set (can be very simple).

Outline A young Horatio Nelson prepares to take his Naval Captaincy Proficiency Test in front of an eager TV crew.

Norma's Scent

Author Yair Packer

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

Runtime Around 15 minutes.

Music None.

Style Short play, single set, simple props.

Outline Alan is trying to come to terms with the death of his wife. He discovers that Mary, his wife's friend, also wants to preserve her memory.

Not Long Before Waking

Author Matthew Taylor

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

Runtime Around 10 minutes.

Music None.

Style Theatrical surrealism (the actors are on stage, but their dialogue comes through a soundtrack). Short play, single set, a few props.

Outline Two characters share a discussion inside a strange dream. The devil observes!

Section 3: Sketches, Skits and Ten-Minute Plays

Part 2: Ten- to Fifteen-Minute Plays for Adults

(Page 12)



On A Street Corner

Author Damian Trasler

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

Runtime Around 15 minutes.

Music None.

Style Fifteen-minute play. Single set (representing a street corner, but no real set requirements).

Outline Street corner preaching meets the Da Vinci code in a brief examination of religious truth and meaning.

Panto Question Time

Author Sue Gordon

Roles Minimum Male roles = 0. Minimum Female roles = 4. Minimum total with doubling = 6. Minimum total without doubling = 6. No chorus.

Runtime Around 10 minutes.

Music None.

Style Ten-minute sketch, combining pantomime themes with the format of the TV 'Question Time' panel format.

Outline Cinderella's Stepmother, Alice (Mrs. Whittington), the Giant's Wife (from the top of the beanstalk) and Jack's Mother (from the other end) take questions from (planted in!) the audience and might well come to blows...

Peace

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 10 minutes.

Music None.

Style Comedy, somewhere on the boundary between a sketch and a ten-minute play! Single set, simple props, lots of loud sound-effects.

Outline A couple try to relax in the idyllic atmosphere of their holiday cottage, despite the wildlife, the handyman and the building work going on down the road, but is there worse on the way?

Pet Shop Solutions

Author Tom Jensen

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

Runtime Around 10 minutes.

Music None.

Style Ten minute comedy play, in which business fads are imposed upon a pet shop. Contains mild swearing.

Outline Two people running a pet shop receive an unwelcome visit from a Management Consultant from Head Office. She leaves them in a spin.

Reading by Firelight

Author Margaret Histed

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

Runtime Around 15 minutes.

Music None.

Style A touching short play (three 'acts', but a total time of only 15 minutes). Single domestic set - mainly indicated by a few essential props. Contains one mild swear-word (which can be dropped at the director's discretion).

Outline Eddie's family surprise him with a party on his seventieth birthday, but there's a row and his granddaughter leaves suddenly. She returns later to open her heart to the old man and gain some understanding.

Section 3: Sketches, Skits and Ten-Minute Plays

Part 2: Ten- to Fifteen-Minute Plays for Adults

(Page 13)



Reality?

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 15 minutes.

Music None.

Style Startling fifteen minute play. Single set (just a couch), minimal props.

Outline What's going on? They appear to be a family, but they don't agree about who's who - or, indeed anything else!
Parallel universes are colliding in one house, causing confusion about identity, location and time.
(Okay, strictly, if they are parallel it should not be possible for them to collide, but the grammatical part of 'Multiverse' theory is not yet as advanced as the mathematics, so you'll just have to put up with an imprecise description!)

Saving India

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 10 minutes.

Music None.

Style Ten minute play, single set.

Outline A short political sketch in which three Indian government secretaries discuss their plans for the nation - and their own advancement - whilst puffing on their Cuban cigars.

Schoolroom Sketch

Author tlc Creative

Roles Minimum Male roles = 1. Minimum Female roles = 0. Minimum total with doubling = 6. Minimum total without doubling = 6. Chorus.

Runtime Around 15 minutes.

Music None.

Style Sketch extract from English Pantomime - knockabout clowning and wordplay

Outline A teacher contends with a disruptive class!

Secrets

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 10 minutes.

Music None.

Style Ten-Minute comedy play. Single interior set. (Contains a little swearing.)

Outline A case of mistaken identity leads D.I. Dourbridge and Daphne, his probationary constable, to the home of Dafydd Jones, a home which Jones seems to be in a hurry to depart.

Singulatitis

Author Troy Shearer

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

Runtime Around 10 minutes.

Music None.

Style Ten minute surreal comedy sketch, set in a doctor's surgery.

Outline A man with extreme hiccups receives a strange and fateful diagnosis from his doctor.

Section 3: Sketches, Skits and Ten-Minute Plays

Part 2: Ten- to Fifteen-Minute Plays for Adults

(Page 14)



Smokes

Author Mike Smith

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

Runtime Around 10 minutes.

Music None.

Style Ten minute play - a mime with words. No props (which is rather the point!) The set is a door and a pile of chairs. Note that this is written in British English which differs from US English in one of its slang synonyms for 'cigarette'.

Outline A man and woman discover one another while hiding from a book launch and looking for a cigarette. They resort to imagination for smokes and escape to the top of a mountain, before regaining their courage and rejoining the launch.

Standing Room Only

Author James Harvey

Roles Minimum Male roles = 0. Minimum Female roles = 1. Minimum total with doubling = 7. Minimum total without doubling = 7. No chorus.

Runtime Around 10 minutes.

Music None.

Style Ten minute play, single set (the minimum required to indicate a waiting room). Contains mild swearing.

Outline A group of people are being kept waiting - in hell. How long are they going to have to hang around for their share of eternal damnation?

Strange New Worlds

Author Damian Trasler

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

Runtime Around 10 minutes.

Music None.

Style Sketch, minimal set, a few simple props, Science Fiction (TV) parody [Okay, early Star Trek!]

Outline Three members of the Galaxy Patrol, Security Branch, are on the surface of an alien planet. Bearing in mind they're all wearing red jerseys, how many will get off the planet alive?

Sweet and Spooky

Author Olivia Arieti

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

Runtime Around 12 minutes.

Music None.

Style Ten-minute play (give or take a couple of minutes). A gently humorous teenage ghost story.

Outline Millie wants to be a writer, and she wants Pete, her handsome schoolfriend, to look through her latest work. The trouble is that Millie's ex-boyfriend is dead. Dead but not forgotten - his ghost haunts the attic room where she writes.

Territorial Actors

Author tlc Creative

Roles Minimum Male roles = 2. Minimum Female roles = 1. Minimum total with doubling = 4. Minimum total without doubling = 7. Chorus.

Runtime Around 10 minutes.

Music None.

Style Ten minute skit, no set requirements. Single prop (a field telephone)

Outline A drill sergeant takes a set of rookie part-time actors through their paces.

Section 3: Sketches, Skits and Ten-Minute Plays

Part 2: Ten- to Fifteen-Minute Plays for Adults

(Page 15)



The Affidavit

Author Janet S. Tiger

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

Runtime Around 15 minutes.

Music None.

Style Fifteen-minute play. Single set (a pawn shop in New York in the 1940s). A brief glimpse into individual lives, set against the background of the holocaust.

Outline Hilda Gruenberg has to renew her father's visa affidavit to stand a chance of getting him out of Nazi Germany to join her in America, but it'll cost her \$650. She believes her family heirloom ring is worth \$10,000, so she's shocked when the pawnshop owner, Mr Meyer, only offers her \$650 for it. Why is he taking advantage of her desperation, and is she too proud to accept?

The Atheist Missionaries

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 10 minutes.

Music None.

Style Short play with a Christian perspective. Single set (informal party)

Outline A party is no place for Religion or Politics, but Brian is a recent convert to Christianity. Will his friends resist the urge to un-convert him?

The Audition

Author Sue Gordon

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

Runtime Around 10 minutes.

Music None.

Style Ten-minute play, single set (café interior). Simple props.

Outline Whilst their daughters audition for a ballet, a group of mothers assembles in a café for a backbiting competition!

The Birth of Womankind

Author tlc Creative

Roles Minimum Male roles = 0. Minimum Female roles = 10. Minimum total with doubling = 10. Minimum total without doubling = 10. No chorus.

Runtime Around 15 minutes.

Music None.

Style Sketch with minimal set requirements, just a few props. Vaguely sci-fi genre.

Outline In a society in which all men have been wiped out, the survivors try to come to grips with their roles.

The Cat Club

Author Dominique Vaughan

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

Runtime Around 10 minutes.

Music None.

Style Ten minute play - a comedy and character piece with a single bar-room set.

Outline A group of cats meet up at their regular haunt to share some sad news about one of their number. They remember her fondly (in the main) and decide how they will go on.

Section 3: Sketches, Skits and Ten-Minute Plays

Part 2: Ten- to Fifteen-Minute Plays for Adults

(Page 16)



The Christmas Play

Author Peter Lancaster Walker

Roles Minimum Male roles = 12. Minimum Female roles = 7. Minimum total with doubling = 20. Minimum total without doubling = 20. Chorus.

Runtime Around 15 minutes.

Music Suitable Christmas carols are suggested in the Producer's copy of the script. Lazy Bee Scripts does not supply any sheet music with this script.

Style Fifteen minute play. Simple hospital set, used to frame the nativity play within the play.

Outline Missing the school Nativity play, thanks to a broken toe, Sarah is sulking, but the nurse has an idea. Soon a cast is assembling for the hospital ward Nativity and Sarah gets to sing along after all.

The Fall Guy

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 15 minutes.

Music None.

Style A fifteen minute play (nominally in two acts!), a single dressing room set.

Outline Two ageing thespians compete to inveigle the assistance of the newcomer in disabling the other. When push comes to shove, however, they find it's easier to put their differences aside and close ranks against him.

The Family Planning Clinic

Author Damian Trasler

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

Runtime Around 10 minutes.

Music None.

Style Ten-minute comedy play, single set (or four pieces of furniture to indicate a set).

Outline When Suzie visits her local Family Planning Clinic, the advice she receives is not quite what she expected

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 Haunting of Hardup Hall

Author David Lovesy & Steve Clark

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

Runtime Around 10 minutes.

Music None.

Style Short humorous ghost story told in verse

Outline Lord and Lady Hardup are at their wits end. Their mansion is being haunted by a fearsome spook and soon they will be forced to flee! Mystic Maureen, psychic extraordinaire is called to save them from the spirits!

Section 3: Sketches, Skits and Ten-Minute Plays

Part 2: Ten- to Fifteen-Minute Plays for Adults

(Page 17)



The Law is an Ass

Author Ray Lawrence

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

Runtime Around 10 minutes.

Music None.

Style Ten minute comedy play, single courtroom set.

Outline Old Lag Eddie Larsen is up in front of the beak again. Caught red handed climbing out of a shop window with a bag of swag, it looks like he's going down. But in a stroke of brilliance he defends himself with his own personal philosophy, making a believer out of the judge and earning himself a most unusual sentence.

The Loss of Atlantis

Author Damian Trasler

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

Runtime Around 10 minutes.

Music None.

Style Sketch, minimal set, a few simple props.

Outline Atlantis is in danger of sinking beneath the waves - but wait! A committee is on hand to save it!

The Loss of Atlantis 2

Author Damian Trasler

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

Runtime Around 10 minutes.

Music None.

Style Sketch, minimal set, a few simple props.

Outline Subtitled 'An Atlantean at the Court of King Hotcotapetappl'. Three survivors from the deluge compare strategies for introducing Atlantean civilization to the savage land on which they have been washed up. The sequel to the 'Loss of Atlantis' (though it also works as an independent play.)

The Love Clinic

Author Damian Trasler

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

Runtime Around 15 minutes.

Music None.

Style Fifteen-minute comedy play. Single set (simple office), simple props.

Outline Welcome to The Love Clinic, a dating agency which will solve all your relationship problems - or so the nervous Steven hopes...

The Script

Author Trevor Suthers

Roles Minimum Male roles = 0. Minimum Female roles = 2. Minimum total with doubling = 4. Minimum total without doubling = 4. No chorus.

Runtime Around 15 minutes.

Music None.

Style Fifteen minute play. No set requirements, simplest of props (four scripts!). Contains mild swearing.

Outline A Producer, Director and Actor have called a meeting to tell the writer of a play that they loved it so much they want to change every aspect of it.

Section 3: Sketches, Skits and Ten-Minute Plays

Part 2: Ten- to Fifteen-Minute Plays for Adults

(Page 18)



The Secret of Giving Up Smoking

Author Damian Trasler

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

Runtime Around 10 minutes.

Music None.

Style Ten minute play. Contemporary realism. Simple set, simple props.

Outline Barry and Nancy attend Celia's 'Give up smoking' seminar, but will it be the painless solution they're both looking for, or just another expensive con?

The Story of an Hour

Author Gerald P. Murphy

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

Runtime Around 10 minutes.

Music None.

Style Ten-minute play, single set, simple props.

Outline Louise Mallard's husband Brently has been killed in a train accident and her sister Josephine and husband's friend Barton try to break the news to her in a way that won't disturb her heart condition. They are unaware of how trapped she feels by the marriage and the freedom that her husband's death gives. However Barton has been given the wrong information by the police and Brently arrives just as Louise is planning her long, free life.

Them

Author Bob Tucker

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

Runtime Around 12 minutes.

Music None.

Style Comedy sketch, taking a birds-eye view of humanity. Contains mild swearing.

Outline A family of birds discuss the peculiar creatures on the ground below them before they set off on their migration.

Three Sons

Author Damian Trasler

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

Runtime Around 10 minutes.

Music None.

Style Sketch, contemporary, minimal set, one simple prop.

Outline Waiting for a connecting flight, three men find they have something in common, though one is keeping a secret...

To Be Hamlet

Author Olivia Arieti

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

Runtime Around 10 minutes.

Music None.

Style Ten-minute play. Simplest set - a bare stage - simple props.

Outline An actor struggles with the role of Hamlet as Hamlet struggles with his destiny.

Section 3: Sketches, Skits and Ten-Minute Plays

Part 2: Ten- to Fifteen-Minute Plays for Adults

(Page 19)



Tommy's Burglar

Author Rob Burbidge

Roles Minimum Male roles = 1. Minimum Female roles = 0. Minimum total with doubling = 2. Minimum total without doubling = 2. No chorus.

Runtime Around 12 minutes.

Music None.

Style A very short play for two actors (based on a short story by O. Henry).

Outline Tommy is a sweet child, doomed to be in a story where he interrupts a burglar about his nefarious business and inevitably sets back on the road to righteousness. The burglar for his part, is disgruntled about endlessly burgling houses at the whim of the narrator only to be redirected by a succession of sickly sweet kids. A knowing comic sketch.

Twixt Heaven and Hell

Author Jack Burgess

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

Runtime Around 10 minutes.

Music None.

Style Ten-minute sketch. (Part of the *Acting Funny* collection of sketches.)

Outline The gatekeepers above and below argue about the disposition of new arrivals.

up & down

Author Rob Ricards

Roles Minimum Male roles = 0. Minimum Female roles = 0. Minimum total with doubling = 1. Minimum total without doubling = 2. No chorus.

Runtime Around 15 minutes.

Music None.

Style Fifteen minute play - essentially a monologue - set on the step ladder that is life!

Outline A character reviews the events of his (or her) life, using a handy step ladder as a metaphor.

War Prayer

Author Mark Twain adapted by Gerald P. Murphy

Roles Minimum Male roles = 2. Minimum Female roles = 2. Minimum total with doubling = 8. Minimum total without doubling = 9. Chorus.

Runtime Around 10 minutes.

Music None.

Style Ten minute play. No specific set requirements and only one prop (a rope).

Outline Mark Twain was no pacifist, but here he brings an angel to explain to a congregation the difference between a just war and Jingoism. (Human frailty prevails.)

Wink

Author Henry P. Gravelle

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

Runtime Around 10 minutes.

Music None.

Style Ten-minute romantic comedy. Single simple set (just a table and two chairs to simulate a small café).

Outline Ted is waiting nervously for his 'wink' - a sort of pre-date date. His nerves are soothed by a helpful waitress who lets him in on some of the mysteries of womankind. When his wink doesn't even stay for coffee, Ted finds love anyway...

Section 3: Sketches, Skits and Ten-Minute Plays

Part 2: Ten- to Fifteen-Minute Plays for Adults

(Page 20)



Yes, but how was the play, Mrs. Lincoln?

Author Damian Trasler

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

Runtime Around 10 minutes.

Music None.

Style Philosophical argument, set in a scrap yard! Single simple set.

Outline Does happiness come from going out and getting experiences or from appreciating what you have? (Or, come to that, from finding a distributor for a 1985 Ford Fiesta?)

You Will Go No More A-Haunting

Author Ray Lawrence

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

Runtime Around 12 minutes.

Music None.

Style Comedy sketch, of puns and strange ideas about the afterlife. Single office set. Contains mild swearing.

Outline Sir Thomas Pickington has been happily haunting the same spot for 500 years, but now he's up against the new HSE - the Haunting Safety Executive, and they have some different ideas about how he should be doing his haunting.

Yreka Bakery

Author Gerald P. Murphy

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

Runtime Around 10 minutes.

Music None.

Style Ten-minute comedy play, single set (a café table).

Outline A man visits his friend in Yreka, California, only to discover that it's a bit of a backwards town - but not in the way you might think. Palindromes and reverse psychology might be the only way out...
(Yreka is a real town in Northern California - one very familiar to the author - but with no evidence of the problems uncovered in this sketch!)