



Great Plays for Small Casts

Alan Brodie Representation

May 2020

Most of the titles listed in this document are for casts of 4 and under. They include some plays for children and young people. Some are designed to be played through without an interval and this is indicated where possible. Please note that inclusion of titles in this catalogue does not imply automatic availability. For more information, please contact Alan Brodie Representation.

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BERTOLT BRECHT

The Beggar or the Dead Dog (1919) DRAMA

Cast: 2m (plus soldiers)

A victorious Emperor stumbles across a beggar on the road and strikes up a conversation with him. Unimpressed by the Emperor's rank in society, the beggar plays devil's advocate to all his ideas.

Fear and Misery of the Third Reich (1938) DRAMA

Short Plays

A sequence of naturalistic short sketches, designed to be played separately or together, looking at life under the Nazis. Includes The Jewish Wife, which is often performed alone.

Dansen (1939) DRAMA

Cast: 2m

Dansen is a pig farmer and an upstanding member of the community. His cosy arrangement is upset by the arrival of a stranger who is intent on breaking contracts and instigating a hostile takeover.

How Much Is Your Iron? (1939) DRAMA

One-Act Play

Cast: 2f, 4m (possible with 3 people)

Svendson is an ironmonger who picks up a wealthy, new customer with a fervent desire for iron bars. His keenness is cooled when he discovers that this new customer is stockpiling weapons.

NOËL COWARD

The Better Half (1922) COMEDY

One-Act Play

Cast: 2f, 1m

Alice and David are in an unhappy marriage; Marion is the understanding friend whom David wants to have an affair with. Alice tries to push David and Marion together by confessing to affairs of her own and David infuriates her by being so very understanding about it all!

Tonight at 8:30 (1935)

One-Act Plays

Cast: 1f, 1m

A cycle of 10 one-act plays, which can all be performed separately. Most have large casts but some, including Red Peppers and Fumed Oak, can be done with four performers. From vaudeville to satire, from farce to intricate comedy of manners, from melodrama to romance, these plays span the full, glorious range of Coward's writing.

Suite in Three Keys (1966) DRAMA

Three plays about mature relationships each set in the same luxury suite in a Swiss hotel.

- **A Song At Twilight**
Cast: 2f, 2m
- **Shadows of the Evening**
Cast: 2f, 2m
- **Come Into The Garden Maude**
Cast: 2f, 2m

Noël and Gertie (1983) MUSICAL ENTERTAINMENT

One-Act Play (90 minutes)

Cast: 1f, 1m plus a pianist

This witty and moving show from Sheridan Morley tells of the friendship between two of this century's greatest stage personalities: Gertrude Lawrence and Noël Coward.

Love, Noël (2014) MUSICAL ENTERTAINMENT

One-Act Play (75 minutes)

Cast: 1f, 1m

Based on his book, Barry Day's *Love, Noël: The Letters and Songs of Noel Coward* is the dramatic staging of the letters and correspondence of the playwright, director, actor, composer and singer.

TIM FIRTH

Neville's Island (1992) COMEDY

Can be played in the round with no set

Cast: 4m

Four out-of-condition, middle-aged businessmen sent off on a team-building exercise in the Lake District succeed in being the first people ever to get shipwrecked on an island on Derwentwater. What should have been a bonding process for Gordon, Angus, Roy and Neville turns into a muddy, bloody fight for survival.

Sign of the Times (2011) COMEDY

Can be produced as two one-act plays under the titles A Man of Letters and Absolutely Frank

Cast: 2m

A middle-aged man with years of experience in his job encounters a reluctant work-experience teenager; they meet again under apparently very changed circumstances five years later.

JOHN GODBER

Bouncers (1983) COMEDY

Cast: 4m

Lucky Eric, Judd, Les and Ralph are the original men in black as they tell the tale of one night in a Yorkshire disco in the 80's in this outrageous parody of Saturday Night Fever! All the gang are out on the town, the boys, the girls, the cheesy DJ, the late night kebab man and the taxi home, all under the watchful eyes of the Bouncers.

Teechers (1984) COMEDY

Cast: 1f, 2m

Gail, Hobby and Salty, three fifth-form students, tell the hilarious story of an idealistic new teacher in his perilous first days inside a local comprehensive school.

September in the Rain (1984) COMEDY

90 minutes

Cast: 1f, 1m

Jack and Liz take their annual seaside holiday. Through nostalgic songs and reminiscences, their lives together are brought vividly to life, as we see a new side to Jack and Liz, away from their domestic environment.

Happy Jack (1985) COMEDY

90 minutes

Cast: 1f, 1m

Written a year after September in the Rain, we here encounter the same two characters, Liz and Jack, addressing the audience about the biographical details of the characters they play, and then slipping into those characters.

April in Paris (1992) COMEDY

Cast: 1f, 1m

Bet and Al lead a quiet, humdrum life in their small Yorkshire home until Bet wins a 'Romantic Breaks' competition in a magazine: a holiday in Paris. Their first experience abroad has profound effects on the way they look at the world around them once they return home.

Beef (2004) COMEDY

Cast: 1m

Bullied at school, Dave Cookson's only escape is his Dad's homemade gym, where he tries to get the physique of his bodybuilding idol, Arnold Schwarzenegger. Now he's 17 stone of rippling muscle and ready to take control of his destiny. But it's not only Dave's body that's changed; so has his mind, and he's struggling to control both.

Shafted! (2015) DRAMA

Cast: 1f, 1m

In 1985 the miners were defeated, their families were torn apart and the media circus went home. John Godber's epic new play traces what happened to miner Harry and his wife Dot in the thirty years after the strike.

Scary Bikers (2018) COMEDY

Cast: 1f, 1m

When retired miner Don and former private school teacher Carol meet at a bereavement group, they thought they'd found a new beginning. But a bike ride through Europe would test their budding romance, and the road to love is rocky when an unstoppable force meets an immovable object.

JOHN GODBER & JANE THORNTON**Shakers (1984)** COMEDY

Cast: 4f

Shakers Cocktail Bar is THE place to be! After work, before a club, to meet the blokes, to pick up the girls, to drink to celebrate or drown your sorrows, for birthdays and parties and romance and sin, this is the place to be seen. Four young waitresses reveal the lives of its staff and customers and offer an insight into their hopes, dreams and disappointments.

Lost and Found (2012) COMEDY*Two 55 minute plays designed to be performed together*

Cast: 1f, 1m

Lost, by Jane Thornton, and Found, by John Godber, are written as a double bill.

Lost starts at the beginning of Scarborough's summer season. Tom and Chelsea have holiday jobs at the Court Hotel. They love their work – they could watch it all day, especially guests Len and Betty. So when the septuagenarian Palm Court Boys band are delayed, Tom and Chelsea must fill the entertainment slot with their take on Len and Betty's tribulations.

In Found, it's the last night of the summer season. Tom and Chelsea's holiday jobs are now a distant memory. There'll be no more nights on the town, beer at the beach huts and surfing on the sea, as he goes back to university and she's headed for the dole. The summer season at the Court Hotel may have brought them together but fate will pull them apart.

GRAHAM GREENE**Yes and No (1980)** EXPERIMENTAL

Cast: 2m

A short experimental play recording a conversation between an unnamed Director and an unnamed Actor in which the latter's only lines with the Director are the words 'yes' and 'no'.

Travels with my Aunt (1989) DRAMA

Cast: 9f, 13m (potential for multiple doubling; done with 4m at Menier Chocolate Factory in 2013)

Adapted by Giles Havergal

Henry Pulling, a recently retired bank manager, forms a bond with his eccentric Aunt Augusta whom he meets for the first time at his mother's funeral. The odd pair subsequently decide to embark on a journey way across Europe, and eventually even further afield.

Our Man in Havana (2007) COMEDY

Cast: 1f, 3m (playing a variety of roles)

Adapted by Clive Francis

Jim Wormold, an under-employed vacuum cleaner salesman living in 1950s Cuba, is struggling to pay for his teenage daughter's increasingly extravagant lifestyle. So when the British Secret Service offers him the chance to become 'their man in Havana', he cannot afford to say no.

JOHN HOPKINS

Find Your Way Home (1974) DRAMA

Cast: 1f, 3m

1970s England. Julian has decided to drown his sorrows by becoming a sex worker after his married lover has left him. An intense, brutal and compelling examination of sexuality, marriage and love.

MIKE KENNY

Caitlin (2003) BIOGRAPHY

One-Act Play

Cast: 1f

One woman play about the wife of Dylan Thomas and their difficult relationship and her frustrations at having given up her own ambitions as a dancer to raise their children.

Follow Me (2015) DRAMA

80 minutes

Cast: 1f/m

Reworking of Pied Piper story, inspired by the girls that left London to join Isis. Played by an actor with disabilities.

For Children:

Sink or Swim (1994)

90 minutes

Cast: 2f, 2m

A witty, modern spin on the story of Noah's Ark. A family bicker and banter as they try to cope with life on their boat. Will people live in harmony? Will there be an end to cruelty? Will lions be vegetarian?

Walking the Tightrope (2000)

75 minutes

Cast: 1f, 1m

Every year right at the end of summer just before the leaves turn brown and fall from the trees, Esme comes to stay with her Nanna and Granddad...but this year something is different; Nanna Queenie is gone.

Visiting Grandad (2001)

75 minutes

Cast: 2m

Little Jack was sent to Grandad Jack's house while his mum went to work. Little Jack was grumpy because there was nothing to do at Grandad's house – or so he thought.

The Gardener (2004)

50 minutes

Cast: 2m

Joe has a new baby sister and nobody wants to play with him. Nobody wants to play with old Uncle Harry either so together they begin to work on Uncle Harry's garden.

One Dark Night (2004)

60 minutes

Cast: 1f, 2m plus shadow puppets

The story of a lonely child and his friend: a cheeky, mischievous shadow.

Rapunzel (2012)

60 minutes

Cast: 2f, 1m

Rapunzel lives with her loving, yet very overprotective, Nan after her mother left across the big sea. Year after year, Nan builds their tower higher and higher to protect them from the disgraceful, scary world. It isn't until Rafi, a local boy, comes by and befriends Rapunzel that she finally gets the courage to be free.

Random Selfies (2017)*70 minutes*

Cast: 1f

About a young girl who despite having constant access to social media is still lonely but then makes a connection with an old lady who live next door.

STEPHEN MACDONALD**Not About Heroes (1982)** DRAMA

Cast: 2m

This moving play is about the poetic life and the interrelationship between two of the finest Great War poets: Owen, who died, and Siegfried Sasson, who didn't.

TOM MCGRATH**Laurel & Hardy (1976)** BIOGRAPHY

Cast: 2m

The lives, loves and laughter of Stan Laurel and Oliver Hardy are reborn for the stage as Hollywood's greatest double-act relives some of their finest routines in this warm and affectionate look back at their lives and the early days of cinema.

PETER NICHOLS**Born in the Gardens (1979)** DRAMA | COMEDY

Cast: 2f, 2m

Not much has changed in the days since Maud's husband, Victor, died, except for the addition of the casket in the music room. Quirky, dark, and hilarious, Born in the Gardens combines a commentary on Thatcherite politics with an examination of a family in transition.

STUART PATERSON**The Letter (2010)** DRAMA*One-Act Play*

Cast: 3m

A one-act play based on a Chekhov short story.

Prisoner C33 (2017) DRAMA*One-Act Play*

Cast: 1m, 1-2 f/m

A play about Oscar Wilde's time in Reading Gaol. C33 was Oscar Wilde's prison number.

Sweet Honey (2017) DRAMA

Cast: 1f, 2m

A short play about a pair of lovers plotting to kill the woman's husband.

TERENCE RATTIGAN

In Praise of Love (1973) DRAMA | COMEDY*(Possible as) One-Act Play*

Cast: 1f, 3m

Deception is the linchpin of this sophisticated comedy drama about a fatally ill wife and her ineffectual husband that starred Rex Harrison and Julie Harris on Broadway.

Before Dawn (1973) COMEDY*One-Act Play*

Cast: 1f, 3m

A hilarious retelling of the play and opera Tosca.

All on Her Own (1974) DRAMA*Short Monologue*

Cast: 1f

A powerfully atmospheric one-woman play. Rosemary, alone at midnight in London, has a secret burden to share that is both heartbreaking and sinister.

BILL ROSENFELD

46 Beacon (2017) COMEDY

Cast: 2m

Boston July 1970. Two gay lives intersect at a crossroads. Whilst one savours his differences, the other wishes only to be a part of the mainstream.

GÉRALD SIBLEYRAS

Heroes (2005) COMEDY

Cast: 3m

Translated by Tom Stoppard

Three World War I veterans pass their monotonous days in a military hospital in France. Their cantankerous camaraderie becomes strained when Gustave conjures up an escape plan. Looking over the cemetery to the poplars beyond, they dream of freedom. Will today be the day they finally make it to Indochina or perhaps only as far as the top of the hill?

N. F. SIMPSON

The Form (1961) COMEDY

One-Act Play

Cast: 2f, 2m

The story of a willowy little man who comes to an office for an interview. A thought provoking, topsy-turvy comedy.

GORDON STEEL

Like a Virgin (1995) DRAMA

Cast: 3f, 2m

A romp through the bubble-gum years of teenage life. Angela and Maxine, besotted with Madonna, form a band, attempt to write songs and live out their adolescent dreams of becoming famous. Meanwhile Angela's mother, Viv, struggles to come to terms with her marriage break-up and her daughter's explosive lifestyle.

Albert Nobbs (2003) DRAMA

Cast: 2f, 1m

When Connie dies suddenly, Albert, her husband of forty years, cannot cope. He falls apart. Connie, in her efforts to make him happy, comes back from beyond the grave to persuade him to form a relationship with her best friend Rose.

C. P. TAYLOR

Bread and Butter (1966) DRAMA

Cast: 2f, 2m

Two working-class Jews, the best of friends, dream on a park bench. Mixing salmon sandwiches with talk of war and women, two men search for a slice of happiness amidst the rubble of the twentieth century.

You Are My Heart's Delight (1973) DRAMA

One-Act Play

Cast: 1f, 1m

A moorland estate in Scotland is being modernised, souring life for the gamekeeper, David, and his sister, Janet. That is until they discover a very simple way of turning back the clock.

Operation Elvis (1978) DRAMA

One-Act Play for Young Audience

Cast: 2f, 3m

Ten-year-old schoolboy Malcolm is convinced that he is the reincarnation of Elvis Presley and loves to sing his greatest hits and dress like the King. Malcolm decides to run away from home, ending up 15 miles away, where he meets Michael, a boy with severe brain damage who cannot speak. Despite their differences, Malcolm and Michael strike up a great friendship.

JANE THORNTON

Wuthering Heights (2003) DRAMA

Cast: 2f, 3m

The saga of two Yorkshire families in the remote Pennine Hills and the doomed relationship of Heathcliff and Cathy Earnshaw is brought to life in Jane Thornton's stage adaptation of Emily Brontë's classic novel.

I Want That Hair (2006) COMEDY

Cast: 2f

Set in East Yorkshire, I Want That Hair is a hilarious warts and all look at what happens between the chit-chat, the wash and blow dry and the curling, in a local hair salon.

Bex is forty, flabby and rushed off her feet. Heidi is supposed to be her assistant. Maybe Bex needs to change her life, not just her hair!

STEPHEN UNWIN

Poor John (2015) DRAMA

Cast: 3f, 1m (doubling possible)

A play about John Cornford, a radical intellectual of the 1930s, killed fighting the fascists in the Spanish Civil War.

HUGH WHITEMORE

Stevie (1977) BIOGRAPHY

Cast: 2f, 1m

Stevie chronicles a stream-of-consciousness documentation of English poet Stevie Smith's life, recalling each major period in her peculiar life from her living room in Palmers Green, London.

The Best of Friends (1987) DRAMA

Cast: 1f, 2m

Whitemore's play is based upon the letters and writings of the three friends: George Bernard Shaw, Sydney Cockerell and Dame Laurentia McLachlan.

It's Ralph (1991) DRAMA

Cast: 1f, 3m

Andrew and his wearily frustrated wife Clare are spending the weekend in their Gloucestershire cottage, which, like their marriage, is well in need of repair. Ralph, an old friend of Andrew's, visits and helps Andrew to regain his integrity, but at a price...

My Darling Clemmie (2008) DRAMA | ROMANCE

One-Act Play

Cast: 1f

This play celebrates one of the most successful partnerships in history, the long and remarkable marriage of Winston and Clementine Churchill.

The Last Cigarette (2009) COMEDY

Cast: 1m

Written with Simon Gray

Notable for his uncompromising honesty and a wit both fierce and fearless, Simon Gray's voice was uniquely his own. This dramatisation of Gray's *The Smoking Diaries* and other memoirs was completed just before his death.

Sand in the Sandwiches (2016) BIOGRAPHY*One-Act Play*

Cast: 1m

Sand in the Sandwiches celebrates the great poet John Betjeman as it tells the story of his life from boyhood to teenage years and all the way to life as Britain's most high profile poets.

THORNTON WILDER**Short, Short Plays (1916-1928)***One-Act Plays*

Cast: 3f/m

This volume, containing twenty-two short plays written by Thornton Wilder between 1916 and 1928, offers a dazzling range of characters, setting, mood and style – all the more remarkable for their compression and economy. They include knights, saints, sinners, the Devil himself, a drunk puppeteer, talking sea serpents and donkeys, Mary and Joseph, Ibsen, Shelley and Mozart, the great actress Fanny Otcott, and the mistress of Saint Francis before he chose celibacy.

Queens of France (1931) COMEDY*One-Act Play*

Cast: 3f, 1m

In New Orleans in 1869 a charlatan of a lawyer preys on vulnerable women.

Love and How to Cure It (1931) COMEDY*One-Act Play*

Cast: 2f, 2m

This melodramatic comedy is set in Soho, London, on the stage of the Trivoli Palace of Music in April of 1895.

Such Things Only Happen In Books (1931) SATIRE*One-Act Play*

Cast: 1f, 3m

A lordly novelist, his wife, their doctor, their maid, her brother, and a visiting stranger are caught up in various deceptions, illusions and mysteries-including a murder mystery in a haunted house.

Bernice (1960s) DRAMA*One-Act Play*

Cast: 1f, 2m

In a collection of seven one-act plays depicting the Seven Deadly Sins, Bernice represents the sin of 'Pride'.