

April 2020

Welcome to the SCDA National Newsletter.

A Message from our Chairman, Tony Flisch:

While SCDA's festivals activities have ceased for 2020, SCDA has certainly not stopped functioning and has started planning for 2021. We have decided that the Scottish Final will be in Kirkwall in 2021. Dave Bennet (who was engaged for this year) has agreed to be the adjudicator. Likewise, the British Final which was due to be held in Rhyl this year, will be held in there in 2021.

You will know the Stirling Office is closed and Brenda our National Office Administrator is working from home. Carole Williams our National Drama Adviser too is working from home and although she cannot deliver workshops at present, she is working on future workshops and the creation of theatre related resources.

Last week we launched a blog in which Carole will provide links to theatre related matters. She made a short video to introduce this initiative which you can find on the home page of the website. The easiest way to access the blog is to use the 'Latest Posts' link on the sidebar of the website.

While we may not be able to perform plays as we normally do, drama related activities can certainly continue. We are particularly keen that people interact and use the website to make their own contribution by leaving comments. She will be writing a new post each week, so please do visit and get involved. You will see from the comments, that Aberdour Players have had two successful 'virtual club nights' which have involved play reading. It will be good to see what other innovative ideas emerge.

This year, the financial situation will suffer considerably from the loss of the anticipated surplus from the Scottish Final, so we are looking at ways to recover from this and we do thank you all for your continued support

Stay safe

Tony

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WHY NOT HAVE A LITTLE FUN & HELP SCDA AT THE SAME TIME?

Send us £2 via PayPal

(headquarters@scda.org.uk is the address to use on the PayPal site)

We'll email you a quiz sheet.

The answers to be returned to HQ by email by Friday 24th April.

The prize? If you are the winner then we'll send you a wee goody bag of SCDA treats.

Pay Your Membership Renewal the easy way:

Set up an Annual Standing Order

The easiest and cheapest way to renew your SCDA individual membership is to set up an annual Standing Order to pay us direct on 1st July 2020 and every year thereafter.

You remain in complete control of a Standing Order. SCDA cannot change the amount of money that comes out of your account or when it gets paid.

Fees for 2020-21 when paid by Standing Order are: Individual £25, Joint £35. This is a saving of £10 and £15 respectively.

If you use internet banking, you can set up a standing order yourself, otherwise ask your bank to set it up for you.

Our account details are:

Sort Code 80 11 00 Account 06094792

Scottish Community Drama Association

Please use your surname and postcode as reference

It's very simple and makes sure you get the best deal on your membership fee every year so why not give it a go this year?

However you choose to pay for membership renewal, please only pay by cheques if you really can't pay by any of the other methods available. We are currently unable to process cheques as the office is closed. Your assistance in this matter would be greatly appreciated.

HQ Opening in April:

The office is currently closed and Brenda is working from home doing as much as possible to keep the admin of the association up to date.

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To make email communications easier, HQ has another email address for use while the office is closed. You can still send email to the normal headquarters@scda.org.uk but you will probably get replies from scdaheadquarters@outlook.com so please add that address to your safe senders list.

National Drama Advisor:

Please note that Carole, our National Drama Advisor does not work from the HQ Office.

She only works for us 15hrs a week and can be contacted by email nda@scda.org.uk or by phone 074 53 362 056. Please note that at busy times there may be a delay in her replying.

Geoffrey Whitworth Competition:

Original plays being performed for the first time in a District Round of the Festival can also be entered for the Geoffrey Whitworth Competition.

Unlike the Scott Salver, the Geoffrey Whitworth Competition is open to all original plays accros the whole of the UK One Act Festival.

An entry form can be downloaded by [clicking here](#)

Plays from festivals across the UK which had to be cancelled due to the coronavirus outbreak are still eligible for entry to the competition.

The closing date for entries to be received at HQ is 30 April.

Script Discount Scheme and Samuel French:

While the SCDA HQ is closed due to coronavirus, Samuel French have agreed that all script orders will be despatched direct to clubs rather than being sent to HQ. Simply order your scripts as usual via HQ and you will receive your discounts.

A Message from Cressrelles:

Dear Friends,

We are so saddened to see all the drama Festivals and normal productions having to be cancelled because of the coronavirus pandemic. We know how much effort has gone in to them and how devastating this

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must be for you all. Naturally, we are glad to do our bit to help. Any societies who were planning to perform our plays but have had to cancel scheduled performances, we will be happy to either defer the licence to a date of your choosing or offer our usual refund terms.

If you would like to consider any of our plays for your next production, we are still offering free-for-approval-purposes pdfs of all our plays. Whilst I am still able to access the office, I can scan in any title you request. If I have to work from home, I will only be able to provide you with pdfs of those already available. That will still be a few hundred plays – plenty of reading material to keep you occupied over the next few weeks!

We would like to wish you all the very best, stay well, look out for those in greater need than yourself and keep the “ghost light” burning for the return of amateur theatre as soon as possible!

Virtual Panto Offer from Ben Crocker Pantomimes

Dear All,

First off, I just want to wish everyone all the very best at this difficult and challenging time.

As you may know, I'm a real believer in the cohesive and restorative powers of pantomime - and a good laugh is even said to boost the immune system. So, in this time of necessary self-distancing, I was wondering about holding panto readings online...

I looked up on Skype and apparently one can hold a conference call for up to 50 participants - and there must be lots of amateur theatre lovers with the technical expertise to facilitate this among their club members.

I don't have that expertise, but I do have the scripts!

So, for the next twelve weeks in these troubled and unique times, feel free to use mine for this purpose.

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You can print them off without charge, assign parts - and then use them for a complete online shared laughter fest and a great chance for club members to gather together in the safety of their own homes.

Just go to: https://www.bencrockerpantomimes.com/pantomime-scripts?utm_source=Ben+Crocker+Pantomimes+Updates&utm_campaign=3f062f9dd1-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_Top_Pantos_2018_COPY_01&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_a936ffc46c-3f062f9dd1-47825195 to get your scripts.

One small thing - this free offer to print off as many scripts as you need is only for virtual panto readings without an audience. Any sort of public performance would be subject to the usual fees and terms and conditions.

Anyway, with that small caveat in mind - have fun, enjoy the scripts and please stay safe!

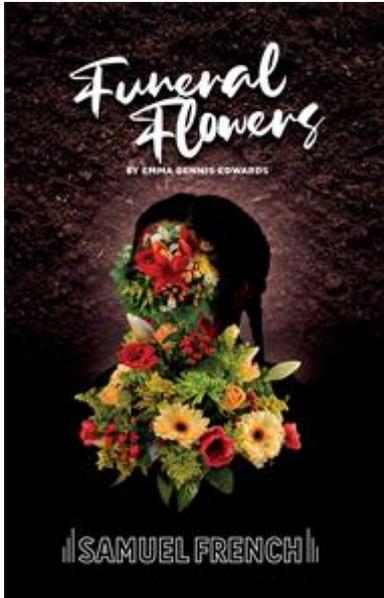
All good wishes,

Ben

www.bencrockerpantomimes.com

All new titles listed below are now available to borrow from the National Library:

contact the librarians on library@scda.org.uk



“MY KNOWLEDGE ABOUT FLOWERS IS BARE STRONG. COS DAT’S WHAT I’M DOING AT COLLEGE. I CAN TALK ABOUT FLOWERS FOREVER. HOWEVER, I SHARE A NAME WITH DESE... ANGELIQUE”.

Funeral Flowers follows the story of Angelique, a seventeen-year-old whose dreams of being a florist are a refuge from a complicated adolescence. With her mum in prison, Angelique faces bullying, abuse and growing up in the care system.

WINNER of the Filipa Bragança Award; WINNER of a Scotsman Fringe First Award
(1F)

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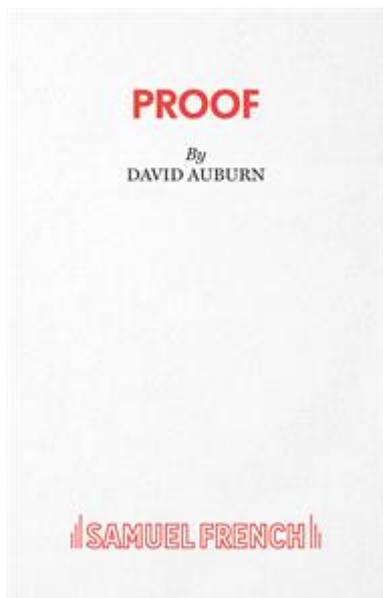
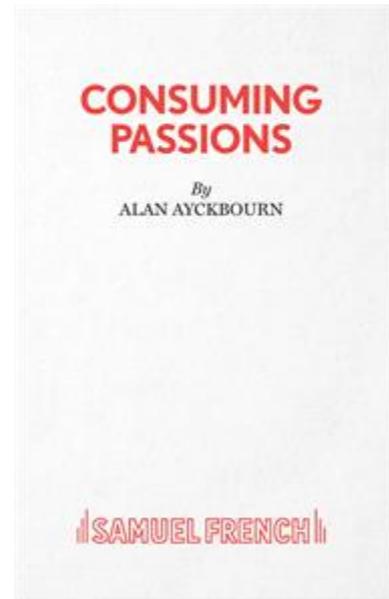
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Melanie believes she has foreseen the future. But has she really? Or is it all in her mind?

True or false, she has seen events which threaten the life of one she secretly loves, and she feels they are in terrible danger.

What can she possibly do or say to prevent things happening, and who will even believe her?

(2M 2F)



Catherine has spent years caring for her brilliant but unstable father, Robert. When he dies she has more than grief to deal with: there's her estranged sister, Claire, and Hal, a former student of her father's who hopes to find valuable work in the 103 notebooks that Robert left behind. And a further problem: how much of her father's madness - or genius - will Catherine inherit?

Gwyneth Paltrow starred in this Pulitzer Prize-winning play which opened at the Donmar Warehouse in 2001

(2M, 2F)

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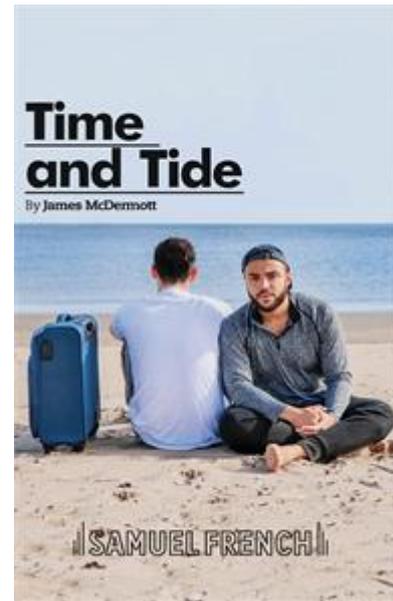
Norfolk's bootiful. Miles of coastline, endless sea, endless sky. So much space to dream big dreams. But... yeah: there's nowhere round here to make those dreams come true.

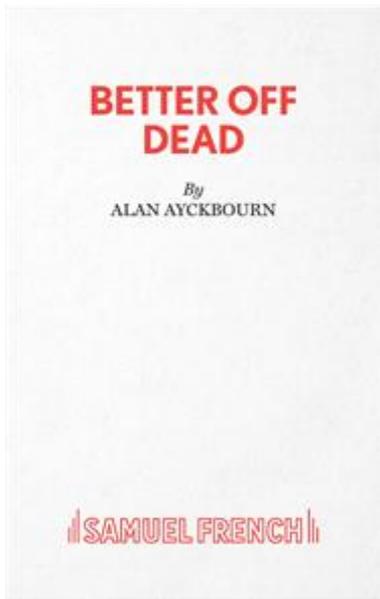
May runs a crumbling caff on the end of Cromer Pier. Her delivery man Ken is losing customers to Costa. Her head waiter Nemo is desperate to leave Norfolk and tread the boards in London. Nemo's unrequited love Daz is burying his head in the sand over his best mate leaving.

Time and Tide is an LGBTQ-themed comedy drama about a Norfolk community struggling with change.

The play was longlisted for The Bruntwood, Papatango and Verity Bargate Playwriting Prizes and was developed on Park Theatre's Script Accelerator Programme 2018 before having its world premiere at Park Theatre in February 2020.

(3M; 1F)





Irascible author Algy Waterbridge is hard at work on his thirty-third crime novel.

While Algy's wife is getting more forgetful, and his PA frequently oversteps the mark, the constant interruptions come to a head with an unfortunate newspaper interview. As Algy's fictional characters take over, the lines between fiction and reality become blurred.

A comedy of confusion about a grumpy old man who might not be so grumpy after all.

(4M; 3F)

LITTLE MISS BURDEN

by: Matilda Ibini

ISBN: 9780573130175

They are the coolest, fiercest, most super talented girl band ever assembled: Big Sis and Little Sis are waiting for the third member of their trio to arrive. Little Miss is on her way. It just takes her a little bit longer.

At thirteen, Little Miss is given a gift which cannot be returned. She has to share her body and life with it. And she needs to find a way for the two of them to get along as they can't both be Player One. *Little Miss Burden* explores rewriting your narrative and embracing your identity on your own terms.

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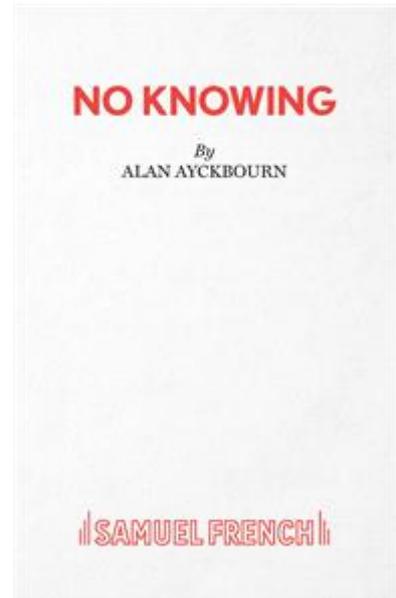
Matilda Ibiní's coming-of-age tale smashes together 90s nostalgia, Nigerian family, East London and Sailor Moon to tell the sometimes tricky, often funny truth about growing up with a physical impairment.

(3F)

Elsbeth and Arthur are celebrating forty years of quiet, safe, unspectacular, ordinary marriage. Or so most of the guests attending their anniversary party are led to believe.

But knowing her and knowing him as they do, their son and daughter know differently.

(2M; 2F)



Shafted! moves forwards and backwards over time, starting after the Miners' Strike in 1984. Act I demonstrates the depression and hopelessness which engulfed a West Yorkshire mining village post the strike and the plethora of menial jobs which Harry found in order to try to make a living. By the late 1990s Dot had suggested they move to Bridlington to start a new life running a Boarding House. Act II starts in 2016 with Dot suffering from cancer, immobile in a

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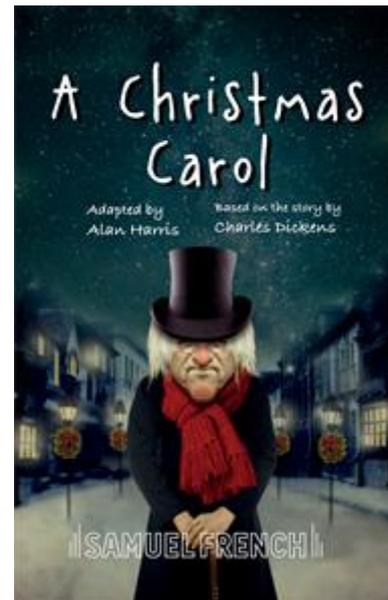
wheelchair, the act moves backwards through the success of the boarding house and their new life together, to the time they left Upton to run the boarding house in the 1990s. (1M; 1F).

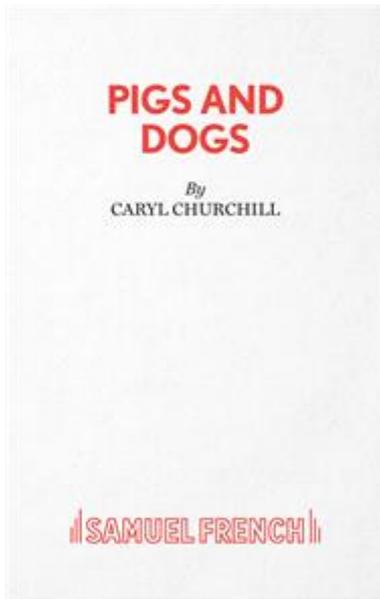
It's Christmas Eve and Ebenezer Scrooge is miserable – will he ever get into the Christmas spirit?

Set in North Wales, this version of Dickens' festive classic tale explores a living, breathing Victorian community.

This adaptation by Alan Harris is a funny immersive family show filled with music and mystery that whisks away the audience to a dream world where anything can happen and ghosts are just around the corner...

(flexible casting)





"You western-backed goats, They forced us into slavery and killed millions. Now they want us to accept the sinfulness of homos. It shall not work."

In 2014, Uganda passed an Anti-Homosexuality Act. This short, startling play looks at what lies behind it. Caryl Churchill's *Pigs and Dogs* is substantially based on material from *Boy Wives* and *Female Husbands* by Stephen O. Murray and Will Roscoe. It premiered at the Royal Court in 2016.

(2M; 1F).

THIS RESTLESS HOUSE, PART ONE: AGAMEMNON'S RETURN

This Restless House, Pts. Two & Three: The Bough Breaks / Electra and Her Shadow

Aeschylus' *Oresteia* opens with Agamemnon sacrificing his daughter to the gods; an act which sets in motion a bloody cycle of revenge and counter-revenge. When he in turn is killed at the hands of his wife Clytemnestra, their son Orestes takes up the mantle of avenging his father, continuing the bloodshed until peace is ultimately found in the rule of law.

Zinnie Harris reimagines this ancient drama, using a contemporary sensibility to rework the stories, placing the women in the centre. Orestes' leading role is replaced by his sister Electra, who as a young child witnesses her father's murder and is compelled to take justice into her own hands until she too must flee the Furies.

The three plays that comprise *This Restless House* can be performed on their own or as part of

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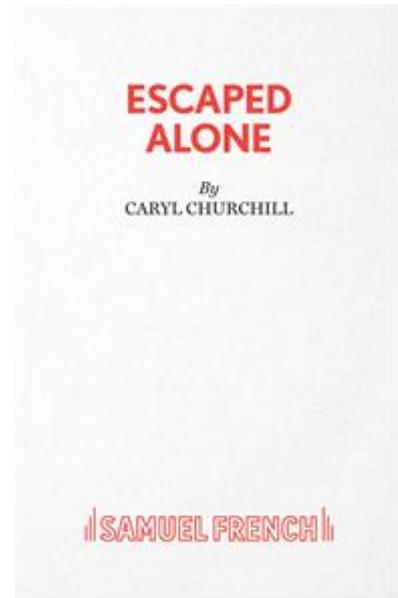
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a continuous evening. Part one being Agamemnon's Return plays on its own, then parts two and three The Bough Breaks and Electra And Her Shadow play as different parts of the same evening.

(8M; 8F doubling).

"I'm walking down the street and there's a door in the fence open and inside there are three women I've seen before."

Three old friends and a neighbour. A summer of afternoons in the back yard. Tea and catastrophe. Escaped Alone premiered at the Royal Court Theatre, London, in 2016, in a production directed by James Macdonald.
(4F).



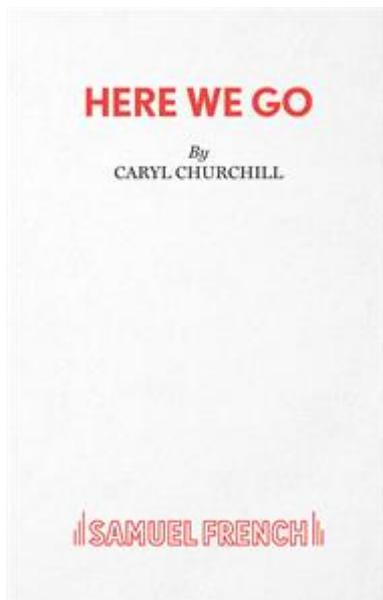
MRS BEETON SAYS...

by: Eamonn O'Dwyer, Helen Watts

'As with the commander of an army, so is it with the mistress of a house.' Isabella Beeton was only 23 years old when she penned these words in "Mrs Beeton's Book of Household Management", first published in 1861. She could not have predicted how they would resonate with the women of England, nor could she have imagined how her name would become synonymous with culinary expertise and domestic bliss for generations to come.

Mrs Beeton Says...is a charming and vibrant musical examining the life and legacy of this extraordinary woman: a spirited journalist, a tireless entrepreneur, and if not a perfect homemaker, then certainly a queen of organization. In a world where a woman could not vote, own a house, nor even ride a bicycle, Mrs Beeton's book gave the women of England something they desperately wanted: a bit of control.

(flexible casting, min 3M; 5F)



In *Here We Go*, Churchill confronts the topic of ageing and death, told in 3 separate sections. In the first part of the play, friends gather at a funeral and discuss, without much feeling, the passing of a friend. The second part is a monologue about the afterlife, and in the third section, a dying man is dressed and undressed by a loving caregiver.
(flexible 3-8 performers)

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