

SCOTTISH COMMUNITY DRAMA ASSOCIATION



CATALOGUE OF ORIGINAL PLAYS

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For more information on these plays contact the author directly or contact:
SCDA, tel: 01786 440077 ;
email: headquarters@scda.org.uk

WATCHING THE MAGPIES

by Les Clarke

One-act play - adult

Cast: 1 M 2 F (females in their 60s)
Setting: Dottie and Rose's Living Room
Time: The present – over a period of five weeks

Dottie, although not a qualified carer, looks after her friend Rose. They live together in a house, which has recently been sold for redevelopment, and they've been told they have to move out. Rose's illness is progressing; and the council is having difficulties re-housing them. This play is a poignant piece with a sad ending.

WINNER: OPEN SECTION, PLAY ON WORDS ONE-ACT PLAYWRITING COMPETITION 2006
WINNER: DRAMA ASSOCIATION OF WALES (DAW) PLAYWRITING COMPETITION 2006

For further details, contact Les Clarke at 23 Highfield Road, Moordown, Bournemouth, Dorset, BH9 2SE.
Tel: 01202 518974 or 07738 053890, email: les@lesclarke9.wanadoo.co.uk or contact SCDA Headquarters.

This play has been published by DAW.

EVERY SINGLE DAY BUT ONE

by Claire Scott

One-act play - adult

Cast: 2 F
Setting: An 'upmarket' Glasgow sitting room
Time: The present

At midnight on Christmas Eve, Santa comes down Alison's chimney in the form of Carol Allbright, a traffic warden from Cowdenbeath. Convinced she is being burgled, Alison threatens to call the police while Carol tries to prove she's telling the truth, which she does by recalling details of a certain Christmas Past. As the play progresses, a tenuous friendship develops between the women and they come to an understanding of each other and an acceptance of the past.

RUNNER-UP: OPEN SECTION, PLAY ON WORDS ONE-ACT PLAYWRITING COMPETITION 2006

For further details, contact **Claire Scott** at 34 North Road, Port Glasgow, Inverclyde, PA14 5SZ.
Tel: 01475 744920, email: ClaireYScott@netscape.net or contact SCDA Headquarters.

GETTING THE MESSAGE

by Valerie Bowes

One-act play - adult

Cast: 2 M 3 F
Setting: A living room
Time: The present

Beryl is dead, but she's not one to miss a good party. The thing is will her grief stricken husband and friends be up to giving her the sort of send-off she really wants? Beryl loved a good party. Not only that, she has something on her mind. Can she get her message through, or is the message one she needs to get herself, before she can move on?

THIRD PLACE: OPEN SECTION, PLAY ON WORDS ONE-ACT PLAYWRITING COMPETITION 2006

For further details, contact **Valerie Bowes** at 12 Mountside, Church Hill, Caterham, Surrey, CR3 6SA. Tel: 01883 344818, email: valbowes@hotmail.com or contact SCDA Headquarters

THE EDGE

by Ron Nicol

One-act play - youth

Cast: 1 M 1 F

Setting: The flat rooftop of a high building, surrounded by a low parapet

Time: The present

A young man has come to the roof, contemplating jumping. He is found by a young woman, who starts a conversation. Eventually the young man decides to return to the ground, leaving the young woman on the roof. She however, has her own plan, which has a devastating ending.

WINNER: YOUTH SECTION, PLAY ON WORDS ONE-ACT PLAYWRITING COMPETITION 2006

For further details, contact: **Ron Nicol** at 227 High Street, Leslie, Fife, KY6 3AZ.

Tel: 01592 742482, email: mail@ron-nicol.com, website: www.ron-nicol.com or contact SCDA Headquarters.

This play is now published by Spotlight Publications: ISBN 1 904930 83 2

LEAVERS

by Bernie Crosthwaite

One-act play - youth

Cast: 3 M 5 F (to be played by 17/18 year-olds)

Setting: The waiting area of an A&E department

Time: The present

A group of teenagers are involved in a car crash after their Leavers' Ball. As they anxiously wait to hear if they have all survived the accident, they encounter their fears, regrets and hopes for the future. Their experience and attitude to education has been very different. The sense of wasted potential is underlined when one of them leaves for good.

RUNNER-UP: YOUTH SECTION, PLAY ON WORDS ONE-ACT PLAYWRITING COMPETITION 2006

For further details, contact **Bernie Crosthwaite**, Tel: 01423 866658 or contact SCDA Headquarters

SNOTFACE

by Mike Newbold

One-act play - youth

Cast: 3 M 6 F (all fifteen years old)

Setting: A playground

Time: The present day

How many of us had nicknames at school? Join Snotface and the gang, using the flashback technique, as they explore aspects of life as seen through the eyes of typical 15 years old. Subjects discussed along the way are friendships, past Birthday parties, naked parents, boyfriends/girlfriends and anorexia. Jill thinks of herself as fat. Snotface (Paul) asks her out and six months later, there is a transformation. This is a feel-good play with a happy ending.

RUNNER-UP: YOUTH SECTION, PLAY ON WORDS ONE-ACT PLAYWRITING COMPETITION 2006

For further details, contact SCDA Headquarters

ONE FOR SORROW

by Russell Adams

One-act play – adult

Cast: 3 M 1 F

Setting: Outside an office; Eddie’s bedroom; Eddie & Maisie’s sitting room

Time: Present

A sparkling black comedy from the pen of Russell Adams. Eddie is obsessed with aliens and writes to the media constantly about his communings with them. A cub reporter is sent to interview Eddie. On turning up at Eddie’s house, he finds that Eddie is dying. In the course of his interview, it turns out the Eddie has contracted asbestosis many years ago. Maisie, his wife, downtrodden with running about looking after Eddie, escapes the drudgery by reading crime novels. The young reporter promises to find out if Eddie can get compensation. Whilst he is away, Eddie dies. Was it a case of the aliens taking him away, or has Maisie murdered him with a plate of prunes? An interesting twist in the tale.

WINNER: SCOTT SALVER ONE-ACT PLAYWRITING COMPETITION 2006
COMMENDED: GEOFFREY WHITWORTH ONE-ACT PLAYWRITING COMPETITION 2006

For further details, contact SCDA Headquarters

IT WILL BE A LOVELY DAY TOMORROW

by Kirkintilloch Youth Theatre

One-act play - youth

Cast: 7 F (Youth)

Setting: Set in a public shelter somewhere in Clydebank

Time: During World War II

Seven friends work in a munitions factory in various roles, and the play tells the story of the seven during an air raid; and how they are coping with the war. The girls are an assortment, ranging from sisters Morag and Eadie, (Eadie has a secret) to the “posh” Isabella from the west end, who finds the air raid exciting, as “she has never been to a shelter before”. It turns out that Isabella is very lonely and cannot “mix” with the girls in the office. Mary has a secret – she is expecting a baby. Stories and memories unfold during the play. As one of the young ladies say, “Perhaps being in a shelter isn’t so bad – at least we are safe here”. But there is an explosive ending.

SECOND PLACE: SCOTT SALVER ONE-ACT PLAYWRITING COMPETITION 2006

For further details contact SCDA Headquarters

A FAMILIAR FACE

by Andrew Bliss

One-act play - adult

Cast: 2 F aged 60s

Setting: A London café, one afternoon

Time: The present

Two friends, Eydie and Dora meet, after Dora’s husband’s funeral. As they discuss the funeral, we learn what Dora and son Dennis thought of the late Albert. During the tea, Dora brings out a glass canister, which appears to contain a human head in a preservative liquid. Once Eydie sees this grotesque specimen, mayhem ensues as Dora and Eydie try to discover whose head it was. Was the late Albert a murderer? It turns out that Albert had been a butcher, and as Dora says, “that would o’meant nothing to him, nothing ‘nother cut of meat that’s all”. And whatever happened to the gasman?

THIRD PLACE: SCOTT SALVER ONE-ACT PLAYWRITING COMPETITION 2006
COMMENDED: GEOFFREY WHITWORTH ONE-ACT PLAYWRITING COMPETITION 2006

For further details contact SCDA Headquarters

THE WORST DAY OF MY LIFE

by Alan Richardson

One-act play - adult

Cast: 1 M (a patient) 4 F (various ages from 20 to 60)
Setting: A room in a city or town hospital, present.
Time: The present

Charlie's day in hospital begins very well, but when three female visitors arrive unexpectedly at the same time, Charlie's hitherto secret life is hilariously revealed. And just when you think his day couldn't get much worse, it does.... As the play develops, we find out exactly what Mr. Charlie Brown has been up to. Much mayhem ensues.

FOURTH PLACE: SCOTT SALVER ONE-ACT PLAYWRITING COMPETITION 2006

For further details contact SCDA Headquarters

THE HUNT FOR AIKEN DRUM

by Jonathan Whiteside

One-act play – youth

Cast: 5 F 5 M (youth)
Setting: Set during the summer holidays set in Galloway, Newton Stewart to begin with and the area around Bladnoch. Simple staging.
Time: Present day

Floyd, an English lad on holiday in Galloway with his parents, comes across Nick and his gang and together they "hunt for Aiken Drum". Nick's gang is a motley crew – Connor who is not allowed near sugar as he can become hyper active; Val who is very bossy and real leader of the gang, and Katie, the youngest of the group, who has a mouth like "the Clyde Tunnel". This play follows the gang's adventures. A delightful play, which is a moralistic story – accepting someone for who they are.

FOURTH PLACE: SCOTT SALVER ONE-ACT PLAYWRITING COMPETITION 2006

For further details, contact SCDA Headquarters

SPIRIT

by Jennifer Morrison

One-act play - youth

Cast: 3 M 3 F and 6 Dark Spirits
Setting/Time: Set in the after life and in the present

A play exploring the after life – Mark Westbrook is killed in a car accident and the spirits take him away. However he is allowed back to Earth so he can see how his sister and mother are coping after his death. They aren't. Mother is turning to alcohol, although denying it. Jamie, Mark's sister, is being bullied at school and is going downhill fast. She can no longer cope, so kills herself and joins Mark in the Spirit World.

SIXTH PLACE: SCOTT SALVER ONE-ACT PLAYWRITING COMPETITION 2006

For further details, contact SCDA Headquarters

SLICED

by James Gillingham

One-act play - adult

Cast: 2 M 2 F

Setting: Graham's studio in the back room of his house

Time: The present

Synopsis: The action takes place mostly during one afternoon and evening in Graham's studio, in the back room of his house in a village a few miles from Exeter. He is a lecturer in Fine Art.

Judge's comments: This is a very fine piece of writing. It is powerful. There are layers of meaning, gradually exposed in a subtle way. There are changes of mood sensitively handled. Characters and plot both show development. Instead of a big climatic ending we are left – rightly – with a sense that life just goes on, without providing neat endings. Impressive.

WINNER: GEOFFREY WHITWORTH ONE-ACT PLAYWRITING COMPETITION 2006

For further details, contact SCDA Headquarters.

PRINCIPAL GIRLS

by Emma-Louise Akiens

One-act play; a comedy drama

Cast: F6 (five middle aged and one elderly)

Setting: Wendy's living room

Time: Present day in Fairytale

An original idea of five fairytale heroines – Maid Marion from 'Robin Hood', Wendy from 'Peter Pan', Princess Jasmine from 'Aladdin', Cinderella and Snow White meeting for a 'Girls Night in' after their 'happily ever after' marriages have turned sour.

Marion has left Robin over his gay relationships; Wendy, unable to fly, has lost her husband to the ageless Tinkerbell; Aladdin has squandered Jasmine's fortune on addictive gambling; Cinderella's idyllic life has been ruined by a domineering mother-in-law and childless Snow White has endured years of mental and physical abuse from her husband.

Eventually, the women agree to take control of their own destinies, with parting words of wisdom from the Fairy Godmother – now a dewanded Pizza delivery person with a drink problem – 'women are like teabags, you never know how strong they are until you put them in hot water'.

WINNER: SCOTT SALVER ONE-ACT PLAYWRITING COMPETITION 2007

For further details contact SCDA headquarters

WRECKERS

by Graham Macdonald

One-act play; an Orcadian drama

Cast: M4 F3 (a variety of ages)

Setting: Interior of byre with hay bales and general farm dressing

Time: August 20th 1965, around 4 am

A Cold War tale of island wreckers and spies mixed with a soupçon of Compton Mackenzie. Good mix of character parts. The Orkney idiom lends an authenticity to the dialogue.

A Russian cargo ship has gone aground on the nearby skerry and the locals have just returned from plundering the cargo. Unfortunately, Davo and Ronald have brought ashore a radioactive warhead concealed in the hold and are discovered by Ronald's sister Hannah and her friend Susie before they can arrange a disposal.

The tension rises with the arrival of two spies: Ernst, an East German disguised as a merchant seaman and the glamorous C.I.A. agent Augusta.

Judge's comments: the play owes something to *Whisky Galore* but with the very up-to-date twist that the islanders are 'rescuing' an atom bomb rather than some crates of whisky. Very funny, character-based humour, not relying on 'jokes'. The atmosphere of the island and the nature of islanders are beautifully created. It is brisk, different and very entertaining. Great stuff.

<p>RUNNER-UP: SCOTT SALVER ONE-ACT PLAYWRITING COMPETITION 2007 HIGHLY COMMENDED: GEOFFREY WHITWORTH ONE-ACT PLAYWRITING COMPETITION 2007</p>

For further details, contact SCDA Headquarters

FINAL ENTRANCE

by Isabella C Rae

One-act play; drama

Cast: M3 F3

Setting: The waiting room between Heaven (white door with silver stars) and Hell (black door with red and yellow flames motif)

Time: The present

A moral tale of retribution set in a limboesque waiting area where justice is dispensed to an assortment of characters.

As the curtain rises, Barry, an upbeat social worker who has been murdered by a client, is joined by Kay Brown, a retired Home economics teacher electrocuted by a Hoover as they await the arrival of Big Pete, the Admissions Officer. Their conversation is interrupted by foul-mouthed Tom 'Mad Ferret' Malarkey and his wife Teresa who had been involved in a car accident. Whilst the others are distracted, Kay manages to forcefully push Elsie, a confused elderly lady, through the door to Hell.

Peter soon arrives to decide everyone's fate by group discussion and after all but Kay are allowed to leave by the White Door, Peter confronts her concerning the cruel treatment of her mother, the unfortunate Elsie. In the final denouement, Kay attempts to gain entry to Heaven but the White Door slams shut in her face and Peter, now accompanied by Elsie, points the way towards Kay's inevitable fate.

<p>THIRD PLACE: SCOTT SALVER ONE-ACT PLAYWRITING COMPETITION 2007</p>
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For further details, contact SCDA Headquarters.

THE VIOLIN

by Tim Tricker

One-act play; a drama in six scenes

Cast: M2 F1 (middle-aged)

Setting: A comfortable lounge music room. The violin resting in its open case a prominent feature.

Scenes: 'The Ticking', 'The Bow', 'The Repertoire', 'The Spark', 'The Notes' and 'The Violin'. They can be played with short blackouts between scenes or continuous action as desired.

The playing of a suitable violin concerto before and after the piece would be appropriate.

Max, a famous professional violinist of Austrian extraction is undergoing a nervous breakdown threatening his career. Initially he makes repeated attempts to commence playing the instrument but always finds imaginary noises (whirring, humming, clicking, drumming) intervening.

Throughout he remains completely oblivious to his frustrated wife Rose's feelings. His manager, Terence, arrives to help Max select a programme for a Viennese recital and revise his biography. Finally, to save their marriage, Rose realises that only by destroying his instrument can she win back the obsessive Max for herself. A splendid piece of writing verging on the 'absurd' with imaginative use of language giving scope for creative direction and powerful performances.

Judges' comments: A plot of some depth and complexity, with convincing dilemmas for the characters. They are, however, not fully developed, the dialogue registers failing to differentiate between them. They do, however, arouse our interest and to some extent our sympathy. The smashing of the violin is a superbly theatrical moment.

**FOURTH: SCOTT SALVER ONE-ACT PLAYWRITING COMPETITION 2007 AND
COMMENDED: GEOFFREY WHITWORTH ONE-ACT PLAYWRITING COMPETITION 2007**

For further details, contact SCDA Headquarters.

HOME

by Pam Mackenzie

One-act play; a drama in four scenes

Cast: M2 F3 (2 young, 2 middle aged, 1 elderly female)

Setting: The living room of a ground floor tenement flat in a large city

Time: 1990s

The curtains open to reveal a dark untidy room – sound of breaking glass and two young burglars Kim and Pete climb through the window and start searching for valuables. The confused elderly house owner Annie arrives back unexpectedly and starts preparing a cup of tea for her 'visitors'.

On another occasion Pete finds the old lady wandering around the Tesco car park late at night, brings her home and they both discuss their lonely existence. Pete continues to visit regularly, cleans and tidies Annie's flat, gains employment and cares for the old lady. However, jealous of his improved lifestyle, Kim has Pete arrested and imprisoned. With Annie now in a care home, the final scene sees Anthony and Rosemary, the old girl's nearest relations clearing the house oblivious to the true facts of the story. A well-rounded piece of writing with good opportunities for a mature character actress. Spotlit soliloquies provide ideal cover for the scene changes.

FIFTH: SCOTT SALVER ONE-ACT PLAYWRITING COMPETITION 2007

For further details, contact SCDA Headquarters.

JOLLY GOOD FUN

by Mike Newbold

A one-act play for youth; a fast paced comedy drama.

Cast: M5 F10

Setting: A country house garden with appropriate trellis archway, fencing, benches and box of clothes for Charades

Time: 1920s

Played slightly over the top, this is excellent material for a youthful cast, the dialogue quickly establishing the style and social class of the Roaring Twenties. Requires a light touch with a flavour of 'Charley's Aunt'.

Harry and George, two village boys, disguise themselves as girls to gain entry to a garden party at the Grange enabling Harry to have several attempts to meet Daisy, the maid, although his amorous advances are constantly thwarted. Rupert, the aristocratic hunk with a roving eye, who is organising a murder mystery game, is warned by Isadora against making sport with Eloise, the French maid.

Madame Zeta, the fortune teller, arrives to read the cards foretelling ill omens for Rupert which come true when he is rendered unconscious, dressed in girls clothes by Harry and George and mistaken for the murder victim. The ending sees poor Rupert, his murder game in ruins, being pursued by two suitors, the village boys escaping punishment and the girls' Aunt Julia wondering if, for herself, there might be some fun on the cards.

SIXTH (EQUAL): SCOTT SALVER ONE-ACT PLAYWRITING COMPETITION 2007

For further details, contact SCDA Headquarters.

CHECKMATE

by Russell Adams

One-act play; a drama in nine scenes

Cast: M2 F4 (mostly middle aged)

Scenes: Jerry's flat, café, car, bus, hospital and Lauren's flat

Time: The present

A contemporary tale of the perils in online dating staged in a series of short scenes with a sprinkling of wry humour.

As the play opens Jerry Brittle (single, jobless, 35 going on 39, living with Attila the Mum, persistently meeting Charlton and Watford in the Premier League of Love) is typing his fictitious C.V. into the computer hoping for a love match and he gets one in the shape of shy Lauren. On his way to the date however he encounters a Sat Nav with a mind of its own, a car that stalls, has a fight with a man on a bus, resulting in a visit to the hospital Out-Patients Department, where mobile phones are banned.

By now intoxicated, Jerry eventually arrives at the rendezvous after a disappointed Lauren has departed, only to finish up mistakenly signing a marriage certificate enabling Helga Toplova, a circus trampolinist, to remain in the country.

The play concludes with a sad Lauren sending a message that will never be received as Jerry in a rage has smashed his computer.

SIXTH (EQUAL): SCOTT SALVER ONE-ACT PLAYWRITING COMPETITION 2007

For further details, contact SCDA Headquarters.

THE PEOPLE THAT LIVE IN BOXES

by Les Clarke

One-act play: drama

Cast: M2 F2
Setting: Piece of land at the rear of a factory
Time: The present

The play concerns two friends, Joe and Beck, who sleep rough living in cardboard boxes. Joe keeps an eye on Beck, as she is a recovering drug addict. Enter Jenny, a mature student doing a thesis on the homeless. Beck refuses to help, but Joe answers her questions, ultimately revealing a chilling secret that not even Beck knew about.

The play takes an ironic twist when Martin enters late at night having had a few drinks!

Judge's comments: A play that stands head and shoulders above the other entrants, well deserving its winning place. It is very powerful indeed, not afraid to face unpleasant facts. The dialogue is brilliantly done, not only revealing character but giving us a subtext that is moving. We are persuaded to sympathise with characters who are not on the face of it sympathetic: a fine theatrical skill.

WINNER: GEOFFREY WHITWORTH ONE-ACT PLAYWRITING COMPETITION 2007

For further details, contact:

Les Clarke at 23 Highfield Road, Moordown, Bournemouth, Dorset, BH9 2SE,
Tel: 01202 518974 or 07738 053890, email: les@lesclarke9.wanadoo.co.uk
or contact SCDA Headquarters.

WAITING

by Christopher Morgan

One-act play: drama

Cast: M3 F4
Setting: A bar in Soho, London
Time: The present – a Friday afternoon in late August

Nigel – the loner; Bernadette – who sees herself as a West-end star; Tracey, an American, who comes to London to dispel a ghost; Gordon – the gambler; Vivienne – who is after a man, not just any man, one of the customers in the bar; Daniel – a dancer; and Penny – who is waiting for her A-level results, are all in the bar in Soho.

As the characters relate their stories, we find out how they came to be in the bar, and why. For most them the journey they have taken has an ending, but not necessarily the one they would want. Some of them are still waiting.

Judge's comments: This play divided the judges to some extent. They all agreed that there are seven gripping stories, well told, and all very different. However, there is no interaction between characters and therefore no conflict which most people regard as the essential element of drama. There was some feeling, therefore, that the piece hardly qualifies as a play but equally strong opinion that the stories themselves are sufficiently theatrical to over-rule this quibble. Certainly breaking up the soliloquies creates a kind of suspense that is effective. Music is cleverly used.

HIGHLY COMMENDED: GEOFFREY WHITWORTH ONE-ACT PLAYWRITING COMPETITION 2007

For further details, contact SCDA Headquarters

IN THE RUBBLE OF PARADISE

by James Chalmers

One-act play: drama

Cast: M5 (3 parts can be acted by one man) F5 (3 of whom are dancers/chorus)
Scene: The *Cabaret Club* in Koblenz
Time: Late 1930s

The title of the play is taken from a German film in which the Jewish cabaret singer, Dora Gerson starred. The play is loosely based on her ill-fated life, and her association with the film producer, Veit Harlan, who went on to make anti-Semitic films for the Nazis. The play reflects, through song and dance sequences, the changing cabaret scene in the late in the late 30s.

Judge's comments: This is an unusual play, both in format and in plot, but it works very well. The characters are all well developed and hold our interest throughout. The music is cleverly used not only to entertain but also to comment on the storyline. The atmosphere of the time and the situation is subtly created and maintained.

COMMENDED: GEOFFREY WHITWORTH ONE-ACT PLAYWRITING COMPETITION 2007

For further details, contact SCDA Headquarters

FANCYING SHEEP

by Vic Mills

One-act play: drama

Cast: M4 F1 (plus chorus)
Setting: various
Time: The present

Edward wants to be a Deacon in his Chapel (Welsh Baptist). With his experience – having been in the Chapel for 27 years, he should be made a Deacon. But is he the right man for the job? Edward certainly thinks he is, and his long-suffering wife (Sylvia) will support him.

His brother-in-law is the stumbling block, because he always mutters loudly during services. However, Edward has offered to buy Gareth a new white shirt if Gareth remains quite during the all-important service, where the new deacon will be appointed. The Reverend Davies takes this service, and ensures that Gareth obtains his new white shirt. However, there's a twist in the tail, there is a competitor for the post!

Judge's comments: As the years pass, it becomes harder and harder for a playwright to come up with an idea that hasn't been tackled by someone previously. But this is a good example of an original plot, in an unusual setting, which nonetheless has something to say about ordinary people's lives. It is funny, wise and clever, with well-developed characters and dialogue to match. Strong on ideas, tender and amusing.

COMMENDED: GEOFFREY WHITWORTH ONE-ACT PLAYWRITING COMPETITION 2007

For further details, contact the Drama Association of Wales or SCDA Headquarters

BENEATH THE VISITING MOON

by Nora Brown

One-act play: drama

Cast: M1 F2 (Author's note: at the director's discretion, Peter's ghost does not need to appear, rather it can be evoked by means of a moving beam of light and a recording of a song and the speeches.)

Scene: An almost empty stage

Time: The Present; after midnight

The stage is empty – after the last night of a One-act play festival, and Hermione enters thinking she has heard the voice of her late husband. The play in which she had taken the leading role, won the festival earlier in the evening, and she is still in the theatre, hoping to see Peter. Her friend Val has been at the after-show party, comes to find Hermione, and on hearing why she is still at the theatre, puts it down to stress. Val and Hermione reminisce about the plays they have performed together with Peter, and what the future might hold for Hermione now that he is no longer there.

Judge's comments: Here is an unusual idea for a plot, worked out with skill. There is depth to the characters and to the ideas expressed. The mood is excellently conveyed and the hints of off-stage action that we aren't entirely privy to are intriguing. Perhaps too many gobbets of Shakespeare – great for the actor but at risk of turning the play into a showcase.

COMMENDED: GEOFFREY WHITWORTH ONE-ACT PLAYWRITING COMPETITION 2007

For further details, contact SCDA Headquarters

NO VINEGAR PLEASE

by Salie Lamont

One-act play: drama

Cast: M2 F1

Setting: Living room

Time: The present

This play explores the relationships between a father, mother and son (Tom), after Tom informs his parents he is homosexual.

Tom believes that he has to be honest to himself, as well as with others. But do his parents share his philosophy? Have they been honest with each other in the past? As the parents probe into their past with Tom, issues come to light that have been dormant for years. And there are some surprises in store for Tom.

As the mother says, "The past affects every day of our future, the things we do, the decisions we make, they all depend on the past."

Judges' comments: A play that is entertaining and yet has considerable depth to it. The twists of plot are well handled; the characters are well rounded and believable; the dialogue is sensitive and true to character. The mother's soliloquies about the nature of life raise the play to a new level – thought-provoking and memorable.

COMMENDED: GEOFFREY WHITWORTH ONE-ACT PLAYWRITING COMPETITION 2007

For further details contact the Drama Association of Wales or SCDA Headquarters

PLAYS 2008

MAYDAY, MAYDAY, MAYDAY

by Bob Davidson

One-act play – comedy

Cast: 3m, 1f

Setting: Mav and Eleanor's living room and kitchen

Time: Present

Mav enjoys playing flight simulator games. His wife, Eleanor, tells Mav that he doesn't know what untold harm constantly playing on a computer is doing to his 'few remaining braincells'. Mav tells Eleanor that she wouldn't say that 'if we were both in a plane right now, and the pilot took no wheel and I was the only one on board who could land it safely'. Mav's friends, Biggles and Ginger, think he has gone too far when he purchases an ejector seat (a Martin Baker Mark Ten). For a while, though, Eleanor has come to the realization that their marriage is going no-where, and tells Mav she is leaving, but it transpires that he has been thinking the same, and they decide to start a new life in France. Saying goodbye to Biggles and Ginger, they arrive at the airport!!!!

Judge's comments: A surprising play, at first seeming very light and inconsequential in treatment but revealing hidden depths as it progresses. A highly original idea, with enjoyably portrayed characters who interact well. The very natural and spontaneous dialogue flows well, and a lot of fun is engendered, with a twist in the end which manages to combine a fine sense of comedy with a more serious element as a sympathetically written closing scene reveals how much Mav and Eleanor mean to each other.

WINNER: SCOTT SALVER ONE-ACT PLAYWRITING COMPETITION 2008
COMMENDED: GEOFFREY WHITWORTH ONE-ACT PLAYWRITING COMPETITION 2008

For further details contact:

Bob Davidson, 6 Marshall Road, Luncarty, Perth, PH1 3UT

tel: 01738 828147; email: bobdavidson602@yahoo.co.uk or contact SCDA headquarters

TEAMWORK

by Jonathan North

One-act play: comedy

Cast: 2m, 2f

Setting: Interior of a dugout

Time: Present

Outside the incessant rain, inside a motley crew of recruits: Kylie, foul of mouth and manner; Yvonne wet and cold, discovers too late that she hates guns; Jim, bustling round, making tea and sandwiches; and Captain Steele, whose leadership qualities owe more to Dad's Army than General Rommel. They are in trouble – the operation is not going to plan – the rain thwarts their escape. Tempers fray, and personal revelations do nothing to ease the tensions. A daring escape is devised, but catastrophe strikes, and the characters' true strengths (and weaknesses) are revealed.

RUNNER-UP: SCOTT SALVER ONE-ACT PLAYWRITING COMPETITION 2008

For further details contact:

Jonathan North, 53 Albany Street, Edinburgh, EH1 3QY

tel: 0131 5561960; email: smh@imaginise.net or contact SCDA headquarters

FOUR AND TWENTY BLACKBIRDS

by Douglas Skelton

One-act play - drama

Cast: 1m, 3f (plus a non-speaking part)
Setting: The Drawing Room of a large lodge house in the Scottish Highlands
Time: Late 1920s

Charlotte and Geoffrey Flynn arrive at Rowan Tree Lodge, looking for Charlotte's brother, who said he was phoning from Rowan Tree. However, Rowan Tree does not have a phone. The only residents are Miss Trubshawe 'Trubbie' and Miss Crumm 'Crummie', two lovely spinsters. Outside a storm rages, so Charlotte and Geoffrey are invited to stay. Over the course of the play Charlotte and Geoffrey's relationship begins to show cracks, someone is murdered, a ghost appears, and the two lovely spinsters may not be so nice after all. And there's a twist at the end.

Judge's comments: An ingenious plot with multiple twists and turns, nicely spooky with a developing sense of menace. The maneuverings of the cast are portrayed with great enjoyment and the revelations are delightfully handled. Precise dialogue suitable for the 1920s.

THIRD PLACE: SCOTT SALVER ONE-ACT PLAYWRITING COMPETITION 2008
COMMENDED: GEOFFREY WHITWORTH ONE-ACT PLAYWRITING COMPETITION 2008

For further details contact:
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THE DRESSING ROOM

by Mark Rees

One-act play – drama

Cast: 2m, 3f
Setting: The dingy dressing room of a dingy back street cabaret club
Time: Present

Norman, a Private Investigator, has been asked by Sam to find her father, whom she does not know. Norman finds Sam's father, Kenneth 'Bunny' May, a female impersonator; and confronts him with the news that he has a daughter, and that she wants to meet him. However, there are complications in Norman's life, which come to light during the play, and he too is not all he seems. The end sees Kenny's decision whether or not to meet his daughter.

Judge's comments: The extremely witty and well-written dialogue, particularly from Kenny, flows extremely well and compels attention throughout. The ending is well-worked, believable and very moving.

COMMENDED: SCOTT SALVER ONE-ACT PLAYWRITING COMPETITION 2008
HIGHLY COMMENDED: GEOFFREY WHITWORTH PLAYWRITING COMPETITION 2008

For further details contact:
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WIDE INNOCENT EYES

by Mike Newbold

One-act play: drama

Cast: 3f (early 20s)
Setting: Split stage; prison cell/dressing room and cliff top
Time: 1935

The play opens with Lucinda in prison. She takes the audience through her life, before she went to prison, and the reason why she is in prison – for murdering her servant Janet. She takes us through her early childhood – from being sent, with her brother, after the death of her parents, to stay with her aunt – to the way she treated her servant Janet. Janet and Lucinda's brother have fallen in love, much to Lucinda's disapproval. Lucinda's cousin Edith is sympathetic to Janet's plight, and a friendship develops between the two women, and again Lucinda disapproves. Lucinda puts up a show of being kind to Janet, but she has an ulterior motive. The play is set in 1935, before the onset of the Second World War, and evokes a different era.

Judge's comments: An excellently plotted and believable story of incestuous love. Well developed characters and well handled dialogue, though perhaps occasionally not appropriate to the period. Thoroughly absorbing and compelling.

COMMENDED: SCOTT SALVER ONE-ACT PLAYWRITING COMPETITION 2008
COMMENDED: GEOFFREY WHITWORTH ONE-ACT PLAYWRITING COMPETITION 2008

For further details, contact:
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BACKSTAGE

by Lindsay Hall

One-act play: comedy - adult

Cast: 5 characters
Setting: An almost empty stage with a stepladder, and some odd bits of scenery
Time: Present

The Director of the upcoming play wants 'an abstract set'; but the Stage Manager wants a traditional box set. Added to this is an actor whose mother is coming to the performance 'just to see him', and also two put-upon Assistant Stage Managers. So the 'stage is set' for a showdown! Find out who gets their own way, but there is a twist!

COMMENDED: SCOTT SALVER ONE-ACT PLAYWRITING COMPETITION 2008

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ON THE BEACH

by Jan Storie

One-act play: comedy – youth

Cast: 5M 4F (Can be doubled-up)
Setting: Beach/dark place full of rubbish
Time: Present

A group of school pupils are carrying out an environmental project on their local beach. One boy, Gregor, stands out as very uninterested – he just wants to sit, play electronic games and eat junk food. The other kids give up on him, but Gregor has a surprising encounter with a Genie, and his attitudes begin to change. As the weather deteriorates, the pupils find themselves stranded, but there is a surprise hero in the party.

COMMENDED: SCOTT SALVER ONE-ACT PLAYWRITING COMPETITION 2008

For further details contact:
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CONFUSED

by Mike Newbold

One-act play: drama – youth

Cast: 4m 12f
Setting: Youth Club
Time: Present

Whilst tidying-up the Youth Club, Dave announces that he is not going to university, as agreed with his girlfriend, Louise, and says he is going to join the army. Louise falls out with him over this. All ‘the gang’ are divided by Dave’s decision and leave the club, but Kate stays to talk, and a relationship develops between them. Dave is sent to Afghanistan, which changes the attitudes of the group. Kate receives bad news, and comes to the group looking for help.

COMMENDED: SCOTT SALVER ONE-ACT PLAYWRITING COMPETITION 2008

For further details, contact:
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ASSAULT WITHIN TENT

by Bob Davidson

One-act play: comedy

Cast: 1m, 6f
Setting: Campsite in rural Perthshire
Time: Present

Set on a campsite, the play follows the re-union of four ladies: Mandy, Marie, Lynn and Carol, all of whom have reached the golden age of 50. They have met again through Friends Re-united, and have a lot of catching up to do. There are some secrets to share, stories to tell, and some thirty-five-year-old grudges bubble under the surface. Also included are the Campsite Warden; Douglas, an ex RAF Bomber Command pilot; and a 30 year-old Eastern European - a mysterious young lady. Why is she here? And will she change the lives of the other characters?

COMMENDED: SCOTT SALVER ONE-ACT PLAYWRITING COMPETITION 2008

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