

CATALOGUE OF NEW PRIZEWINNING PLAYS

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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 077908 51108, 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 2006

COMMENDED: GEOFFREY WHITWORTH 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 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 COMPETITION 2006
COMMENDED: GEOFFREY WHITWORTH 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 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 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 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 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 of the Scott Salver one-act playwriting competition 2007

For details on how to obtain a script, royalties etc., please visit the Stranraer Drama Club website
- www.stranraerdramaclub.org.uk

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. All ends happily however when the bomb is safely returned to its rightful owners and our friends receive £5,000 for keeping quiet about the incident.

Runner-up in the Scott Salver one-act playwriting competition 2007

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.

Third-placed in the Scott Salver one-act playwriting competition 2007

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.

Fourth in the Scott Salver one-act play 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 in the 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) in the 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) in the Scott Salver one-act playwriting competition 2007

For further details, contact SCDA Headquarters.

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