

One-Act Plays by Kathy Mead

148 Dagenham Road, Rush Green, Romford, Essex RM7 0TJ
Phone: 01708 743935 e-mail: kathymead@btinternet.com

AFTER THE CHILD

2 M 3 F (Ms 30s 50s, Fs 20s 50s Any)

AWARD WINNER

A sitting room

This play offers an intriguing glimpse into a medium's life as he desperately seeks help for a child's restless spirit. Described as "Thought-provoking and persuasive," by an adjudicator for the George Taylor Award, and "Intelligent and sensitive - the dialogue is sharp and rings true, the action sweetly paced," by a reader for the Geoffrey Whitworth Trophy.

[With minor alterations to the text, the medium can be played by a woman.]

AND WHO WILL PAY THE RENT?

4 F (1 x 60s 3 x 30s up)

AWARD WINNER

A dowdy sitting room

Miss Bishop, old and virtually blind, leads a lonely existence until a stranger breaks into her home and gradually a friendship is formed. Her new found happiness turns to anguish when her home help cannot see the stranger. Tormented by the possibility of being put into a home by her daughter, Miss Bishop clings desperately to her new friend - with horrific results. This play offers demanding roles, a strong dramatic story line, and a punch-line to send shivers down the spine.

ANY OTHER TUESDAY

7 F (Middle-aged and up)

AWARD WINNER

A park bench

A group of women meet every Tuesday in the park. On this particular Tuesday, Mrs Addams and Mrs Carlisle are at the centre of the friends' problems. If only the late Mrs Merryweather was there to help them resolve their differences just as she would have been on Any Other Tuesday. But, unknown to them, she is and does help them through Mrs Duncan, who they have written off as senile. A poignant play with plenty of humour and wisdom.

ARANDOE'S ROOM

9 Characters (Any ages)

AWARD WINNER

A forest glade

Great Queen Emien has died and left an immature rabble of Elves, Fairies, Pixies and Gnomes to squabble over the leadership of their forest. A question is set to test their worth. After plenty of bickering, wide guesses and cheating, the answer is given to be greeted with heartfelt groans.

A SUMMER VOCATION

9 characters (Any ages)

AWARD WINNER

Father Time's office in the clouds

Summer has been abysmal and therefore sacked. Father Time has called his staff together to interview applicants for the position. They soon become desperate when confronted with propositions for ice ages and demands for company clouds! Can the last applicant save summer?

CONSEQUENCES

2 M 3 F (Ms 50s 40s Fs 50s 2 x 20s)

A study/sitting room

Carol has committed a terrible crime: an accident has left her a hit-and-run driver with a victim seriously ill in hospital. Can her antagonistic family be united to help her face the lawful consequences of her crime and a cruel blackmail attempt?

CRYING OUT LOUD

5 F (2 x 30/40s 3 x 50/60s)

A sitting room

This play for five women sensitively handles the difficult subject of agoraphobia, bringing sympathy and insight to a problem that usually invokes intolerance and lack of understanding. It offers well-defined characters, natural dialogue, and a believable ending - no miracle cure but a glimpse of hope. This play was described as "A very impressive piece, very moving", "Poignant and thought-provoking", "Enthralling, the audience were totally on side, you could have heard a pin drop."

DEAD CENTRE

8 F (Mid teens)

AWARD WINNER

A crypt

Are the rumours true? Is there a vampire in the crypt? Young friends attempt a scientific experiment and a practical joke ends in tragedy.

KEY TO THE DARK

3 M 2 F (Ms 20s to 40s Fs 20s 30s) or 5 F (20s to 40s)
*Please specify **Mixed** or **All Women** cast when ordering*

AWARD WINNER

Somewhere safe. Here. Now.

Paige draws together her patients for a group therapy session, and gradually strange connections are revealed between them: the loneliness of their backgrounds, abductions, the bestowal of physical gifts. The inspiration for this piece is the mystery surrounding accounts of abduction by aliens, but this is never mentioned and the audience is left to answer the many questions the play raises, not least of all being whether Paige is actually therapist or patient. "An absorbing, powerful, sometimes riveting play." Colin Dolley GODA.

LINE OF DESCENT

1 M 4 F (M 50s Fs 60s 3 x 20/30s)

AWARD WINNER

A barn

Set in 1944 Germany, two families meet in a barn: the Kesslers are fleeing the Russians, and the Brandts the Nazis. Anna is Jewish, Eva is a Nazi. The blind bigotry and hatred of Nazism results in tragedy, but the natural tolerance of the other characters and Gran's story-telling show Eva how bankrupt Fascism is. Tony Rushforth of GODA thought it, "An interesting study of war from the German viewpoint. It has tension, suspense, conflict... lots of dramatic power."

RECKONING

2 M 2 F (Ms 40s 50s Fs 30s 50s)

AWARD WINNER

A prison cell, and people's memories of events.

Tom, a priest and criminal psychologist visits Rachel in her prison cell. He is convinced of her innocence but she protests her guilt. Memories of the events leading to her father's death are revisited, and the shattering truth is revealed only after Rachel is executed. "A gripping and totally unpredictable thriller," Irene Rostron, GODA. Period: twenty years from now.

Winner of the Geoffrey Whitworth Award, and the George Taylor Award 2000.

SPLINTERS

3 M 6 F (Teens)

AWARD WINNER

School grounds

Lin and Robbie's brother dies when terrorists bomb a provincial town. Sinead's uncle admits to planting the bomb. A challenging piece for young people that shows the pain and anger of loss when everyone is a victim.

SPOILS FOR THE VICTOR

5 F (2 x 50/60s 3 x 20/30s)

AWARD WINNER

Beside a battlefield

As women camp followers help themselves to spoils from enemy dead, the discovery of a barely alive opposition spy raises doubts about expected and, until now accepted, behaviour. Period: the past.

STANDING STILL

2 M 1 F (Ms 30s 50s F 30s)

AWARD WINNER

A conservatory

Grace and Charlie's lives are turned upside down when the new gardener proves to be Charlie's long lost father who has been searching for his son for thirty years. An ancient 'Dear John' letter reveals the unexpected truth about past events, and a positive pregnancy result provides further upheaval. Can pig-headed Charlie ever accept his father, and what are the chances of becoming one big happy family?

THE ANDERSON

2 M 2 F (Ms 20s 30s Fs 50s 20s)

AWARD WINNER

An Anderson shelter

Set in the East End of London in 1940, we find indomitable cockney spirit battling against the inevitable when a family's shelter from the ravages of the blitz becomes a death-trap. A challenging piece for two men and two women which has won production, staging and adjudicator's awards. "This writer handles dialogue, development, and characterisation with skill and insight... a first-rate piece of theatre." (Adjudicator, George Taylor Award).

THE HURTING

1 M 2 F (M 30/40 Fs 30s 50s)

AWARD WINNER

An isolation colony

The future. Medical rejects are exported to outer space, left to survive abandoned and without hope. Travis and Cassau have a love/hate relationship that has sustained them through the difficult years. But Travis is now dying and can no longer accept their superficial game-playing as the only contact. If they can survive the truth, they can survive anything. And sometimes miracles do happen. "A clever and imaginative piece of theatre – highly original in concept and development." (George Taylor Memorial Award adjudicator.)

THE OTHER OTHER WOMAN

6 F (5 x 50s teens/20s)

AWARD WINNER

A posh conservatory

Despite the evidence Andrea cannot believe Percival has strayed. During her encounter with the 'other woman', a letter arrives from the other 'other woman' informing the absent father of the birth of his son! The three betrayed women form an unlikely alliance, the family that Andrea had never had, and, fired by the routing of two incompetent Bible-bashers, the three women give Percival a welcome home he never expected! Full of comic moments and excellent characterization. A touching play.

THE VIEW FROM HERE

2 M 2 F (Ms 30s Fs 50s)

AWARD WINNER

A sitting room

A crippled actress and her young husband reach the day in their lives when the frustrations and tensions come to a head. Bitter truths and revelations confront both, but their love for each other and the theatre holds them together.

THIS COMMON BOND

1 M 1 F (30s)

AWARD WINNER

The conservatory of a private nursing home

Two attempted suicides come together at a convalescent home. Cass hates a man she cannot live with, Richard mourns a woman he cannot live without. As their friendship develops can they supply the lifeline they both desperately need? An adjudicator for the George Taylor Award said that, "The writer handles her theme with credibility and a fine sense of theatre. A play which encapsulates both the bleak and the heart-warming to a highly effective degree."

WHEN THE BOUGH BREAKS

4 F (50s/60s)

AWARD WINNER

A lounge

Retired sisters Molly and Daphne have invited an old friend to stay and are growing increasingly alarmed by her strange behaviour. Disturbing incidents lead to a harrowing climax.