

Next Stage Press 2014 Catalogue of Plays



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NEW ACQUISITIONS

64 SQUARES BY JOHN PATRICK BRAY, GENE KATO, BRYAN MAYNARD, FRANK OTERI, BEN PLOPPER, CAROL M. RICE AND MICHAEL WEEMS

THE STORY: From opening move to checkmate, this collection of short plays based on elements of chess - King, Queen, Bishop, Rook, Knight, Pawn, Black, and White is sure to have something for every theatre-lover. The added bonus is that they are all brand new fairy tales. Intended for a flexible cast the play can be performed with a cast size from seven to twenty-eight characters. The plays are designed to be performed together or they can be licensed independently!!

PAWN - A lone survivor from a generation almost forgotten, a mysterious crate; and a perilous storm swirling overhead... Better take it one step at a time.

ROOK - Jessica has been locked in a tower alone since her wedding. When a stranger arrives, he's not there to rescue her; he's on a journey to find his own bride. Then her husband shows up with news that changes everything.

QUEEN - Bob wakes up one morning to discover that a gal who has spent several nights has left a toothbrush. His roommate, Ramon, refuses to return to his own land because he cannot make his lady smile. Can these two men - products of different ages - compromise in order to find happiness (or, at the very least, share the rent)?

WHITE - A lady must keep a promise to her missing husband to never shed a tear for him, lest darkness overtake their land. But how can a woman keep hope in her heart when all hope is lost?

KNIGHT - A knight must keep a promise to his faithful wife to never let death take him, no matter how impossible it may be. But how can a man keep death at bay when it is only a breath away?

BISHOP - is a comedic tale of blind desire involving two kingdoms, a queen and the naïve wish of Marty, a Bishop of the White Court.

BLACK - A rock star struggles to remember what, or who, he has forgotten. A mysterious woman and a guitar riff may hold the key to his fading memories, so long as he doesn't look back.

KING - An emotional King attempts to hold a snowman accountable for a crime he may or may not be guilty of, all the while fielding counsel from his Royal Counselor who may or may not be giving him the best advice.

THE CANTURBURY TALES BY LUKE KRUEGER

THE STORY: The year is 1399. Richard II is holed up, waiting for his lords to arrive with their armies so he may make his ill-fated expedition to Ireland. Adding to Richard's vexation is the potential return of his cousin Henry Bolingbroke (later Henry IV). Complicating the court's politics is the presence of Lady Joan de Bohun, the mother-in-law to Henry. To alleviate Richard's boredom, a group of jongleurs have been summoned to entertain him. As their early attempts fail to entertain, Geoffrey Chaucer arrives unannounced. Desperate for money and hoping to curry favor with Richard, Chaucer begs the king to let the jongleurs perform some of his tales of Canterbury. The hitch however is that they are in English, a significant faux pas for a court in which only French is spoken. As the tales unfold, word arrives that Henry has disappeared from exile in France. Richard soon surmises that Chaucer's tales are coded messages advising him as to whether he should remain in England to intercept Henry or venture to Ireland; the encryption being necessary with the

presence of Lady Joan at court. By the end of the tales, Richard determines that he must launch for Ireland. After he leaves, the plot unfolds: The jongleurs were hired by Chaucer, Lady Joan, as an agent for Henry, had hired Chaucer with the promise that during Henry's reign Chaucer's pension would increase. This adaptation of *Canterbury Tales* draws on historical fact re-imagined into the court intrigue that subtly parallels with the tales told. The play utilizes verse, heightened language, and some of the original Middle English to offer a challenge to actors of any varying level of experience.

DONKEY BY JOHN PATRICK BRAY

THE STORY: DONKEY tells the story of Steve Ryan, an independent coffee shop owner in a liberal-arts college town in upstate New York. When the mayor paves the way for Quick Java, a corporate coffee shop, to move into the center of town Steve ignores the writing on the wall. A satire of small-town politics, Donkey reminds us that for every decision we fail to make, there is another decision waiting to not be made.

DONKEY was an Alternate for the 2012 Last Frontier Theatre Conference, and a finalist for the 2010 Playwriting Residency at the Hangar Theatre.

FLY IN THE WINDSHEILD BY DENISE O'NEAL

THE STORY: When Russell Hicks checks into a drug rehabilitation program for his addiction to “cigarettes” he is soon confronted with a truth he does not want to face: His addiction is, at best, a facade - something far worse brought him there. Over a 90-day period, Russell, along with a small group of recovering addicts are held under the thumb of a non-sense Pastor and a Drill Sergeant-like program overseer. Each man comes face to face with pressures and challenges they must learn to overcome. When their stories unfold only brotherly bonds and absolute truth will remain.

Loosely based on actual interviews conducted with six men completing a faith-based drug rehabilitation program, FLY IN THE WINDSHIELD is set in a small church found somewhere in deep South, USA and walks the viewer through each man's personal journey of discovery. It is a lighthearted drama that reminds us of the transforming power of the human spirit.

THE LIGHTNING BUG BY RAND HIGBEE

THE STORY: The year is 1939. The offices of the Magnopolis Daily News are buzzing over the rumored return of Dr. Kasady, the evil genius intent on global domination. Kasady hasn't been seen in the city in over 10 years. As the reporters race to get the story, they discover the unassuming shoeshine girl, Rishamie Reid, may know something about where Kasady has been and why he is returning. For Rishamie is no ordinary shoeshine girl. A genetic mutation has turned her into the Lightning Bug, a super hero who can move faster than the eye can see. When Kasady arrives with his latest plan for global conquest, Rishamie may be the only person who can stop him.

ONE CHARACTER PLAYS

A GRAIN OF SALT BY *ARTHUR M. JOLLY*

A Salt Gatherer battles loneliness while scraping away at the narrow boundary between the sea and the land, and between civilization and isolation. (1M) Part of the play GLOBETROTTING

PERFORMANCE FEE - \$15 when produced alone

RAIN OF FISH BY *GENE KATO*

On a deserted beach in Honduras, a young woman looks for a miracle while grappling with a crisis of faith after a family tragedy. (1W) Part of the play GLOBETROTTING

PERFORMANCE FEE - \$15 when produced alone

ROMANCE IS DEAD BY *DANIEL GUYTON*

Dr. Edward Bainsbridge has been arrested for a terrible crime - interfering with a dead body. Four dead bodies, to be exact. Come hear his terrible confession, which will shock you, repulse you, and might even make you laugh... (1M) Part of the play HILARIOUS NIGHTMARES.

Semi-finalist in the Spotlight On: One Person Play Competition in Los Angeles, CA, 2012.

PERFORMANCE FEE - \$15 when produced alone

THE SINS OF REBETHANY CHASTAIN BY *DANIEL GUYTON*

A trailer park beauty queen shares her zany story of how she got arrested (for murder, of all things!), in this one woman monologue. (1W) Part of the play HILARIOUS NIGHTMARES

PERFORMANCE FEE - \$15 when produced alone

TWO CHARACTER PLAYS

BROTHERHOOD BY *GARRY MICHAEL KLUGER*

Joey and Frank are brothers who never really got along while growing up. When he was a teenager Joey was thrown out of the house by his mother and it would be years before the brothers would see each other again. Eventually, a business deal that had gone bad would force Joey and Frank to confront each other, and years of animosity explodes on the scene. And when business becomes personal, an ultimate showdown is inevitable. (2M)

PERFORMANCE FEE - \$30

FATHER AND SON BY DANIEL GUYTON

God becomes an Atheist. Hijinks ensue. (2M) Part of the play HILARIOUS NIGHTMARES

PERFORMANCE FEE - \$15 when produced alone

FIVE SQUARE BY MARK OGLE

FIVE SQUARE takes place in a society where multiple personalities are considered normal. It is traditionally expected that each "human" will have developed two diverse, separately named individuals inside of them by adulthood. Each traditional relationship, therefore, is a merging and collaboration between four personalities. Five Square tells the story of a relationship between males, Victor and Steven and females, Emily and Lenore. All the personalities in FIVE SQUARE are played by two performers. (1M 1F)

PERFORMANCE FEE - \$40

THE HOMECOMING BY GARRY MICHAEL KLUGER

THE HOMECOMING follows the story of two sisters, Sara and Jody. After being estranged from her father for several years, Sara returns home following his death. Upon her arrival, she is immediately confronted by her sister, Jody, for missing the funeral. What follows is not only an attempt to lay their father and their feelings towards him to rest, but to try and do the same with the events that initially tore them apart; to make it a true homecoming. (2F)

PERFORMANCE FEE - \$30

I'M NOT GAY! BY DANIEL GUYTON

A gay man and a homophobe are trapped on an elevator together. Hijinks ensue. (2M) Part of the play HILARIOUS NIGHTMARES

Winner of the "Best Comedy" Award at The Author's Playhouse New Author Festival in 2005.

PERFORMANCE FEE - \$15 when produced alone

INNOCENT THOUGHTS BY WILLIAM MISSOURI DOWNS

Arlen Weinberg, a Jewish anthropologist, is called to be an expert witness in a murder trial. The accused: a white police officer. His alleged crime: murdering a black man twenty years ago and burying the bones in the dirt floor beneath his brownstone. When Arlen arrives, he is shocked to discover that the defense lawyer is black. Ira Altridge is that black lawyer and he's not having a good day. His first expert witness has suddenly resigned from the case, giving him only one thin lunch hour to get his new anthropologist up to speed. Soon, the men discover they know each other, having both grown up in the same suburb of Chicago. Ira was a gang member who often preyed on Jewish boys and Arlen was the perfect target. Soon, their childhoods, cultures, and convictions come into conflict. Arlen's namby pamby liberalism drives Ira nuts, while Arlen begins to question if Ira's true purpose is to defend his white client. (2M)

PERFORMANCE FEE - \$60

THE INSTITUTION BY CAROL M. RICE

An institution is often a place for the confinement of inmates, especially mental patients. Marriage can be defined as the social institution under which a two people establish their decision to live as husband and wife by legal commitments. Commitment can be defined as confinement to a mental institution or hospital...and we're back where we started. So WHY is it called the institution of marriage again??? Carol M. Rice takes a cynical and humorous yet touching look at marriage in these monologues and scenes. From a woman who has been married eight times giving advice to her single friends, to a three-time widow describing her husbands' crazy deaths, to why men and women have trouble being "just friends," the situations are absurd, yet realistic. Institution: any established custom or familiar, long-established practice (as in marriage) (1M 1F)

PERFORMANCE FEE - \$40

KITTY AND LINA BY MANUEL IGREJAS

Kitty takes the stage in a smashing red dress. She is having a "pretty" day and wants to share it with the audience. She came to New York fueled by fantasies of a Manhattan created by Woody Allen. Her day job pays the rent but her evenings are reserved for the Inwood Merry Players, of which she is a charter member. She's still finding her way in the big, grimy playground and sometimes, being a pretty girl isn't all it's cracked up to be. Lina, a self-possessed woman in her later years, follows her. Lina is on the other end of Kitty's ride. An immigrant from Portugal, she escaped her arranged marriage and through pluck, luck, and a little on the side, had a career in publishing in New York City. Now retired, she still loved New York but finds there are new challenges for women of a certain age. Two vibrant, intelligent women bare their souls directly to the audience. (2W)

PERFORMANCE FEE - \$60

LINER NOTES BY JOHN PATRICK BRAY

Alice, the daughter of a rock-and-roll legend, finds George, her father's first guitarist and the one man noticeably absent from his funeral, in order to bring him to visit her father's grave. LINER NOTES reminds us that the past is only as amazing as the one who gets to write it down. (1M 1F)

PERFORMANCE FEE - \$60

MILO & BARBARA BY DANIEL GUYTON

A marriage is in danger when the husband turns to acting, and the wife turns to drinking. (1M 1F) Part of the play
HILARIOUS NIGHTMARES

Finalist in the Kennedy Center/ACTF Region IV 10-min Play Competition 2002

PERFORMANCE FEE - \$15 when produced alone

A MOVING EXPERIENCE BY KEN PREUSS

On the final night of spring semester, a newly dating college couple meets in a dorm to prepare for a move. She is packing for a summer in Spain. He is trying to find out where things stand. Their rapid-paced banter tackles everything from Shakespearean quotes to sexy state capitals, from the rules of wishing to the perils of romance, from teddy bear voodoo dolls to the dreaded energy drink of death. As they fill up the boxes and open up about the relationship, their comical conversations, confrontations, and confessions explore past loves, present feelings, and future plans. (1M 1F)

PERFORMANCE FEE - \$40

NIGHT AND SILENCE BY BRET JONES

NIGHT AND SILENCE is the story of two professors who spend one evening battling over the ownership of art, literature, and death--all spurned by the discovery (by one of them) of Shakespeare's missing play *Love's Labour's Wonne*. As the evening rolls onward, the stakes get higher and higher as violence erupts between the two--leaving only one left standing. (2M)

PERFORMANCE FEE - \$60

SOME UNFINISHED CHAOS BY EVAN GUILFORD-BLAKE

SOME UNFINISHED CHAOS is about the ways people create -- and sometimes destroy -- in order to survive, physically and spiritually. A talented and energetic young woman tries to persuade a cynical, once-successful, writer to help her with her writing. He agrees and, in the process, begins to rediscover his own ability to write, but then discovers he has cancer and is forced to re-examine his personal and professional needs. (1M 1F)

PERFORMANCE FEE - \$60

TRASH BY ARTHUR M. JOLLY

The play takes place entirely in a dump - a municipal landfill, where two estranged sisters have come to look for a letter from their mother. They've come from their mother's funeral - the first time they've seen each other in years, and as they dig through the literal and metaphorical trash heap, they get further and further into their complicated relationship with each other - and with the lives they led under the shadow of a domineering mother who still controls and influences them even after her death. (2W)

PERFORMANCE FEE - \$60

TYPE O NEGATIVE BY BRET JONES

TYPE O NEGATIVE is a mystery/thriller with two women vying for the affections of a philandering opera producer. When the producer's ex-wife hires the new girlfriend for some secretarial work, it sets in motion a complicated web of deceit, betrayal, and revenge. With their passions for the same man driving them, the women devise dangerous schemes to eliminate the other from the love triangle. Who will survive their confrontation? (2W)

PERFORMANCE FEE - \$60

THREE CHARACTER PLAYS

BEDFORD'S STY BY DANIEL GUYTON

A grown man named Bedford refuses to clean up his bedroom - even when a ghost tells him he has to! (3M) Part of the play HILARIOUS NIGHTMARES

PERFORMANCE FEE - \$15 when produced alone

BROKEN BIRDS BY SEAN O'CONNOR

In Sean O'Connor's hysterical and dark one-act, birds, thousands of them, gather one morning along the Jersey turnpike, all the way up to New York City, unable to move. And Alex Bennet, a huge TV star, local boy made good (whose life is spinning a bit out of control) has returned to his N.J. hometown, to Somerset, for the first time in years. One evening, at his motel near the turnpike, he receives a surprise visit from a guy he grew up with, "McCart" (Dave McCarthy), an odd, simple working class guy who never left the area. Little does Alex know that the seemingly naive McCart, who has been watching Alex obsessively for years on TV, is not here for a sweet, nostalgic stroll down Memory Lane. He's here to seek retribution for a horrible wrong committed upon him by Alex way, way back when they were kids - a retribution that will alter the course of both of their lives... forever. (3M)

PERFORMANCE FEES - \$30

GEORGIE GETS A FACELIFT BY DANIEL GUYTON

A young man tries to kill himself in this dark, disturbing comedy, but an accidental murder puts things into perspective. (1M 2F) Part of the play HILARIOUS NIGHTMARES

Finalist in the Kennedy Center/ACTF Region IV 10-Min Play Competition 2003

Semi-Finalist in The Riant Theatre's Strawberry One-Act Festival in Manhattan, 2005

Finalist in the Time to Strike 2012 Short Play Festival in Manhattan, NY, 2012

PERFORMANCE FEE - \$15 when produced alone

PAST CURFEW BY ARTHUR M. JOLLY

In Arthur M. Jolly's fellowship winning play PAST CURFEW, the dysfunctional relationship between a single mother and her teenage daughter erupts on the night 17 year-old Kirstie sneaks home late after a disastrous first date, and is caught by her mother, Sarah. During the course of one night, years of bitter conflicts gradually erupt as Sarah and Kirstie finally confront the unspoken issues between them through a vicious series of head games, where lies are buried under lies, and the truth is brought out only as the ultimate weapon. The arrival of Kirstie's would-be boyfriend Michael only compounds the issues - but as dawn approaches, all the lies are stripped away; the core of their relationship is finally exposed - and can be rebuilt. Arthur M. Jolly -an academy recognized screenwriter and award winning playwright -explores some of his darkest territory yet in this harrowing drama. (1M 2F)

PERFORMANCE FEE - \$60

REMAINING IN ORBIT BY SCOTT GIBSON

"Hen" Loudin, a self-absorbed middle-aged man has shut himself off from the distractions and annoyances of the outside world, aided by his opinionated assistant Ginnie who runs errands—and interference--on his behalf. One day, Hen's neighbor, the free-spirited Lissie bursts into his life, creating havoc with his well-ordered existence. Exasperated and enchanted by this distraction, Hen begins to recognize his self-imposed limitations and to yearn for something more. At the same time, Ginnie grows jealous of Lissie's influence on Hen. "If you're waiting for him to notice you, you could be waiting a long time," Lissie cautions. "Just remaining in someone's orbit is not enough. Not when it's some-one like Hen." Angered, Ginnie makes a desperate and impulsive move that causes Hen to see both of them in a new light. "Orbit" is a seriocomic examination of co-dependence between three slightly dysfunctional people each seeking a chance at happily-ever-after. (1M 2F)

PERFORMANCE FEE - \$60

SPAT! BY DANIEL GUYTON

A husband and wife have a horrible argument over the wife's affair with an illegal immigrant. (2M 1F) Part of the play HILARIOUS NIGHTMARES

PERFORMANCE FEE - \$15 when produced alone

THE SWEET ABYSS BY JON TUTTLE

Cassandra has only one functional, fulfilling relationship in her life, and that's with Izzy - her cat. When he dies in her arms, she is plunged into debilitating grief and sets out to find him. What follows is a rumination on morality and personal journey through sorrow and back, ultimately, to a newly negotiated comfort. (1M 2W)

PERFORMANCE FEE - \$60

FOUR CHARACTER PLAYS

THE ADVOCATE BY BILL MESCE, JR.

England, August 1943. The tide of WW II is finally turning in the Allies favor, and the American air war against Germany is escalating in both scope and ferocity. Against this background, a highly decorated U.S. fighter pilot -- Major Markham -- is charged with shooting down one of his own men. Army lawyer Harry Voss is tasked with investigating the case but is stymied not by Markham trying to conceal his guilt, but by his too eager confession. Although the Army is happy to see an embarrassing incident quickly closed, Voss continues to probe suspecting Markham has confessed to one crime in order to conceal an even greater, more horrifying one; one that will send tremors up to the highest levels of the military. (4M)

PERFORMANCE FEE - \$60

BILL'S BACK BY GENE KATO

Barry Plumber has the worst case of writer's block he's ever experienced. His inability to put pen to paper is exacerbated by the fact that he shuns inspiration from all of the great writers in history- dismissing them as hacks. One evening, in a fit of resistance he declares that "Shakespeare sucks!" - which inadvertently conjures the spirit of William Shakespeare ...who refuses to leave. It's only after Barry is forced to deal with the unwelcome apparition, that he realizes his inability to create may lie in the need to exorcise the demons from his past. (2M 2F)

PERFORMANCE FEE - \$60

EVERMORE BY GARY WRIGHT

October 1849. Edgar Allan Poe has just died. As his literary executor, Rufus Griswold, compiles Poe's complete works for posthumous publication, the stories and poems come alive in highly theatrical interludes, which show the profound effect Poe's personal relationships had on his writing - and vice versa. For Griswold, the stories and poems trigger bitter memories of his own brief friendship with Poe, which disintegrated in a series of petty slights and misunderstandings, and turned into one of the bitterest feuds in the annals of American letters. But far, far more painful for Griswold are his fond reminiscences of Poe's wife Virginia - a witty, delightful girl, loved by all, whose sudden illness and death inspired Poe's masterpiece *The Raven*, but also transformed him from a brash, devil-may-care romantic figure into a tragic, haunted madman - for evermore. (2M 2F)

PERFORMANCE FEE - \$60

FOUR QUARTERS BY CHRISTOPHER HEATH

What if the never-ending internal dialogue that we call our 'thoughts' were externalized? Christopher Heath's fascinating new play uses this as a theatrical device, giving its sexually ambiguous characters (Jo/Joe and Teri/Terry) each two physical expressions, one masculine, one feminine. Hence: FOUR QUARTERS. The play explores love and death with a resonance and power that gains strength from its deliberate indefiniteness, allowing the viewer to write his or her own emotional history onto the characters' plight. Honest and searing, the dramatic work refuses to make easy choices or come to simplistic conclusions. One comes away from FOUR QUARTERS not with a one-line moral, but with a deepened under-standing of human nature and this alternately sad and exhilarating condition we all suffer from called life. (2M 2F)

PERFORMANCE FEE - \$60

KILL THE MOMENT BY SCOTT GIBSON

An isolated mountain cabin is the setting for the mystery/thriller KILL THE MOMENT. The unexpected appearance of a stranded motorist at the home of a former soap opera actress sets in motion a violent chain of events that includes lies, blackmail, betrayal and murder. Bodies refuse to remain buried, or dead, for that matter, and tend to reappear at the most inconvenient moments in a plot that is by turns morbid, darkly comedic, and wildly unexpected. (2M 2F)

PERFORMANCE FEE - \$60

THE REAL TALE OF JACK AND JILL BY GENE KATO

THE REAL TALE OF JACK AND JILL gets to the bottom of what actually happened that day up on the famous "hill". Jack and Jill are 25 years old and still living in their parent's ramshackle hut - sans plumbing. When their cousin Dave and his friend George unexpectedly drop by on their way to Waxahachie, TX to become professional kissers, the day quickly deteriorates. Before long, the four-some find themselves up on the hill battling falling buckets of water, flying knives, mad cow disease, and amnesia. The truth would have come out years ago if Mother Goose wasn't such a pathological liar. (3M 1F)

PERFORMANCE FEE - \$40

SIX SOUR RASPBERRIES BY SCOTT GIBSON

In SIX SOUR RASPBERRIES, the universal concept of unrequited love is explored in alternatively comedic and dramatic sequences that unfold over the course of five years in the lives of Duv, a thirty-something writer and his best friend since high school, Callie. Duv has long carried a torch for his friend Rob who is in a committed relationship elsewhere, and Callie is making the first tentative overtures to Lori, a new co-worker. Told in fast-paced scenarios that play out with almost no break between, the audience bears witness to clumsy attempts at flirtation, heartfelt confessions of true feelings, and a heated debate over just who is the sexiest castaway on *Gilligan's Island*. (2M 2F)

PERFORMANCE FEE - \$60

YOUR DILLY DILLY HEART BY SCOTT GIBSON

Janis and Merle, two middle-aged widows, are on their annual summer vacation trip when they are unceremoniously abducted by Beau, a twenty year-old escapee from a prison work farm, who holds them captive in a motel room. From the outset, it is clear that Beau hasn't entirely thought through his escape plan. He wants only to make his way back to his high school girlfriend Danielle, and selecting Merle and Janis as his means of getting there may have been more than he bargained for. At the same time, this unexpected development forces the two women to take stock of a friendship built more on intimidation and acquiescence than on any genuine affection. Twenty-four hours of close confinement bring to the surface years of longstanding resentments and a few un-confronted truths. And when Danielle puts in an appearance, Beau himself must re-evaluate the course he's set for him-self. YOUR DILLY DILLY HEART delivers full-out laughs while examining the quiet lies we've begun to accept as fact in order to get us to the end of the day. (1M 3F)

PERFORMANCE FEE - \$60

FIVE CHARACTER PLAYS

BANSHEE BY BRIAN C. PETTI

BANSHEE follows Jerry Sullivan (Junior) as he tries to reestablish himself after time spent in a psychiatric hospital. Despite his domineering Irish-born mother Kit, Junior's policeman brother Neil sets him up with a new job and eventually with a new girlfriend. Kit, however, is convinced the newcomer is a "banshee", the mystical wailing Irish creature that foretells imminent death. Junior tries desperately to cling to his sanity while he questions his mother's motives, his new relationship and the possibility of truth behind the myth. Banshee is part psychological thriller, part

family drama/comedy and part ghost story. With humor and pathos, the play explores the nature of familial relationships and the struggle to overcome one's personal demons. (3M 2F)

PERFORMANCE FEE - \$60

COUNT TO THREE BY MICHAEL WEEMS

Old friends on an African hunting trip reconnect after some time apart. Their latest meeting, however, has them both aiming for an unspoken yet identical target. (2M 3W)

PERFORMANCE FEE - \$15

GLOBETROTTING BY SCOTT GIBSON, ARTHUR M. JOLLY, GENE KATO, & MICHAEL WEEMS

Four plays make up the evening of theatre known as GLOBETROTTING- giving the audience four tales set around the world. In *Count to Three by Michael Weems*, Old friends on an African hunting trip reconnect after some time apart. Their latest meeting, however, has them both aiming for an unspoken yet identical target. *Rain of Fish by Gene Kato* takes us to a deserted beach in Honduras, where a young woman looks for a miracle while grappling with a crisis of faith after a family tragedy. In *A Grain of Salt by Arthur M. Jolly*, a Salt Gatherer battles loneliness while scraping away at the narrow boundary between the sea and the land, and between civilization and isolation. Finally, in *House of No Questions by Scott Gibson*, fact and folklore collide in a small apartment in Kiev when a young writer attempts to unearth the origins behind the myth of the witch-crone Baba Yaga, a childhood legend, and perhaps something more. (2M 3W, Expanding possible)

PERFORMANCE FEE - \$60; INDIVIDUAL PLAYS - \$15

FISHING BY LEIGHZA WALKER

Grant fears his two-year long emotionally charged friendship with Meg is a threat to his marriage. His wife, Dana, on the other hand, thinks it just might save it. Meg is caught between the two, wanting desperately to move to a new level of intimacy with Grant but terrified the friendship will end if she is the aggressor. Grant and Meg tightrope walk the fine line between friends and lovers until Dana's plan to explore new territories of trust and commitment forces all three to reconsider what they really want. (2M 3W)

PERFORMANCE FEE - \$60

THE GREATER GOOD BY REBECCA GORMAN O'NEILL

In the not-too-distant future, three men live in an internment camp for American intellectuals and political dissenters. Their lives are turned upside-down with the arrival of Stel, a woman whose presence could be their death sentence or their means to escape. THE GREATER GOOD is a sardonic look at might happen if we forget our past, or lose hope for our future. (3M 2W)

PERFORMANCE FEE - \$60

HOUSE OF NO QUESTIONS BY SCOTT GIBSON

Fact and folklore collide in a small apartment in Kiev when a young writer attempts to unearth the origins behind the myth of the witch-crone Baba Yaga, a childhood legend, and perhaps something more. (2M 3W)

PERFORMANCE FEE - \$15

MORISOT RECLINING BY WILLIAM C. KOVACSIK

MORISOT RECLINING tells the story of Berthe Morisot and Edouard Manet, whose contributions to painting in the nineteenth century shook the art world. It is structured around five portraits Manet painted of Morisot, each of which documents a different stage in their relationship, moving from mentor/ student to a deep connection between lovers whose feelings were never consummated. Their relationship reaches its apex as Manet creates "Berthe Morisot Reclining," a work of unrivalled sensuality that brings forth the passionate connection between two diverse personalities who could never fully acknowledge -- nor escape -- the force that bound them together. (2M 3W)

PERFORMANCE FEE - \$60

NEW TRUCK FOR PAULIE BY SEAN O'CONNOR

1969. Paulie Parcels, MIA in Vietnam, assumed to be dead, appears a year later at his family's New Jersey home. Julie, his old girlfriend, who's been involved with his brother Nicky, returns to Paulie. And his father, Gus, who recently refused to buy a new truck for the younger Nicky, buys one for Paulie and invites him into the family business. Nicky, devastated by these betrayals, discovers a secret about Paulie's tour in Vietnam. In a desperate attempt to win back his father and Julie's love, he embarks on an action that will bring havoc to this family forever. (5M 2W)

PERFORMANCE FEE - \$60

NO BLUES FOR THE CABMAN BY SEAN O'CONNOR

Comedic slice-of-life story about a happy-go-lucky Chicago cab driver, Earnest, who loves to sing "Bluebird on my Shoulder" to keep the blues from overtaking his life, and Howard, a hard-driving businessman, who jumps into Earnest's cab for a life changing ride to O'Hare Airport. As the two slowly make their way to the airport for Howard's big trip to St. Louis, Earnest's good nature begins to take hold of Howard and soon he is apologizing for his less than appealing behavior. As Earnest drives, the relationship between the two unlikely friends begins to grow. Before long they are exchanging life stories – how easy Howard's life has been but he still finds it necessary to sing the blues and how hard Earnest life has been but, despite the hardships, he usually finds a way to look at the bright side. Ken Cross's charming one-act weaves a tale that not only entertains, but reminds us to always look on the bright side. (3M 2W)

PERFORMANCE FEE - \$40

TRICKSTER AT THE GATE BY JOHN PATRICK BRAY

Nell is the human incarnation of the Yoruba God Esu Elegba, who is being forced to live a mortal life as penance for human deformities and suffering. We are given a glimpse of three time periods: her life in Southern Louisiana; during the Harlem Renaissance; and finally, Nell as an old woman, nearly forgotten by everyone. (3M 2F, PLUS DANCERS)

PERFORMANCE FEE - \$60

SIX CHARACTER PLAYS

FRAGMENTS BY MICHAEL WEEMS

FRAGMENTS depict six friends amidst their tumultuous senior year of college. Between Tiffany's 'loving' emasculation of any man nearby, Jay's rampant paranoia that the sexiest girl ever, Melissa, will make him her bitch, and Troy's maniac nightmares of his castrating fiancé, these roommates and the rest of the myriad ensemble throw together a slap dash party to inevitably fulfill their sad destinies through wildly mismatched love affairs, life-altering prank phone calls, and the perpetual misconnection between an ambitious TV journalist-to-be and the guy next door. Fragments invites you to laugh at their misfortune, empathize if you've gone through it too recently, and reminisce on when you were so naïve and fondly wonder.... What the hell was I thinking?! (3M 3W)

PERFORMANCE FEE - \$60

A GULAG MOUSE BY ARTHUR M. JOLLY

When privileged and pretty Anastasia is sent to a Siberian gulag for the murder of her abusive husband, her arrival destroys the intricate web of hierarchy, alliance and treachery among the other four inmates of her bunkhouse. To save herself, Anastasia must save all of them: the prostitute, the killer, the crone... and Prushka - the mouse. Arthur M. Jolly's harrowing drama asks the question: How far will you go to survive? (1M 5W)

PERFORMANCE FEE - \$60

HAUNTED BY MAGGIE STILLMAN

HAUNTED is a bone chilling theatrical exploration of Colorado's most notoriously haunted locations. The cast tells the ghost stories from the perspective of real people who experienced the events and the historical people who were involved in them. Locations include Denver's famous Victorian Theatre, The Byers-Evans House, The Grant-Humphrey's Mansion, Little-ton's Melting Pot Restaurant, and the infamous Stanley Hotel (which was the inspiration behind Stephen King's classic *The Shining*). (3M 3F)

PERFORMANCE FEE - \$60

I DON'T THINK SO: LIFE'S STAGES BY KATHERINE H. BURKMAN

I DON'T THINK SO: LIFE'S STAGES is made up of a series of 14 monologues in which individuals from 10 to 76 speak to the audience. Each character says at some point, "I don't think so," a rebellious lot, and the progression if played in order is from youth to old age. The play may be used in several ways. One person could perform it as a one-

person show. A man and woman could take the various parts. Several actors could perform it (the original production had 6), or the single monologues could be used for audition purposes. (3M 3F, Expanding Possible)

PERFORMANCE FEE - \$60

JUST FOR LAUGHS BY GENE KATO

On the eve of her wedding, Jodi, a stand-up comic, is having more than just the usual cold feet, she's on the brink of calling the entire event off and has locked herself in the upstairs bathroom. While her brother Sam and his girlfriend Tina try to coax her out and get to the bottom of the problem, the evening goes from bad to worse. Jodi has learned that her fiancé, John (another stand-up comic), has been unfaithful to her. As the long night creeps into the wee hours of the morning - Jodi wonders what other secrets might be lurking under the surface of the relationship. Before the evening is over, the truth comes out and everyone's view of love and commitment is pushed to the limits as present and past relationships send everyone into a tangled web of emotional ruin. (3M 3F)

PERFORMANCE FEE - \$60

LAMP BY GENE KATO

Jerry is having the worst Christmas season ever. When he loses his job as a newspaper film critic for panning a blockbuster film that was made by his boss's son, he's not sure he can survive the holidays. In an effort to cheer him up, his girlfriend gives him an old lamp that just happens to contain a genie that grants Jerry five wishes. As each wish takes him farther and farther into disaster, Jerry begins to worry that the odd number of wishes might come back to haunt him in the end. (4M 2F)

PERFORMANCE FEE - \$60

OSAMA BEEN LAUGHING BY JEREMY KEHOE

A darkly-humorous, yet, foreboding look at post 9/11 America, OSAMA BEEN LAUGHING gives witness to the collateral damage inflicted by Mary Leary's terrorist-obsessed paranoid delusions... Mary spends her days glued to her telescope, scanning suburbia to rip the invisible terrorist weeds from her neighbors' manicured lawns. When she convinces herself there are Al Qaeda wannabe's in the neighborhood plotting the demise of western civilization, she turns to the only thing she believes has the clear answers, her religion. Can a conniving, pedophile priest be the one to convince her that her country's salvation rests solely on the sacrifice of her only son? (5M 1W)

PERFORMANCE FEE - \$60

THE PARTY BY KEN CROST

What happens when you cross Agatha Christie with Monty Python? You get THE PARTY – a sort of drawing room murder mystery set in a posh London apartment where everyone is either named Richard or Mildred, which adds to the sheer madness. Richard and Mildred have planned a dinner party for all of their best friends, but did Mildred send out the invitations? When Richard, a neighbor and uninvited guest, shows up in a tux and feigns ignorance of the party all hell breaks loose resulting in the unfortunate shooting death of the crasher. When no one else shows up, Richard and Mildred decide to head off into the night, leaving poor Richard's body lying on their floor covered in a tablecloth. Later, Richard and Mildred discover that Richard's body is no longer under the tablecloth. Where did it go? To help unravel

this mystery, the police arrive in the form of Lieutenant Richards, and Richard and Mildred's two best friends, Richard and Mildred, show up to lend their support. The play careens along until everyone is dead and the bodies have piled up like so much firewood. (4M 2F)

PERFORMANCE FEE - \$60

SINGLE AGAIN BY SHERRY ALPERT

SINGLE AGAIN is a play about middle-aged, post-divorce dating. Robin goes on a couple of dates from hell, attends a singles reception, and embarks on three very different relationships. What knits the play together and impacts the relationships is Robin's evolving relationship with her father and how that influences her choice of men. Single Again is kind of a Heidi Chronicles when Heidi hits middle age. Robin exhibits her vulnerabilities, fears and desire to be loved as well as her increasing awareness of the complexity of relationships and her emotional growth. (4M 2F)

PERFORMANCE FEE - \$60

WHO KILLED HARRY HOOTER? BY GENE KATO

Harry Hooter has enemies-and most of them are his friends! This interactive murder mystery is meant to be played out over a full 5-course dinner - immersing the audience into the crime scene. After a mishap with an air conditioning system - Harry ends up dead in front of the crowd, who now have to solve the crime before the evening is up. Who did it? Was it the bodyguard? The jilted girlfriend? The cocktail waitress? The Olive Man? The Detective? Perfect for fundraising or for groups who love interactive mysteries - WHO KILLED HARRY HOOTER? will keep your audiences guessing to the very end. (4M 2F)

PERFORMANCE FEE - \$40

SEVEN CHARACTER PLAYS

© SULLIVAN: THE PLACE WHERE PEOPLE COME TO DIE BY LUKE KRUEGER

©SULLIVAN: THE PLACE WHERE PEOPLE COME TO DIE is about the small town of Sullivan, located just outside of the city of Nowhere. Sullivan is odd in that specially themed funeral homes are the only commerce; the mayor is openly crooked; the wealthiest man in town donates his money to build bell towers on college campuses and preserving mascots with offensive Native American themes; a woman in town speaks only in lines from "The Princess Bride"; and virgin births seem to be a nonchalant announcement. This is what Eric Sullivan returns to for his ten-year high school reunion, at which he discovers that out of a class of 99, no one remembers him. Since leaving Sullivan, he became a decorated war hero while suffering severe wounds fighting in Mogadishu (which the town thought was a short lived television show), and after his military service, he made his fortune. His return home is partly to re-establish a lapsed romantic relationship, but he is in on business. At a town ceremony, he lets the town know he has copyrighted the name "Sullivan." The town must rebuild the school library, or he will bankrupt them with royalties. The town's plan: Kill G.I. Joe. (4M 3F)

PERFORMANCE FEE - \$60

FIX NUMBER SIX BY JERRY POLNER

Jane is a 40-ish travel agent whose career is going nowhere. Hounded by idiot boss, she dreams of pursuing her true calling: being an international spy. When her rich, freaky would-be customer Fred wants to take a daring trip to impress the girlfriend who left him, Jane performs a ballad dance version of the perfect excursion to Bhutan. But instead of buying the trip, Fred hires Jane to “fix” his life with whatever tawdry subterfuge is necessary. Jane impersonates a lawyer to rough up Fred’s sister, spies on his ex-wife, and attempts a street heist to collect from one of his deadbeat clients. Jerry Polner’s madcap comedy will keep the audience zipping along with Jane as she fixes one problem, then fixes two problems...all on her journey to, ultimately, fix number six. (4M 3W)

PERFORMANCE FEE - \$60

WHEN THE DAY MET THE NIGHT BY LEIGHZA WALKER

Leighza Walker’s electrifying new play explores the lives of five friends using recreational drugs 20 years ago, then leaps into the present to see them as they are today. Act 1 is set in the late 80's at an acid (LSD) party hosted by Elery Sanderlin, the default leader of a group of old high school friends. Act 2 is set 20 years later at the same house as the group gathers to mourn the passing of one of their own. This dark serio-comedy creates a vivid, gripping portrayal of adults striving to come to terms with life at a moment of crucial decision-making. (5M 2W, DOUBLING)

PERFORMANCE FEE - \$60

EIGHT CHARACTER PLAYS

A DOLL HOUSE BY HENRIK IBSEN/WILLIAM MISSOURI DOWNS

Ibsen’s classic gets a fresh new Two Act adaptation for a 21st century audience. Nora Helmer finds herself caught between a rock and a hard place as she tries desperately to stave off news that could tear the very fabric of her marriage to her husband Torvald apart at the seams. After borrowing money to pay for her husband’s medical expenses years earlier, Nora now finds her secret teetering on the brink as the unsuspecting Torvald threatens to fire the very man that was financially responsible for his recovery. As the situation goes from bad to worse, Nora is faced with the possibility that her only winning move in this game of chess, might be to leave and abandon security completely. (3M 3F 2B)

PERFORMANCE FEE - \$60

GALLERY BY SCOTT GIBSON

The four plays that make up GALLERY present a series of chance encounters between neighbors, friends, and even strangers. In CASSANDRA AT 10TH AND ELM, a young woman offers a fellow commuter a friendly warning as they await the arrival of their bus. DEFINITION shows us a robbery gone awry which leads to an unusual hostage situation. THE LAST GOOD DAY centers around a woman coping with devastating loss and finding solace in a most unusual place. THE RUMMAGE SALE asks the question "What do we do with our memories when we're ready to let them go?" Just as every one of us has random exchanges with people on a daily basis, these are examinations of those "quiet moments" that may seem unremarkable at the time but which leave us, pondering what happened later. (4M 4W)

PERFORMANCE FEE - \$60

LOVE NEGOTIATED BY KEVIN SIX

LOVE NEGOTIATED is a two-act comedy about love. Attorney Richard is so afraid of marriage, and all that goes with it, that he negotiated a non-nuptial agreement with his partner, attorney Veronica. Veronica chooses the wrong time to bring up a re-negotiation of terms – minutes before an engagement party they're hosting. The party features ex-spouses, ex lovers, people moving into and out of relationships for all the right and wrong reasons. Act one ends with everyone who was in a relation-ship out of it. Except Richard and Veronica who must now help their friends come to terms with what everyone calls "The Night." (4M 4F)

PERFORMANCE FEE - \$60

WHO COLLECTS THE PAIN BY SEAN O'CONNOR

New York City. 1993. Twenty five years to the week after the shooting of Dr. Martin Luther King. Racial conflicts are erupting all over the streets of NY. Mickey, an idealistic, white, Columbia student, meets Lorraine, a beautiful, black, aspiring writer, who's spent all her life in Harlem. Despite enmity on both sides (Mickey's cousin Ryan, also at Columbia, harbors strong racial resentment; as does Lorraine's brother Mercy, and her recent ex-boyfriend Danny). Mickey and Lorraine begin a deep and passionate romance, which unhinges the volatile Danny. Tensions deepen even further when Ryan discovers that his brother Scottie's watches (Scottie was killed in a racial incident out in Brooklyn) are missing. Believing that Danny stole the watches, Ryan grabs a gun and races off into the Harlem night. He arrives at Mercy's apartment at exactly the same time that the enraged Danny has confronted Mickey and Lorraine. Domestic and social tensions explode simultaneously in this brilliant, award-winning drama. (7M 1W)

PERFORMANCE FEE - \$60

NINE CHARACTER PLAYS

DRACULA BY GARY WRIGHT

Jonathan Harker's employer sends him to Eastern Europe to finalize a real estate trans-action for a mysterious foreign nobleman, Dracula. Before long, Harker realizes that he is not a guest, but a prisoner in Dracula's castle - and that his host means to murder him. Harker barely escapes the castle with his life, and returns home to England, only to find that Dracula has got there first, and is already preying on people close to Harker - including his wife, Mina. Eccentric Dutch scholar Abraham Van Helsing discovers in his research that this Dracula was a Balkan prince renowned for his ruthlessness and cruelty when he was alive – more than 400 years ago. Now, he is a vampire. Armed with this knowledge, the small band of friends track their evil adversary down to his London lair, for a final do-or-die confrontation. (6M 2F 1B)

PERFORMANCE FEE - \$60

KIDNAPPED BY SEAN O'CONNOR

Mean Joe Buchanan has sexually abused his daughter, Marylee, for years, and as president of Pittston Coal, he's treated young Tyrone and all the other miners horribly as well. Tyrone and Marylee meet, for the first time, in a bar. They each think that, in separate incidents during the day, they killed Buchanan. But this man never dies. They quickly fall in love. Tyrone confesses to being a descendant of Daniel Boone, and Marylee reveals she's related to Betsy Ross. So

with Joe and his boys on their heels, they flee across the country in search of knowledge of their ancestors and of "an America that used to be." But when they arrive at Boone's Carson City house exactly at the same time as Joe and his boys, all seems lost until a mysterious stranger points to a tree outside whose roots might lead them deep into the past...perhaps to a place where Daniel and Betsy are waiting for them. With Buchanan still on their heels, Marylee and Tyrone take the plunge in this (award-winning) dark, hysterical and very tender comedy. (5M 4F, DOUBLING)

PERFORMANCE FEE - \$60

MAUI WOWEE! BY GENE KATO

The Valley Isle serves as the backdrop for this tale of relationships attempting to navigate rough waters. When straight-laced Stanley takes his estranged wife, their recent college grad daughter and her milquetoast fiancé' to Maui - what should be a celebratory trip quickly turns ugly. The group finds themselves rooming next to a homosexual couple who have traveled to Hawaii to have a civil union ceremony, but soon find their relationship is starting to show cracks as well. It's only with the help of an overbearing ex-Flamenco dancer, that the couples realize that it's facing the challenges of relationships head-on that will steer them through rough seas and enable them to land on calmer shores. (5M 4W)

PERFORMANCE FEE - \$60

PORTLAND BY RUBEN CARBAJAL

Ed, a young man adrift in life, moves into a small apartment with Li, his ex-lover. Ed's awkward encounters as a hotel room-service waiter punctuate the ambiguous intimacy with his roommate, as their murky past and true feelings become clear. A spare meditation on the indivisibility of love and loss. (4M 5F)

PERFORMANCE FEE - \$40

TEN + CHARACTER PLAYS

10 PIN ALLEY BY GENE KATO

11 Pins, 1 Ball, LET THE WAR BEGIN! On a dark bowling alley lane, 10 terrified bowling pins stand, anxiously anticipating an attack from their unseen enemy. As the lights come up, the pins argue, scream, and dance their way through ten frames of terror. It's only upon the appearance of a strange Red Pin (with a misguided superhero complex) that they feel the tables start to turn – empowering them to do everything they can to thwart the success of their dreaded arch-enemy, Black Balls. (7M 4W, FLEXIBLE)

PERFORMANCE FEE - \$40

18 HOLES BY GENE KATO

The setting is the eighteen greens of the Brazoria Bend golf course in Southeast Texas where four sets of golfers make their way around the course. There is a father who has been given the task of telling his young son that his wife is leaving him, a golden years couple who constantly bicker over the winning power of a pink golf ball, two slackers that are in hot pursuit of the beer girl, and a collection of ladies from the Sunset Society (an organization of women who

wear orange hats). The audience is guided through the evening by the course green keeper, Lyle - who watches each group as an interested observer. Featuring scenes that range from slapstick comedy to heartfelt drama, Gene Kato's award-winning script is a true slice of life that everyone can relate to. (7M 6F 1B)

PERFORMANCE FEE - \$60

ALICE THE BRAVE & OTHER TALES FROM WONDERLAND BY TOMMY JAMERON

Journey down the rabbit hole with the critically acclaimed Alice the Brave & Other Tales from Wonderland. First commissioned by and performed at Cassidy Park in Bogalusa, LA, this colorful, fun-filled adaptation of Lewis Carroll's timeless masterpiece allows audiences to experience Wonderland like never before! While her parents are away on holiday, poor Alice finds herself bored out of her wits and forced to stay with her dreary Aunt Mathilda at her even drearier summer home. But after accidentally conking herself on the head, Alice discovers that a world of wonder and whimsy awaits her right behind Aunt Mathilda's looking glass. Littered with talking dodo birds and malicious Red Queens, Alice's adventures teach her not only the importance of bravery, but also that being true to oneself is the greatest conquest of all! (3M 3F 6 Either)

PERFORMANCE FEE - \$60

ATTACK OF THE KILLER B'S BY SEAN ABLEY

While visiting their mother's grave in the cemetery, Glen and Barbara are attacked by the dead risen from the grave to feast upon the living. Glen is killed, but that doesn't stop him from coming back as a zombie to rescue his sister and flee. Night of the Living Dead come to life. From Reefer Madness to Glen or Glenda, from Friday the 13th to Nightmare on Elm Street, from Attack of the 50 Foot Woman to Invasion of the Body Snatchers, Barbara and Glen battle their way from one B-movie menace to the next. Will they survive? (15+ CHARACTERS, DOUBLING)

PERFORMANCE FEE - \$60

AWESOME AMERICA! BY SCOTT GIBSON, DIANA HOWIE, GENE KATO, & PAMELA JAMRUSZKA MENCHER

Four plays make up the evening of theatre known as AWESOME AMERICA! - giving audiences a glimpse of our country through stories inspired by real-life roadside attractions. Pamela Jamruszka Mencher's WHATEVER HAPPENED TO BIG NOSE GEORGE recounts the strange case of George Parrott - the legendary Wyoming outlaw who was eventually caught, skinned, and "transformed" in the most bizarre way imaginable. Next, Scott Gibson's TWO-POINT-FIVE takes us to Four Corners for a spiritual journey of discovery for a group of tourists who happen upon a mysterious woman with a history connecting her to the site. Then, Diana Howe's heartbreaking THE PROMISE OF THE MOON takes us to the exotic Coral Castle in Florida in which a man builds his fortress one block at a time in order to win the heart of his true love in Europe. Finally, Gene Kato's PERSPECTIVES ON THE JOHN takes us to the Toilet Seat Museum in San Antonio, TX where two teenagers, a toilet seat, six strangers, and a clump of mud cause an examination of the true nature of art. (22 CHARACTERS, DOUBLING)

PERFORMANCE FEE - \$60

DEATH BY SHAKESPEARE BY PHILIP L. NICHOLS

Modern Times. The Demill Players have undergone a regime change. No longer are the classic plays being produced. They now do shows such as “The Chocolate Screamed” and a vaunt guard hip-hop pageants. Founding member Vivian Price will not be deterred she continues to submit an evening with Shakespeare for consideration. At the last meeting of the play committee, she is rudely treated and storms out, only to be tragically killed by a run away cement truck. The next year the playhouse puts on her last suggestion *Death by Shakespeare*. An evening of the Bard’s grisliest moments to great acclaim and financial gain. At a weekend retreat after the production the board members all begin dying one by one in the manner of the murders in the play. Who’s doing them in? It is a tense thriller peppered with classic Shakespearean speeches from Richard III, Othello, Macbeth, Titus Andronicus, Hamlet, The Merchant of Venice, and Romeo and Juliet. (12M 9F)

PERFORMANCE FEE - \$60

GONNABES BY ALAN GARDNER AND JEREMY PALMER

Hollywood - the place where dreams come true. Unless, of course, you're one of the millions of unemployed actors who come and go from the city every year without ever accomplishing your goal. When Pete, one such unfulfilled actor, decides to pack it in, his best friends have just one night to turn his life around and convince him that his dream is still worth pursuing. That is, if Pete's friends can get past their fictional drug problems, obsessive crushes, anxieties about turning 27, and several strong cases of professional envy long enough to remind Pete that it's not so bad being a wannabe after all. (7M 5W)

PERFORMANCE FEE - \$60

HAMLET: PRINCE OF PORK BY GENE KATO

This uproarious adaptation of the Shakespearean classic is set in the castle Shish-ka-bob in the land of Pork where all of the characters . . . are pigs. Every scene from the classic tale is represented as poor Hamlet tries desperately to avenge the death of his father (King Omelet). Turning the classic on it's ear - this version features a collection of orthodox Jewish wolves, pigs a plenty, and a tap dancing pork chop - all culminating in a final confrontation featuring death, mayhem, and a sword fight with giant skewers. (22 Performers)

PERFORMANCE FEE: \$60

HOUND BY JOHN PATRICK BRAY

Dr. Watson is a grieving widower who is living in a world beyond his control. Not only is he haunted by dreams of his recently deceased wife, but super-sleuth Sherlock Holmes has miraculously returned from the dead three years after falling from Reichenbach Falls. And now, Holmes is taking on a case that deals with a Hound from Hell, which have been plaguing generations of wealthy landowners. Driven by waking nightmares of his lost wife, and hoping to meet her beyond the gates of death, Watson risks his soul in pursuit of the Hound of the Baskervilles. (5M 5F)

PERFORMANCE FEE - \$60

I NEVER PROMISED YOU A ROSE GARDEN BY WALTER E. NEWTON

Walter L Newton's adaptation of the Joanne Greenberg novel - Debra Klein created the Kingdom of Yr as a form of defense from her frightening reality. In childhood, Debra suffered frequent abuse from her anti-Semitic peers and neighbors. At first Yr was a safe-haven, but over time the gods of Yr became tyrannical dictators who ruled Debra's every word and action. At the age of 16, Debra was committed to a mental hospital with schizophrenia. This is the story of her remarkable cure. (5M 6W)

PERFORMANCE FEE - \$60

MURDER FOR DUMMIES BY PHILIP L. NICHOLS, JR.

It is 1930. Vaudeville is still going strong and Radio is causing a sensation. Famed radio and Vaudeville Ventriloquist and amateur sleuth "The Great Lester" Winchell along with his wisecracking dummy sidekick Corky is hired to entertain at the weekend party of multibillionaire William Vanderby to commemorate the sixth month passing of his mother. In attendance at the party are the entire Vanderby clan as well as an oddball mix of assorted houseguests. As the party begins, Hurricane Clementine makes landfall at Vanderby Point cutting the party off from the outside world. Through the course of a stormy evening, several of the guests are murdered forcing Corky and Lester to solve the "whodunit" with hilarious results. (8M 5F)

PERFORMANCE FEE - \$60

RENFIELD: THE DRACULA PLAY BY PHILIP L. NICHOLS

RENFIELD: THE DRACULA PLAY is truly a fresh, funny, terrifyingly intense re-telling of the oft-told Dracula tale. For those looking for a Dracula play with real bite, wit, thrills, chills, horror, terror, blood, gore, and in true Blood and Thunder--Grand Guignol fashion-- *some great laughs*-- all packed into 2 haunting acts, this is the show for you! Sure to entertain on every level. Designed to be character driven this play is perfect for amateur and professional theatres alike. Flexible casting for strong ensemble character roles. *A smaller cast is possible by doubling and even tripling up the roles.* (18 M 5F, DOUBLING)

PERFORMANCE FEE - \$60

THE THREE MUSKETEERS BY CAROL M. RICE

Alexandre Dumas' most well known story comes to action-packed life in this faithful adaptation of his novel! The adventure begins when D'Artagnan arrives in Paris and makes the acquaintance of "the three inseparables" – Athos, Porthos, and Aramis. Through D'Artagnan's new love, Constance Bonacieux, they soon become involved in a plot by Cardinal Richelieu and Milady de Winter to discredit Queen Anne in the eyes of her jealous husband, King Louis XIII. Once their plan is foiled by D'Artagnan and the musketeers, Richelieu and Milady go on to assassinate the Duke of Buckingham and murder the innocent Constance. With the help of Milady's brother-in-law, Lord de Winter, justice is achieved in the end, and D'Artagnan is at last awarded a musketeer's uniform, ready to join his friends on more adventures. "All for one, and one for all!" (17M 9W)

PERFORMANCE FEE - \$60

VIRAL INFECTION BY GENE KATO

VIRAL INFECTION follows the strange case of the delusionary illness of Dexter Runyan. When Mr. Runyan contracts a strange virus that causes him to slip in and out of consciousness everyone fears for his very life. However, when all of the best doctors in the world are unable to cure him - the family takes a different approach and gets the two worst doctors in the world (a complete idiot from Queens and a bizarre Indian) to give it a try. The catch is: Neither man will accept money. Instead, each "doctor" insists that Dexter's oldest daughter, Candice, give herself to the man able to bring her father back from the brink of death. (6M 4F 1 PUPPY)

PERFORMANCE FEE - \$60

WELCOME TO CHALMETTE BY MARY KATHRYN NAGLE

In August of 2005, Hurricane Katrina brought unprecedented devastation to the Gulf Coast. Yet in Chalmette, LA, just one mile southeast of New Orleans, residents faced more than a twenty-foot wall of water. In Chalmette, the twenty-foot wall of water that surged over the levees lifted an oil rig at the Murphy Oil refinery, and consequently, more than 900,000 gallons of oil spilt into the community. The result was the world's largest residential oil spill in the history of mankind. When those that survived the storm re-turned to Chalmette to survey the damage, they found their homes, their belongings, and their lives covered in a dark, slimy, toxic substance. In the summer of 2006, Playwright Mary Kathryn Nagle--a law student at Tulane Law School living in New Orleans at the time--interviewed more than thirty residents of Chalmette who survived both the spill and the storm. WELCOME TO CHALMETTE is the culmination of those interviews, and tells the real stories of a community that pulled together in unity in the face of one of the worst catastrophes in the history of our Nation. Katrina was a natural disaster, but the subsequent spill of 900,000 gallons of oil was not. Thus, Welcome to Chalmette reveals the struggles and triumphs of the citizens of Chalmette--in the hopes that the man-made tragedy they were forced to survive will never be repeated. (6M 5F)

PERFORMANCE FEE - \$60

THE ZOOKEEPER'S JOURNAL BY JON CHRISTIE

Life is a jungle, and sometimes the stress becomes so much that we feel like an animal. Well what if we're already more like the animals than we realize? A Zookeeper and his journal give us a personal glimpse into animal lives, how they deal with love, conflict, and their own mortality. In this zoo, a "common zoo that you'd find anywhere," we see animals that are lonely, depressed, outcast, and even racist. But if we would simply take the time to get to know our fellow man...er, animal, then this life would so much easier to tame. (7M 4W)

PERFORMANCE FEE - \$60

SHORT PLAY COLLECTIONS

AN EXCUSE FOR WITTY BANTER BY JEREMY PALMER

A series of short plays that answer some age-old Hollywood questions: What happens to the guy who gets his car stolen by James Bond? Where do Ocean's 11 find their non-essential team members? Can money really turn brother against brother? And how did Bill Pullman feel at the end of Sleepless in Seattle? These queries and more are addressed in this clever, light, and entertaining evening of One Acts that catches up with dead people who can't quite figure out which

Next Stage Press 2014 Catalogue of Plays

Heaven they're in, divorcees who live in the background of the lives of more attractive people, blue collar crime fighters, and many more of the characters who fell between the cracks of some of your favorite Hollywood storytelling conventions. (FLEXIBLE)

PERFORMANCE FEE - \$60; INDIVIDUAL PLAYS - \$10

BOTTLES ON THE WATER BY OLIVIA BRIGGS AND TORI KEENAN-ZELT

BOTTLES ON THE WATER, Short Plays from Abroad is a collection of short theatrical works written by Olivia Briggs and Tori Keenan-Zelt during a two-year stint living and studying in Singapore. Ranging from naturalistic to riotous to ridiculous, these works are an examination of US culture from afar that tests the boundaries and elasticity of the theatrical space. (FLEXIBLE)

PERFORMANCE FEE - \$60; INDIVIDUAL PLAYS - \$15

GAME NIGHT BY JOHN PATRICK BRAY, AMY MICHELLE COLLINS, BRYAN MAYNARD, CAROL M. RICE, LAUREN TUNNELL, CHRISTINE WEEMS, MICHAEL WEEMS, AND L. ROBERT WESTEEN

The Classic Board Game collides with the Modern Theatre in this collection of short plays inspired by the games we've all grown up on. The eight playwrights were randomly paired with a genre and a game, then given 24 hours to write a play. The results were as varied and fun as the games themselves. *Chess*, *Checkers*, *Trivial Pursuit*, *Sorry!*, *Battleship*, *Monopoly*, *Candy Land*, and *Clue!* mix with the genres of Comedy, Drama, Mystery and Fantasy – creating a unique evening of theatre unlike any other. (FLEXIBLE CASTING)

PERFORMANCE FEE - \$60; INDIVIDUAL PLAYS - \$15

HILARIOUS NIGHTMARES BY DANIEL GUYTON

A collection of dark comedy one-acts by award winning playwright and screenwriter Daniel Guyton, including the critically acclaimed plays "GEORGIE GETS A FACELIFT", "BEDFORD'S STY", "FATHER AND SON" and many more! These shows will terrify you, make you laugh, and might even make you cry - all at the same time. Experience murderous confessions, romances gone wrong, and dreadful deeds aplenty. Find out why critics have called these plays "Tar pit-dark comedy", "Delightfully perverse" and "Morally repugnant." These dark comedies are sure to delight, offend, and most of all entertain! (FLEXIBLE)

PERFORMANCE FEE - \$60; INDIVIDUAL PLAYS - \$15

HOLD AND OTHER SHORT PLAYS BY RUBEN CARBAJAL

Surreal, unflinching and darkly comic, this collection of Ruben Carbajal's award-winning short plays cover everything from the menace of customer service phone calls to visions of a world bereft of books. In between there's an existential horse, New Yorkers confronting death, morally bankrupt (but comically rich) suburbanites, and a man in a high-flying lawn chair who may be a hero or a lunatic.

PERFORMANCE FEE - \$60; INDIVIDUAL PLAYS - \$15

ROVER DRAMAWERKS BODO COLLECTION BY ROVER DRAMAWERKS

Rover Dramawerks of Plano, TX celebrates the creative spirit by producing a collection of short plays that are conceived, written, directed, and performed in a 24-hour period.

The Best of One Day Only, Vol. 1 order:

Picky by Donald McLaughlin
The Pitch by Jason Rice
OCHO by Kim Smith
Still On Foot by Donald McLaughlin
Amy's Last Shift by James Venhaus
Virtually Romantic by Craig Robertson

The Best of One Day Only, Vol. 2, Part 1 order:

The Perfect House by Carol M. Rice
No Secrets by Susan McMath Platt
Pa's Lucky Hat by Cambell Navarro
Space Cowboy, Aunt Velma, and The Planet Macaroon
by Christopher Stephen Soden
Conspiracy by Jason Rice
Four Chairs by Donald McLaughlin
Writer's Block by Matthew J. Edwards

The Best of One Day Only, Vol. 2, Part 2 order:

Stranger Than Fiction by J. Christopher Campbell
Mr. Little Miss Sunshine by Tommy Looney
Misinterpretationalizations by Marc Rouse
Structure by Patrick S. O'Neil
No Pain, No Drain by Matthew J. Edwards
Make Every Day Marvelous by J. Rod Pannek
Power Makes the World Go Around by Carol M. Rice

CHILDREN'S PLAYS

THE BROTHERS PIG BY GENE KATO

The Brothers Grimm story gets an interactive retelling in this compact version of the traditional story of the Three Pigs. Forrest, Rind, and Hamlet have left home and are ready to start life anew by building their own houses. However, when the Big Bad Wolf comes calling, the pigs are forced to flee for their lives as their homes made of butter, twigs, and bricks are put to the test. (4 M OR F)

PERFORMANCE FEE - \$40

COMMOTION IN THE OCEAN BY STACEY LANE

While seeking shelter from a storm, fishy friends discover a pirates' treasure chest. Greed takes over as the sea creatures fight over necklaces, bracelets, gold coins, and finally a royal crown. Friendships are destroyed. Fish sink to the bottom from the weight of the necklaces they are wearing and the gold coins they have eaten. The kind-hearted rabbit fish convinces her chums that they are better off without this useless junk. The aquatic animals return their shiny finds to the box. But the snobby starfish is not persuaded and dives in to get it all. A wave slams the treasure chest shut, trapping the starfish. (1 M, 2 F, 11 EITHER)

PERFORMANCE FEE - \$30

THE ELF WHO LOST CHRISTMAS *BY CAROL M. RICE*

Tiny is having a bad day. First he breaks a doll, then he lies to Santa about it and has to clean the reindeer stalls for two weeks! When the reindeer make fun of him, he runs away to New York to become a taxi driver...taking his part of The List with him. Can the reindeer and elves find the biggest elf at the North Pole before Christmas is lost for everyone?

PERFORMANCE FEE - \$30

FAIRY TALES AND WOMEN *BY GERALD P. MURPHY*

Gerald P Murphy gives you three plays that can play individually or as a full evening of theatre! In DR. CHICKEN AND MR. HAWK, a shy chicken scientist turns into a homicidal hawk (2M, 9F). MCRUMPELSTILTSKIN involves a novel retelling of the classic Rumpelstiltskin story, with a leprechaun coming to the aid of a damsel in distress. (6M, 6F). And finally, in SEVEN WOMEN, a night school poetry class is the setting for both humor and insights. (7W).

PERFORMANCE FEE - \$60; INDIVIDUAL PLAYS - \$25

THE FLOUNDER AND THE FISHERMAN *BY GENE KATO*

When a gentle fisherman takes pity on a wisecracking Flounder with magical powers and sets him free he is given a chance to live the life he had only dreamed of living. However, his greedy wife might just spoil their life with her desire to have more and more and more . . .stuff. (2M 1F)

PERFORMANCE FEE - \$40

GREEN *BY STACEY LANE*

The Planet Princess and her frog friend are on their way to the recycling center when the Garbage Goblin stops them. He threatens to spray paint the frog gray because he hates all green things. The Garbage Goblin agrees to let the frog go, if the Planet Princess can prove that kids can save the Earth. The Planet Princess encourages children to practice the Three Rs- "Reduce, Reuse, and Recycle". Through group participation and individual volunteers, the kids in the audience defeat the Garbage Goblin. This short interactive play empowers children by showing them that they can help the environment and overcome bullies. (1 M, 1 F, 1 M or F)

PERFORMANCE FEE - \$30

HAMLET *BY GERALD P. MURPHY*

Gerald Murphy's kid friendly version of the Shakespearean classic is perfect for schools or theatre companies that cater to younger audiences. This version is less than an hour in length, but still keeps the original tale intact.

PERFORMANCE FEE - \$30

HOW TO SUCCEED AGAINST BULLIES WITHOUT EVEN CRYING *BY GERALD P. MURPHY*

A drama class comes before the School Board in an attempt to convince them that their sketches against bullying deserve financial support. This play is in volume with OLIVIA TWIST. (FLEXIBLE)

PERFORMANCE FEE - \$30

OLD FASHION TEDDY BEAR TALE *BY GENE KATO*

While bed-ridden with a very high fever, young Jennifer dreams that her beloved teddy bear, Wintergreen is stolen away through a hole under her bed by a gargoyle. Soon after, she and a collection of her favorite toys must follow after, navigating through a magical land in a desperate attempt to save Wintergreen from the clutches of an unseen villain. Filled with comedy, action, and a large collection of memorable characters, OLD FASHIONED TEDDY BEAR TALE is a charming story that has something for the entire family. (FLEXIBLE)

PERFORMANCE FEE - \$60

OLIVIA TWIST *BY GERALD P. MURPHY*

When Olivia Twist discovers she's been adopted, she runs away from home and becomes a street waif. She is "rescued" from the streets by Doriana Fagan, Who takes Olivia to the Happy Harmony Home for Girls, which seems, and is: too good to be true. This play is in volume with: HOW TO SUCCEED AGAINST BULLIES WITHOUT REALLY CRYING. (4M 10F)

PERFORMANCE FEE - \$30

RAPUNZEL AND NUN FUN *BY GERALD P. MURPHY*

Gerald Murphy spins two tales of thievery. RAPUNZEL tells the famous tale of the young woman with the long hair trapped in a tower by an enchantress. NUN FUN spins a wonderful comedic yarn surrounding two Old West thieves trying to bilk an order of nuns out of the land their orphanage sits on for the hidden gold that waits beneath it. Both plays are published in a single acting edition.

PERFORMANCE FEE - \$60; INDIVIDUAL PLAYS - \$30

TWO TALES FROM GREECE *BY GERALD P. MURPHY*

Gerald Murphy puts his trademark spin on two kid friendly versions of famous tales from Greek Mythology. In "Narcissus and Echo" we find out how Echo falls in love with Narcissus as Narcissus falls in love with himself! In "Perseus and Medusa", Perseus goes on a quest to bring back the head of the snake-haired Medusa in order to marry the lovely Andromeda. However, in order to do so, he must escape death several times!!

PERFORMANCE FEE - \$30

MUSICALS

THE LADY OR THE TIGER? - THE MUSICAL BY GERALD P. MURPHY

The king has an interesting theory of justice. Anyone accused of a serious crime must choose between two doors. One door leads to a beautiful princess and instant marital bliss. The other door hides a tiger. If the tiger's door is chosen, a horrible death ensues. When young Cato has the presumption to woo the king's daughter, he is at the mercy of the king's justice. Will Cato choose the door that hides a beautiful rival of the princess, or will he instead choose the door of the tiger? Based on the short story by Frank Stockton.

PERFORMANCE FEE - \$30 (Music included)

PLAYBOY OF THE WESTERN WORLD BY JOHN M. SYNGE/GERALD P. MURPHY

Christy Mahon stumbles into Flaherty's pub on the west coast of Ireland, claiming that he is on the run because he killed his own father by sinking a spade into his father's head. Flaherty praises Christy for his bravery, and Flaherty's daughter (and the barmaid), Pegeen, falls in love with Christy, to the dismay of her betrothed, Shawn. Because of the boldness of Christy's deed and the skill with which he tells his own story, he becomes something of a town hero. Many other women also become attracted to him, including the Widow Quin, who tries unsuccessfully to seduce Christy at Shawn's request. Christy also impresses the village girls by his victory at the village race. Christy's father, Mahon, who was only wounded, eventually tracks him to the pub. When the townsfolk realize that Christy's father is alive, everyone (including Pegeen) shuns him as a liar and a coward. In order to regain Pegeen's love and the respect of the town, Christy attacks his father a second time. This time it seems that Old Mahon really is dead, but instead of praising Christy, the townspeople, led by Pegeen, prepare to hang him to avoid being implicated as accessories to his crime. Christy's life is saved when his father, beaten and bloodied, crawls back onto the scene, having improbably survived his son's second attack. As Christy and his father leave to wander the world, Shawn suggests he and Pegeen get married, but she spurns him. Pegeen then laments betraying and losing Christy, The Playboy of the Western World. (6M 6F)

PERFORMANCE FEE - \$60

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www.nextstagepress.net

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