



# **South Australian Writers' Theatre**

## **Catalogue of One Act Plays**

SA Writers Theatre Inc  
PO Box 818  
Kent Town SA 5071

Website: [www.sawt.org.au](http://www.sawt.org.au)

# SA Writers Theatre Catalogue One Act Plays.

## MISSION STATEMENT

The South Australian Writers' Theatre (SAWT) is a peer support organisation for South Australian based theatre writers.

Our mission is to foster and encourage the quality and quantity of writing for performance, ensuring that writers maintain control over their work during the development process, with the overall object of producing and promoting the resulting scripts.

### Obtaining perusal scripts:

Perusal scripts can be obtained by contacting SAWT via their e-mail address on the web page: <http://www.sawt.org.au/Pages/contact.html> Please provide a return e-mail address as perusal scripts will be sent in either PDF or Word format.

### Royalties:

In most cases royalties can be organised direct with the authors and contact details will accompany the perusal script. For one act plays SAWT suggests a royalty rate of \$45 per performance to be paid at least 7 days in advance of the first performance.

As a matter of courtesy it would be appreciated if complementary tickets could be provided to the author for one of the performance nights. A complimentary program if one is produced would also be appreciated.

SAWT is always seeking both Writing and Associate members.

The SAWT development process includes regular workshops and Sundays with SAWT where members work is showcased.

Please check out our website at [www.sawt.org.au](http://www.sawt.org.au) and feel free to contact us with any questions or enquiries.

# SA Writers Theatre Catalogue

## One Act Plays.

1. Title: **“After Sunset.”**
2. Author: Jean Mann
3. Cast: 5m
4. Running Time: 30 mins
5. A Radio Play Time 1960. Adaptable for stage performance.
6. Synopsis

The play is set in a Salvation Army Retirement Home for men. Harry's likes to play cards and in his early days was quite a gambler. Len is now his sparring partner at poker. Their routine is disturbed when Stan, a new boarder, suddenly arrives. Harry is surprised as he and Stan were once long time friends. Len takes to Stan immediately. Stan and Harry have much to talk about and Harry endeavours to make amends for the past

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1. Title: **“Audition Peace”**
2. Author: Tony Moore
3. Cast: 2m 2f plus 9 cameo roles 3m 5f and one unspecified
4. Running Time: 40 mins
5. Genre: Comedy
6. Synopsis:

It is audition time again for the local theatre company who are risking a new play and a Director with very advanced ideas. Who will she cast out of the motley crew come to try out? Will the company Chairman finally throttle her? Will the local alcoholic actually audition for something?  
Several of the cameo roles could be doubled using wigs and costume changes.

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1. Title: **'Beach House'**
2. Author: Mika Logan
3. Cast: 2 Female 1 x 30's 1 x 60's 2 Male same ages.
4. Running time: 30mins
5. Genre: Drama
6. Synopsis.

Sylvie is desperate to own a beach house, and though they can ill-afford it, she eventually wears husband Guy down and they buy a house (with a view of the sea from the upstairs master bedroom window) Catch is, the house is cheap because it has a history, the previous owner committed suicide in the upstairs master bedroom.

Ultimately the dream crumples as both Sylvie and Guy are working more than they can cope with in order to keep up the mortgage repayments, and the clincher occurs when they both arrive separately at the beach house to set up for their house-warming/exorcism party and realize that neither one of them has remembered to pick up the children from pre-school. The play poses the question, 'Happiness, at what cost?'

This play was selected as part of a State Theatre Company development process.

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## One Act Plays.

1. Title: **“Boiled Cabbage”**

2. Author: Tony Moore

3. Cast: 2M 2F

4. Running Time: 40mins

5. Genre: Comedy

6. Synopsis:

A pastiche of Absurdism intended to highlight some of the changes in the world that occurred as a result of the Second World War. Thrill to the adventures of John and Janet as they experience everything that War can offer. Sympathise with Mum as she throws off the shackles of patriarchy and learns to think for herself. Watch as Dad withdraws into the mouthing of unthinking clichés in order to protect his own bankrupt world view. A comedy for two male and two female actors.

This play was performed at the 2009 Festival Fringe.

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1. Title: **“The Bushrangers.”**

2. Author: Robert J. Brady

3. Cast: 1f (60+), 1m (30's)

4. Running Time: 25 minutes approx.

5. Genre: Comedy

6. Synopsis:

You can't pull the wool over the eyes of the older generation. Young Brenton thinks he is on to a good thing when he persuades Mrs. P and her elderly friends to participate in his “Bushes for the Bush” scheme. Unfortunately for Brenton Mrs. P discovers that that these robust seedlings are in fact marijuana plants. Does Mrs. P call the police? No way, she wants a piece of the action. Soon a lot of elderly citizens are enjoying the benefits this very lucrative crop.

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1. Title: **"Double Check"**

2. Author: Meg Roberts

3. Cast: 1 female 25-35 years, 1 male 35-45 years.

4. Running Time: 20 Minutes

5. Genre: A one-act psychological drama for the stage

6. Synopsis:

A woman poses as a reporter and cons a man, who has been found not guilty of murder, into helping her write a book about him. We watch as the woman deftly breaks down the man's defences until she has extracted from him certain information - then she strikes. This psychological thriller is a battle of wits interspersed with relationships, family bonds and the occasional reference to smells.

Specific props/scenery requirement: One rowing boat

# SA Writers Theatre Catalogue

## One Act Plays.

1. Title: **“Exit back stage.”**

2. Author: Jean Mann

3. Cast: 1m 1f (Female actor plays several roles.)

4: Running time 45 minutes

5: Genre: Comedy/Drama

6: Synopsis:

The actors take the audience on an imaginary journey to The Lyric Theatre London where David, a playwright, with three smash hits, lived the good life that has taken its toll. Things suddenly change with flops and rejections and a letter from David's agent threatens to cancel their agreement if his commissioned play is not ready on the due date. Of course, writers' block settles in but Annie acts out the play and the script is completed on schedule.

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1. Title: **“Hearts is Trumps.”**

2. Author: Brian Fox

3. Cast: 1f, 2m.

4: Running Time: 45-50 mins

5: Genre: Drama

6: Synopsis:

Louise Mulcahy, teacher and poet, prepares for the fortnightly card game which she and her husband, Malachy, play with Donal Mulhearn. He is a priest recently recalled from the U.S.A. to replace the incumbent both as parish priest and manager of the school in which Louise teaches. Louise's progressive educational ideas have brought her into conflict with her husband. Malachy, a farm equipment salesman, who sees the attention she attracts in the small community as detrimental to his standing and credibility with his customers. Her maverick curriculum has also put her on a collision course with her church. The conflict unfolds during the course of the evening's card game. This play is Irish in setting and language.

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1/ Title: **“Hot Chilli Night”**

2/ Author: Doug Mason

3/ Cast: one male, two female (2nd female is non-speaking)

4/ Genre: drama

5/ Running Time: 10-15 min

6/ Synopsis:

Nina, an Australian, lives in London. She has recently found love (with Carl) after a series of disastrous relationships. One hot summer evening, she gets a call from an old flame (Max), who lives in Adelaide. Max has called Nina with the intention of arranging to have a fling with her. In the heat of the summer night an old passion is awakened and threatens to get out of control.

# SA Writers Theatre Catalogue

## One Act Plays.

1. Title: **"Illmet"**
2. Author: Tony Moore
3. Cast: 1f 1m
4. Running Time: 30 minutes
5. Genre: Drama
- 6: Synopsis:

It is the last Christmas Eve of the old Millennium and a man sits alone in a homeless shelter. A woman enters from the street and asks if she can stay. As the story unfolds we discover that neither character is human and we explore the age old questions of good and evil from the points of view of an angel and a vampire.

"Who believes in God more than the eternally damned?"

This play was performed at a student drama festival in Edinburgh Scotland and at a drama festival in Sevenoaks Kent UK.

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1. Title: **"I Think it's Time we Had a Talk."**
2. Author: Tony Moore
3. Cast: 2f
- 4: Running Time: 20 mins
- 5: Genre: Fantasy drama.
- 6: Synopsis:

A young woman, Phyl, lives in a hospital with her best friend, a stuffed cat called Lando. One of the nurses, Jo, has a special relationship with Phyl, and Lando worries her a bit . Does Lando have an opinion on the subject?

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1. Title: **"Love in the Chook House"**
2. Author: Ross Barrett
3. Cast: 2M; 2F
4. Running Time: 45 mins
5. Genre: Comedy
- 6.Synopsis:

A disgraced scientist lives in a chookhouse in the bush, where his meals are brought to him regularly by a woman from the Salvation Army. She is not impressed by his claims that the chookhouse contains a four poster and a water bed, nor by the half-human half-chimp figure that lopes across the clearing. Events take a twist when the unlikely couple are joined by a young upwardly mobile businessman, attempting to make his first million by real estate speculation on the chookhouse.

# SA Writers Theatre Catalogue

## One Act Plays.

1. Title: **“Mrs. O’Leary Is Not Bluffing.”**

2. Author: Robert J. Brady

3. Cast: 1 Female (40’s), 2 Males

4. Running time: 20 minutes approx.

5. Genre: Drama

6. Synopsis:

In April 2000 the Book of Kells was damaged en route from Dublin to Canberra (Fact); the true cause of the damage was never revealed. In Northern Ireland a group of mothers, sickened by the atrocities of the conflict, have hatched a plan to pressure the warring parties to seek peace. In Canberra Maeve O’Leary has the Book of Kells at her mercy (Fiction) Three weeks after her action the British Government initiated the first steps on the long road to peace (Fact).

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1. Title: **“Mum’s day in 1979 ...the year of the child!”**

2. Author: Jean Mann

3. Cast: 2m 3f (2m 1f are teenagers, older woman 70’s can be voice off.)

4. Running time: 30 minutes

5. Genre: Comedy

6. Synopsis:

It is 1979 - The Year of the Child and Mum is having a bad day. Mum is not very bright in the mornings. Three children and an ageing mother each, in their own way, upset her plans for a day of golf. However, Mum is in full command by evening. Her ageing mother is happy and her three children gracefully accept defeat. Actually, just a normal household!

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1. Title: **“No need to worry!”**

2. Author: Jean Mann

3. Cast: 3m 3f

4. Running Time: 30 minutes

5. Genre: A Radio Play

6. Synopsis:

It is Mum’s birthday and she and Dad were expecting to spend it quietly at their beach-house. As a surprise... daughter arrives home from Interstate with a female friend. Dad is suspicious of this friend. Her story of a boyfriend staying at a beach nearby does not ring true. All goes well until their daughter returns home a day early and Mum and Dad are also in for a surprise ... but 'there is no need to worry'.

# SA Writers Theatre Catalogue

## One Act Plays.

1. Title: **“One More Visit.”**

2. Author: Randi Cernaz

3. Cast: 1m 1f

4. Running Time: 12 mins

5: Genre: Drama

6: Synopsis:

A young woman visits her mother in hospital and makes a totally unethical suggestion to her doctor. The daughter is attempting to reap the rewards of her inheritance and pushes the doctor into a corner.

The doctor is forced to make a decision that goes against his moral and ethical values.

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1/ Title: **"Roam Free"**

2/ Author: Don Chapman

3/ Cast: Six characters all male, can be doubled by three actors in total.

4/ Genre: Thriller.

5/ Running Time: 40 minutes

6/ Synopsis:

Set in the wilds of suburbia in the early 1960s, "Roam Free" is about a teenage boy and his mates celebrating Guy Fawkes Night in rip roaring style. But, perhaps these boys have too much freedom? They are free to roam the streets in pitched battles, blowing up letterboxes, strafing passing cars, almost completely out of control. Someone out there cares enough to do something about them. But, it's the kind of foul caring that makes these boys' games pale into insignificance.

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1. Title: **“Rules of Engagement.”**

2. Author: Kym Davey

3. Cast: 2f 1m

4. Running Time: Approx 30 mins

5. Genre: Comedy

6. Synopsis:

'Rules of Engagement' is a wry take on the gyrations of modern romance and its humorous pitfalls. My generation of romantics has had a ringside seat to many rituals in the mating game - from church groups and tennis clubs - to drive-in theatres and beach parties - to the contemporary fashions of cyber romance and speed dating. Throughout it all attitudes to commitment and marriage have proven to be remarkably resilient. But underneath all the constraining influences of religion and new-age philosophies, people still make dodgy promises in intimate circumstances.

Set in the classic Australian space of the public bar, the stories told by Rose, Craig and Suzi invite us to laugh and writhe with discomfort as we see glimpses of ourselves reflected in the wreckage of their serial romances.

'Rules' is a cautionary tale - told in a time of emotional barrenness in a world where love is more important than ever."

## SA Writers Theatre Catalogue One Act Plays.

1. Title: **"Seconds Out"**

2. Author: Tony Moore

3. Cast: 1m 1f plus 2 roles either sex and 2 optional silent roles either sex.

4. Running Time: 15 mins

5 Genre: Comedy

6. Synopsis:

Ben has arrived home late from work and has forgotten Jenny's birthday. The couple shape up to combat complete with seconds, a commentator and a referee. The Marquis of Queensbury's rules as applied to marriages. Very fast and very funny.

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1. Title: **"Takes Two To Tango."**

2. Author: Leo Damant

3. Cast: 2m 1f

4. Running Time: 20 mins

5. Genre: Comedy

6. Synopsis:

Mrs Mortimer would like to tango one more time, the problem is Mr Mortimer is, well, dead. Mr Perry, however, can help.

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1. Title: **"Thespis' Mask"**

2: Author: Ian McGrath

3: Cast: Minimum 2xM, 3xF; may be extended.

4. Running time: Approx. 35 mins (+)

5. Genre: Fantastic Drama

6. Synopsis :

Using modern language and conventions, "Thespis' Mask" follows Greek tragic format while recounting the legend of Dionysus' birth. A Prologue evokes Greek performance conditions, followed by: Seduction of Semelle, princess of Thebes, by Zeus, lord of Olympus.

Preceded by rustic comic relief, we glimpse the marital antagonism between Zeus and Hera, his consort.

Hera contrives revenge on Semelle.

Zeus perceives he's trapped by Hera.

Rustics prepare for Semelle's nuptial.

Semelle's death, Zeus' remorse and Dionysus' birth.

**#Not recommended for juvenile performers.**

# SA Writers Theatre Catalogue

## One Act Plays.

1. Title: **“Thicker than water”**

2. Author: Jean Mann

3: Cast: 3f 1m

4. Running Time: 10 mins

5. Genre: Drama

6. Synopsis:

Dorothy is pregnant. She has found the name of her birth mother and wants to speak with her. The main reason is to find out the name of her father. She wants to know his background, health etc. for the sake of her yet to be born baby.

Elizabeth, Dorothy's birth mother, is reluctant to speak and meet with her. Robert suspects the reason why and the story unfolds in their home.

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1. Title: **"Tom's Cri de Coeur"**

2. Author: Meg Roberts

3. Cast: Minimum 4m 1F. (There are 3 principal male roles and 5 roles that could be played by a single male and 6 that could be played by a single female or that could be divided among several actors. The option is also available for some additional childrens roles.)

4: Running time: 30 minutes

5. Genre: Drama

6. Synopsis:

Remember the Olden Days? Old Tom does. He remembers a time in the 1940s when, as a lad, he was sent to an orphanage by his mother after she stumbled across an inheritance meant for the boy. This bitter-sweet tale shows such innocence in the young lad and yet lurking behind his story is a secret just bursting to be revealed.

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1. Title: **“Two Peas in a Pod”**

2. Author: Jean Mann

3. Cast: 3f 1m (with doubling, number of characters 5f 3m and Voice over.)

4. Running time: 25 minutes

5. Genre: Radio Play (Could be adapted for stage performance.)

6. Synopsis:

Mary reluctantly promised to look after Liz when her mother died ... but the unexpected happened. We find Liz in a nursing home where she has been living for two years. During that time she has never spoken or had any visitors ... until now. Although her body grows Liz's voice and mentality never gets further than fourteen years. Her father died when she was seven. Her mother died in 1990 when Liz was 34. This is her story.

## SA Writers Theatre Catalogue One Act Plays.

1: Title: **“Waiting for Harry”**

2. Author: Leo Damant

3. Cast: 2m 1f

4. Running Time: 45 minutes

5: Genre: Drama

6. Synopsis:

Harry is in prison and he has been doing weight training and body building. Meanwhile wife Ruth has taken up with best friend Kevin. Harry is about to be released and he doesn't know about Kevin and Ruth yet! The prospect scares Ruth, but Kevin is determined to confront Harry.