



PLAYSHARE

Summary of Plays

About Playshare

Playshare is a collection of plays suitable for youth drama and theatre groups, made available through NAYD (the National Association For Youth Drama). All **Playshare** scripts have been specifically written for young people. They vary in length, content and style, but all the plays have been produced by a youth theatre/youth drama group at least once.

For a copy of any of the **Playshare** scripts, contact Alan King on 01-8781301 or email alan@nayd.ie

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Playshare Plays listed in alphabetical order

Alien Nation by Max Hafler

A play about racism.

Males: 7/6
Females: 2/3
Also: At least five more people to work in chorus and play small parts.
Age range: 16-23, with one old character, Granddad, who could be changed to Grandma if it served your group.
Approx. running time: 40-45 minutes.
Setting: A city in the west.
First performed by Galway Youth Theatre, 2002.

SYNOPSIS

Fergus and Conor's friendship is tested when Ferg decides that he is going to have a Romanian refugee beaten up, who he thinks is going out with his older sister. Issue-based without being preachy, the play tackles issues of racism and cultural identity head-on.

The play is fast moving with a lot of rhythm, chorus, singing and movement work, intermeshed with short naturalistic scenes. It needs strong playing, and a few good singers in the group would be helpful.

Published in *Playshare – Volume 1* (NAYD, 2005)

All Things by Neil Flynn *****NEW 2011*****

Cast Size: 18
Males: 6
Females: 12
Age Range: 15+
Approx. Running Time: 70 mins
First Performed by Free Range Youth Theatre at Síamsa Tíre Theatre, Tralee on May 29 2011

SYNOPSIS

A group of teenagers awake to find themselves in a strange metropolis only to discover they are in the midst of an experimental state of consciousness created by a conflicted pair of scientist for reasons that soon become clear.

How did they get there? What has happened to their lives?

Will they ever be able to wake up and start to live again?

What is the true nature of their relationship with each other?

These are some of the questions explored in *All Things*, a rousing ensemble piece that visits tragedy comedy, horror, and philosophy in its journey through the wonders and perils of youth.

A Man's Game by Paul Brennan *****NEW 2011*****

Cast Size: 15
Males: 3
Females: 12
Age Range: 15-17 and two older males

Approx. Running Time: 75 minutes

First Performed in the present version Limerick Youth Theatre 2010

SYNOPSIS

Bolandstown are a 'no-hoper' under-18s camogie team whose fortunes are transformed by the arrival of an ace manager. As they make their way through the cup campaign, the dynamics of the girls' relationships with each other spiral toward a betrayal, which is compounded by the manager's dark secret. Rich with comedy as well as the excitement of staged games, *A Man's Game* is a script full of opportunity for youth theatres to explore interesting contemporary young characters and themes as well as having a choral singing element.

Originally written in a version for County Clare, and with the current play text set in Co. Limerick, the play can be adapted to your county!

Staging: The play does not require an elaborate setting; a changing room can be two long benches, a pub a collection of stools with a suggestion of bar to one side and the pitch an empty space. A party can be suggested by a few coloured flashing lights and music. It is important to be organised about costume, as each performer requires camogie gear as well as street wear and in some cases, school uniform. There are a couple of quick changes and rehearsal of this aspect well in advance of performance is advised.

And Then He Was All by Dylan Coburn Gray *****NEW 2011*****

Cast Size: 4
Males: 2
Females: 2
Age Range: 18+
Approx. running time: 40 minutes

First Performed as part of Dublin Youth Theatre's Members One Act Festival August 2011

SYNOPSIS

And Then He Was All is a play about telling stories; a bunch of friends reconstruct the previous night while walking around North Dublin. They talk about narrative imperative, wanting things to be neat and easy. Dave and Sarah talk about how sometimes you fancy people because you're expected to. Sam and Adam talk about how - annoying as it is - the people you want to hate probably don't deserve it. Dave and Adam talk about how good friends don't always look like they're good friends. Sam and Sarah talk about learning that you're not the main character. And everyone does cruel impressions of each other.

Around The World in 80 Days by Jules Verne
Adapted by Philip Brennan and Stephen Colfer

Cast Size: 26 + crowd
Males: 16
Females: 10
Age Range: 10 +
Approx. running time: 110 minutes.
First Performed by Dreamstuff Youth Theatre, 2006.

SYNOPSIS

A hilarious new adaptation of Jules Verne's classic. This play has great scope for physical comedy, satire and buffoonery. The multiple settings involved offer great scope for an imaginative production and the comic style of writing brings a great element of fun to the story. Having a large cast, this play will suit youth theatres with a large membership but doubling up on roles to reduce numbers is also possible. Its many exaggerated characters present an opportunity for youth theatres to develop the art of comic timing and physical range.

Battlestations by Max Hafler

Cast size: Depending on the skills of your group, you could use a much larger group, some for the cast and some for the chorus.
Males: 2
Females: 6/7
Approx. running time: 30-35 minutes.
Setting: Small town in Ireland.
First performed by Galway Youth Theatre, 2003.

SYNOPSIS

Set in the recent past, *Battlestations* takes place during the time that peace vigils against the war in Iraq were being organised. While it explores the political angle of the story, its main concerns are the universal themes of being tested and standing by your principles. *Battlestations* is a development of a piece written for the 24hr Project at the Cúirt International Festival of Literature, Galway 2003.

Buzzin' To Bits by Mark O'Rowe

Cast Size: 14
Males: 8
Females: 6
Age range: 12 - 24
Approx. running time: 110 minutes.
Setting: Estate playground.
First performed by Dublin Youth Theatre.

SYNOPSIS

It's Tallaght 1997 in the estate and 'de girls' are just hangin' out in the playground after school, chewing the fat and comparing notes (not of the school kind). Trouble is, neither they nor the lads will be left in peace because Peadar and Jimmy (the original Tallaght cowboys with hurley sticks) are determined to rid the estate of drugs by whatever means.

A classic play about young people caught up in the Dublin anti-drug vigilante movement. Rapid-fire exchanges drive this play along with grittiness, naturalism and a bundle of laughs.

Published in *Playshare – Volume 1* (NAYD)

Car Show devised by Roscommon County Youth Theatre

Cast Size: 9
Males: 4
Females: 5
Age Range: mid-late teens
Approx. running time: 40 minutes
Setting: Four cars in a town centre
First devised and performed by Roscommon Co. Youth Theatre with Catherine Simon and Megan Riordan in 2008 by permission of Corn Exchange, Dublin.

SYNOPSIS

Car Show is a site-specific piece originated by Corn Exchange, Dublin. Three audience members sit in the back of each of four cars and watch a ten-minute scene unfold in the front seats. There are four ten-minute pieces and when the audience has seen one, they move on to the next car. Roscommon County Youth Theatre looked at Corn Exchange's concept and then devised new scripts, for performance by young people. The four scripts cover themes of unrequited love, peer pressure, friendship and growing up.

Claire's World by James Hyde

Cast Size: 5
Males: 2
Females: 3
Age Range: 16+
Approx. running time: 80 minutes
Setting: Now

SYNOPSIS

Claire at 16: How to run, how to flee? Hating her family's ideal of 'life' and their plans for her future, how do we protect our rich internal landscapes from the withering droughts of others? A declarative, stylised, emotional, selfish, highly musical journey of hope and finding and understanding for a teenage actor with a singular personality. *Claire's World* is for everyone who ever grew up feeling completely trapped in the daily lives of others, and desperate to leave and be who they truly must be.

The Queen is the ancient, eternal ruler of Claire's underworld. A true myth-figure, she is the voice in the smoke of our deepest cave; the real self we all have - a face we can never make others see, no matter how we try. The content of what she says is more felt than intellectualised: a true myth on first hearing.

Common Ground by Pete Mullineaux & Moya Roddy

A full-length play for a large cast.

Cast Size: 26
Male: 5
Female: 5
Also: 11-16 additional roles can be played by either sex; this includes 5 crucial movement parts, which can be played by other characters doubling up.
Age range: Suitable for actors in mid/late teens.
Approx. running time: 80-90 minutes.
Setting: A landfill site and adjacent common ground.
First performed by Galway Youth Theatre, 2004.

SYNOPSIS

Ireland in the not-too-distant future, where Celtic Tiger has become the Celtic Tip! *Romeo & Juliet* meets *Macbeth* meets *The Field* as two rival clans in the waste-disposal business fight over access to what was once a sacred piece of common land.

This is a big, exciting piece, combining a range of performance styles and with fantastic scope for percussion and movement choreography.

Debutantes Cabaret, devised by Activate Youth Theatre

Cast Size: 16
Males: 4
Females: 12
Age Range: 16-40
Approx. running time: 60-70 minutes
Setting: Plain stage with several levels, which turn into School Cafeteria, classroom, taxi, cars, etc.

First performed by Activate Youth Theatre, 2008.

SYNOPSIS

This is the story of a typical end of sixth year debs dance. The difference is that it's presented in the form of a cabaret with a Master of Ceremonies/Ring Master who casts a jaundiced eye on the proceedings and introduces the various stages of the ancient ritual of 'The Debs,' from 'The Asking' to 'The Buying of the Dress' to 'The Bitching' and 'The Switching of Dates.' Each scene also includes numbers from various musicals, (i.e., The Bad Girls are introduced with 'Cell Block Tango' from *Chicago*, and the heroine sings 'On My Own' from *Les Miserables*). The choice of songs is very much up to the group and director concerned, but the play allows you to dip in and out of any musical you prefer.

Dorian by Oscar Wilde, adapted by Myles Breen and Limerick Youth Theatre

An adaptation of Oscar Wilde's *A Picture of Dorian Gray*.

Cast Size: Flexible
Age Range: 14+
Approx. running time: 50 minutes
Setting: 19th Century London
First performed by Limerick Youth Theatre, 2010

SYNOPSIS

Dorian was the result of over 27 hours of rehearsals held over 9 weeks of workshops led by actor and director Myles Breen.

Actors: Lisa Ledger, Laura Gahan, Danielle Sheahan and Jamie Walters (all 4 as Dorian) as well as a number of LYT 1st year members. (They participated in the dance scenes, played the crowd etc).

The classic Oscar Wilde novel is adapted for stage as a sequence of scenes and images inspired by the themes of the novel and not a straight narrative telling of it. Using dance, dialogue and music, the piece challenges as well as providing an entertaining response to the original material. *Dorian* is divided into five sections, each exploring a different theme of the novel but loosely following the narrative: "Dorian's Wish", "Dorian's World", "Dorian in Love", "Dorian the Murderer", "Dorian's Death".

Drones by Noel MacAoigh

A full-length quest play.

Cast size: 17
Males: Flexible.
Females: Flexible.
Approx. running time: 90 minutes.
Setting: An open stage.
First performed by Dundalk Youth Theatre.

SYNOPSIS

Difficult to describe but richly rewarding, *Drones* is a play about bees on a quest to find a book in the medieval town of Dalk. Five acts of layered Shakespearean tension ultimately lead to most of the characters' inevitable deaths, but not before they encounter a range of fantastic personages and events. This is not issue-based drama; it is genuinely affecting, sharply witty, and vastly entertaining.

Eithne the Pirate's Daughters by Nell Smyth ****NEW 2011****

Cast Size: 26
Males: 1
Females: 9
(Because the play is a farce, many of its parts be played by either)
Age range: 14 to 18
Approx. running time: 90 mins
Setting: 15th/16th Century Europe. Multiple locations
First performed by: 2001, The Greenwood School, Mill Valley, California, USA.

SYNOPSIS

A rip-roaring pastiche of all things Shakespearian, the play opens in an imagined time in the late 15th century in Lisbon, Portugal. Queen Isabella has unleashed the fanatical forces of the Inquisition and heroic Irish sea captain, Donal O'Malley whisks master mapmaker Ben Reuben and his grand daughter, Miriam, to safety on board his boat bound for the Balearic isles.

Many years later we meet Donal, where his business is the secret trading of maps, a vital tool for trading routes and gaining control. Soon we are introduced to a vast array of spies, masters and mayhem as they all vie for control of the high seas.

Featuring cross dressing spies, sword fights, intrigue and abduction, a battle at sea and the reuniting of old friend it's a mad whirlwind to the finish.

****NEW 2011****

Elizabeth and Mr Darcy? Discuss by Veronica Coburn

Cast Size: 16
Males: 8
Females: 8
Age range: 14 to 18
Approx. running time: 90 mins
Setting: Contemporary Ireland. Multiple locations. Takes place over the course of one full academic year.

SYNOPSIS

Elizabeth & Mr Darcy? Discuss. ...is a choral play about love. It's also about the Junior Cert and the Leaving Cert and that first exciting/terrifying step beyond second level education. Set against one cycle of the seasons it is choral in form to reflect that which we have in common. We may have much in common but there is also lots to set us apart, so there are individual stories of flirtation, expectation and examination melt down; the individual threads within the collective chorus. *Elizabeth & Mr Darcy? Discuss* is particularly suitable for choreographic production.

Expecting by Cavan Youth Theatre and Colin Thornton

A full-length black comedy set in the future.

Cast size: 7-15. Works best with a small cast doubling up.
Males: Flexible.
Females: Flexible.
Age range: 13-24
Approx. running time: 60 minutes.
Setting: The future – a society subjugated by technology – with scenes including a family home, a school, a convent and a hospital.

First performed by Cavan Youth Theatre.

SYNOPSIS

In a dark and cold future, a secret government project known as Medemetry makes a major scientific and medical breakthrough and male pregnancy becomes possible; women having babies soon becomes a shameful and dangerous thing. In a world where almost everything is illegal, one girl must conquer her demons and stand up to her family.

This piece should be played fast with the cast working to create its own vision of the future. Loud techno music is used to heighten the action. The text is open to change: male pregnancy and its implications could be explored to create a new text.

Festival - Devised by Waterford Youth Arts, with Alan King

Cast Size: 18
Males: 9
Females: 9
Age Range: 13-22
Approx Running Time: 1hour 40 mins
Setting: The Hill Of Tara
First Performed by Waterford Youth Arts, September 2007. Directed by Alan King

SYNOPSIS

When the Irish Government decide to build a motorway through the hill of Tara, superstar metal band RUKKAZ decide to mount a protest music festival against the destruction.

As our cast descends on the historic site for the festival, all is not as it seems. As the powers of good and evil are pitted against each other in a battle that could destroy mankind, most festivalgoers just want to have a party.

Blending youth culture with political fact and the fantasy of Irish Folklore, *Festival* is a modern, funny look at our contemporary pop culture and our treatment of political issues.

Folie Tha' by Ciarán Gray

A One-Act Comedy.

Cast Size: 13
Males: 2
Females: 11
Age range: 14 - 17
Approx. running time: 45 minutes.
Setting: Good-sized open space.
First performed by Tam Lin Drama Workshop.

SYNOPSIS

The play centres on a group of teenage girls who are off to Paris for a disco/jazz dance competition. Their group is called Dance Trance and is run by a woman called Marie. We never actually see her because she is off chatting up a Frenchman. In fact, the only adult we see in the play is a priest. They encounter a lot of problems in a very short period and eventually return to Dublin to live more or less happily ever after.

The comedy is derived from word play and the confusion that arises because of what is said and what we think is being said. A great one for girls!

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XIV – Fourteen by Droichéad Youth Theatre and Sharon Cromwell

Cast Size: 18
Males: 6
Females: 12
Age Range: 14+
Approx. running time: 60 minutes.
First Performed by Droichéad Youth Theatre, 2006.

SYNOPSIS

A tale of lies, betrayal, intrigue and revenge in the days of the Roman Empire, *XIV - Fourteen* tells the story of two children who are swapped at birth in order to ensure that a Roman General is blessed with a son as his heir. Through clever rhyming passages and a well-structured plot, the story unfolds as we discover Lucius' wife to be complicit in a child swap, which deprived Vibius of his rightful heir.

The script is full of opportunity for youth theatres to explore the uses of chorus, ensemble playing and rhythm.

Leaving by Gerry Stembridge

Full-length comic drama.

Cast Size: 16
Males: 8
Females: 8
Age range: 15 - 25 years.
Approx. running time: 90 minutes.
Setting: A classroom.
First performed by Dublin Youth Theatre

SYNOPSIS

It's 2:45 am on the last day of school for the Leaving Certificate gang and they're planning a surprise for the teachers and students of their community school. Armed with outsize lingerie, paint and dirty mags, it is all meant to be a prank, a bit of craic. But when an older brother and his cronies arrive on the scene it all begins to go horribly wrong.

Sharp dialogue and witty repartee contribute to exploring issues about adolescents moving into adulthood. This play is about excitement, anguish, confusion and conflicting loyalties. It contains strong language. Written in the late 1980s, musical references can be easily updated.

Published in *Playshare – Volume 1* (NAYD, 2005)

Myrtlehill Terrace by Geraldine O'Neill and Activate Youth Theatre

Cast Size: 11
Males: 4
Females: 7
Age Range: 14-20
Approx. running time: 70 minutes
Setting: Myrtlehill Terrace, 1911
First performed by Activate Youth Theatre, 2010

SYNOPSIS

Myrtlehill Terrace, the play takes place in a terrace of nineteenth century houses just before the taking of the 1911 census. The coming of the Census Man raises many issues for the residents of the terrace, their maids and the people who frequent it. Though set a hundred years ago its themes are timeless - religion - love - ambition.

As mentioned in the opening of the play:

Just before the taking of the 1911 census there lived in this terrace members of the Church of Ireland.

Members of the Church of Ireland and Methodists.

Methodists and Catholics.

Catholics and Irish.

Irish and English.

English and Scottish.

My City Saturday by Geraldine O'Neill and Activate Youth Theatre

Cast Size: Flexible
Age Range: 14+
Approx. running time: 50 minutes
Setting: Cork City, but the locations could be altered to suit any city.

First performed by Activate Youth Theatre

SYNOPSIS

It's a normal Saturday in Cork City. Or it should be. Somebody didn't come home last night. Fiona Higgins didn't come home last night and she didn't come home this morning for her maths grind, and now everybody is implicated. Is she okay? Did she get so drunk that she went home with that guy? Has anybody seen her? What could have happened to her? Tension mounts as this fast paced play hurtles through the lives of group of teenagers and their 'city Saturday'.

Pranked by Ciaran Gray *****NEW 2011*****

Commissioned by NAYD as part of New Stage 09

Cast Size: 21
Males: 5
Females: 13
Other : 3 m or f
Age range: 13+
Approx. running time: 90 mins
Setting: Contemporary Ireland. Small town or rural setting.
Multiple locations.

A new town, new school and new friends, hopefully. That's what faces Fran when she arrives in Kildegin, not knowing anybody and hoping to fit in. Her wish seems to have come true when she immediately finds herself 'in' with the likeable and popular Phil, who eases her into the social scene. But doubts about her new friend begin to creep in when Debra, an annoying but harmless eejit, comes into the picture. In figuring out the difference between practical jokes and mental cruelty, Fran is forced to decide where her loyalties lie and maybe risk sacrificing her new-found friendships.

Realize by Donal Beecher

A full-length play.

Males: 5
Females: 9
Approx. running time: 75 minutes, without interval.
Setting: An audition room for pop stars, with flashbacks.
The set needs an imaginative use of space and lighting.

First performed by Act One Youth Theatre.

SYNOPSIS

Realize is a comedy, set in the world of pop stars' auditions. It begins at the call-back stage. As the play unfolds, we find out the real reasons why they are all there. Needless to say, we also find out that none of them has a chance of making it!

Realize contains music and some dancing. However, no one needs to sing or dance well. In fact, sometimes the worse the better!

Red Ball by Hilary Fannin

A one-act play.

Cast Size: Flexible

Age Range: 16+

Approx. running time: 40 minutes

Setting: Valentine's Night, present day

First performed by a number of youth theatres as part of *Nextus*, 2004, a collaboration between NAYD and The Abbey Theatre

SYNOPSIS

Valentine's night. Red Ball night. Expectations, disappointments, love and loss. One fleeting night of romance, one night to change the course of a life. Scenes can be choreographed to accommodate as many or as few actors as are available. The scenes are also open to being shortened or lengthened. Music used throughout *Red Ball* should be chosen by the group.

Requiem for Lena by Veronica Coburn

A one-act drama.

Cast size: 8

Males: 0

Females: 8

Age range: 8-60

Approx. running time: 60 minutes

Setting: Dublin, 1940s to present day.

First performed by The Gaiety School of Acting, 2002

SYNOPSIS

A young woman sorts through her mother's belongings after her death – a suicide. As the young woman looks at old photos, recalling memories and family stories, her mother and her six aunts bring to life vivid moments from their lives. They remember and recreate Dublin in the 1940s and 50s. Their stories illustrate the hopes, dreams and social circumstances that defined women of that time. The piece was inspired by Mozart's Requiem.

Published in *Playshare – Volume 1* (NAYD, 2005)

77A by Kymberly Dunne

Cast Size: 9
Males: 3
Females: 6
Age Range: 15-20
Approx. running time: 90 minutes
Setting Dublin, but could be moved to any city.

SYNOPSIS

Sandra is pregnant and has broken up with her boyfriend. Lorraine is in love with a guy in work. Donna is hiding from a girl who wants to beat her up. Kiley is looking to hide from her problems at home. Macker needs a job but can't hold onto one. Paddy is trying to keep it all together. What starts as a normal day on the 77A descends into chaos as these characters lives intersect. A play with humour, drama and suspense that will appeal to an older teenage group.

Snap'd by Jim Daly

****NEW 2011****

Cast Size: Up to 24
Males: 6
Females: 7
Other : 11 m or F
Running time : 70 mins

***Snap'd* was first performed by Waterford Youth Drama in association with Garter Lane Arts Centre at Garter Lane Theatre from 8th – 11th Sept, 2004. Directed by Patrick O Sullivan.**

SETTING

Multiple locations, open landscape. The recent past. Though originally set in Waterford the action can be transferred to any location.

SYNOPSIS

Snap'd is a stylistic exploration of youth suicide. The play follows the story of young teenager, Jem, and opens with a ritualistic killing of Jem by his imaginary 'Game characters'. The 16-year-old Jem narrates the play and it follows his life from when he was 13 to when he takes his own life at 16. The play deals with Jem's struggle to understand the world around him and why it stubbornly refuses to stay the same? His family is slowly but surely drifting apart around him and he fails to see why things should change. Jem was happiest when things were innocent, before financial complications and sundering family bonds intervened. His older cousins are all finding their own ways in life, as Jem is left to struggle through his journey alone. This play deals with the shift from childhood to adulthood, the associated loss of innocence, and how some of us are left behind and get lost along the way.

Sulk by Mark O Rowe

Males: 4
Females: 6
Age range: 14 +
Approx. running time: 90 Minutes
Setting: Outside an underage disco in a housing estate.
First performed by Tallaght Youth Theatre

SYNOPSIS

Barry just wants to make a few bob to keep his old man happy by selling hotdogs outside the local underage disco. Business is very slack, as would-be customers would rather solve the mystery of who stole Shamus's stash during a screening of *Crocodile Dundee II* in Carol's gaff. The dreaded Corrigan sisters are after their brother Pierre for trying to flush a cat down the toilet and poor Wendy is a long way from Kildare. Multiple stories collide in this fast paced, witty, comedy with sparkling dialogue and very memorable characters.

TENDERFOOT - a selection of plays that came out of the 2008, 2009 and 2010 **Tenderfoot programme**, an initiative by **The Civic Theatre** in association with **South County Dublin Arts Office** and **Storytellers Theatre Company**. All first performances took place at the Civic Theatre Tallaght. To find out more about Tenderfoot, visit the Civic Theatre website <http://www.civictheatre.ie>

A FAMILY AFFAIR by Lisa Sherin

Cast size: 7
Males: 3
Females: 4
Age range: 14-adult
Approx. running time: 35 minutes
Setting: Dublin, present day

SYNOPSIS

Lily is excited at the start of the school year because Rachel, her cousin, who has been living in Tokyo, has come home and is starting at the school. Things quickly go downhill as Rachel establishes herself at the centre of Lily's group of friends, leaving Lily feeling isolated and lonely. The situation worsens when Rachel decides to have a birthday party and invite everyone except Lily. Lily's friends are forced to make a choice between being 'cool' and loyal.

TENDERFOOT....

DEPARTURES by Simon O'Mara

Cast size: 3
Males: 1
Females: 2
Age range: 18+
Approx. running time: 20 minutes
Setting: An airport

Synopsis

Sam and Karen are going on holidays and things are off to a bad start. The flight is delayed and Karen is having what can only be described as a 'hissyfit'. She storms off and Sam goes to the airport café where he finds himself engaged in conversation with a mysterious woman. She is full of the joys of living life spontaneously and to the full, and gives Sam advice on his relationship with Karen. With boarding delayed and Karen still complaining, Sam has a decision to make.

PARK BENCH by Ellen O'Sullivan

Cast size: 3
Males: 1
Females: 2
Age range: 13-16
Approx. running time: 15 minutes
Setting: A Park Bench

Synopsis

Adam and Louise have been friends for years. Recently, they played opposite each other as Romeo and Juliet in a school production and Adam tells Louise that it's made him realise that his feelings for her have changed. Louise is too shocked to tell Adam that her feelings for him are just platonic and over a series of scenes set on a park bench, she has to resolve the situation, and enlists the help of Jen to do so.

ESCAPE by Ciara Donohoe

Cast size: 4
Males: 2
Females: 2
Age range: 14-adult
Approx. running time: 25 minutes
Setting: Dublin, present day

Synopsis

Eve and Calvin are friends. Both are having difficulty at home and have begun to take drugs to escape their problems. Calvin is a little older and more experienced than Eve, who takes her lead from him. Eve has been beaten up by her father...again, and is considering running away. Over the course of several days as things get worse at home, Eve makes the decision to leave and Calvin agrees to go with her. On the agreed day, however, Calvin backs out and Eve takes drastic measures.

TENDERFOOT.....

IF I COULD TURN BACK TIME by Anna Marie Gleeson

Cast size: 7+
Males: 1+
Females: 3+
Age range: 13+
Approx. running time: 20 minutes
Setting: Various locations, present day

Synopsis

All his life, Justin has been singled out for bullying at school. His mother doesn't have time to deal with his problems and he relies on his only friend, Cathy, for support. At the beginning of a new school year, Cathy and Justin are put in separate classes in school and Cathy discovers the joy of being popular and broadening her social circles. Justin doesn't fare as well, especially when Cathy caves to peer pressure and dumps him as a friend. As the situation worsens, Justin makes a decision, which will impact on all their lives forever.

THE BIG D by Amy O'Sullivan

Cast size: 4
Males: 1
Females: 3
Age range: 15-adult
Approx. running time: 15 minutes
Setting: Paris and Ireland

Synopsis

Niamh and Sarah, two sisters are on a summer break in Paris. Meanwhile their parents are in Ireland and having marital difficulties. The action of the place splits its focus between the sisters in Paris and their parents at home. As the summer goes on, the girls realise that their parent's marriage is in trouble, the fights at home escalate and so the sisters aren't surprised when they receive a call from home...

STRIKE! by Alison Bryan

Cast size: 3
Males: 3
Females: 0
Age range: 13+
Approx. running time: 20 minutes
Setting: A bowling alley

Synopsis

Derek, Niall and Kevin are friends, but are not without their differences. They meet for a game of bowling, and as the game gets going they talk about girls, life... girls, parties...and girls!

TENDERFOOT....

Party by Sarah Hanlon

****NEW 2011****

Cast Size: 7
Male: 3
Female: 4
Other: There is a possibility for background characters attending the party.
Age Range: 15+
Approx. running time: 30 minutes
Setting: A suburban house. Present day. Originally set in Dublin. It could be transferred to any locality.

Synopsis

Party is a bleak look at what it is to be young in modern day Dublin. The characters live in a world of moral ambiguity where the lines between what is right and wrong, acceptable and unacceptable, are so blurred as to be almost non-existent. A frightening glimpse of a parallel world in existence alongside the one populated by parents and teachers. Very thought provoking with strong language and disturbing scenes.

The Girl Whose Best Friend Was A Ghost by Kate Kalin and Kate McCarthy

A devised play.

Cast Size: Originally performed with a cast of 10. They played numerous characters and everyone involved is on stage all the time, so a larger cast could easily perform it.
Age Range: 10-14
Approx. running Time: 60 minutes.
First Performed by Physically Phishy Youth Theatre, 2005.

Synopsis

Once upon a time there was a Girl whose best friend was a Ghost. The Ghost caused so many complications in the Girl's life until the day the Ghost left. Things get really tough when the Ghost decides even she can't stand our horrid heroine and leaves.

The Girl Whose Best Friend Was A Ghost is a whimsical tale of discovery and adventure. The Girl embarks on a journey to find her ghostly friend, finding herself and new friends along the way.

The Ideal Homes Show

Devised by Activate Youth Theatre, with Ciarán Fitzpatrick

Cast Size: Variable 10-20
Males: 4+
Females: 6+
Age range: 15-40s
Approx Running Time: 2 hours
Settings: Ireland; Liverpool; non-specific war-torn country; refugee voyage; the stage itself

First performed by Activate Youth Theatre, February 2007. Directed by Tom Creed

Synopsis

An estate agent leads us on a tour through interweaving stories: a pregnant girl travelling to England for an abortion; the homeless girl she meets; her brother's unrequited love; their mum's mental illness; their father's struggle to keep them together; a family's escape from their homeland; and the tortured boy they leave behind on a bus, strapped to a bomb.

Punctuated by panel discussions, marketing meetings and a lecture on the mating habits of ducks and swans. *The Ideal Home Show* asks: What is Home?

The Stomping Ground by Loughlin Deegan

Cast Size: 8
Males: 6
Females: 2
Age Range: 16-22
Approx. running time: 130 minutes
Setting: A rural village, Ireland.
First performed by Red Kettle

Synopsis

A group of lads are off to spend a weekend in Ennistymon. They want to recreate a weekend of madness they had the previous year, and Tosser's granny has conveniently left her house empty for a few days. This play explores the fractures that occur amongst school friends as they move on to college and grow apart. It confronts sexuality and the danger of keeping secrets. Shocking, humorous and moving with great scope for physicality, *The Stomping Ground* promises to be an exciting challenge for an older youth theatre group.

The Terrace by David Parnell

Commissioned by NAYD for New Stage 2008.

Cast Size: 11+. Suitable for large cast owing to chorus

Males: 7+

Females: 4+

Age Range: 12+

Approx Running Time: 1hr 10 mins

First Performed at The New Stage Festivals 2008 in Roscommon and Cork

SYNOPSIS

Denis and Jane have been best friends for years. Every Saturday afternoon they head down to watch their local football team together; unfortunately they usually lose but this does not dampen their passion for their team or the warmth of their friendship.

One night, however Jane is chatted up by local hard-man Steve "Mad-Dog" Brennan, which causes her to re-think her place in the scheme of things, and question the nature of her friendship with Denis.

Jason and John are friends and fellow self-confessed computer geeks, who enjoy nothing better than sharing game-cheats with each other. Then along come Caroline and Wendy, two foxy associates of Steve Brennan, and they are thrust into a world of shady dealings involving envelopes of cash and dodgy packages. Add in a chorus, in the shape of a football crowd, and you have a funny, touching and heart-warming play.

The Voyage of The Orphans by Fiona Quinn, ****NEW 2011****
devised with Co. LYT.

Cast Size: Minimum-12 Maximum-35 (23 Female, 12 Male)

Male: 2 min or 12 max

Female: 10 min or 23 max

Other: Most of the characters can be doubled up.

Age Range: 13+

Running time: 80 minutes (Approx.) plus interval

Setting: Ireland and Australia circa 1849. Multiple locations.

Rural characters - from Limerick area but could be transferred to any rural background.

First performed by The County Limerick Youth Theatre at the HoneyFitz Theatre, Lough Gur, Co. Limerick in December 2009.

SYNOPSIS

The Voyage of the Orphans is a historical drama exploring the unchanging themes of migration - poverty, famine and racism through a three-act play depicting the historical story of the 4,000 Irish famine orphans transported to Australia from 1848-1850. The play follows the story of three sisters, Maggie, Kathleen and Bridget through their life in the workhouse in Ireland, onboard a transport ship and on arrival in Australia. Through the highs and lows of the girls' lives, the friendships they make, their laughter and fears, the audience are challenged to remember that this is not a story of the past; it is the ongoing story of the world.

****NEW 2011****

The Wizard of Longford, a pantomime by Brendan Williams

Cast size: 9 main characters & approx 20 Chorus
Males: 5
Females: 4
Age Range: 14+
Approx Running Time: 110 mins
First Performed By Backstage Youth Theatre, Longford

SYNOPSIS

After an ash-cloud transports her little cottage to Kenagh, killing an evil witch in the process, Doris and her talking-dog, Dodo, must find their way to the Wizard so they can get back home to Cavan. A Good Witch helps her on her way, where she meets some strangely familiar characters, who all need the Wizard's help. But can they get to the Wizard before the Wicked Witch of Drumlish wreaks her revenge? A modern pantomime for a young cast, with plenty of laughs, songs, dancing, and an X-Factor sing-off, this script can, and should be, adapted to suit your group and your local audience.

This Hit Parade by Emmet Kirwan

A one-act play for youth theatre.

Cast Size: 4
Males: 1
Females: 3
Age Range: 14-20
Approx. running time: 40 minutes
Setting: A school classroom
First performed by Dublin Youth Theatre, 2008

Synopsis

The Powers that be, think that three wayward students are in need of religious guidance, but their counsellor is more lost than they are. Emma, Erica and Jason have been sent on a religious retreat usually reserved for sixth years, who are about to leave school. Each has been accused of problem behaviour, which is deemed morally dubious and put into the hands of a young inexperienced counsellor Amy, who is new and just a little older than they are. Her views on sex, drugs and life in general seem too extreme for the students and what ensues is a battle of wits between the counsellor who wants them to know that Jesus is their Homie and three quick-witted students who don't want to listen.

This Means War by Max Hafler

[a retelling of *Lysistrata*, set in a country near you!]

Cast size: 12 f and 7 m [with doubling]

Running time: 1 hr 30minutes.

Age Range: 15+

First performed in the Cuir Festival 08 by Galway Youth Theatre, directed by Miquel Barcelo and Jonathan Gunning.

SYNOPSIS

This updating of *Lysistrata*, where a band of women led by Nicole take on the government of Monopolis by having a sex strike and taking over government buildings and TV stations. It is a comedy that follows the classic story about a group of women out to stop a war.

This version also includes songs and choruses, in addition to pacy comic scenes. The characters are colourful and fun to play. The play, although being a comedy, never loses sight of the seriousness of the subject and we are frequently reminded to good effect, what this is really all about.

The play involved a devising process in which several of the group's ideas were incorporated into the piece, and some interesting discussions ensued with regard to community action and members' experiences.

Toil and Trouble by Ciarán Gray

A lighthearted gently comic piece.

Cast Size: 10-20

Males: 0

Females: 10-20

Age Range: 15-20

Approx. running time: 60-70 minutes.

First performed by Roscommon Youth Theatre, 2004.

SYNOPSIS

The play takes place in a centre for girls who have been in trouble with the law and who are on short-term remand while they are assessed. A new arrival, Coco arouses interest when people learn that she's into witchcraft - the good kind. Another girl, Carrie is thinking of doing a runner from the place to check up on her boyfriend. The plan is to make her stay and keep her boyfriend faithful with one of Coco's spells. Does it work? You decide.

Any of the unnamed characters can be doubled up or spread out depending on the size of the cast.

Trust Games by Pete Mullineaux & Moya Roddy. ***NEW 2011****

Cast Size: 10
Males: 5
Female: 5
Age range 15+
Running time: 75 minutes (approx.).

First produced by Galway Youth Theatre in 2002 (Druid Theatre and on outreach tour.)

SYNOPSIS

This is 2010 'Teens in the Wild' territory as eight 'disadvantaged' young people and their two teachers head off in a mini-bus for a weekend of bonding and self-discovery in the countryside. As best laid plans fall apart – and 'trust games' fail to work – the adventure looks like proving a failure before an unexpected turnabout brings about a surprise resolution. Fast paced & naturalistic it explores group dynamics, teacher student relationships, identity.

SETTING

Multiple locations in the countryside. Present day. Characters can be from anywhere.

Two For Joy by Raymond Scannell

Commissioned by NAYD for New Stage 2008

Cast Size: 12 approx.
Males: 4
Females: 8
Age Range: 14+
Approx Running Time: 2 hours with an interval
First Performed at the 2008 New Stage Festivals in Roscommon and Cork

SYNOPSIS

Joanna Foley is dead. That much is certain. Where she is? That's a different story. To piece together the last few moments of her life, her dog Dixie takes Joanna on a journey through the ether. It seems there was a crash. Joanna discovered that as a Southsider she didn't fit in as much as she'd imagined. Moley, the little runt, played along. Together the two of them formed an unlikely pair.

They came up with a scheme to steal a car and fake Joanna's death but then it all goes horribly wrong.

A tense tale of retribution and revving, *Two For Joy* explores the big questions; life, death and belonging.

Understanding Marcus by Veronica Coburn

Commissioned by NAYD for New Stage 2008

Cast Size: 9
Males: 4
Females: 5
Age Range: 14+
Approx Running Time: 1 hour 20 mins
First Performed at the 2008 New Stage Festivals in Roscommon and Cork

SYNOPSIS

Marcus likes trains. And pens. Pens that click. Ballpoints. Marcus is sixteen and one of the very many young people who exist within the spectrum of autism. The world for him is a confusing place and he has to work very hard to negotiate the realms of normal social behaviour.

Ross and Laura are popular. Bright. Intelligent. They have a large group of friends. An accidental meeting in a Dart station brings Ross and Laura and Marcus together and leads to tragic consequences for all involved. This is a challenging piece of work that asks serious questions about what we understand as 'normal'.

Wake Up Sleeping Beauties by Deirdre Molloy

A One-Act Comedy.

Cast Size: 6
Males: 1
Females: 5
Age range: 10+
Approx. running time: 40 minutes.
Setting: Three performance areas; flexible set.
First performed by Dublin Youth Theatre.

SYNOPSIS

Wake Up Sleeping Beauties takes characters from popular fairytales (Prince, Sleeping Beauty, Rapunzel, Cinderella and Queen Maebh) and brings them into a world where women hold the power. This play takes a wry look at the treatment of women in fairy-tales and with a heavy dose of tongue-in-cheek dialogue, turns a conventional genre on its head. An extremely funny play, which has worked equally well with teenagers and primary school children.

X-Factory by Tom Swift

*****NEW 2011*****

First commissioned by NAYD as part of New Stage 09

Cast Size: 14+
Males: 1
Females: 4
Other: 9+ can be either m or f
Age range: 12-15
Approx. running time: 60 mins
Setting: A chip shop and the world of reality TV

SYNOPSIS

Kylie dreams of becoming a TV talent show star and escaping her manic mother, crazy father, mean sisters and the hell of scrubbing dishes in the family restaurant where chips are the only thing on the menu. Then along comes mysterious reality TV host Kidd Young Jr, offering fame and fortune. With Kidd's help Kylie assumes the alter ego "Cindy" and before you know it she's the winner of X-Factory.

But things get strange when Kidd forces Kylie to take part in "Get This Celebrity Out of Here". It's a reality show where stars live with ordinary families - only this time it's her own! Now Kylie's faced with a choice between fame and family.