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# Confusions Alan Ayckbourn

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*Confusions  
Alan  
Ayckbourn*

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**SHERLYN JAZMYN**

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*Rails* Samuel French  
A student edition of five

one-act plays by Britain's most popular playwright. Ayckbourn's series of plays for 4-5 actors typify his black comedies of human behaviour. First

produced in 1976, the plays are alternately naturalistic, stylised and farcical, but underlying each is the problem of loneliness. The Mother

Figure shows a mother unable to escape from baby talk; in *The Drinking Companion* an absentee husband attempts seduction without success; in *Between Mouthfuls*, a waiter oversees a fraught dinner encounter. A garden party gets out of hand in *Gosforth's Fete* whilst *A Talk in the Park* is a revue style curtain call piece for the five actors. Whether the comedies concern marital conflict, infidelity or motherhood and take place on a park bench or at a village fete, the

characters are familiar and their cries for help instantly recognisable. "Principally he is respected as a radical re-inventor of form" Dominic Dromgoole [One Million Tiny Plays about Britain](#) Samuel French, Inc. This is the tale of Jonah, Sophie, and a fox called *Scruffilitis*. It's a love story. A dysfunctional, voyeuristic and darkly funny love story, but a love story all the same. This new play by the Bruntwood Playwriting Prize winner Phil Porter, is

an exciting collaboration between Soho Theatre - London's most vibrant venue for new writing, comedy and cabaret - and internationally acclaimed Fringe First winners nabokov. *'Two' & 'Bed'* Faber & Faber Jack McCracken has the opportunity of a lifetime: he is the new head of a family furniture business and believes he will initiate a new age of honesty and integrity. He quickly learns that everyone else involved in the enterprise has a

vested interest in maintaining business as usual, rife with dishonesty and deceit "--

Ten Times Table Samuel French, Inc.

The Theatre Arts Audition Books offer one hundred speeches from plays of the past twenty-five years, fifty in a volume for men, fifty in a volume for women. Each excerpt is preceded by a note situating the play and the selection. Speeches come from a wide range of plays, including David Mamet's *Oleanna*, Caryl Churchill's *Serious Money*,

Martin McDonagh's *The Beauty Queen of Leenane*, Jim Cartwright's *Road*, and Timberlake Wertenbaker's *Our Country's Good*, as well as plays by Anthony Minghella, Mark Ravenhill, Sue Townsend, Alan Ayckbourn, and others. Annika Bluhm has assembled two sparkling collections of monologues that will challenge and inspire the actor.

*Table Manners* Bloomsbury Publishing Six aspiring authors meet on a winter's evening to discuss their work. The chairman, Arnold,

attempts to get the rest of the group out of a rut by suggesting that they collaborate on a piece of writing, an idea that is received without enthusiasm. However, as Arnold is clearing up after the meeting there is a clap of thunder, a black-out.

**Blink** Dramatists Play Service Inc

George Riley is given six weeks to live and *Life of Riley* charts the reactions of his closest friends as they struggle to come to terms with the news. "As perceptive as ever ...

Ayckbourn has once again achieved a satisfyingly rich, tragi-comic complexity" Daily Telegraph

### **Henceforward--**

Bloomsbury Publishing  
 Monogamy means sharing your life with one person, but what if you shared your kitchen with 5.6 million? Caroline Mortimer, the nation's favourite TV cook, has it all – a sparkling career, a big house in Highgate, a (golf) loving husband, smart kids and the best kitchen money can buy. But beneath the

immaculate furnishings, studio lighting and away from the glare of the ever-present cameras – Caroline must face the looming collision of living a private life in the public eye. What happens when the cameras turn off and the truth comes out? Caroline's Kitchen serves up deft dialogue in absurd situations: "Betts paints a wonderfully lurid picture of the middle classes, juxtaposed with the fragility of those who serve them" (The Stage). First performed as Monogamy at Malvern

Theatre starring Janie Dee, it then embarked on a national tour. It is a searing, sharp, state of the nation comedy from one of the UK's most exciting playwrights, Torben Betts.

### **Comic Potential** Samuel French Limited

Little Theatre Musical  
 Book, Music and Lyrics by The Heather Brothers.  
 Characters: 4 male, 5 female  
 Unit set. The Heather Brothers' homage to swinging sixties music was a smash hit at the King's Head Theatre and it enjoyed a long run after

transferring to London's Arts Theatre. Slice has a lot of lively original songs in it, 30 of them, each neatly perched on the edge between parody of early rock and the real thing.-- Boston Globe. A pleasurable, lightly satirical revel in sixties manners and music ... with bite, kick and hanky panky.-- Guardian. Full of such clever, self mocking charm that it's difficult to come away feeling anything but thoroughly entertained.... The real pleasure comes from The Brothers' shameless

poaching of an eclectic cross section of famous numbers.... Superb comic pastiche and sharp, cuff link humor.-- Time Out. A musical pastiche that takes you spinning back to the swinging decade to celebrate the eternal embarrassment of teen age.-- What's On. Life of Riley Dramatists Play Service Inc "Roland, a hard drinking tycoon, is considering buying an old Victorian house, once a brothel. His solicitor and the vendor, a builder, arrive to complete the deal. Also in the house

are his wife, a frustrated dancer who is always considering leaving him, her brother and later the brother's fiancée, who is uncertain whether or not to run away. In the course of one hectic night and morning, with continual running up and downstairs and in and out of rooms, these characters, each immersed in a personal problem, try to sort themselves out. The first act curtain finds the solicitor in bed with the wife thinking her to be a ghost and the fiancée

inadvertently shut in the attic cupboard by the distraught tycoon who has taken refuge there in the spare bed. All this takes place in a highly ingenious and original setting in which all the rooms, passages and stairs are on a single level"--

Sleighed to Death

Routledge

THE STORY: We witness the last few days of Charlie Castle, a top movie star and an idealist, whose years of compromise with his beliefs for the sake of a

Hollywood career have resulted in the slow destruction of his personality. We see his struggle

Hero's Welcome Samuel French, Inc.

The leading lights of the village have decided to hold a pageant of local history based on a somewhat vague event, "The Massacre of the Pendon Twelve". But there's a young left wing teacher on the committee who decides to turn it into a rally for proletarian revolution. Committee meetings become

symbolic battlefields for conflicting views - the right wing faction being led by the Chairman's conservative wife. The event turns into a violent confrontation between the two extremes, with cataclysmic results. Police intervention brings matters to a relatively quiet conclusion, but already another pageant - Romans versus Britons - seems an attractive possibility.

*Twelve Ophelias (a Play with Broken Songs)*

Lulu.com

Now we don't want to

start Christmas like this, do we? Cheating at snakes and ladders, fighting over comic books, a bungled infidelity beneath the tree. Christmas has arrived in the Bunker household along with family and friends. But as the children lurk just out of sight, it's the adults who are letting the side down. I couldn't. Not in our sitting-room. Not in front of the television. Somewhere else. Presiding over the festivities are two warring uncles, one a kindly, incompetent doctor with

an interminable puppet show to perform; the other a bullying retired security guard who dominates the TV, brings toy guns for his nieces and determines there's a thief in their midst. Alan Ayckbourn's masterly *Season's Greetings* offers a seriously entertaining look at the misery and high jinks of an average family Christmas. The play opens at the National Theatre, London, in December 2010. Three times I caught him at it. *Ripping open* presents, helping himself to the

contents.

Confusions NHB Modern Plays

Two plays by the Lancashire playwright Jim Cartwright, author of *Road*. Two is an evocation of English pub life, in which two actors play a series of characters. *Bed* is a surreal journey into old age and sleep.

Ladies' Day Faber & Faber "Previously published in the anthology *Performed the here and now*: an introduction to contemporary theater and performance edited by Chris Danowski ... and

also in the independent literary journal CallReview (issue #2, 2004)"--T.p. verso.

Taking Steps Samuel French

First performed at London's Apollo Theatre in 1976, 'Confusions', a series of one-act plays, typifies Ayckbourn's particular brand of black comedy on human behaviour. The plays are alternately naturalistic, stylised and farcical, but underlying each is the echoing problem of profound loneliness. 'The Mother Figure' shows a

mother unable to escape from baby talk; in 'The Drinking Companion' an absentee husband attempts seduction without success; in 'Between Mouthfuls' a waiter oversees a fraught dinner encounter. A garden party gets out of hand in 'Gosforth's Fête' while 'A Talk in the Park' is a revue style curtain call piece for five actors. Whether the comedies concern marital conflict, infidelity or motherhood; take place on a park bench or at a village fete, the characters are familiar

and their cries for help instantly recognisable. Better Off Dead Nelson Thornes

A play set in the foreseeable future when everything has changed except human nature; a future where TV daytime soaps are performed by android actors emotionally programmed by the control room. One, JC 31333, finds herself humanized as Jacie Triplethree, complete with a sense of humour and Adam, a young scriptwriter, falls for her. *The Theatre Arts Audition*



*Book for Men* Psychology Press  
 Detective Superintendent Roy Grace thinks he's found a serial killer, but not everything is as it seems in *Not Dead Enough*, by award-winning crime author Peter James. Now a major ITV series, *Grace*, adapted for television by screenwriter Russell Lewis and starring John Simm. A beautiful socialite is dead. Roy Grace's leading suspect, her husband, was sixty miles away when she died, but all other evidence points to him.

Has someone stolen his identity or is he simply a very clever liar? Grace's investigation, and his budding new relationship, are derailed after a reported sighting of his wife, Sandy, who has been missing for nine years. Grace desperately tries to cast light on the truth in both cases as his emotional turmoil – and the body count – grows . . . Although the Roy Grace novels can be read in any order, *Not Dead Enough* is the third thrilling title in the bestselling series. Enjoy more of the

Brighton detective's investigations in *Dead Man's Footsteps* and *Dead Tomorrow*. Now a major ITV series, *Grace*, starring John Simm.  
*Genesis Inc* Heinemann  
 "Exuberantly up-to-minute comedy" -The Guardian  
*Improbable Fiction* Samuel French, Inc.  
 A student edition of five one-act plays by Britain's most popular playwright.  
[The Routledge History of Literature in English](#) A&C Black  
 THE STORY: Stephen runs a restaurant and has a weekly poker game in the

basement. He enjoys playing for big money, and it's not unusual for

the waiters to lose their paychecks, or more, each

week. One of the waiters, Mugsy, wants to start a restaur