

## Funtington Players Play Reading record

### A. Plays Read & Considered Suitable for Production, or to be decided

| <i>Date</i>                             | <i>Play/Playwright</i>                                     | <i>Suggested by</i> | <i>Cast</i>                  | <i>Technical Requirements</i>   | <i>Feedback</i>   | <i>Suitable for production</i>   |
|---|--|---------------------|------------------------------|---|---|--|
| 29/10/21                                | <b>The Crucible</b><br><i>Arthur Miller</i>                | Gill Lambourn       | 9M, 9F                       | 4 different interiors - 2 houses, the court & the jail - could be done indicatively                                   | Very powerful play, beautifully written. On the long side.  | <b>Yes</b> but needs 4 young women   |
| May 2020<br>(Read over 2 zoom sessions) | <b>The Recruiting Officer</b><br><i>William Farquhar</i>   | Tony Clark          | 13M, 4F                      | Can be done with indicative set and props. Costumes a challenge due to both period and size of cast.                  | Classic restoration comedy . Last restoration comedy we did broke the bank on costumes.   | <b>Yes</b> in principle but needs a fair few youngish cast members         |
| 31/5/19                                 | <b>Our Country's Good</b><br><i>Timberlake Wertenbaker</i> | Tony Clark          | With doubling<br>6M, 4 or 5F | Indicative set only + simple props. Costumes may need making  | Good play, well developed characters, interesting historical context, strong language   | <b>Yes</b> - Selected for Production                                       |
| 1/3/19                                  | <b>Disposing of the Body</b><br><i>High Whitmore</i>       | Jan Copsey          | 6M, 3F                       | Contemporary domestic or hotel interiors suggested by lighting rather than extensive set-building                     | Simple tale of 'accidental' suburban adultery becomes increasingly edgy and dramatic. Good writing with psychological depth. Sexually explicit. | <b>Yes</b> - Selected for Production                                       |
| 18/1/19                                 | <b>Season's Greetings</b><br><i>Alan Ayckbourn</i>         | Tiffin Jones        | 5M, 4F                       | Single set, domestic interior + Xmas tree, decorations etc. Needs stairs or a suggestion thereof, electronic gadgetry | Often performed and funny in production, though not his best. Familiar dysfunctional young family plus outsider plot                            | <b>Yes</b> - Certainly do-able, an obvious autumn choice                   |
| 21/9/18                                 | <b>Alarms &amp; Excursions</b><br><i>Michael Frayn</i>     | Jan Copsey          | 2M, 2F<br>(or many more)     | 8 short plays, can be done with simple settings   | Examines the difficulties of technology, with hilarious results. Beginning to be slightly dated.  | <b>Yes</b> - either extracts or the entire piece, very funny, challenging. |
| 25/5/18                                 | <b>California Suite</b><br><i>Neil Simon</i>               | Jan Copsey          | 3M, 3F<br>(or more)          | All 4 plays take place in the same hotel suite  |   |  |
| 27/4/18                                 | <b>Blood Wedding</b>                                       | Tony Clark          | 10M, 10F                     | Can be done in a generic set,   | Beautifully written. Would need   | <b>Yes</b> - but challenging   |

|          |   |                     |                        |  |  |   |
|----------|---|---------------------|------------------------|--|--|---|
|          | <i>Lorca</i>  |                     | (6M, 9F with doubling) | suggesting a hot climate, with changes of location indicated by lighting & furniture | to work at it to relieve the gloom from time to time.  | to cast. Needs an absolute minimum of 4 good younger actors   |
| 10/11/17 | <b>Still Life</b><br><i>Noel Coward</i>   | Heather Birchenough | 6M, 5F                 | Single set - railway station buffet  | One act play that was adapted for the film "Brief Encounter". There is also a full length <i>Brief Encounter</i> adaptation.       | <b>Yes</b> - 2 very demanding lead roles.   |
| 18/8/17  | <b>The Inconstant Moon</b><br>(read as <b>Swear not by the Moon</b> )<br><i>Leafy Scott</i> | Leafy Scott         | 4M, 9F                 | Various settings including lobby & cafe. Can be done with indicative props           | When read was still a work in progress, but much enjoyed as it was. Care home scene seemed slightly disconnected to the remainder. | <b>Possibly</b> , but not as main production. To be done as a tribute & fund-raiser for the Hospice |
| 30/6/17  | <b>People</b><br><i>Alan Bennett</i>  | Janet Smith         | 8M, 5F                 | Set to suggest dilapidated stately home and film set                                 | Very funny with wide range of ages, including two young porn stars!  | <b>Yes</b> , porn scene may be a challenge but why not, we could do it!                             |
| 9/6/17   | <b>Enlightenment</b><br><i>Shelagh Stephenson</i>   | Jan Copsey          | 3M, 3F                 | Black box set, one simple suggested exterior.  | Serious subject, engagingly told with touches of humour. Intriguing and mysterious. Modern.  | <b>Yes</b>  |
| 5/5/17   | <b>Black Comedy</b><br><i>Peter Schaffer</i>  | Leafy Scott         | 5M, 3F                 | Flat, preferably with stairs and a hatch to basement                                 | Both highly entertaining, long one act plays. Thought too demanding (& long) to do as a pair. Both need 2 youngish women.          | <b>Yes</b> , but perhaps paired with something else   |
|          | <b>Real Inspector Hound</b><br><i>Tom Stoppard</i>  |                     | 5M, 3F                 | Sitting room of remote country house   |  |   |
| 24/3/17  | <b>Humble Boy</b><br><i>Charlotte Jones</i>   | Jan Copsey          | 3M, 3F                 | Garden set, including large beehive and apple tree                                   | Well constructed, keeps you guessing. Interesting characters. Well drawn relationships.  | <b>Yes</b> (done by Arundel in 2015)  |
| 22/1/16  | <b>London Suite</b><br><i>Neil Simon</i>  | Jan Copsey          | 3M, 3F                 | All 4 plays take place in the same hotel suite                                       | Comedy - very funny  | <b>Yes</b>  |
| 5/6/15   | <b>My Boy Jack</b><br><i>David Haig</i>   | Jan Copsey          | 10M, 2F                | Battlefield, interiors   | Moving, albeit few surprises. Another world war play   | <b>Yes</b> . Boy needed + younger men   |
| 13/3/15  | <b>The Master Builder</b>   | Scilla              | 4M, 3F + a             | Single set, house looking into   | A fascinating study in vanity with   |   |

|         |  |                |  |   |   |   |
|---------|--|----------------|--|---|---|---|
|         | <i>Ibsen</i>                                 | Jutton-Holland | couple of extras                         | office  | a tremendous climax   |   |
| 30/1/15 | <b>Cider with Rosie</b><br><i>Laurie Lee</i> | Rob Hatherley  | 24 parts<br>can be played<br>with 5M, 4F | Can be set very simply  | Charming piece and fun. As in<br><i>Blue Remembered Hills</i> and <i>Daisy Pulls It Off</i> , the old act young               | <b>Yes</b> but could be hard<br>to cast |
| 3/2/13  | <b>Terra Nova</b><br><i>Ted Tally</i>        |                | 6M, 1F                                   | Antarctic set - white Bolton<br>twill??                                       | Interesting, bleak & chilling. "A<br>mixture of fantasy and realism"  | <b>Yes</b>                              |
| 9/12    | <b>The Handyman</b><br><i>Ronald Harwood</i> | Jan Copsey     | 5M, 3F                                   | Straightforward set to<br>include a garden terrace and<br>one interview room. | The subject matter is serious,<br>themes of culpability, retribution,<br>collaboration and the notion of<br>holocaust denial. | <b>Yes</b>                              |

**B. Plays Read but not Considered Wholly Suitable for Main Production**

| <b>Date</b> | <b>Play/Playwright</b>  | <b>Suggested by</b>   | <b>Cast</b>                 | <b>Technical Requirements</b>  | <b>Feedback</b>   | <b>Suitable for production</b>  |
|-------------|---|-----------------------|-----------------------------|--|---|---|
| 3/12/21     | <b>A Small Family Business</b><br><i>Alan Ayckbourn</i>                       | Barbara MacWhirter    | 7M, 6F                      | Fiendishly complex set on 2 floors   | Intersting play, including some familiar Ayckbourn dark elements                    | It would be good to do were it not for the complexities of the setting.           |
| 28/02/20    | <b>The Milk Train Doesn't Stop Here Any More</b><br><i>Tennessee Williams</i> | Scilla JH             | 3F 2M + 2 assistants M or F | Italy in summer, screens & lighting, <i>minimal furniture</i>                    | Ageing diva's last days. Think Bette Davis & Joan Crawford. Needs cutting.          | Has some good points, but <b>No</b> . Way too long, hugely demanding leading role |
| 8/11/19     | <b>God of Carnage</b><br><i>Jazmina Reza</i>                                  | Jan Copsey            | 2M, 2F                      | Interior set, sofa & chairs or 2 sofas.  | Excellent play <b>BUT</b> only 4 characters and runs 90 mins with no interval       | Not really. Not enough parts and wouldn't make money from the bar                 |
| 13/9/19     | <b>84 Charing Cross Road</b><br><i>Helene Hanff</i>                           | Barbara MacWhirter    | 3M, 4F                      | Bookshop & apartment<br>Would need a lot of set dressing.                        | Beautifully written. Relies heavily on the 2 principal characters. Limited movement | Split vote from committee over suitability  |
| 22/3/19     | <b>Calling</b><br><i>C &amp; M Crowther</i>                                   | Scilla Jutton-Holland | ?                           | ?  | Good and well-constructed   | Both done at Penny Royal 2019. Casts very small for main production               |
|             | <b>The Fat Lady Sings In Little Grimley</b><br><i>David Tristram</i>          |                       | 2M, 2F                      | Set is just a meeting room   | Very funny - the last of a trilogy  |   |
| 9/3/18      | <b>Juno &amp; the Paycock</b><br><i>Sean O'Casey</i>                          | Scilla Jutton-Holland | 8M, 6F                      | Single set - poor Dublin flat<br>Needs very accurate set, furniture and costumes | Very well written and compelling drama  | Possibly, although it would only work if the Irish accents are <b>really good</b> |
| 19/1/18     | <b>The Deep Blue Sea</b><br><i>Terence Rattigan</i>                           | Barbara MacWhirter    | 5M, 3F                      | Single set - sitting room of London flat   | One of Rattigan's best. Intense drama.  | Possibly but challenging to bring off well  |

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|-------------|--|---------------------|--|---|---|--|
| 15/12/17    | <b>The Aristocrats</b><br><i>Brian Friel</i>                 | Jan Copsey          | 6M, 3F                                   | A lawn & a small room   | Beautifully written but gloomy  | Possible but demanding   |
| 1/9/17      | <b>Dangerous Corner</b><br><i>J B Priestley</i>              | Janet Smith         | 3M, 4F                                   | Period play needing suitable accents readers                    | Chosen as exercise in 'BBC' voice.<br>Very dated  | No   |
| 10/3/17     | <b>Linden Tree</b><br><i>J B Priestley</i>                   | Barbara MacWhirter  | 4M, 6F                                   | One set - old fashioned study                                   | Long, very wordy, central conflict rather dated now   | No   |
| 20/1/17     | <b>Touched</b><br><i>Stephen Lowe</i>                        | Barry Jarvis        | 3M, 6F<br>+ 8yr old                      |   |   | No   |
| 4/11/16     | <b>Faith Healer</b><br><i>Brian Friel</i>                    | Margaret Edwards    | 2M, 1F                                   | Neutral set - locations suggested by props & furnishings        | Play made up of 4 monologues. Beautifully written, lyrical, poetic, thought provoking.                          | Probably not due to v. small cast  |
| 13/5/16     | <b>Cigarettes &amp; Chocolate</b><br><i>Anthony Mingella</i> | Margaret Edwards    |  |   | Thought provoking & intriguing, but not suitable for a main production  | No   |
| 18/3/16     | <b>Gut Girls</b><br><i>Sarah Daniels</i>                     | Toni Hickey         | Depends on doubling.<br>Around 8F & 2-4M | Has to suggest squalor of sheds but also more genteel locations | Black comedy. Has its moments, but over-written and too long. Characters 2-dimensional. Feels a bit dated.      | No   |
| 19/2/16     | <b>Ladies Who Lunch</b><br><i>Tudor Gates</i>                | Amanda Matcham      | 3M, 7F                                   | Various interiors   | Sort of thriller. Sufficient in plot to hold interest, but some structural problems particularly in first half. | No   |
| 9/8/15      | <b>Wind in the Willows</b><br><i>adapted Alan Bennett</i>    | Leafy Scott         | 24 characters                            |   | Great fun. Lots of characters   | Perhaps a bit difficult to fit into the confines of the village hall         |
| 11/9/15     | <b>The Front Page</b><br><i>Hecht/MacArthur</i>              | Hilary Strong       | 17M, 5F                                  |   |   | Yes in principle, but needs significant cutting (which may not be permitted) |
| 14/11/14    | <b>Uncle Vanya</b>   | Scilla              | 5M, 4F                                   | House & Garden, could be  | Plenty of drama and tension   | Probably not - hard to   |

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|-------------|--|---------------------|-------------------------|---|--|--|
|             | <i>Chekhov</i>   | Jutton-Holland      |                         | single set  |  | pull off   |
| 26/09/14    | Local authors' plays                                       | Noel Edwards        | ---                     | ---   | Some good ideas; interesting collaboration   | No   |
| 14/09/14    | <b>The Old Lady Shows Her Medals</b><br><i>J.M. Barrie</i> | Barbara MacWhirter  |                         | Simple interiors  | Done as studio. Another world war play. Only one act so would need to be paired with something else.     | A bit dated. Needs a young soldier                                 |
| 29/08/14    | <b>If So, Then Yes</b><br><i>N.F.Simpson</i>               | Barry Jarvis        | 34 characters for 6M/6F | Composite set<br>Interesting props<br>Simple Lighting & Sound | Rather Laboured; Not going anywhere; Curiously Unsatisfying; Not my cup of Tea! But very funny in places | No!<br>But maybe as part of a studio                               |
| 15/07/14    | <b>No. 60 to the Somme</b><br><i>Carol Godsmark</i>        | Susie Wilde         |                         | London & WW1 settings   | Rehearsed reading post AGM.<br>Another world war play  | Yes in principle - but done very well in 2015 at Riverside Theatre |

### C. Plays Read & Subsequently Performed as a Main Production

| <b>Date</b> | <b>Play/Playwright</b>                                 | <b>Suggested by</b> | <b>Cast</b>            | <b>Technical Requirements</b>  | <b>Feedback</b>   | <b>Suitable for production</b> |
|-------------|--|---------------------|------------------------|--|---|--------------------------------|
| 25/4/19     | <b>Rumours</b><br><i>Neil Simon</i>                    | Barry Jarvis        | 5M, 5F                 | Complex single interior set, lots of doors!                                | Fast-moving farce, last performed here in 2000  | <u>Performed Nov 2019</u>      |
| 6/10/17     | <b>The Ghost Train</b><br><i>Arnold Ridley</i>         | Leafy Scott         | 7M, 4F                 | Single set - station waiting room. Lots of lighting & sound effects.       | Enjoyed by all.   | <u>Performed Apr 2018</u>      |
| 7/10/16     | <b>We'll Always Have Paris</b><br><i>Jill Hyem</i>     | Tiffin Jones        | 1M, 4F                 | Single set - Paris attic   | Witty, amusing, charming but with a bit of "bite". 5 good parts                           | <u>Performed Apr 2017</u>      |
| 15/7/16     | <b>Quartermaine's Terms</b><br><i>Simon Gray</i>       | Jan Copsey          | 5M, 2F                 | Single, straight-forward set - school staff room                           | Intelligent, witty, and ultimately rather sad comment on relationships. Seven good parts. | <u>Performed Nov 2018</u>      |
| 16/10/15    | <b>The Ladykillers</b><br><i>Graham Linehan</i>        | Jan Copsey          | 6M, 1F and 1F walk-on  | Multiple sets, but achievable without the revolve specified in the script! | Madcap comedy   | <u>Performed Nov 2016</u>      |
| 24/10/14    | <b>The Sea</b><br><i>Edward Bond</i>                   | Barry Jarvis        | 7M, 7F                 | Single set. Different locations indicated by props & furniture             |   | <u>Performed Nov 2015</u>      |
| 21/2/14     | <b>Star Quality</b><br><i>Noel Coward</i>              | Tony Clark          | 5M, 3F<br>+ 4 walk-ons | Several locations suggested by props, furniture etc.                       | Surprisingly modern. Biting wit. Generally enjoyed.                                       | <u>Performed Nov 2017</u>      |
| 31/1/14     | <b>Daisy Pulls It Off</b><br><i>Denise Deegan</i>      | Tony Clark          | 2M, 12+F               | Single set in a school   |   | <u>Performed Apr 2015</u>      |
| 1/11/13     | <b>Rough Crossing</b><br><i>Tom Stoppard</i>           | Alan Copsey         |                        |  |   | <u>Performed Apr 2014</u>      |
| 13/9/13     | <b>Master of the Marionettes</b><br><i>Guy Hibbert</i> | Leafy Scott         |                        |  |   | <u>Performed Nov 2014</u>      |
| 12/4/13     | <b>39 Steps</b><br><i>adapted by Patrick Barlow</i>    | Barbara MacWhirter  |                        |  |   | <u>Performed Nov 2013</u>      |