

## 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>
8/12/23	<b>Hobson's Choice</b> <i>Harold Brighouse</i>	Helen H-R & Andy Marshall	7M, 5F	Can be kept fairly simple but needs a variety of period furniture and costumes	Very enjoyable to read. Need for a few young actors would make it hard to cast	Possible but a bit dated.
18/8/23	<b>Plaza Suite</b> <i>Neil Simon</i>	Jan Copsey	up to 7M & 3F	Single set of a relatively plush hotel room	3 separate one act plays. Some bits very witty, some funny, some poignant	Certainly possible but are we really that keen on it?
16/6/23	<b>The Shadow Factory</b> <i>Howard Brenton</i>	Tony Clark	6M, 7F or more	Multiple locations, lots of lighting and sound effects. WW2 period costumes.	Strong story, well developed characters of various ages, local context. Read really well.	<b>Yes</b> - Selected for Production
9/12/22	<b>Sisterly Feelings</b> <i>Alan Ayckbourn</i>	Tony Clark	6M, 4F	Set in a park with a hill and a bench. Lots of props - picnic, bicycles, kite.	Fun, good characters. Can be done as a single play, without the options given in the script. A bit long.	<b>Yes</b> - Definitely doable.
23/9/22	<b>Trivial Pursuits</b> <i>Frank Vickery</i>	Scilla Jutton-Holland	4M, 6F	Staging complex - garden, patio, roof	Very funny in places.	Definitely possible.
29/4/22	<b>Romantic Comedy</b> <i>Bernard Slade</i>	Scilla Jutton-Holland	2M, 4F	Just an office and a bedroom	Good play, well written, interesting characters	Possible? Smallish cast.
29/10/21	<b>The Crucible</b> <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. Needs 4 young women	<b>Yes</b> - Suitable for Production, when rights can be obtained
May 2020 (Read over 2 zoom sessions)	<b>The Recruiting Officer</b> <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. (The last restoration comedy we did broke the bank on costumes!) A lot of men needed.	<b>Yes</b> in principle but needs a fair few youngish cast members

21/9/18	<b>Alarms &amp; Excursions</b> <i>Michael Frayn</i>	Jan Copsey	2M, 2F (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.
27/4/18	<b>Blood Wedding</b> <i>Lorca</i>	Tony Clark	10M, 10F (6M, 9F with doubling)	Can be done in a generic set, suggesting a hot climate, with changes of location indicated by lighting & furniture	Beautifully written. Would need to work at it to relieve the gloom from time to time.	<b>Yes</b> in principle but-but challenging to cast. Needs a minimum of 4 good younger actors
10/11/17	<b>Still Life</b> <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.	Possible - 2 very demanding lead roles.
30/6/17	<b>People</b> <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! Quite a few shortish parts.	<b>Yes</b> , porn scene may be a challenge but why not, we could do it!
9/6/17	<b>Enlightenment</b> <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> <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> <i>Tom Stoppard</i>		5M, 3F	Sitting room of remote country house		
24/3/17	<b>Humble Boy</b> <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> <i>Neil Simon</i>	Jan Copsey	3M, 3F	All 4 plays take place in the same hotel suite	All 4 plays are funny and mostly still work despite the passage of time.	<b>Yes</b> but having 4 disconnected short plays together not to everyone's taste
5/6/15	<b>My Boy Jack</b> <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

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

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

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Read by Committee only Dec 23	<b>Goodnight Mr Tom</b> <i>David Wood</i>	Helen Harries-Rees	7M, 6F	Multiple locations, period costumes and props. Might be difficult to fit onto the West Ashling stage	Appealing piece in many ways. Heart-warming, poignant and amusing by degrees. Needs a couple of young boys.	Probably not - too many associated difficulties including chaperones
20/10/23	<b>On the Razzle</b> <i>Tom Stoppard</i>	"The Ladies who lunch"	13M, 9F	Very specific costumes, some complex technical effects	Characteristically witty and clever script, but somehow doesn't really work any more	<b>No</b> , probably not
15/9/23	<b>A Flea in her Ear</b> <i>Georges Feydeau</i>	Jan Copsey	9M, 5F	Very complex set, including rotating bed. Period costumes.	Typical French farce but not suitable for production. Character with cleft palate made fun of mercilessly. Too long,. Needs lots of younger actors.	<b>No</b>
19/5/23	<b>Outward Bound</b> <i>Sutton Vane</i>	Jan Copsey	6M, 3F	Single set - lounge of a small ocean liner	Somehow failed to connect with those at the reading	<b>No</b>
3/2/23	<b>"They Don't Grow on Trees"</b> <i>Ronald Millar</i>	Scilla/Gill	8M, 12F			<b>No</b>
21/10/22	<b>Breaking the Code</b> <i>Hugh Whitemore</i>	Jan Copsey	7M, 2F		Well written and constructed play. Very long with some difficult concepts explored. Paints an accurate picture of repressed post war Britain.	Although it's the kind of piece which haunts you, it's probably not for us
27/5/22	<b>The Noble Spaniard</b> <i>Somerset Maugham</i>		4M, 5F		Enjoyable period piece, but probably not	
25/2/22	<b>Murder With Ghosts</b> <i>Simon Brett</i>	Barbara MacWhirter	5M, 4F	Arrow "trick", a few specialist props	Inventive and quite good fun but really too trivial for words!	Probably not
28/1/22	<b>The Mad Woman of Chailot</b>	Scilla	17M, 8F	Underground staircase,	Exotic caricatures, fable genre,	Interesting piece but

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	<i>Jean Giraudoux</i>	Jutton-Holland		and several locations	excessively wordy, thought provoking.	<b>No!</b>
3/12/21	<b>A Small Family Business</b> <i>Alan Ayckbourn</i>	Barbara MacWhirter	7M, 6F	Fiendishly complex set on 2 floors	Interesting 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> <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> <i>Jazmina Reza</i>	Jan Copsey	2M, 2F	Interior set, sofa & chairs or 2 sofas.	Excellent play <u>BUT</u> 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> <i>Helene Hanff</i>	Barbara MacWhirter	3M, 4F	Bookshop & apartment 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> <i>C &amp; M Crowther</i> <b>The Fat Lady Sings</b> <b>In Little Grimley</b> <i>David Tristram</i>	Scilla Jutton-Holland	6F  2M, 2F	?  Set is just a meeting room	Good and well-constructed  Very funny - the last of a trilogy	Both done at Penny Royal 2019. Casts very small for main production
18/1/19	<b>Season's Greetings</b> <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>No</b> - Everyone's done it!
25/5/18	<b>California Suite</b> <i>Neil Simon</i>	Jan Copsey	3M, 3F (or more)	All 4 plays take place in the same hotel suite	Some problematic themes.	No - past its sell by date

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9/3/18	<b>Juno &amp; the Paycock</b> <i>Sean O'Casey</i>	Scilla Jutton-Holland	8M, 6F	Single set - poor Dublin flat 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</b> good
19/1/18	<b>The Deep Blue Sea</b> <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
15/12/17	<b>The Aristocrats</b> <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> <i>J B Priestley</i>	Janet Smith	3M, 4F	Period play needing suitable accents readers	Chosen as exercise in 'BBC' voice. Very dated	No
18/8/17	<b>The Inconstant Moon</b> (read as <b>Swear not by the Moon</b> ) <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. Done as a lockdown rehearsed reading
10/3/17	<b>Linden Tree</b> <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> <i>Stephen Lowe</i>	Barry Jarvis	3M, 6F + 8yr old			No
4/11/16	<b>Faith Healer</b> <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> <i>Anthony Mingella</i>	Margaret Edwards			Thought provoking & intriguing, but not suitable for a main production	No
18/3/16	<b>Gut Girls</b> <i>Sarah Daniels</i>	Toni Hickey	Depends on doubling. 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>	Amanda	3M, 7F	Various interiors	Sort of thriller. Sufficient in plot to	No

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	<i>Tudor Gates</i>	Matcham			hold interest, but some structural problems particularly in first half.	
9/8/15	<b>Wind in the Willows</b> <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> <i>Hecht/MacArthur</i>	Hilary Strong	17M, 5F			Yes in principle, but needs significant cutting (which may not be permitted)
13/3/15	<b>The Master Builder</b> <i>Ibsen</i>	Scilla Jutton-Holland	4M, 3F + a couple of extras	Single set, house looking into office	A fascinating study in vanity with a tremendous climax	<b>No.</b> Too much weight on one actor
14/11/14	<b>Uncle Vanya</b> <i>Chekhov</i>	Scilla Jutton-Holland	5M, 4F	House & Garden, could be single set	Plenty of drama and tension	Probably not - hard to pull off
14/09/14	<b>The Old Lady Shows Her Medals</b> <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> <i>N.F.Simpson</i>	Barry Jarvis	34 characters for 6M/6F	Composite set Interesting props Simple Lighting & Sound	Rather Laboured; Not going anywhere; Curiously Unsatisfying; Not my cup of Tea! But very funny in places	No! But maybe as part of a studio
15/07/14	<b>No. 60 to the Somme</b> <i>Carol Godsmark</i>	Susie Wilde		London & WW1 settings	Rehearsed reading post AGM. 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>Directed by</b>	<b>Cast</b>	<b>Technical Requirements</b>	<b>Feedback</b>	<b>Suitable for production</b>
10/3/23 (& 1/3/19)	<b>Disposing of the Body</b> <i>Hugh Whitmore</i>	Alan Copsey	5M, 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.	<u>Performed Nov 2023</u>
14/10/22	<b>Alfie</b> <i>Bill Naughton</i>	Gill Lambourn	9M, 9F	Multiple settings suggested by props and furniture		<u>Performed Apr 2023</u>
11/3/22	<b>The Titfield Thunderbolt</b> <i>Philip Goulding</i>	Barbara MacWhirter	3 to 10M, 2 to 4F	Multiple locations, which can be suggested by props etc. Smoke & lighting effects	Cast of entertaining characters, works well, lots of audience interaction.	<u>Performed Nov 2022</u>
31/5/19	<b>Our Country's Good</b> <i>Timberlake Wertenbaker</i>	Tony Clark	With doubling 6M, 4 or 5F	Indicative set only + simple props. Costumes may need making	Good play, well developed characters, interesting historical context, strong language	<u>Performed Apr 2022</u>
25/4/19	<b>Rumours</b> <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> <i>Arnold Ridley</i>	Heather Birchenough & Sue Wilkins	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> <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> <i>Simon Gray</i>	Alan 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> <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>



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24/10/14	<b>The Sea</b> <i>Edward Bond</i>	Alan Copsey	7M, 7F	Single set. Different locations indicated by props & furniture		<u>Performed Nov 2015</u>
21/2/14	<b>Star Quality</b> <i>Noel Coward</i>	Tony Clark	5M, 3F + 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> <i>Denise Deegan</i>	Tony Clark	2M, 12+F	Single set in a school	Great fun.	<u>Performed Apr 2015</u>
1/11/13	<b>Rough Crossing</b> <i>Tom Stoppard</i>	Alan Copsey				<u>Performed Apr 2014</u>
13/9/13	<b>Master of the Marionettes</b> <i>Guy Hibbert</i>	Leafy Scott				<u>Performed Nov 2014</u>
12/4/13	<b>39 Steps</b> <i>adapted by Patrick Barlow</i>	Barbara MacWhirter				<u>Performed Nov 2013</u>