



Resources for Youth Theatres

Playshare

Summary of New Plays for 2019

For full list of Playshare plays for 2019 please visit
<http://www.youththeatre.ie/resources/find-a-play/>

About Playshare

Playshare is a collection of plays suitable for youth drama and theatre groups, made available through Youth Theatre Ireland. 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. There are now 121 plays here to suits all tastes and needs.

Perform YT

Perform YT supports Youth Theatre Ireland affiliated youth theatres to perform plays from Playshare. Youth Theatre Ireland directly contributes to the cost of the performance rights to the playwrights. It aims to continue to support youth theatres to rehearse and perform interesting, well-written and diverse youth drama plays.

For more detailed information on Perform YT please visit:

<http://www.youththeatre.ie/resources/supports/>

Questions to consider when selecting a play for your group:

- Do you know what interests them?
- What is the age range? Is it younger (12-14) or mid teens (15-17) or older 17+ or a combination of all those?
- What is the experience level of the group? Have they done many productions or is this one of their first times on stage together?
- Do you want to explore a particular issue with them or would you like to do something a bit lighter? (Probably not a bad idea for a first performance!)
- Is this you or the group's first time doing a production together? How confident or experienced are you as a director?
- What is the gender ratio and would people have any objection to playing a different gender if needed. Also how do you feel about doubling up parts?
- Are you looking for a full length, or a one-act play?
- How much time do you have to rehearse this piece? Do you have enough rehearsal sessions to cover a big play effectively?
- Are you looking for something exploring contemporary teen lives or are you looking for something with a bit of escapism?
- Are you looking to do a play similar to your last productions or do you want to do something totally radical and new?
- Are you looking for something with strong ensemble elements or more stand-alone character parts, or a combination of both?

- How much dialogue is in the play? Are the young people up for 'learning all those lines'?
- Are production values important to you or are you looking for something you can do with very little budget?
- What is appropriate material for your group? Would even mild swearing or more adult themes be suitable for your group and would they be happy for their parents to come see it?
- Who is the audience for this production? What would they be expecting from the performance?

Have a read over the list with all this in mind and then shortlist some specific plays that may be of interest to you.

If you wanted to read any of these play we can send you out some short perusal samples (10 pages on PDF) of most of the plays for you to read over.

Some of the plays listed in Playshare are already published scripts. As such you would have to contact the sellers directly to purchase copies of the scripts. Details are listed for recommended sellers.

If you then wanted to read full copies of any of these plays we can post you out hard copies of them. We may charge a small fee to cover printing and postage and packing.

If you then decided that you wanted to publicly stage any of the plays you would need to contact the writer directly to discuss performance rights and royalty. Youth Theatre Ireland can supply you with contact details for the author.

You may have to pay royalties regardless of whether an admission fee is to be charged or not. This would be at the discretion of the author. Youth Theatre Ireland would not act as an agent for either party in this discussion.

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

Please note: Copyright for all plays remains with the authors. Permission must be granted prior to rehearsals commencing.

Submitting a Play to Playshare

Youth Theatre Ireland is constantly looking for new work to add to the Playshare collection. If you have commissioned a new play, devised a piece or adapted an existing work with your youth theatre, and you feel it would be suitable for production by other youth theatres, let us know about it.

We accept submissions all year round for Playshare. We generally read the scripts from August onwards and contact people in early November, if we decide to include them. Once a play has been submitted we ask writers not to contact us looking for updates or feedback, as we do not have the capacity to read scripts on an on-going basis. We'd rather dedicate the time then to read them all in one batch. We then update the Playshare collection in November. We will let you know either way if we decide to include it or not. We do not offer a script reading service or offer feedback on un-commissioned/ unsolicited scripts.

Please include a short synopsis and some information around cast size and age range. Please use a standard Playshare listing as a template for this.

Please submit a clean, typed, formatted and page numbered soft copy only of your script to alan@youththeatre.ie. Please include your full name and current contact details on the front page.

The rights of the play always stay with the writer and Youth Theatre Ireland does their best to ensure that interested parties receive copies of the script in good faith.

Youth Theatre Ireland
7 North Great George's Street,
Dublin 1.
Phone: 01-8781301
Fax: 01-8749816
Email: info@youththeatre.ie
Web: www.youththeatre.ie

How to read the Playshare Listings

When was it added to Playshare?

2014

Alien Nation by Max Hafler

Play's title and author

A play about racism for a medium sized group.

Quick guide to theme, genre and cast size

Cast Size:

15+

Minimum cast size and gender breakdown

Males:

7/6

Females:

2/3

Also:

How long is it?

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.

Where does it happen?

Setting:

A city in the west.

First performed by Galway Youth Theatre, 2002.

First production.

SYNOPSIS

What's it about? What happens?

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)

Additional information

New Playshare Plays for 2019

New 2019

11 *Beetroot* by Lucy Montague Moffatt

A fast paced comedy about being the new person in school

Cast Size:	16
Males:	5
Females:	11
Also:	Not all parts are gender specific and can be swapped around
Age range:	Could be played by a cast from 12+
Approx. running time:	60 minutes
Setting:	Current day, classroom
First performed by Backstage Youth Theatre, Longford, September 2018.	

SYNOPSIS

Beetroot is the colour. Beetroot is the feeling.

It's Zac's first day in a new school. He's been through this many times before. His mother moves on a whim, leaving Zac to pick up the pieces in a new school, struggling to make friends and fit in.

But how can you fit in when everyone in the class is already boxed up into their specific categories and gangs? Zac just wants to keep his head down and not be noticed, but that's even harder when you're holding on to a secret that could be your downfall.

What Zac doesn't realise is that everyone is holding on to their own secret, afraid of anyone finding out. But what would happen if everyone revealed their secrets and exposed who they really were? Who would hold the power then?

And could Zac finally fit in?

With scope for movement and dance, this fast pace comedy asks how hard it is to step out of your box and show everyone who you really are.

New 2019

36 *Heads in the Cloud* by James Butler

A drama that explores the subject of consent and also how social media can impact on friendship.

Cast Size:	14 females. There are three lads mentioned in the play (Gary, Craig and Tommy). In a larger mixed group there is scope to develop a scene or two involving their take on events.
Age range:	14+
Approx. running time:	50mins

Setting: Simple setting to denote school and home
First performed by Stage 51 Theatre Group, Dublin 2016

SYNOPSIS

Something seems to be bothering Angie.

Why is she no longer interested in schoolwork or sport? And why she is not engaging with any kind of social network? She seems to be sick a lot but her classmates view this as attention seeking. Zoe is concerned about her but is careful not to displease the group.

Emily hardly notices what's going on around her as she has her head in the cloud. And the other girls have more important things to worry about – like who is going to be invited to Ruth's seventeenth birthday party – and will Gary be there.

And the pope is coming; and the principal is keen that they respond in some meaningful way to this good news.

Of course, Angie won't appear at the party but Zoe turns up there and causes Emily's cloud to burst open and rain down upon Ruth and all her partygoers – and we get some answers to those questions posed at the start.

This topical drama tackles challenging themes and could be supported by a wider programme of workshops and discussions.

New 2019

46 *Lucky Town: A Musical* by Fiona Keane

A full -length musical for a large, ensemble cast and band.

Cast Size: 14-26 mixed cast (doubling up possible)
Males: 5
Females: 9
Also: Roles for up to 26 performers of any gender
Age Range: 13+ (no upper age limit)
Approx. running time: 1 hour 40 minutes with music
Setting A Small Town.

First performed in an earlier version called *Broken Town* by Mayo Youth Theatre 2016. *Lucky Town: A Musical* was first performed by Floating Islands Youth Theatre in Westport Town Hall Theatre, May 2017.

SYNOPSIS

Demoralised by unemployment and exploited by a charismatic industrialist, a town gets a boost when all the residents win a giant lottery – all, that is, bar one outsider who tries to show the townsfolk that their hero is trying to steal their water supply in order to sell it back to them. The town must decide how their dreams will play out and whether they have the courage to take their destinies into their own hands.

Lucky Town: A Musical is a fast-paced, musical about the power of community, with nine original songs, for a large ensemble cast with a live band (preferably).

Downloads, e-scripts and licenses available from hq@sixpens.com

*** New 2019***

50 *Never is an awfully long time* by Charlotte Harrison & Mary Kelly

A modern, feminist, ensemble piece of theatre

Cast Size:	14+/ 7/11
Female:	
Male:	3/5
Also:	Many of the characters are non-gender specific and doubling up works well so can suit smaller or larger groups
Age range:	17+
Approx. running Time:	70 minutes.
Setting:	Nowhere, a kitchen, a playground, and a bedroom.
First performed by Gaiety School of Acting Youth Theatre Company in 2010 and at The International Youth Arts Festival', Kingston, London in 2011	

SYNOPSIS

What is a fairytale? A damsel in distress saved by a strong prince, or is "happily ever after" actually the finding of her own freedom, the making of her own choices – the discovery of her own adventure.

Wendy, Alice and Dorothy are on the cusp of great change. There may be no answers at the end of the rainbow, but finding this out for themselves is the real adventure. But is there is gold, eventually?

Loosely inspired by the female characters from Peter Pan, Alice in Wonderland and The Wizard of Oz, *Never is an awfully long time*, drops our protagonists into modern day situations giving them the brains, heart and courage to make their own decisions.

The chorus of actors represents the energy of the ensemble as they morph into whatever the story demands. Music and movement throughout make this an arresting, lively and colourful, piece of theatre.

The play explores themes including drug and alcohol use and addiction and may be suited to an older, experienced group and director.

New 2019

60 *Rewrite* devised by Prague Youth Theatre with Liam Hallahan under Adam Stewart

A fast paced, absurd, quirky one-act about the trials and tribulations of making a good story

Cast Size:	Flexible, ideally at least 10
Males:	At least 3
Females:	At least 3
Age Range:	Devised with a group of young people aged 14-17
Approx. running Time:	20 minutes.

Setting: Non-Naturalistic
First Performed by Prague Youth Theatre at Class in Action Festival, Prague, February 2018.

SYNOPSIS

Once upon a time, there was a Prince and a Princess. Or maybe a young bohemian woman in a city. Or maybe space wizards. The author's not quite sure yet. He's trying to figure it out. He'll get there eventually.

The play follows an author (can be either gender) who writes a fantasy story about a prince and a princess breaking out of their repressive lives, fighting monsters and living free. It doesn't get received very well, so they go back to the drawing board and tries to make something more 'artistic'. Then something with more 'broad appeal'. The prince and the princess persist as the main characters throughout. They are thrust into different roles, and start to get a bit frustrated with the whole creative process.

The majority of the ensemble (ie. Everyone who isn't the author) portrays a large teeming blob of ink, out of which the characters and settings emerge. This makes this piece excellent for movement-based ensemble work, giving everyone a 'moment to shine' if you're so inclined.

Rewrite works as a bespoke 20-minute piece of performance, perhaps as a prologue or opening to a longer play. Or it can be expanded and adapted into a longer piece!

New 2019

61 *R.I.P. Mr Shakespeare* by Bev Clark & Keith Hill

A one-act comedy for a large ensemble played in the style of Clown Theatre

Cast Size: 8 min. mixed cast
Males: 6 (can be non-specific)
Females: 2 (can be non-specific)
Also: Potential for larger ensemble and any gender
Age range: 10 + no upper age limit
Approx. running time: 50mins could be extended with more music/dance
Setting: open

First performed by Hand in Hand Theatre 2016 (adults) who won the Leverhulme Festival and were English finalists in AETF and NDFA All Winners. The Broadway Company Isle of Man (Youth) winners and finalists AETF/NDFA (2017) and other school productions.

SYNOPSIS

It's Shakespeare's last night but he is haunted by dreams which soon turn into nightmares. His disgruntled servant has re-written his plays and it all becomes a comedy of errors.

This one-act homage to the Bard is a stylistic piece of energetic Clown Theatre that offers elements of physical theatre, poetry, movement and slapstick in a surreal quick-moving and visually stunning cavalcade.

A director has endless possibilities of how to present this piece. It's flexible enough to meet the needs of all ages and abilities and shows how to have fun with Shakespeare.

91 *The Gaff* devised by Complex Youth Theatre, directed by Anthony Goulding and Sian Ní Mhuirí

An immersive drama about the stronghold of teenage resistance and experimentation that materialises during a free gaff.

Cast Size:	16
Males:	5 (can be non –specific)
Females:	11 (can be non –specific)
Also:	Potential for larger ensemble and any gender
Age range:	15 + no upper age limit
Approx. running time:	45-50 minutes
Setting:	A house

First performed by Complex Youth Theatre in The Complex in June 2017, following a year-long devising process led by Anthony Goulding, with Sian Ní Mhuirí

SYNOPSIS

Free Gaff, what could possibly go wrong? – Just a small gathering of friends, nothing too wild –Will Luan finally get Ali’s attention? Will Keith be with Lauren at the end of the night? Or will The Bitches of East Wall show up and wreck everything? There’s no way of avoiding some sort of drama.

Drinking games, dance-offs, break-ups, double-drops and a sink full of vomit later, and the quiet-couple-of-cans is definitely turning into a night to remember (or a night to forget).

Exploring themes of friendship, peer relationships, and the role of alcohol and drugs in social situations, this a contemporary play for an older experienced group.

New 2019

106 *There is Only Now*, devised by Kilkenny Youth Theatre. Scripted by Anna Galligan

A comic drama about friendships for a large ensemble

Cast Size:	15+
Males:	5
Females:	7
Male/Female:	3
Also:	A chorus/ supporting performers of any number.
Age range:	14+
Approx. running time:	90 mins
Setting:	School, bar and hospital

First performed by Kilkenny Youth Theatre in 2018.

SYNOPSIS

Meet a group of teenagers who are in the last year of school, some of them have been friends forever. There's the banter, the jibes, the care, people who have known you all your life will accept things of you that they wouldn't accept off a stranger - these are your friends, your mates, sure they know you better than your ma!

And then a new boy moves to town. Unbeknownst to himself, he causes a series of events that change the lives of everyone around him.

This devised piece was based on two ideas: what could meaningless banter actually mean? And if a stranger came to town...

There is plenty of scope for cast members to build their characters back stories, to devise supporting movement pieces, to have fun...and a have a little heartache.

For the youth theatre that likes to explore script and character. There is flexibility to casting and numbers.

New 2019

116 *Who's There* by Mary Benzies

A dark comedy about the very unfunny reality of cancer in teenagers.

Cast size:	16+
Males:	7
Females:	9
Also:	The parts of Cancer and GP, although referred to as female in the script, can be played by either male or female actor. More parts can be added to act as chorus throughout
Age range:	16+
Approx. running time:	75 minutes
Setting:	Various locations from Jack's world, his bedroom, pub, drama studio, hospital, dreams.

First performed by SSYT, Stamford Arts Centre, Lincolnshire, 2017.

SYNOPSIS

Jack has a dream. He wants to be a comedian. Problem is, he's not that funny. His jokes fall flat. He bombs at his one and only gig. Just as he's about to pack it in for good, Jack gets cancer and suddenly everyone starts laughing. Isn't it funny how dreams don't always turn out the way you plan them?

The play was created in partnership with the National UK charity, Teenage Cancer Trust, as a way to open the discussion about teenagers with cancer.