



**YOUTH
THEATRE**
IRELAND

Resources for Youth Theatres

Playshare

Summary of Plays 2021
135 Titles

About Playshare

Playshare is a collection of plays suitable for youth drama and theatre groups, made available through Youth Theatre Ireland. The majority of 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 135 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 your young people feel about playing a gender other than their own? Are happy to double 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? Are even mild swearing or more adult themes be suitable for your group and would they be happy for their parents to come see it?
- Regardless of age, are there any themes or topics that would be wholly unsuitable for some members your group or their parents? Do you have sufficient skills, experience and support to work with potentially upsetting or controversial material?
- Who is the audience for this production? What would they be expecting from the performance?
- Do you have the capacity and ability to stage any type of 'live' performance safely and effectively while COVID-19 is still globally present?

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 page 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 email you out full soft copies of them. We prefer not to send out excessive numbers of full plays unnecessarily.

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 ensure to 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, proofread, 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
Email: info@youththeatre.ie
Web: www.youththeatre.ie

How to read the Playshare Listings

When was it added to Playshare?

2014

Play's title and author
Alien Nation by Max Hafler

Quick guide to theme, genre and cast size
A play about racism for a medium sized group.

Minimum cast size and gender breakdown
Cast Size: 15+
Males: 7/6
Females: 2/3
Also: At least five more people to work in chorus and play small parts.

How long is it?
Age range: 16-23, with one old character, Granddad, who could be changed to Grandma if it served your group.

Where does it happen?
Approx. running time: 40-45 minutes.
Setting: A city in the west.

First production.
First performed by Galway Youth Theatre, 2002.

What's it about? What happens?
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.

Additional information
Published in *Playshare - Volume 1* (NAYD, 2005)

Playshare Plays listed in alphabetical order

2017

1 *Agóid* by Caitríona Ní Mhurchú

A play about protest for a large group

Cast Size:	30 +
Males:	7
Females:	9
Also:	14 parts are non-gender specific. In addition at least five more people to work in chorus and play small parts.
Age range:	15+
Approx. running time:	75 minutes
Setting:	A community hall or theatre anywhere in Ireland

Commissioned in partnership with Axis Ballymun. Supported by The Community Foundation For Ireland

SYNOPSIS

In the not too distant future and against a background of political and economic turmoil, a young woman, Rose Stafford and a group of young environmental activists form CounterACTion. Inspired by the cultural ambitions of the leaders of the Easter Rising, Irish becomes the de-facto language of dissent and theatre becomes the weapon of protest.

The members of CounterACTion are staging a reading of a play – An Abhainn. They are staging it illegally in support of a fellow activist who has been accused of hitting a member of the Citizen Militia during a clash at a local fracking site. Using a play within a play technique, *Agóid*, meaning Protest, looks at how events are remembered and portrayed to re-enforce a political agenda. Over the course of the evening, loyalties are tested as audience and performers alike question the narrative as the real world comes crashing in around them.

Written and performed in Irish and English this play offers a worthwhile challenge for any youth theatre ensemble or school group.

2016

2 *Alice in Winter Wonderland* by Roger Wooster

A seasonal show based on the Alice stories for a large cast

Cast Size:	18+
Males:	3
Females:	3
Female or Male:	12 though this can be reduced by doubling.
Also:	A playing card chorus of elastic size.
Age range:	12-20 recommended
Approx. running time:	Two hours including interval.

Setting: Alice's home and Wonderland.

First performed by Armageddon Theatre (Coleg Powys), 1996.

SYNOPSIS

Alice is growing up. She is sixteen and wants to be treated as an adult. But there is chaos in Wonderland and the Queen is completely out of control. The White Rabbit begs Alice to come back with him/her to rescue the wonder of Wonderland. Whilst there she meets all our favourite characters from Wonderland and reluctantly helps them resist the power of the Queen. The Queen, it turns out, just doesn't understand that fun and wonder is important. A typical adult! In helping her friends, Alice discovers too that being an adult doesn't mean letting go of imagination and silliness. Learning this enables her to take joy in her family and relish the sentimentality and wonder of Christmas.

2003

3 *Alien Nation* by Max Hafler

A play about racism for a medium sized group.

Cast Size: 14+
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)

2020

4 *All Out And Over* devised by Droichead Youth Theatre with Daniel Thomson and Christina Matthews

An original musical for a medium sized ensemble about identity, relationships, and the family that forms when art is made.

Cast Size:	14
Males:	3
Females:	5
Also:	6 roles for any gender, plus potential for extra characters
Age range:	12+ no upper age limit
Approx. running time:	60 minutes.
Setting:	A circus

First performed by Droichead Youth Theatre, in the Little Duke Theatre, Drogheda, April 2017

SYNOPSIS

Roll up, roll up! Treat yourself to the bright lights, the sweet delights and the heart-racing acts of the circus, which rolls into town for a limited time only! However, its next performance may be its last when a financial crisis puts the futures of all the performers at stake...

Through monologues, group scenes, songs and movement sequences, this script highlights the ups and downs of performance life, as well as the very different and complex lives of performers behind the scenes.

Exploring themes of gender identity, toxic masculinity, family rivalry, financial struggles and unemployment, this is an ensemble-based musical play, which speaks to the heart of what it is to be part of a large artistic family.

While this play is a musical, only 4 of the characters need to be strong singers. Circus skills could add a lot but are not essential.

2012

5 *All Things* by Neil Flynn

A sci-fi mystery for a large cast.

Cast Size:	18
Males:	6
Females:	12
Age Range:	15+
Approx. Running Time:	70 minutes

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.

2020

6 *Almost Forgotten* by Kel Menton

A drama about minority cultures, magic, and stories, for a medium to large sized group.

Cast Size:	15+
Males:	8/9
Females:	6/7
Also:	3/4 individuals to play small parts (guards, a merchant, sailors), some roles are gender non-specific (e.g. the Archon)
Age range:	14-18, with one 6-year-old, and three older characters aged between 30-50
Approx. running time:	60 -70 minutes
Setting:	A fantasy setting, in icy mountains, forests, and a city.

First performed by Activate Youth Theatre, May 2019.

SYNOPSIS

TODAY

With only the shirts on their backs, the people of Kaikia must evacuate their home on Mt Boreas and make the treacherous journey across hostile land to Mt Anemoi. Among them walks a secret – a saint – someone could change everything.

400 YEARS AGO

Nephele's maiden voyage as Kaikia's newly deified mountain saint does not go according to plan.

She must find a way to make it home, before the people of the land discover she's alive...

"What happens when a story is forgotten?"

Are you ready?

Close your eyes...

Featuring a story within a story structure, *Almost Forgotten* offers a group and an imaginative director the opportunity to explore a beautifully realised mythical world, through storytelling and ensemble work.

7 *A Man's Game* by Paul Brennan

A sports drama for a large cast.

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 by 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 matches; *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!

8 *And Then He Was All* by Dylan Coburn Gray

A comic drama for a small cast.

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.

9 *Andersen's Fairytale* by John Morton

A fairy-tale comedy for a very large sized group

Cast Size:	25 +
Males:	16
Females:	9
Also:	Pinocchio, Sandman and Snowmen could be played by females. Doubling up also possible.
Age range:	12+.
Approx. running time:	90 minutes.
Setting:	Denmark & The Land Of Permafrost

First performed by Dreamstuff Youth Theatre, 2010.

SYNOPSIS

Hans Christian Andersen is an awkward young boy who works as a Sorcerer's apprentice for the Danish court. But all he wants is to be a famous writer. When the wicked Snow Queen returns to threaten the kingdom with permanent frost, the Emperor assembles a crack team of heroes led by the famed adventurer Emile Pussenbootz to capture her. However, Hans begins to suspect that Pussenbootz isn't quite the hero he's made out to be. Soon the young scribe is forced to take up the mantle of unlikely hero in this exciting, fairy-tale adventure.

10 *Animal* by Vanessa Keogh

A fast paced comic drama for a medium sized cast.

Cast Size:	14
Males:	3
Females:	11
Age Range:	15+
Approx. running time:	50 minutes

**First Performed by Tallaght Youth Theatre at the Civic Theatre, Tallaght in May 2013.
A New Stage Play for 2014**

SYNOPSIS

Kelly, fed up with her nerdy best friend Imogen, wants to be part of the in-crowd; aka Shauna Corrigan and her girl gang. She is prepared to go to any lengths to fit in, even if it means betraying Imogen. Georgie Farrell is hell-bent on exacting revenge on stoner The Discman, although no one knows why, and Shauna has her eye on the hot new boy in school, Mantas. He has set his sights on someone else, much to the disgust of Shauna. Majella is madly in love with a boy she's never even met, while Stevo just wants to use public transport without fear of being attacked. Ultimately it's Kelly's yearning to be accepted that unleashes the wrath of the unhinged Attila Da Hun and the vicious Gorilla Girls that leads to the play's violent and shocking climax.

Witty and fast-paced with a collection of colourful and unforgettable characters; *Animal* deals with the real-life issues faced by today's young people in a no holds-barred manner.

2006

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

A classic adventure for a very large cast.

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.

2020

12 *Ask Too Much Of Me* by Dylan Coburn Gray

A full length, contemporary drama, for a large ensemble

Cast size:	16
Males:	7
Females:	7
Non-Binary:	2
Also:	Potential for a larger ensemble to perform choral text
Age Range:	16+ no upper age limit
Approx. running time:	120 minutes.
Setting:	A squat in a Georgian house in Dublin & outside locations

**Written for and first performed by The National Youth Theatre Ensemble, 2019.
Developed with and directed by Veronica Coburn.**

SYNOPSIS

Ask Too Much Of Me is about young squatters who have made a home together, and who find it suddenly under threat on the eve of the 2018 referendum.

Olivia arrives to stay with her friend Amy in the turbulent first half of 2018, when everyone's having tense conversations with their families, either because of the trial in Belfast or the movement towards a referendum on the 8th. Rachel's in the thick of it. Everyone else can't help but breathe in what's in the air. When the usual domestics kick up several notches and Sally's life is suddenly at risk, no one can be sure any more how much longer their home will be home. *Ask Too Much of Me* follows a found family that was maybe too good to last, in those last awful days before we voted.

Exploring the theme of faith, both political and religious; of family, both born and found; of politics, both individual/domestic and collective/societal.

Ask Too Much of Me offers an exciting and rewarding challenge to an experienced director and a diverse older cast.

2003

13 *Battlestations* by Max Hafler

A political drama for a medium sized group.

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
Age range:	14+
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.

2019

14 *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.

*** 2015***

15 Bo Peep a pantomime by Brendan Williams

A modern nursery rhyme based pantomime for a large cast

Cast size:	9 main characters & approx. 20 Chorus
Males:	5 (as with all pantos, females can play male characters and vice versa)
Females:	4
Sheep:	10
Approx. running time:	120 minutes.
Setting:	Various.

First performed by Backstage Youth Theatre, Longford in 2013.

SYNOPSIS

Set in the recent past, Jack & Jill need money so they steal Bo Peep's sheep because these are not just your average everyday sheep; they are all singing, all dancing sheep. Bo Peep enlists the help of Georgie Porgie, Miss Muffet and Yankee Doodle Dandy and the chase is on! On the way we learn that there is a lot more to the Nursery Rhymes than what we were told.

BO PEEP is a funny, modern script for a large cast and can be easily edited to suit your group.

1998

16 *Buzzin' To Bits* by Mark O'Rowe

An urban comic drama for a large cast.

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 in 1997.

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)

2011

17 *Car Show* devised by Roscommon County Youth Theatre

A site-specific drama about relationships for a medium sized group.

Cast Size:	9
Males:	4
Females:	5
Age Range:	15+
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.

18 *Che Cinders* by Pete Mullineaux

A full-length play with dance and original songs for a large group

Cast Size:	18+
Males:	9+
Females:	9+
Age range:	15 - 25
Approx. running time:	90 minutes.
Setting:	Pizza café.

First performed by Galway Youth Theatre.

SYNOPSIS

Che Cinders is a sassy, humorous, romantic satire on the Celtic Tiger – set at the height of the boom, on the eve of the bubble burst, (oh nostalgia already!) this version of Cinderella has her as an idealist rebel with an innocent heart. The play has a host of colourful characters and anticipates the return of protest in actions such as the Occupy movement, taking in political corruption, stand-up comedy, the property bubble and of course love. There are 10 original songs, scope for live onstage music and some great dance moments. Originally entitled *Cinders* 2000, the play has recently been updated

19 *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:	15+
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. Previously titled *Red Lorry Yellow Lorry*.

20 *Deano* by Tom Swift

An urban mystery for a medium sized cast

Cast Size:	9
Males:	4
Females:	5
Age Range:	16+
Approx. running time:	45 minutes
Setting:	Set in an abandoned space/ warehouse during a party.

First performed and created by Young Urban Arts, Dublin

SYNOPSIS

A group of young people gathers at a derelict warehouse exactly one year after the disappearance of their friend Deano during a party to celebrate the end of the Leaving Cert. As the group tries to unravel the mystery and come to terms with their loss, they return to the night of the party and relive the event that has changed their lives.

21 *Debutantes Cabaret* devised by Activate Youth Theatre

A play with songs for a large cast.

Cast Size:	16
Males:	4
Females:	12
Age Range:	16+
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.

22 *Dog House* by Gina Moxley

A one-act play for a medium sized group.

Cast size:	13
Males:	6
Females:	7
Age range:	12 – 22
Approx. Running time:	60 minutes
Setting:	Suburbs of Cork. 1990's

First performed by Connections 1997

SYNOPSIS

This is a tragi-comic piece, unsentimental and brave to the point of recklessness in its theme and its honesty about young people's behaviour. Here we have smoking, drinking and swearing and young love at all stages, from blushing embarrassment to unmarried, teenage parenthood. The cycle of friendship and romance in Lime Lawn is uninterrupted by the arrival of new neighbours -The Flying Saucers - until the fear and brutality they live under becomes apparent. Inspired by the death of Kelly Fitzgerald in 1993.

Published with Cuba by Liz Lockhead by Faber & Faber Stanley Thornes ISBN 0-571-20686-7

23 *Don't Shoot the Messenger* by John Morton devised with Kilkenny Youth Theatre

A fantasy-adventure for younger performers.

Cast size:	17 (but some parts can be combined for smaller groups)
Male:	1
Female:	1
Also:	No gender specifics except for the role of Messenger and Oisin.
Age Range:	10-14
Approx. running time:	45 minutes (approx.)
Setting:	A landscape where children have recreated an adult world. Multiple locations within a landscape. Timeless.

**First performed by Kilkenny Youth Theatre's junior group in 2012
A New Stage play for 2013.**

SYNOPSIS

Ireland. Sometime in the near future. The Messenger sits and waits. She spends most of her days sitting and waiting for messages to pass on. When she's not sitting and waiting, she's running and delivering.

The adults have disappeared. The Messenger can only find four different families of children left in the land. Each of these families has access to different, important things and are the only living things left. The Messenger is the child who they use to communicate with each other.

The Messenger decides that she needs to find a way to get everyone working together so they can survive the next winter. She hatches a plan to get them to all work together...but will her plan work before winter comes? And what will happen if she gets found out?

Exploring themes of society and conflict this fantasy is especially suited to younger performers.

2018

24 *Don't Smile 'Till Christmas* by Niall Cleary with additional scenes by Kel Menton

A contemporary drama for a medium to large sized group

Cast Size:	15+
Males:	5
Females:	10
Also:	Potential for chorus work and gender of lots of roles can change
Age range:	14-19
Approx. running time:	60 minutes
Setting:	A Secondary School

First performed by Activate Youth Theatre, 2017.

SYNOPSIS

A day in the life of a secondary school.

A trainee teacher tries to “fake it til she makes it”. Student’s lives collide. They fall apart, fall in love, lash out and are drawn together.

It’s Miss Elliot’s first day. Amar, the Syrian kid is new too.

It’s the morning after the party the night before. Joy’s having a bad day and Captain Smooth has just fallen in love but Alice is avoiding him.

Lives tumble together as students and teachers try to navigate the complex world of an Irish Secondary School.

This piece has the potential to be performed on site in a secondary school or is equally at home on stage.

Contains some strong language but can be adapted where appropriate.

This piece is based on a devised piece entitled “MOCK”, a collaboration between Niall Cleary, Anthony Goulding and Droichead Youth Theatre.

2011

25 *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:	19 th Century London

First performed by Limerick Youth Theatre, 2010

SYNOPSIS

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

2019

26 *Dubs* devised by Complex Youth Theatre, with Anthony Goulding and Killian Kirwan

A site-specific drama about modern teenage activism and the battle between heritage and housing in Dublin's current political landscape.

Cast size:	17
Males:	6 (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:	50 minutes.
Setting:	Open

First performed by Complex Youth Theatre in The Complex in June 2019, following a year-long devising process led by Anthony Goulding, with Killian Kirwan.

SYNOPSIS

A group of young housing activists take over the house of 'The Dead', where John Houston filmed the iconic film, based on James Joyce's short story. Their mission is to highlight the growing housing crisis in Dublin and its detrimental effects. The solidarity of the group is threatened as other interests emerge, pitting preservation against housing. The arrival of a celebrity and a politician eager to cash in on the movement, and then the presence of a ghost, increase tensions. All this unnecessary attention has hindered the landlord's plan to

develop the site for a hotel or student accommodation and he will not stop until the property is returned to its rightful owner!

Exploring themes of heritage, history and culture, this a contemporary and political play for an older experienced group and contains one scene of a violent nature.

2012

27 *Eithne the Pirate's Daughters* by Nell Smyth

A comic pastiche of Shakespeare's adventures for a very large cast.

Cast Size:	26
Males:	1
Females:	9 (Because the play is a farce, many of its parts be played by either)
Age range:	14+
Approx. running time:	90 minutes
Setting:	15th/16th Century Europe. Multiple locations

First performed by The Greenwood School, Mill Valley, California, USA in 2001.

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.

2011

28 *Elizabeth and Mr Darcy? Discuss* by Veronica Coburn

A choral play about love for a large group.

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

Commissioned by Youth Theatre Ireland for New Stage 2009

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.

2016

29 Féileacán by Ciaran Gray

A drama about choices for a medium sized group. Written in Irish.

Cast Size: 12
Males: 6
Females: 6
Age Range: 15+
Approx. running time: 60 minutes

Commissioned by Axis: Ballymun in partnership with Youth Theatre Ireland. Funded by Foras na Gaeilge.

SYNOPSIS

Following in the tradition of Mary Lavin's The Story of the Widow's Son and more recently Sliding Doors, Féileacán focuses on a group of young Irish people and the choices they make. Beginning a short distance in the future Féileacán plays with the possible routes characters could take to get there for getting there and asks tantalisingly 'what if I did this instead of that?' With nods to chaos theory and star -crossed lovers, we can only go forward and hope we get it right.

Suitable for young people aged 15+, Féileacán is a play that will excite and challenge young people making them question their choices and the world we live in today.

2007

30 Festival - Devised by Waterford Youth Arts, with Alan King

A full-length comic fantasy for a very large cast.

Cast Size: 18
Males: 9
Females: 9
Also: There are 32 speaking parts with most of the cast playing multiple roles but the play could work equally well with one actor per part.
Age Range: 13-22

Approx. Running Time: 1hour 40 minutes
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.

***Fighting Words* - a selection of plays that came out of Fighting Words' playwriting programmes (No 31-37)**

Fighting Words provides free tutoring and mentoring in creative writing and related arts to as many children, young adults and adults with special needs as they can reach. Their programmes and workshops are delivered mainly by volunteer writing tutors.

Fighting Words aim is to help children and young people, and adults who did not have this opportunity as children, to discover and harness the power of their own imaginations and creative writing skills. At its core, Fighting Words is also about something much broader and more inclusive. It is about using the creative practice of writing and storytelling to strengthen our children and teenagers – from a wide range of backgrounds – to be resilient, creative and successful shapers of their own lives. For more information visit <https://www.fightingwords.ie/>

Each of these plays offer young people the opportunity to explore the dynamics of relationships, through short, self contained intimate dramatic pieces. Combing several pieces would make an excellent evening of short plays that would showcase the talents of young performers. They require little set or technical requirements and provide a rewarding and rich experience for a youth theatre operating on a small budget.

Youth Theatre Ireland are delighted to partner with Fighting Words on their *Writing for Theatre - Young Playwrights Programme* at the Riverbank Arts Centre in Newbridge Co. Kildare!

2020

31 A Paper Airplane* by Rahill Kassouri *Fighting Words

A romantic comedy for a very small cast.

Cast size: 2
Males: 0
Females: 2
Age range: 16+

Approx. running time: 15 minutes
Setting: A room with a table

SYNOPSIS

Two friends bicker their way to a blossoming romance by way of a bread roll, paper plane, Shakespearean recitation and an impromptu dancing lesson.

2020

32 *Bluetooth* by Rachel Thornton

Fighting Words

A futuristic comic drama for a small cast.

Cast size: 2
Males: 1
Females: 1
Age range: 14+
Approx. running time: 25-30 minutes
Setting: A futuristic airplane

SYNOPSIS

In a very different 2016, a plane is travelling between Dublin and Cologne. A plane with a fully automated android captain and cabin crew who are here to serve your every want and need. April Moore is travelling alone for the first time. In the throws of the most confusing and distressing time in her life, she strikes up an unlikely friendship with an emotionless android. A witty and touching short play about the importance of understanding and empathy in our most desperate hours.

2020

33 *Bones* by Cillian Sheehan

Fighting Words

A school based comedy for a very small cast.

Cast size: 2
Males: 1
Females: 1
Age range: 12+
Approx. running time: 15 minutes
Setting: A school orchestra

SYNOPSIS

In the brutal, pitiless world of a teenage concert orchestra, two young musicians reveal to us their starkly different experiences. Hugh is a trombonist, and is slowly climbing his way to the top of the food chain, sparing no mercy for those who stand in his way. Nina, a flautist, has none of Hugh's delusions of grandeur and is merely trying to survive in the cutthroat environment she has found herself in. Naturally, the two despise each other, and must soon battle it out to see who will perish, and who will rise to become the orchestra's apex predator.

2020

34 *Noctivagus* by Emma D'Arcy *Fighting Words*

A drama about friendship for a very small cast.

Cast size:	2
Males:	1
Females:	1
Age range:	13-18
Approx. running time:	15 minutes
Setting:	A large boulder in a forest

SYNOPSIS

Noctivagus is about two young teenagers and their journey through secondary school. Throughout the piece they both grow individually and their friendship blossoms. *Noctivagus* is a collection of snapshots of teenage life.

2020

35 *Procedure* by Mórna Henahan *Fighting Words*

A black comedy about family for a very small cast.

Cast size:	2
Males:	1
Females:	1
Age range:	16-18
Approx. running time:	15 minutes
Setting:	Ireland, present day

SYNOPSIS

Brother and sister, Elliot and Sally, are shocked by the death of their cat, Ginger. Sally tries to break the news to her brother lightly but he spirals into anxiety and begins analysing the state of his life. Sally, being less sensitive, dryly offers her perspective on Elliot's panic and further, the dynamics of their family life. They banter about their quirky parents, their respective emotional glitches and the procedure which should follow the death of their cat.

2020

36 *The Carlow Conundrum* by Colm Nicholl *Fighting Words*

A short comedy about relationships... and cows, for a very small cast.

Cast size:	2
Males:	1
Females:	1

Age range: 16-18
Approx. running time: 15 minutes
Setting: A field at night

SYNOPSIS

Sam and Melissa are friends. Melissa wants to ask "the question" but Sam launches into a tirade about cows, dairy and all things black, white and mooing. As Melissa strives to get to the point, things get comically more frustrating. Hilarious antics from Fidel Castro to climate change ensue.

2020

37 *Written by Fanny* by Rachel Thornton *Fighting Words*

A black comedy about creativity in the digital age for a very small cast.

Cast size: 2
Males: 1
Females: 1
Age range: 17+
Approx. running time: 25-30 minutes
Setting: An office

SYNOPSIS

Fanny O'Malley is one of the most prolific fan-fiction writers on the internet; the author behind teenage romance slash vampire erotica slash female empowerment book series, *The Passion of Passions*. She loves her writing. Her main character doesn't. And apparently, neither does anyone else. Following a failed romance and a flood of criticism directed at her latest novel, Fanny escapes into her own mind as she struggles to meet the expectations of her readers, her novel's love interest and herself in order to craft the perfect story for everyone. A darkly, comic short play about authenticity, anxiety and being a creator in the digital age.

1999

38 *Folie Tha'* by Ciarán Gray

A one-act comedy for a medium sized group.

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

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!

Updated 2017

39 *XIV – Fourteen* by Droichead Youth Theatre under Sharon Cromwell

A choral play for a large cast.

Cast Size:	15
Males:	4
Females:	9
Age Range:	15+
Approx. running time:	60 minutes.

First Performed by Droichead Youth Theatre, 2006.

SYNOPSIS

A story of the Roman Empire, for the Game of Thrones generation...

It's the beginning of the end of the Roman Empire. Slaves are rebelling and noble families are being torn apart by their lust for blood, wine, and each other. Amidst the chaos, two children are born. A boy, the illegitimate child of a nobleman and his slave, and a girl, the unwanted daughter of a Roman general in need of an heir. The children are switched at birth and the whole secret is forgotten... until someone decides it's time to start talking. As this melting pot of greed, pride, and wrath comes to the boil, two great families tear themselves apart, desperately clinging to the power they've held for so long. Droichead Youth Theatre present an ancient soap opera, complete with feuding families and murders-by-hairpin, which combines power struggles and rightful heirs, riches and incest, with explosive results... (spoiler alert!).

This script contains instances of physical and sexual violence and is recommended for senior youth theatre members.

*** 2015***

40 *Frank Lee Speaking* by Mary Benzies

A play for anyone who has ever sat, is sitting or is yet to sit a major exam

Cast Size:	10-21 (flexible)
Males:	5+
Females:	5+
Age Range:	14-18
Approx. running time:	70 minutes.

First performed by SSYT, (Stamford Senior Youth Theatre), at Stamford Arts Centre, Lincolnshire, UK, July 2014

SYNOPSIS

With only a month to go to the exams, everyone is feeling the pressure. Frank winds his clocks and counts off the days on his carefully designed, fully highlighted revision timetables. This is a race against time in the quest for zero defect. Failure is NOT an option. With his tiny companion Gandalf, by his side, Frank prepares for the "intake of knowledge" and hurtles himself at full speed down the rocky road of revision.

Everyone is caught up in his or her own quest for success and as the lines between revision and reality become blurred, will anyone even notice that Frank's not at his desk?

*** New 2021***

41 Future Tense devised by Backstage Youth Theatre in collaboration with Backstage Theatre, facilitated by Liam Halligan

A contemporary, site-specific drama for a medium sized group

Cast Size: 10+
Males: 3
Females: 7
Age range: 15+
Approx. running time: 50 minutes + Film Fleadh section
Setting: Two interiors, one exterior, screen for projection

First performed by Backstage Youth Theatre in collaboration with Backstage Theatre Longford, September 2020

SYNOPSIS

This piece evolved after the first Lockdown in 2020 as a response to the word 'confinement'.

It consists of three text-based pieces, each of them roughly twelve minutes long. The fourth piece is essentially a video installation and can be used as an additional resource and/or a prologue/appendix to the other sections. Depending on the skills of the group live music can be used wherever possible. The sections are: -

Miriam evolved from an exploration of historical 'confinement' and was influenced by Hannah Greally's book *Birds Nest Soup*. Hannah spent twenty years, against her will, in St. Loman's Mental Asylum Mullingar in the 1950s/60s. This is not intended to be a period piece, it is timeless.

Longford Lockdown grew out of improvisations by two couples and reflects contrasting aspects of the effect of lockdown on close family relationships.

After Party takes place at the end of an outdoor party when the last stragglers are the worse for wear. A mysterious girl called Miriam joins in. It is a fast moving, comic piece expressing the frustrations of young people during lockdown.

Film Fleadh can be used as a prologue or appendix to the main text pieces. It consists of short videos made by individual YT members simply using the camera on their phones.

Working within the Government restrictions around physical distancing, audiences, in small groups, were ushered from space to space on a one-way system.

These intimate pieces can be performed in any kind of space and provide an exciting challenge for groups hoping to perform 'live' theatre safely in 2021 and beyond.

2014

42 *Game Over* by Michelle Read

A black comic drama for a small cast.

Cast size:	4
Male:	1
Female:	3
Age range:	13 - 17
Running time:	25 Minutes (approx.)
Setting:	Limbo, aka a strange waiting room between life and death.

First performed by drama students on the one-year course at the Royal Academy of Dramatic Art, London.

SYNOPSIS

Titch, Mel and Nicky don't know each other, but they've one thing in common; they've all woken up in a strange place and they're not sure where that is. Mel was on a night out with her boy-racer boyfriend and it looks like they might have crashed. Nicky was shaking the vending machine at work and it may just have fallen on top of her! And Titch? Well, Titch didn't have a choice in the matter. When Stormcry appears, they think he'll have all the answers, but he's more confused than they are. *Game Over* is an existential comedy-drama about death, saying goodbye and maybe second chances.

New 2021

43 *Girls Can't Whistle* by Maebh and James Butler

A contemporary drama for a medium sized group

Cast Size:	8
Males:	3
Females:	5
Age range:	14 -17
Approx. running time:	50 minutes

Setting: Mainly empty stage with minimal props to suggest a small variety of settings.

First performed by Stage 51 Youth Theatre Group Knocklyon, Dublin, April 2018.

SYNOPSIS

The Transition Year girls have to attend a symposium in Trinity on equality but for some strange reason the boys get to spend the day in The Leprechaun Museum. Is this the best way in 2018 to celebrate the centenary of the vote for women in Ireland and to mark the election of Constance Markievicz as our first woman T.D.?

Síofra, Niamh and Grace definitely wouldn't agree but Aideen is more concerned with organising a new WhatsApp group for the party she's planning than she is in getting involved in the presentation the girls are making about that 'Countess mad yoke with the gun.' And Breda has her work cut out trying to get her friend Conor to admit how an incident on that trip to The Leprechaun Museum has impacted negatively on Fionn. But Aideen's party turns out to be the best way for Conor to learn all about equality and for Fionn to realise it's okay for a boy to show his true feelings.

The play is a light-hearted approach to a serious issue and is one that allows teenage girls to acknowledge the heroic struggles others made for equality while at the same time shining a light on the attitudes in society that might hinder their own future progress.

2017

44 *Grimm Fairytales* by John Morton

A fairy-tale comedy for a large group.

Cast Size: 15+
Males: 22
Females: 13
Also: A lot of the parts within are gender interchangeable and many parts can also be doubled/tripled.
Age range: 12+ Can be played to the actor's ages also.
Approx. running time: 90 minutes.
Setting: The action takes place in Germany, 1821.

First performed by Dreamstuff Youth Theatre, 2004.

SYNOPSIS

The Brothers Grimm, Will and Jacob, are not yet the famous fairy-tale writers of history. They're conmen who can't get a job in any respectable college. What's more, their attempts to record the folk stories of the countryside are failing miserably. A chance encounter with a fugitive by the name of Cinderella leads them on a quest to find a mythical book of stories that can give its owner great powers. The vain, cruel Prince Charming and his vicious minions Red Riding Hood, Rapunzel and Goldilocks are soon chasing them through an enchanted forest.

A fast paced, irreverent, highly comedic take on the origins of the worlds best known fairy tales ideal for a large ensemble cast.

2015

43 *Gulliver's Travels* by Jonathan Swift

Adapted for stage by Conall Morrison

A full-length adaptation of the classic satirical adventure.

Cast size:	Flexible
Male:	Flexible
Female:	Flexible
Age range:	15+
Running time:	90 Minutes (approx.)
Setting:	A theatre, various locations in Lilliput & Brodingnag

First performed by the cast of the National Youth Theatre 2013 at the Peacock, Dublin, and The Everyman, Cork, 2013. Directed by Conall Morrison.
A New Stage Play for 2014

SYNOPSIS

The play opens with a pianist giving a concert of the works of George Frideric Handel as part of the celebrations for One City, One Book: Gulliver's Travels. His playing is disrupted by an unruly, unappreciative group of teenagers. Into this scenario bursts Jonathan Swift who is outraged at the young people's behaviour. He demands they discard their smart phones and engage with something he insists has real value: his book, Gulliver's Travels. Tentatively, the young people start animating a scene from the book. During the course of the play, they recreate Gulliver's adventures in Lilliput and Brodingnag.

2020

44 *Homage to An American in Paris* by Ian Wild

A surreal full-length comedy and love story for a large ensemble.

Cast Size:	15-20 with some doubling up.
Female:	At least 8
Male:	At least 7
Also:	The gender of many characters is 'open' and can be played by either male or female.
Age range:	15+
Approx. running Time:	70 minutes.
Setting:	American Mid-West 1930's. Also Chicago. Paris. A Surrealist Atlantic

First performed by Drama Course, Kinsale College of Further Education 2011

SYNOPSIS

The play - a warm-hearted comedy narrated by Salvador Dali's moustache - follows Billy, a humble pea picker, in his attempt to escape the dust bowl of 1930's America by becoming a famous artist. Ostracised by his impoverished family, Billy dreams of kissing his sweetheart

on top of the Eiffel tower with a million dollars in his hand. But nobody told him about the banjo-playing albatrosses, love-sick Chicago gangsters, talking tomatoes and...er...fish.

Homage to An American in Paris is a surrealist paean to a Hollywood film that was set to George Gershwin's orchestral masterpiece. It's a good introduction to Gershwin's music and the era of the late 1920's, and explores, amongst other things: Hollywood in its heyday, the outrageousness of Modern Art, the corruption of Prohibition and the poverty of farmers in America after the Wall Street Crash.

This surreal comedy offers huge possibilities for an imaginative director with a visual flair. It offers fantastically unique roles and scope for theatricality as your budget and creativity allows.

2017

45 *How To Live* by Eimear Cheasty

A play about loss and navigating friendships for a medium sized group.

Cast Size:	12+
Males:	5
Females:	7
Also:	Potential for more people to work in chorus
Age range:	16-19
Approx. running time:	100 minutes (excluding interval)
Setting:	Carlow (or any other town in Ireland)

First performed by County Carlow Youth Theatre, 2016.

SYNOPSIS

Bethany's dad has died, and inspired by a letter he wrote to her she sets off on adventure with her friends: To figure out How To Live. But is it as easy as that? Does life really come with an instruction manual? And what if the people that you trust aren't what you thought? This is a play that explores loss, grief and how young people navigate relationships on and offline. There some challenging topics and it requires a strong ensemble. Some musical talent in the group would be helpful.

2019

46 *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.

2017

47 *I Am Not What I Am* by Mark Ball

A dark farce loosely inspired by Shakespeare's Twelfth Night for a smaller ensemble.

Cast Size:	6
Males:	2/3/4
Females:	4/3/2
Also:	As the play explores gender roles casting can be fluid.
Age range:	15+.
Approx. running time:	35-40 minutes.
Setting:	1800's, England.

First performed in Dublin Youth Theatre, August 2014.

SYNOPSIS

I Am Not What I Am follows the story of a dysfunctional married couple and the people around them: a pair of dapper detectives with a secret; a try-hard thespian; and a maid with a fetish for fiction. Olivia has found out that her husband is cheating on her, but who with? All this is happening while the characters are preparing for an amateur production of Shakespeare's Twelfth Night.

I Am Not What I Am is a look at gender roles, sexuality, and love through farcical situations and characters.

Requires a strong, energetic ensemble with versatility in performance skills, and a flair for comedy. It calls for the ensemble to be able to act "badly" for the play-within-a-play section: a scene from Twelfth Night.

2013

48 *It Only Ever Happens In The Movies* devised by Mikel Murfi and John Taite along with the cast of NYT 2011

A romantic comedy for a large cast.

Cast Size:	Up to 16
Males:	7
Females:	9
Age Range :	14+
Approx. Running time:	70 minutes
Setting	Many various non-specific locations and as such takes place in as open a staging as possible. E.g. a black box

First performed by the National Youth Theatre in the Peacock Theatre in August 2011. It was directed by Mikel Murfi and assisted by John Taite. A New Stage Play for 2012.

SYNOPSIS

The play is a story about love, teenage love. It's about 16 year old Derek, who is useless with girls. It's about Derek's quest for love. The title of the piece comes from Derek's unswerving belief that life and love should happen exactly like it does in the movies. He gets proven wrong! It's a boy meets girl story with the help of Boys and Girls (and a movie star!) The piece should function like a slightly surreal Romantic Comedy. The cast 'performs' the piece to help Derek find love.

New 2021

49 *It's the end of the world as we know it (And we feel fine!)* By Neil Flynn

A contemporary drama set in a dystopian present for a medium to large sized group.

Cast Size:	9-20
Also:	With 2 specified exceptions all parts are gender blind.
Age range:	15+
Approx. running time:	75 minutes
Setting:	Current day. Reformatory Education Institute

First performed by Free Radicals Youth Theatre, Siamsa Tíre, Tralee, April 2018.

SYNOPSIS

At an institution known as Advanced Reformatory System Education, (A.R.S.E), the inmates are known only by their numbers.

A cast of, maverick, prodigious single-minded teenagers who society has deemed in need of radical re-education under the tutelage of so-called 'Masters' – awake to the day when they will face a mandatory 'P Test' short for Personality test.

The outcome of this test will determine the fate of these inmates with those who 'fail' facing potentially life-altering consequences. In the air, talk of a rebellion is being whispered as it's now or never for the inmates of A.R.S.E to reclaim control of their destiny whatever the cost.

It's the end of the world as we know it (And we feel fine!) is a fast-paced drama about what it means to be an individual, the pressure to conform, and the lengths a unique group of young people are prepared to go to liberate themselves.

The play is almost entirely gender blind. Scenes are written without character names leaving open the possibility of a medium or large cast and for the performers to discover scenes anew.

With intense scenes, this piece offers an exciting challenge for an established group and an experienced director.

2013

50 In Quest Of A Play by Geraldine O'Neill and devised by Physically Phishy Youth Theatre, Cork

A play about making drama for younger performers.

Cast Size:	12 – 14
Males/Females:	Mixed gender - Males plays females and vice versa. Could be all male or all female.
Age Range:	10-13 yrs.
Approx. Running time:	40 minutes
Setting:	The play takes place in a drama studio and the various locations that are created there.

First performed by Physically Phishy Youth Theatre May 2011. Directed by Geraldine O'Neill.

A New Stage Play for 2012

Synopsis

The play takes place in a drama studio where the facilitators walk out and the group needs to come up with a Quest play. The cast come in and out of role as they tell the story of a pair of twins and their adventures in South America in pursuit of their parents. They use only the tables and chairs in the space and they constantly change role, setting up characters and situations as the story unfolds. They even get interrupted by the arrival of a new member of the group, who is immediately cast in the play, and moves the story on. It ends with the return of the facilitators and the ending of the drama session.

2015

51 *Johnny Baluba- Teenage Detective* by Ronan Carr

A comic play about a school detective for a medium sized group.

Cast Size:	14+
Males:	7,approx
Females:	7,approx
Also:	At least five more people to work in chorus and play small parts.
Age range:	14-18
Approx. running time:	30 minutes.
Setting:	A school.

First performed by Letterkenny Youth Theatre, 2013.

SYNOPSIS

Johnny Baluba is a teenage detective with his sidekick and sandwich maker, Oisin. Hired by femme fatale, Johnny is sent up to the older years to solve a crime of the heart.

Authors Note: Johnny Baluba- Teenage Detective is very much to be taken as a casual piece. It is not meant to be a serious play. Therefore, the staging can be as simple or as complex as your youth theatre wishes. (I have purposely kept stage directions to a minimum).

2014

52 *Kohl* Devised by Droichead Youth Theatre, under Sharon Cromwell

A genre piece for a large cast.

Cast size/breakdown:	Up to 15
Males:	4
Females:	7
Age:	15+
Approx. Running Time:	80 minutes
Setting:	The piece is set in New York in 1932.

First performed by Droichead Youth Theatre at the Droichead Arts Centre, Drogheda in June 2008. Directed by Sharon Cromwell.

A New Stage Play for 2013

SYNOPSIS

New York.1932. Max Cole, Private Investigator, gets a call from Mia Swan, trophy wife of Senator Edward Swan and daughter of Freddo Forgioni, one of the biggest crime bosses in the city. Mia hires Max to track down her sister, Bella, but this is more than a straightforward "missing persons" case. Before he knows it, Max is plunged into the seedy underworld of the New York Mafia.

A story of intrigue and espionage, glamour and tears, longing and laughter, Kohl takes us on

a journey through the smoky, bourbon-soaked streets of 1930s New York, where cover-ups are commonplace, and mystery lurks at every street corner.

It is a fun and light-hearted piece but has some darker themes, which are in keeping with this genre.

1998

53 *Leaving* by Gerry Stembridge

Full-length comic drama for an older youth theatre group.

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
Published in Playshare- Volume 1 (NAYD, 2005)

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.

2018

54 *Lewis Carroll's Alice in Wonderland adapted for the stage* by Anna Galligan

Classic children's adventure for a large cast.

Cast Size:	26 (doubling up possible)
Males:	2
Females:	3
Also:	21 roles that are non- gender specific
Age range:	13+
Approx. running time:	90 minutes
Setting:	An Askew bedroom

First performed by Kilkenny Youth Theatre, 2015

SYNOPSIS

'I am not a child, I am nearly thirteen!'- Alice

In this version, Alice is 12 and ½ years of age and it bothers her to still be thought of as a child. Why do all these other people get to make the decisions, confuse her and boss her? After all, she is nearly thirteen!

After a day of listening to others, Alice wakes that night in her bedroom to find it transformed and inhabited by a range of weird and wonderful characters. Characters that befriend her, thwart her and bother her, until she realises that she is the only one making sense. And that she is ready to leave childhood and become a teenager.

For a youth theatre looking to play, to have fun and present a theatrically challenging piece, Alice offers flexibility in casting regarding gender, numbers and ability, large ensemble pieces throughout and the joy of bringing one of the classics of children's literature to life on stage.

2017

55 *Life Is But A Meme* by Ronan Carr

A play about vulnerable teens in a fast moving world.

Cast Size:	15+
Males:	4/5
Females:	3
Also:	6/7 A lot of smaller parts both male and female (interchangeable) and some chorus work.
Age Range:	14-20
Approx. running Time:	45-60 minutes.
Setting:	The town or city where you live.

First performed by Stage Beyond Theatre, Derry, 2015

SYNOPSIS

A young teenager called Alice with a troubled life disappears down the rabbit hole of the internet for comfort but ends up endangering her own life and others. The play is a highly imaginative look at the modern world. The piece is at times both entertaining and frightening interpretation of what complicated life can be for vulnerable teenagers.

2016

56 *Like Rapunzel* by James Butler

A play about an incident of cyber- bullying for a mid sized group.

Cast Size:	10
Males:	5
Females:	5
Age range:	15-18
Approx. running time:	40 minutes.
Setting:	A town or city anywhere.

First performed by Stage 51, 2015.

SYNOPSIS

Cara has shut herself away in her bedroom and is refusing to go to school. From her high window she can see the garden gnome in her neighbour's crèche that used to frighten her when she was being minded there. But now it's the thought of trolls that scare her.

Trevor's mother worries about Trevor's inability to stay any length of time in his room. He seems to be always going out somewhere and she worries that he's getting into trouble with his group of friends. But could he be the prince to rescue Cara from her lonely exile?

2019

57 *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

2015

58 *Midnight In The Theatre* of Blood by Ken Armstrong

A supernatural drama for a medium sized group.

Cast size:	10
Males:	4/5
Females:	6/5
Age range:	12-14 with one adult female, if possible. This could alternatively be played by a teen actor.
Approx. running time:	50 minutes
Setting:	An empty theatre.

First performed by: Do You Playhouse, Castlebar, Co. Mayo in 2008
A New Stage play for 2014

SYNOPSIS

Four teenage girls stay behind after rehearsals, intent on spending Halloween Night in their local theatre. They hold a séance to try to contact the 'Ghost of the Theatre' but ghosts are not always what you expect them to be...

This play is an affectionate comedy about young love, nostalgia, and the generation gap with just a small measure of abject terror thrown in.

UPDATED 2014

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

An urban mystery for an ensemble

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 a group of teenagers and their 'city Saturday'.

This plays has been updated to include more up to date issues , including the subject of cyber abuse.

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

A modern, feminist, ensemble piece of theatre for a medium sized group.

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.

61 *Odd Socks +2* by James Butler

A selection of 3 short plays for all ages.

First performed by Stage 51 drama school in Knocklyon, Dublin, between 2008 and 2011.

ODD SOCKS by James Butler

Cast Size:	17
Males:	6
Females:	11
Age Range:	14 – 16
Approx. Running Time :	30 mins
Setting:	Dublin, present day

SYNOPSIS

Five separate groups of teenagers engage in conversation that leads to one in each group becoming isolated. But can the excluded form a cohesive group of their own?

OFFSIDE by James Butler

Cast:	11
Males:	Minimum of 2
Females:	9
Age Range:	13 – 16
Approx. Running Time:	15 mins
Setting:	Dublin, present day

SYNOPSIS

Poor Mark! He is under pressure to study for his upcoming exams. However low confidence levels and a fatalistic attitude threaten to lead him to despair. Of course he has the usual panel of adult coaches and rubber neckers that he can call on. Can they offer the help and encouragement that he craves or is he doomed to be the 'lowest Mark' in his class. Or maybe there is a friend out there that he can call on.

THIRTEEN by James Butler

Cast:	15
Males:	1
Females:	14
Age Range:	12 – 15
Running Time:	15 mins
Setting:	Dublin, present day

SYNOPSIS

Fiona is watched by her anxious mother and older brother as she tries to manoeuvre her demanding group of friends into some sort of order she can manage.

The plays are easily produced needing little more than an empty stage and a number of chairs suitably arranged. All three plays were written with specific cast sizes in mind but can be adapted to suit the needs of new groups.

62 *Pranked* by Ciaran Gray

A drama about friendship and betrayal for a large group.

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

Commissioned by Youth Theatre Ireland as part of New Stage 09

SYNOPSIS

A new town, new school and new friends, hopefully. That's what faces Fran when she arrives in Kildeglin, 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 newfound friendships.

63 *Push Pull We're on The Move & More!* by Pete Mullineaux

Two Short Plays for Youth Theatre on Global Issues

Cast Size:	suited to ensemble playing, cast size 10 upwards.
Gender:	Most of the roles are suited to either gender.
Age range:	12+
Total time:	approx. 50 minutes
Setting:	Open stage with minimum props.

First Performed at Afri (Action from Ireland) events, at their Feile Bride Conference in Kildare and Famine Walk in Louisburgh, Co. Mayo.

SYNOPSIS

Two short plays that link food security, forced migration, war and related themes. The plays can be played separately or linked together.

These plays along with three others: *The Scared Cactus*, *Calling the Shots*, *Jackie & Her Beanstalk*, have been published in *Just A Second! Exploring Global Issues through Drama & Theatre*, (Afri 2015.) This publication was favourably reviewed in *Youth Drama Ireland* and in *International Journal of Development Education and Global Learning*, volume 7 number 3.

2003

64 *Realize* by Donal Beecher

A full-length comedy about fame and fortune in the music biz.

Males:	5
Females:	9
Age range:	12+
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 callback 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!

2004

65 *Red Ball* by Hilary Fannin

A one-act play about love.

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 Youth Theatre Ireland 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. The group should choose music used throughout *Red Ball*.

2003

66 *Requiem for Lena* by Veronica Coburn

A one-act memory play for an all female cast.

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

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

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.

*** 2014***

67 *Revenge of the Sea God* by Neil Rathmell

A one-act adventure for a large cast of younger performers.

Cast size:	20 (approx.)
Males:	5 named characters + others ad lib
Females:	2 named characters + others ad lib
Age range:	11- 14
Approx. running time:	60 minutes
Setting:	Ancient Greece – various locations

First performed by Shropshire Youth Theatre

SYNOPSIS

The play tells the story of Odysseus's adventures during his journey back from Troy. Its episodic structure includes Lotus Eaters, Cyclops, Aeolus, Circe, House of Hades, Siren and Scylla and Charybdis. It combines narration with strong action, using physical theatre techniques, combined with poetic and stylised language. It aims to be fast moving in performance, funny and exciting, using a different theatrical technique for each episode.

Available from <http://nrathmell.wordpress.com/library/>

68 *Revolt* by Marnie McCleane-Fay

A play about equality for a large sized group.

Cast Size:	20+
Males:	9
Females:	9
Also:	2 characters can be either male or female and more actors can be added in as 'rebels' midway through the play.
Age range:	14-19
Approx. running time:	75 minutes
Setting:	A courtroom

First performed as a site-specific play in Wexford Court Room by County Wexford Youth Theatre in 2016.

SYNOPSIS

Set in 2116, the world is run by a large company called KRONOS. *Revolt* is set in the country of Europa. The ethos of KRONOS is that everybody is equal to those of the same intelligence as each other and are divided into class according to IQ. The play shows the under 19's courtroom where peers are judging each other for their crimes against Europa. Midway through the play the courtroom is stormed by a group of Rebels who are looking to take back control of Ireland and destroy the KRONOS Corporation.

69 *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, thrust into different roles, and they 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!

2019

70 *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

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.

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.

Downloads e-scripts and licences available from www.stagescripts.com

71 *Robin Hood, a pantomime* by The Severed Orcs

A modern panto written by a youth theatre for youth theatres.

Males:	12 (all can be played by females)
Females:	10 (and female parts can be played by males)
Also:	Additional chorus roles for 'Merry Men' & 'Guards' Parts can be doubled up if required
Age Range:	12+
Approx. Running Time:	120 minutes (if all songs & dances are included)
Setting:	Various Sherwood Forest Locations

First performed by Backstage Youth Theatre, 2015. The Severed Orcs are a writers group in Backstage Youth Theatre, Longford.

SYNOPSIS

All is not well in Sherwood Forest! The Sheriff of Nottingham is planning to kidnap Maid Marion & The Merry Men and put them in his dungeon (the creepy one, not the nice one he just had re-decorated.) What on earth can Robin Hood do? In panto-land, anything can happen. Hansel & Gretel arrive and organise auditions for a new band of 'Merry Avengers' to help Robin with the rescue. They include Humpty Dumpty, Spiderman/Goldilocks and is that Johnny Depp? ... It can't be, can it? ... No! It's not ... Oh! Yes, it is!

72 *Robyn Hood (and her Merry Women)* by Roger Wooster

A family seasonal drama with songs for a large sized group.

Cast Size:	21 (26 without doubling)
Males:	9 (14 without doubling)
Females:	12 (including two younger peasants)
Also:	Opportunity for young dancers as Spirits of the Forest
Age range:	Could be played by a cast mainly from 16+
Approx. running time:	120 minutes inc interval
Setting:	Forest, exterior castle, interior castle

First performed by Newtown Community Players, Powys, Wales in December 2003 (since revised)

SYNOPSIS

The forest is under attack. The evil Lady Guy is planning to cut down all the trees in order to catch the outlaws – the famous Robyn Hood and her Merry Women. Lady Guy's nephew, Marion (yes, it is a boy's name!) is ordered to help but is reluctant. Captured by the outlaws he quickly disguises himself as a woman and swaps sides to help Robyn defeat the cruel plans of Lady Guy, the Sheriff and Prince John.

Mayhem and adventure ensue as Robyn Hood and her Merry Women battle Lady Guy to save Sherwood Forrest.

Without being a panto in the traditional sense, this play contains all the elements of a rollicking family show with loads of gags and physical comedy, some romance, some cross-dressing and audience participation. With tongue firmly in cheek this play appeals to sophisticated and less sophisticated tastes!

With consultation, groups are invited to add additional material or adapt gags for contemporary relevance.

2020

73 *Russian Play* by Nell Smyth

A light-hearted comic drama inspired by the works of Anton Chekov, for a mid sized group.

Cast Size:	15
Males:	8
Females:	6
Also:	One role can be played by any gender
Age Range:	14+
Approx. running Time:	60 minutes.
Setting:	Russia 1917

First performed by Tuamgraney Teen Theatremakers, Co.Clare in 2017

SYNOPSIS

Set in the newly named Petrograd, Russia, the play opens against the flux of revolutionary events in 1917 and moves swiftly to the country where there are many cherry orchards and a nearby mental asylum. The newly discovered fascination with hypnosis plays throughout the comedy as town and country, revolutionary and landowner, privileged and less privileged, servants and masters collide. Characters firmly embedded in old 19 century ways of wealth, privilege and insularity must meet new revolutionary forces as their own youthful impulses come home to roost. Everything plays out in a light and comical vein as midsummer looms and the cherry blossom blooms.

2016

74 *Salt Mountain* by Carmel Winters

A play about conflict for a medium sized group.

Females:	9
Male:	7
Also:	A committee made up of at least 4 more roles (potentially many more) to be cast m/f as suits.
Age range:	12- young adult
Approx. running time:	80 minutes
Setting:	An unspecified mountain village in the Middle East

An Abbey Theatre Commission for the National Youth Theatre 2015.

SYNOPSIS

Salt Mountain is a powerful epic about people cast out of their lands by war, and pulled together by their efforts to survive it. There is great latitude here for strong ensemble playing, with a spread of roles that allow each member of a large company to shine. Also includes some songs.

2018

75 *Scattered* by James Butler.

A play for a large group exploring the transition from primary to secondary school.

Cast Size:	19
Males:	3
Females:	16
Also:	Some of these female roles can be given to males depending on make-up of the group
Age Range:	12-14
Approx. running time:	45 minutes
Setting	Dublin, or any other town in Ireland.

First performed by Stage 51 Theatre Group, Knocklyon, Dublin 2017

SYNOPSIS

Eight years in the same pot but now it's the end of June and the class are ready to break up and scatter. They have to leave all their childish games behind and grow upwards. There will be no more telling teacher or skipping ropes or chasing on the yard. Two months of fitful sunshine and suddenly it's September and they are on fresh soil. Now they have to put down new roots and learn to cope with a whole new type of weather that presents new problems - but also possibilities.

2012

76 *Snap'd* by Jim Daly

A memory play about suicide for a large cast.

Cast Size:	Up to 24
Males:	6
Females:	7
Other:	11 m or F
Approx. running time:	70 minutes
Setting:	Multiple locations, open landscape. The recent past. Though originally set in Waterford the action can be transferred to any location.

Snap'd was first performed by Waterford Youth Drama at Garter Lane Theatre in 2004. Directed by Patrick O Sullivan.

A New Stage Play for 2011

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.

*** 2015***

77 *Spilled Ink* – Devised by Droichead Youth Theatre & Christina Matthews

A tale of gender equality, identity and fairy tales for a large sized cast.

Cast Size:	16 (with each actor doubling up as two characters)
Males:	5
Females:	7
Also:	30 other parts can be played by male and female
Age range:	15+
Approx. running time:	60 minutes
Setting:	Fairy tale court / prison

First performed by Droichead Youth Theatre, Droichead Arts Centre, April 2014

SYNOPSIS

Extra! Extra! Read all about it! Princess sues Prince! Set in a fairy tale courtroom and legal system, *Spilled Ink* follows the story of Sleeping Beauty, a girl who turned her back on her destiny and didn't want to marry her prince. *Spilled Ink* follows the princess as she battles the stereotypes inherent in the system and asks why we have to follow a path set out ahead of us. While using the familiarity of a fairy tale context, *Spilled Ink* questions the very concept of destiny while providing plenty of comedic moments and references to modern popular culture such as crime dramas and *The Shawshank Redemption*.

*** 2015***

78 *Spring Awakening* by Frank Wedekind Translated from the German by Francis J. Ziegler In a version by Stefanie Preissner and Gyuri Vidowsky

A full-length drama about coming of age for a medium sized group.

Cast size:	17
Males:	9 (young) + 2(adults)
Females:	4 (young) + 2 (adults)
Also:	Some characters are more choral than others.

Age range: 16+, (parents30+).
Approx. running time: 90-110 minutes.
Setting: Various.

First performed by Dublin Youth Theatre, 2014 as part of the Dublin Theatre Festival

SYNOPSIS

Spring Awakening is a story of teenagers on the road of self-discovery. Set in a world where 'parents know best' it is a tough coming-of-age drama dealing with issues such as sexuality, repressive society, youth suicide, and more.

Melchior seems to know everything about sex from books he has found on his parents' shelves. His friend, Moritz is the opposite: his parents are extremely strict, which is why the boy suffers from an unbearable self-guilt. Wendla is treated by her Mum as a little girl when it comes to sexuality, so she misinterprets the explanation about how pregnancy happens. Their friends and classmates have similar issues going on in their lives.

This European classic was written (in 1891) as a socially critical, satirical drama. This updated version strips away much of the dense text of the original and as such makes it a more accessible version for performers and audiences alike.

The play features several themes and scenes of a disturbing nature including physical abuse, rape and suicide. It is recommended for young people aged 16+ who have a good grounding in theatre and drama, working with an experienced director.

2011

79 *Sulk* by Mark O Rowe

An urban comic drama for a medium sized cast.

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 1996

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.

80 *Talk- Ease* by Mary Benzies

A darkly comic play about communication and the power of silence for a medium sized cast.

Cast size:	17
Male:	10
Female:	7
Also:	Character's gender can be changed when appropriate.
Age Range:	16 - Ancient.
Approx. running time:	70 minutes.
Setting:	The basement of a large Georgian house.

First performed by SSYT (Stamford Senior Youth Theatre), at Stamford arts centre, Lincolnshire, UK, 2010.

SYNOPSIS:

Simon is sixteen and doesn't speak. Aided by his obsession with the silent movie era and his eccentric black and white on screen "Friends", he creates for himself a secluded, silent world where he can be the hero, romantic lead and witty comedian all rolled into one.

That is until he stumbles across a well-known social networking site on his computer and suddenly discovers that making real friends is a lot easier than he had imagined. "For who needs voices when you have FACEBOOK?"

With hilarious and at times thrilling consequences, Simon finds his new world spiralling out of his control as the realisation dawns that sooner or later, everyone must come face to face!

* Director's notes, teacher's booklet, costume & staging suggestions and original piano recording for silent movie sequence can be provided with the script.

81 *Tech! The Musical* by Sophie Cassidy

A musical comedy for a small to medium sized group.

Cast Size:	10. No parts are gender specific
Age range:	12+
Approx. running time:	60 minutes
Setting:	The tech floor of any theatre.

First performed by Droichead Youth Theatre April 2019.

SYNOPSIS

A musical adventure following one lonely lamp's journey to find their spark.

Lampy has never been able to shine like the other lights in their theatre. Every week they sit alone on the Tech floor while all the other lights get to shine down on the stage.

But one day, Lampy decides they're tired of waiting around for someone to fix them, they're going to go out and find the socket they need to make their bulb glow!

Follow Lampy on their quest to find a way to switch their bulb on and finally make it to the rig. On the way, meet a whole host of different characters, from speakers to rolls of tape, all trying to help our protagonist find their spark.

Meanwhile, something is a foot at the other end of the hall, as AJ is determined to make the humans respect them, no matter the cost.

With scope for creating movement sequences and space to design or adapt the score to suit your groups' range, this musical comedy offers a chance for both cast and audience members to explore the technical side of theatre making.

TENDERFOOT- a selection of plays that came out of the 2008 - 2019 Tenderfoot programmes. No's 82- 96

Tenderfoot is an initiative of The Civic Theatre in Tallaght in association with South County Dublin Arts Office. Tenderfoot receives Young Ensemble Funding from The Arts Council. All first performances took place at The Civic Theatre Tallaght. To find out more about Tenderfoot, visit The Civic Theatre's website <http://www.civictheatre.ie>

TENDERFOOT – Plays By & For Young People, is a volume of plays written by young people who participated in Tenderfoot, an annual apprentice theatre programme in The Civic Theatre in Tallaght. The volume is available online through Kenny's @ www.kennys.ie priced at €15. A class/group set is available for €80 plus postage from The Civic Theatre @ www.civictheatre.ie and on (01) 4627477. The volume also contains *Weird* by Tírna McGauley and updated versions of the following plays listed on Playshare: *Departures* by Simon O'Mara, *Escape* by Ciara Donohoe, *Park Bench* by Ellen O'Sullivan, *Party* by Sarah Hanlon, *Strike!* by Alison Bryan & *Trapped By Fear* by Aisling O'Leary. The volume contains 9 other plays not listed on Playshare. If you need copies of any of these plays you must contact the sellers to obtain a copy of the book. Youth Theatre Ireland has a limited number of free copies available. *A Family Affair*, *Breathe*, *Hung Up*, *Just Shiftin'*, *Silent Night*, *The Test* and *Unspoken Words* are available from Youth Theatre Ireland.

UPDATED 2014

82 A Family Affair by Lisa Sherin

TENDERFOOT

A school based comedy for a mid sized cast.

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

A New Stage Play for 2011

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.

New 2020

83 *Breathe* by Caoimhe Enright

TENDERFOOT

A drama for a small cast.

Cast Size:	4
Male Characters:	1
Female Characters:	3
Age Range:	16+, 1 adult character over 40
Approx. Running Time:	30 minutes
Setting:	Present day, classroom, park and a sitting room

First performances took place at The Civic Theatre Tallaght 2019

SYNOPSIS

Breathe is about a teenage girl, Hailey, navigating the border between friendship and love as she deals with the grief of losing her best friend, Maeve, to cancer. *Breathe* opens with Hailey talking to her friend, Jake, after Maeve's funeral.

The play then follows their relationship as it develops from friendship to love over the course of one year.

2009

84 *DEPARTURES* by Simon O'Mara

TENDERFOOT

A drama about relationships for a very small cast.

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.

2009

85 *Escape* by Ciara Donohoe

TENDERFOOT

A drama about drug addiction for a small cast.

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.

2017

86 *Headspace* by Luke Coulton Dillon

TENDERFOOT

A play about mental health for a small cast.

Cast Size:	3
Female:	1
Male:	2
Age range:	15/16
Approx. running time:	15 minutes
Setting:	3 bedrooms

First performed as part of Tenderfoot 2015/2016 in The Civic Theatre in Tallaght

SYNOPSIS

The play takes place in the interior of three teenage characters suffering from mental health issues. One suffers from depression and is medicated. Another suffers from anxiety and depression born of family circumstances. And the third is struggling with issues of self-worth. The play is written for one female and two male characters but could be easily adapted in terms of gender. The play is also suitable for imaginative design.

New 2021

87 *Hung Up* by Charley Ashe

TENDERFOOT

A drama for a small cast.

Cast Size:	5 + potential extras (Aoife's friends in a minor scene)
Male Characters:	1
Female Characters:	4
Age range:	16+, 2 adult character over 40
Approx. running time:	35 mins
Setting:	A motel room, present day

First performances took place at The Civic Theatre Tallaght 2019

SYNOPSIS

Avery is a young woman, prone to depression, who has lost both her parents in a tragic accident. Feeling lost, she moves into a run-down motel and lives off her inheritance. As the play opens, Avery's best friend, Aoife, visits her in an attempt to get her out of her slump. Failing, she grows frustrated and tells Avery she will never come back if she doesn't try to help herself. In the aftermath of the meeting Avery slips between realities, encountering her dead parents, reliving memories, and emotionally coming to terms with what she needs to do to move on. The play ends with Avery calling Aoife on the phone. The light fades before we know whether Aoife answers or not.

2016

88 *Just Shiftin'* by Molly O'Harte

TENDERFOOT

A play about sex and relationships for a cast of five.

Males:	2
Females:	3
Age range:	15/16
Approx. running time:	40 minutes
Setting:	A classroom

First performed, public reading, in The Garage Theatre, 2014, as part of Tenderfoot @ The Garage

SYNOPSIS

Five students wait for their teacher to show up for class. Opinionated Samantha, the new girl Ruth, Daniel who likes the look of the new girl and Caroline & James who are going out with each other. Donovan, their teacher, is off dealing with a situation. The conversation turns to sex. Who has done what, with who, who's willing to do what, does it matter with who? As the conversation deepens expectations and disappointments are revealed. Uncertainties. Fears. An honest and unsettling glimpse into the lives of five teenagers. *Just Shiftin'* is funny, moving and thought provoking. Contains explicit language and sexual themes.

2009

89 *Park Bench* by Ellen O'Sullivan

TENDERFOOT

A romantic comedy for a small cast.

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.

2012

90 *Party* by Sarah Hanlon

TENDERFOOT

A hard-hitting drama for a small cast.

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.

A New Stage Play for 2011

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.

New 2020

91 *Silent Night* by Trudy Nolan

TENDERFOOT

A drama for a small cast.

Cast Size:	7
Male Characters:	3
Female Characters:	4
Age Range:	16+
Approx.	Running Time: 35 minutes
Setting:	Present Day

First performances took place at The Civic Theatre Tallaght 2019

SYNOPSIS

Joan is a teenage girl recently diagnosed with schizophrenia. After hanging out with her friend Mason she returns home to her parents who are struggling to come to terms with her diagnosis. Joan's schizophrenia is presented on stage as two characters, her voices, the Queen and the Clown. We see her struggle to maintain a balance between what is real, in the eyes of her parents, and what is real to her. When Mason accompanies her to see her counsellor things take an unexpected turn leading Joan to confront the underlying cause of her schizophrenia.

2012

92 *Strike!* by Alison Bryan

TENDERFOOT

A comedy about relationships for a small cast.

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

A New Stage Play for 2011

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!

2015

93 *The Test* by Lisa Kearns

TENDERFOOT

A teen comedy for a mid-sized cast.

Cast size:	10
Males:	3
Females:	10
Age range:	14-adult
Approx. running time:	35 minutes
Setting:	Present day

SYNOPSIS

Hannah wakes up in a train station. Her only companion is a handsome devil. He sets her a task. She must relive the day before to find out who should have died instead of her. The day before Hannah died in a traffic accident but she was in the wrong place at the wrong time. That death was predestined for somebody else. Will Hannah do as the devil asks? And what will happen if she does? *The Test* is a funny and freakish tale about responsibility and fate starring God & Beelzebub himself

2012

94 *Trapped by Fear* by Aisling O'Leary

TENDERFOOT

A tense thriller for a small cast.

Cast size:	3
Male:	2
Female:	1
Age range:	13+
Approx. running time:	20 minutes
Setting:	a non-descript room in an unspecified place

A New Stage Play for 2011

SYNOPSIS

Three young people rush into a dark room. They are fleeing some unspecified danger on the outside. As danger looms in they must make some harsh decisions that will seal their fate.

2015

95 *Unspoken Words* by Kim Hughes

TENDERFOOT

A character based short play for a small to medium sized cast.

Cast Size:	6 or 12
Males:	4
Females:	2
Age Range:	14 – 18
Approx. running time:	15 minutes
Setting:	Dublin, present day

SYNOPSIS

A series of stylised scenes present provides a glimpse into the lives and minds of four sets of characters. Tommy & Jason. Wary of each other. Presenting as they think they should. Boy & Girl. They like each other, in that way, but will he have the courage to ask her out? Aaron & Cathy. Friends who'd like to move on to the next level. And Molly & Mikayla. They like each other too, in that way. Each character in Kim Hughes' observant play is presented publicly and privately. The public persona interacts with the people and the world around him/her. The private persona reveals the character's truthful thoughts. The private persona could be played by a different actor/actress. In the original production the public and private personas were played by the same actor/actress and filmed.

2015

96 *Weird* by Tírna McGauley

TENDERFOOT

A drama for a small cast.

Cast size:	5 + extras
Males:	2
Females:	3
Age range:	15/16
Approx. running time:	40 minutes
Setting:	Dublin, present day

SYNOPSIS

Rose and John have been friends for years. It's the end of the Junior Cert and they've been looking forward to this moment for ages. But Rose doesn't feel like she thought she would. She feels weird. Later that evening the feeling spreads and everyone starts to behave out of character. At an end of exam party, in an Alice in Wonderland themed club, Máire sets Jack, her ex, a challenge. Jack, against his better judgment, does as she asks much to Charlie's delight. Charlie is Rose's best friend and she likes Jack. Meanwhile, Rose & John's relationship takes an unexpected turn. *Weird* features finely drawn teenage characters.

Tiny Plays for Playshare No's 97-100

Fishamble, The New Play Company, in partnership with the Irish Times, asked the Irish public what can be achieved with three minutes of stage time, what are the issues that need to be addressed, and who are the people that should be brought to life in the theatre? The result was Tiny Plays for Ireland.

Fishamble received over 1,700 plays from every county in Ireland and many countries beyond.

Tiny Plays for Ireland combines selected works by members of the public and dramas by some of Ireland's best-loved writers to provide one dramatic picture of Ireland at the crossroads

Tiny Plays for Playshare features four plays that would be particular interest to young people. Two were staged as part of Tiny Plays for Ireland 1& 2. The other two were performed as part of Young People's Tiny Plays For Ireland

A brief outline is available here of all plays but should you wish to read the whole plays there are available in Tiny Plays for Ireland from <http://newisland.ie/product/tiny-plays-for-ireland/>. Each Tiny Play is approximately three minutes long.

2015

97 *Light at the End of the Tunnel* by Eleanor White A Tiny Play

A drama about what goes on in your head while waiting for a train for a very small cast.

Cast size: 1 male (with additional voices)
Age range: 15+
Setting: A train station, night-time

First performed by: Fishamble: The New Play Company, Dublin

SYNOPSIS

Night. A boy waits in a deserted train station, listening to the sounds of an approaching train. He is surrounded by the voices of everyone he knows, which remind him what exactly has brought him here.

2015

98 *The Money Lender* by Eleanor Walsh A Tiny Play

Girls just want to have funds. A comic drama for a small cast.

Cast size: 3
Males: 0
Females: 3
Age range: 15+/15-16
Setting: A secondary school classroom

First performed by: Fishamble: The New Play Company, Dublin

SYNOPSIS

Orla, Amy, and Jess are three Transition Year girls. Orla is just one of the borrowers Jess has been lending to, but she's behind on her payments. One lunchtime, Amy witnesses what both girls are willing to do to get their money.

2015

99 *The Pure Stunnahs* by Niamh Murphy A Tiny Play

A tiny play about a big night out for a small cast.

Cast size: 2
Females: 2
Males: 0
Age range: 13+
Setting: In a girls bedroom

First performed by: Fishamble: The New Play Company, Dublin

SYNOPSIS:

Shannon and Shantel are in Shannon's bedroom. They are getting ready to go into town for a big night out. While they are getting ready they talk about school life and about Shantel's big date with Ryan.

2015

100 *Sure This is It* by Ciara Ni Chuiric

A Tiny Play

A tiny play about two soon-to-be graduates.

Cast size: 2
Males: 0
Females: 2
Age range: 16+
Setting: A car park

First performed by: Fishamble: The New Play Company, Dublin

SYNOPSIS

2 girls sit in a car park, sharing a plastic bottle of cider at 3am, talking uncertainly about their futures and what they plan to do after finishing college

*** 2018***

100 *The Black Eyes* By Bev Clark

A one-act horror based on a popular urban myth for a large cast.

Cast Size: 20+
Female: Flexible
Male: Flexible
Other: Characters can double and vary gender.
Age range: 14+
Approx. running Time: 30 minutes.
Setting: America anytime in the present

First performed by IMPACT Youth Theatre Tamworth, UK
Winner of the Warwickshire One Act Drama Festival 2016

SYNOPSIS

The narrators begin the story of the phenomenon that is The Black Eyes – children who have no eyes. Are they ghosts, ghouls or aliens or perhaps the walking dead? We are taken on a journey via witnesses' accounts of them seeing and escaping from these strange beings... but when Laurie doesn't lock up the shop in time, the Black Eyes pay her a visit. The next morning she is found dead...

Based upon a popular urban myth that originated in 20th Century USA, this is a perfect play for young people that utilises elements of horror, physical theatre, movement to music and ensemble playing to create an atmospheric, suspenseful and chilling production.

This supernatural teen-horror would be ideal for any youth theatre or school group and has an adaptable cast size and an infinite number of staging possibilities.

Full scripts of The Black Eyes and licenses are available to purchase from <http://www.roisterdoister.com>

*** 2014***

101 *The Blame Game* By Ursula McGinn & Laura Donaldson

A play about bullying for a small cast.

Cast Size:	4
Female :	2
Male:	2
Age range:	14-19
Approx. running Time:	30 minutes.
Setting:	Outside a school Principal's office. The present.

First performed by Dublin Youth Theatre 2013.

SYNOPSIS

Four students have been called to their principal's office. They believe they have nothing to do with a recent bullying 'incident' that has occurred and finally come to light in their school. All four students come from different backgrounds and have different views on the 'urban myth' that is bullying. Throughout the play we see the students come to the realization that they all had a part to play in the bullying and that no matter what we do it is impossible to escape this vicious cycle - " Nothing's as simple as black and white".

2019

102 *Buzz Of It* by James Butler

A contemporary drama about technology for an all female cast.

Cast Size:	9 – 14 all-female cast.
Age range:	14+
Approx. running time:	50 – 60 mins
Setting:	The present. Very minimal stage design.

First performed in 2017 by Stage 51 Drama group in The Loose End Space in The Civic Theatre

SYNOPSIS

Jen receives a horrible message on her phone but then discovers it wasn't meant for her. Nikita gets the same message and blames Ella for sending it. Amy is annoyed with Sinéad and her constant nuisance texting. Ellie and Lexie may let their overactive thumbs destroy

their friendship while Angelica's fondness for her phone may lead to a horrible misunderstanding and ruin friendships already formed. And Jess is there watching it all unfold and doing her best to remain friends with everyone in the group. But why did she really have to leave her last school?

The play explores the pressures on teenage girls as they try to engage with their peers and form friendships based on trust.

This contemporary drama explores how the Smartphone can break so many friendships and hearts, and lead to so much trouble for a group of teenage girls.

2014

103 *The Essay* by Ronan Carr

A fast paced, witty, play about teen mental health for a small cast.

Cast Size:	7
Females:	2
Males:	5
Other:	A host of supporting roles (various ages and genders)
Age range:	14 +
Approx. running time:	60 Minutes (approx.)
Setting:	Various Settings. School, Disco, Sam's house.

First performed by: Letterkenny Youth Theatre in 2012

SYNOPSIS

Sam, a teenage girl, enlists the help of William Shakespeare and John Lennon to help her write a school essay. However, through the course of this endeavour we see that Sam is suffering from post-traumatic stress syndrome, where reality and hallucination are waging a war to take control of her life.

Who will win? Her colourful imagination or hard reality

2019

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

An immersive drama for a large group.

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. The present.

First performed by Complex Youth Theatre in The Complex in June 2017

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).

First performed by Complex Youth Theatre following a year-long devising process led by Anthony Goulding, with Sian Ní Mhuirí. *The Gaff* is an immersive drama about the stronghold of teenage resistance and experimentation that materialises during a free gaff.

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.

2005

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

A quest play for younger performers.

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.

2018

106 *The Honeys* by Tracy Martin

A one act comic drama for an all female cast.

Cast Size: 6

Males: 0

Females: 6

Age Range: 16-19

Approx. running Time: 20 minutes.

First Performed by Dublin Youth Theatre, First Year One Act Festival 2017

SYNOPSIS

Six old ladies reminisce about when they formed an all-girl singing group called The Honeys.

Set in modern day Ireland with flash backs to the 1970's we join them in their memories of their adventures when they toured in their cramped tour bus. Things didn't always run smoothly for The Honeys as they discovered boys, booze and female emancipation. The young friends may have clashed in bathroom brawls but MOST things could be fixed with a song.

With scope for physical performances, music, song and dance this is a feel good short that will have them dancing in the aisles.

2017

107 *The House of Oedipus* by Anna Galligan

An epic Greek Tragedy for a large cast.

Cast Size:	20+
Males:	7
Females:	3
Male/Female	6
Also:	There are also four chorus groups
Age range of cast:	Original cast 14+
Approx. running time:	105 minutes approx.
Setting:	The palace at Thebes and the countryside of Colonus

First performed by Kilkenny Youth Theatre in 2016.

Are pride and stubbornness the cause Oedipus' downfall or did he commit some unknown sin against the Gods? He committed a crime but did not know it was a crime, was he guilty? Bringing four Greek tragedies together, this full-length play brings us three generations, two countries, five kings, two plagues and one war.

We meet the unknowing Oedipus who kills his father and marries his mother with dire consequences not only for himself but his whole family. There's his brother-in-law, Creon who professes not to want the crown but his actions say different. Then Antigone, that famous heroine, who walks to her death strong in her convictions that her actions were true.

For the youth theatre that is up for a rewarding challenge, this play offers myriad opportunities for ensemble work, complex characters, high drama and the tragedy one man's family who are doomed from the beginning.

With plenty of scope for differing cast size and gender demands, there is lots to offer newer and more experienced youth theatre members.

New 2021

108 *The Incredible Adventures of Don Quixote* by Steve Mitchell

An adaptation of Cervantes classic satire on the world of chivalry and romantic fiction for a very large group.

Cast Size:	40 +
Males:	10+
Females:	20+
Also:	15+ parts are non-gender specific.
Age range:	14+
Approx. running time:	90 minutes
Setting:	All performed on one set by a band of travelling players

This draft first performed by The Castle School, Taunton, 1995

SYNOPSIS

"Very early, before dawn. He armed himself completely and set out on his first adventure"

The eccentric old man Don Quixote, his head filled with the nonsense of romantic fiction sets out on his quest to right all the world's wrongs with the help of his faithful squire Sancho Panza. An episodic script with great physical fun, music, puppetry, dance, magic and occasional bawdy humour.

The members of the touring theatre group "Los Bandidos Des Castillios!" invite the audience to share this madcap world of the imagination as an old fool meets reality.

The script offers a very large cast the opportunity to explore a classic text while utilizing a variety of theatrical techniques to tell that story.

2014

109 *The Leaving By Tom Swift*, based on material devised by Kildare Youth Theatre

A hard-hitting mystery for an older youth theatre group.

Cast size:	12
Male:	6
Female:	4
Other:	2 characters are non-gender specific
Age Range:	16-20
Approx. running time:	90 minutes
Setting:	Multiple locations. Originally set in Newbridge, Co Kildare but can be transferred to any location with minor changes to place names.

**First performed by Kildare Youth Theatre in 2012
A New Stage Play for 2013**

SYNOPSIS

A group of friends searches for answers, as they relive the night of their end-of-school deb's party and navigate a drink-fuelled mess of mistakes, misunderstandings and murder. The Leaving follows a close-knit group on their deb's night and inter-cuts with the police investigation into a murder. Along the way the friends are forced to face the truth and consequences of a night out that goes tragically wrong. With strong languages and themes of alcohol, sexual identity, friendship, and violence this a challenging play for an older experienced group.

2017

110 *The Re-Creator* by Rémi Amy

A philosophical, apocalyptical comedy about freedom for a mid sized group.

Cast Size: Up to 12
Males: 3/9
Females: 3/9
Also: 6 to 11 actors total.
Age range: 14-25.
Approx. running time: 75 minutes.
Setting: Up above.

First performed by La Compagnie de la Reine, Versailles, France, 2012. Translated into English by Paul B. Nelson in 2015. Never performed in English.

SYNOPSIS

God observes that humans are a complete failure. He decides to wipe them off the face of the Earth and replace them with a new creature: a perfect one.

Unfortunately, the humans hear about God's plan and decide to pay him a visit. The religious leaders come to beg God for mercy, the heads of state and the UN go so far as to threaten him with a war if he doesn't change his mind.

It is then that an atheist comes along and confuses this volatile situation even more...

2018

111 *The Rescue* by Fiona Quinn, devised by County Limerick Youth Theatre with additional material by Clairr O'Connor

A full length play about uprising based on a 1919 true story for a large group.

Cast Size: 20+
Males: 17-27
Females: 13-20
Also: Potential for doubling up or additional actors as extras
Age range: 6-60

Approx. running time: 120 minutes (excluding interval)
Setting: Knocklong, Co. Limerick
First performed by County Limerick Youth Theatre, 2016

SYNOPSIS

Sean Hogan, a 17- year old IRA Volunteer has been arrested and will be judged and executed. The play explores the true story of his rescue from Knocklong train station in 1919 from the perspective of the children of the village.

Originally performed in a site-specific location, the play involved the whole village, descendants of the real people involved and 53 actors with 40 extras, but could be easily staged with 20 actors.

This is a play that explores history, family and how young people navigate relationships in times of crisis. There are some challenging themes and it requires a strong ensemble. Audience participation in the dance scene is possible.

2011

112 *The Stomping Ground* by Loughlin Deegan

A full- length comic drama for older youth theatre members.

Cast Size: 8
Males: 6
Females: 2
Age Range: 16-22
Approx. running time: 130 minutes
Setting: A rural village, Ireland, the 1990's.

First performed by Red Kettle 1997

A finalist in Youth Theatre Ireland's *Stage It! Competition* in 1995.

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.

2018

113 *The Sword In The Stone* by John Morton

A comedy based on the classic myth for a large group.

Cast Size: 27
Males: 16
Females: 6
Also: Also 5 parts that are gender neutral
Age range: 13-19
Approx. running time: 100 minutes (excluding interval)

Setting: Britain, 1030

First performed by Dreamstuff Youth Theatre in Kilkenny, 2009.

SYNOPSIS

Ever since King Uther Pendragon died, Britain has been without a king. In the once great town of Camelot, a sword lies embedded in a stone with the inscription *'He who pulls the sword from out the stone will be the 'once and future king of Britain'*. Which is fair enough but nobody has actually done it yet. Meanwhile, young wastrel Arthur and his school friends Lancelot and Merlin spend their days loitering around. That is until young Guinevere joins their school and suddenly they are focused on impressing her with heroics. However, an evil threat from beneath the lake is bubbling up and our young heroes are forced to show some civic pride and protect their town.

Combining the well known Arthurian legend with a modern outlook, this piece offer a hilarious and exciting challenge for a large group. There is scope for gender blind casting, doubling up and roles for all abilities.

***2015**

114 *The Teen Commandments* by James Butler

A play about modern - day commandments for teenagers.

Males: 3/4
Females: 9
Age range: 16-18
Approx. running time: 60 minutes.
Setting: The suburbs.

First performed by Stage 51 Drama School, Knocklyon, Dublin. 2012.

SYNOPSIS

Twelve young people try to navigate their way through the trials and tribulations of teenage life. Will following The Teen Commandments make their job any easier? The play conveys the stresses and demands of being a teenager, while keeping alive the excitement and humour of that time which often can be forgotten.

The play is performed in ten scenes of varying length.

2010

115 *The Terrace* by David Parnell

A choral play about life, love and football for a large cast.

Cast Size: 11+. Suitable for large cast owing to chorus
Males: 7+
Females: 4+
Age Range: 12+
Approx. Running Time: 70 minutes

**First Performed at The New Stage Festivals 2008 in Roscommon and Cork.
Commissioned by Youth Theatre Ireland for New Stage 2008.**

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.

2015

116 *The Wine Dark Sea* by Neil Rathmell

A two-act drama for a large cast.

Cast size:	18 + Chorus + Dancers
Males:	13 + Dancers
Females:	5 + Chorus + Dancers
Age range:	10+
Approx. running time:	120 minutes
Setting:	a Greek island

First performed by Belmont Youth Theatre, Shrewsbury

SYNOPSIS

A chorus of Fishwives on a Greek island tell the story of Odysseus's return to Ithaca and his vengeance on the suitors who have been pursuing his wife, Penelope, during his long absence. The play is based on the parts of Homer's Odyssey, which tell this story, leaving out the adventures of Odysseus on his journey back from Troy. The female chorus offers a feminine point of view on what is essentially a male story.

Available from <http://nrathmell.wordpress.com/library/>

2012

117 *The Wizard of Longford, a pantomime* by Brendan Williams

A classic pantomime for a very large cast.

Cast size:	9 main characters & approx. 20 Chorus
Males:	5
Females:	4
Age Range:	14+
Approx. Running Time:	110 minutes
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.

2012

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

An epic historical play for a large cast.

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+
Approx. Running time:	80 minutes plus interval
Setting:	Ireland and Australia circa 1849. Multiple locations. Rural characters - from Limerick area but can 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.

A New Stage Play for 2011.

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, on-board 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 on-going story of the world.

2019

119 *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 what seems like 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.

2018

120 *this is a room...* by Dylan Coburn Gray

A contemporary drama for a large cast.

Cast size: 22
Males: 11
Females: 11
Also: Potential for smaller/larger cast by splitting/merging roles.
Age range: 15-21
Approx. running time: 90 minutes
Setting: Homes, some but not all of which are explicitly in Dublin.

First performed by Dublin Youth Theatre, as part of the 2017 Dublin Theatre Festival.

SYNOPSIS

this is a room... explores how our homes shape us. It's a play made up of moments, some of which are stories and some of which are chats with the audience. Some are both. Someone's mother can't wait for her to move out. Someone shares a room with his brother who's pushing thirty. Someone has never seen an eggplant before, and someone has been homeless since his eighteenth birthday. This play is about facing the future - which we all are all the time - and feeling ready or not. There is dark content throughout. While the text doesn't require it, there is ample room for music/movement.

121 *This Hit Parade* by Emmet Kirwan

A one-act drama for a small cast.

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.

122 *This Means War* by Max Hafler

A retelling of Lysistrata, for a large cast.

Cast size:	19
Males:	7
Females:	12
Also:	Some doubling up
Running time:	90 minutes.
Age Range:	15+

First performed in the Cuirt 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.

2004

123 *Toil and Trouble* by Ciarán Gray

A light-hearted gently comic piece for an all female cast.

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.

2016

124 *Trapped* devised by Physically Phishy Youth Theatre Script written by Geraldine O'Neill

A play about making plays for young people aged 10-14.

Cast size: 16
Male: 7
Female: 9
Other: members of main cast can play the ghosts.
Age Range: 10-14.
Approx. running time: 40 minutes.
Setting: Theatre/ rehearsal room

First performed by Physically Phishy Youth Theatre, 2014

SYNOPSIS:

Trapped in their theatre/rehearsal room by Creepy Guy the cast of a play spend their time chatting about themselves and discovering old props and costumes from their past plays and re-enacting scenes from these plays.

This play is constructed as an end of year/term show. The structure is flexible and allows the director and cast to choose their own scenes from past plays or to devise new ones. it can be performed in either a rehearsal space or theatre.

2012

125 *Trust Games* by Pete Mullineaux & Moya Roddy

A comic drama about student teacher dynamics for a mid sized group.

Cast Size:	10
Males:	5
Female:	5
Age range	15+
Running time:	75 minutes (approx.).
Setting:	Multiple locations in the countryside. Present day. Characters can be from anywhere.

**First produced by Galway Youth Theatre in 2002 (Druid Theatre and tour.)
A New Stage Play for 2011**

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.

2010

126 *Two For Joy* by Raymond Scannell

A full-length drama about cars and death for a mid sized group.

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
Commissioned by Youth Theatre Ireland for New Stage 2008**

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.

2010

127 *Understanding Marcus* by Veronica Coburn

A hard-hitting urban drama about teen relationships for a mid sized group.

Cast Size:	9
Males:	4
Females:	5
Age Range:	14+
Approx. Running Time:	1 hour 20 minutes

**First Performed at the 2008 New Stage Festivals in Roscommon and Cork
Commissioned by Youth Theatre Ireland for New Stage 2008**

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'.

New 2021

128 *Unspoken* by Neil Rathmell, in collaboration with Dr. Trudy Stewart

A contemporary drama for large or small groups.

Cast Size:	7-29
Males:	9
Females:	4
Non- gender specific:	16
Age range:	12+
Approx. running time:	60 minutes
Setting:	Mainly empty stage with minimal props to suggest a small variety of settings. The present.

First performed by Leeds Arts Centre, West Yorkshire, July 2017

SYNOPSIS

Alex is getting ready for an important date. Tonight, over dinner at a restaurant, he is going to ask his girlfriend to marry him.

Alex has grown up with a stammer. As a young man he has learned to control it. His girlfriend doesn't even know about it. But he does and he wants her to know, because his stammer is part of who he is.

Facing the audience as if looking in a mirror, he remembers all the times in his life when his stammer has got in his way. As those memories crowd around him, he grows more and more anxious about how his girlfriend will react. Will proposing to her be just one more unhappy memory?

Written in collaboration with a speech and language therapist, *Unspoken* is an authentic account of the experience of stammering. With up to 29 acting parts it offers maximum levels of involvement in a piece of genuine ensemble theatre.

1998

129 *Wake Up Sleeping Beauties* by Deirdre Molloy

A one-act comedy re-evaluates popular fairy tales for a small cast.

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 1996.

SYNOPSIS

Wake Up Sleeping Beauties takes characters from popular fairy tales (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.

New 2019

130 *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.

2017

131 *Word Made Flesh* devised by the Cast and John White

A musical revue for a small cast.

Males:	2/flexible
Females:	4/flexible
Age range:	16-23
Also:	Five original songs: (backing tracks available)
Approx. running time:	40-45 minutes.
Setting:	A studio in the middle of Ireland.

First performed by Dublin Youth Theatre 2016

SYNOPSIS:

A piece (with music) which imagines what it would be like if all those announcements you hear on trains, in supermarkets, on your mobile phone were being done live everyday all day.

Six people arrive at a secret studio every morning to make those announcements people hear on their phone, in the supermarket, on the train. As they go through their working day – various tensions, romances and jealousies arise leading to a chaotic but ultimately logical conclusion.

2017

132 *Word Play* by Stefanie Preissner

A play about relationships and communication for a medium sized group.

Males:	5/6
Females:	6/7
Age range:	14-23.
Approx. running time:	45 minutes.
Setting:	Anywhere.

First performed by Lightbulb Youth Theatre, 2006.

SYNOPSIS

Because Íde never knew where she came from, she never knew who she was. Through a series of fast paced, tightly woven scenes, the story of Íde's life pans out before the

audience. Skipping through generations from her conception right up to the present day, WORD PLAY deals with issues of identity, fidelity, sexuality, sex and teen pregnancy.

Some of the scenes contain the exact same text but the meaning changes dramatically when performed in the context of different relationships between the different characters. The play is fast moving with a lot of rhythm, chorus, opportunity for music and movement work between the short naturalistic scenes.

2011

133 *X-Factory* by Tom Swift

A comic tale about fame in the music biz for a large cast.

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

First commissioned by Youth Theatre Ireland as part of New Stage 09

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.

2014

134 *Zombie Baby* by Jim Hyde

A zombie comedy for younger performers.

Cast Size:	8-9 +
Males:	6
Females:	3 (various roles can be either sex)
Additional Cast:	There can be hordes of zombies if required.
Age Range:	11+
Approx. running time:	45 minutes.

SYNOPSIS

A comedy tale of family life after the world zombie invasion has been and gone. Sorcha and William O'Leary's Uncle Frank is a zombie who decides to take the O'Leary's new baby boy

for a walk – without telling anyone. It's up to the kids to rescue little Thomas before it's too late! Beset on all sides by the undead, the kids have many adventures and, of course, save the day.

2020

135 *Zugzwang* by Neil Flynn

A full-length, dystopian drama, for a large cast

Cast Size:	20
Males:	7
Females:	13
Additional Cast:	Potential for smaller ensemble (14 -20)
Age Range:	16+
Approx. running time:	65 minutes.
Setting:	An elite boarding school, sometime in the near future.

First performed by Free Radicals Youth Theatre, at Siamsa Tíre, Tralee, December 2018. Written and directed by Neil Flynn.

SYNOPSIS

A comedy tale of family life after the world zombie invasion has been and gone. Sorcha and William O'Leary's Uncle Frank is a zombie who decides to take the O'Leary's new baby boy for a walk – without telling anyone. It's up to the kids to rescue little Thomas before it's too late! Beset on all sides by the undead, the kids have many adventures and, of course, save the day. What would you do to find love? What does it mean to find the one?

As a group of students prepare to graduate from an elite boarding school, they spend their last night pondering their future as they prepare to enter the 'big bad world.'

What begins, as a sober last night reminiscence becomes a wilder, unguarded affair culminating in a 'love festival'.

When a video of the 'love festival' goes viral, repercussions ensue in the form of an unprecedented national response by the government. In the interests of reaffirming the morals of young people, a 'Love Edict' is issued. Under this, the youth of the nation will have one night and one night only to pair off, to find someone to love. If they do not succeed, if they remain single, life-changing consequences await.

As the fateful night unfolds, some discover the path of love never runs smooth. Just because you love someone with all your heart doesn't mean they'll love you back. A choice will have to be made. *Zugzwang!*

Zugzwang offers an exciting challenge for an experienced director and a mature youth theatre group.